



ROSEVILLE UNITING CHURCH

“Sharing the love & welcome of Jesus”

 roseville.unitingchurch.org.au  @530worship  @rosevilleuniting

ZEBRAS AND LEOPARDS

Today (January 31st) is, as you probably know, designated as the International Day of the Zebra. Which reminded me of a trip that Sureka and I made to Southern Africa, not long after we got married, to attend the wedding of one of her high school friends in Botswana. As part of the trip we travelled through Zimbabwe to Hwange national park, and as we settled in our accommodation I commented that what I really wanted to see in the wild was a Zebra.

I saw my first Zebra first thing the next day, and soon realized just how low I had set my expectations. Zebras, it turns out, are not hard to see in Hwange. And the great thing about having low expectations is that you are very unlikely to be disappointed!

Last week we were on a morning safari in Udawalawe National Park in Sri Lanka. Udawalawe is famous for its elephants, and we certainly saw a lot of those (including one very cute baby...). Then, halfway through the morning we turned a corner and there, a hundred meters or so ahead of us, the sleek figure of a big cat was lying on the track. We saw it only for a couple of seconds – it immediately got up and slinked gracefully off into the undergrowth – but that was long enough.

The only big cats in Sri Lanka are leopards. Leopards feature on a lot of advertising for tours, but as they are both critically endangered and remarkably elusive, anyone setting out to see one is almost certain to be disappointed (unlike Zebras...). But there it was. An unexpected, even un hoped for, leopard.

Which brings me to New Years Resolutions.

I gave up making New Year Resolutions ages ago because I had discovered, as most people do, that they don't seem to work very well. The good intentions and determination that somehow this year it will be different don't survive first contact with reality. So after a while I lowered my expectations; decided that it was better to look for Zebras – small changes, rather than anything dramatic.

And I wonder if we do the same with faith. Trust God in a sort of generic way; worship because it's the right thing to do, not out of any great expectations; avoid the risk of disappointment; look for Zebras because we are sure to find them.

And there's nothing wrong with Zebras. I still think they are amazing.

But I've been reminded this week that there are still leopards out there as well. Unexpected glimpses of something more. God's working in the world might seem elusive, but every now and then we are privileged to get a glimpse of it.

We can't predict when we'll see God's leopard.

But we do have to keep our eyes open. Chris

Sunday February 2nd

<https://roseville.unitingchurch.org.au/livestream>

9.30am **Worship Service with Holy Communion with Chris Goringe**
Organist Jillian Cranney
in person and online...

5.30pm **Worship Service with Chris Goringe**
in person and online...

Bible Readings from the Lectionary:

Jeremiah 1: 4-10
Psalm 71: 1-6
1Corinthians 13: 1-13
Luke 4: 21-30

What's on this week...

Wed Social games 1.00-3.00pm

Fri Pastoral Care Team meeting 1.00pm
Christian Meditation 2.00pm

Sunday February 9th

<https://roseville.unitingchurch.org.au/livestream>

9.30am **Worship Service with Chris Goringe**
Organist Sean Weatherley
in person and online...

10.45am **Second Cuppa**

5.30pm **Worship Service with Chris Goringe**
in person and online...

Bible Readings from the Lectionary:

Isaiah 6: 1-8, (9-13)
Psalm 138
1Corinthians 15: 1-11
Luke 5: 1-11

Dates for 2025



2nd March: Dedication of seats for Jan and Jeanette

8th March: Working Bee

11th March: Lenten Ecumenical Service at Roseville UC

22nd March: Lindara Market

25th March: Lenten Ecumenical Service Lindfield UC

8th April: Lenten Ecumenical Service Holy Family CC

7th July: Lindara Market

13th July: Working Bee

31st August: Rev. Keith Garner to preach at Roseville UC

8 November: Working Bee

22nd November: Lindara Market

Join us in Prayer...

Dear God,

Please enlarge our hearts to love each other,
to love our neighbour, to love our enemy as our friend.

Love and ever more love is the only solution to every
problem that comes up.

If we love each other enough, we will bear with each other's
faults and burdens.

If we love enough, we are going to light a fire in the hearts of
others.

And it is love that will burn out the sins and hatreds that
sadden us.

It is love that will make us want to do great things for each
other.

-Dorothy Day

Rev. Aueryun Lee will be working at
Roseville UC in 2025 as a part time
Supply Minister, starting in February.

Welcome Aeryun, we look forward to
having you here with us at Roseville.

Dear Judy and friends of the Roseville Uniting Church



Many thanks for the knitted rugs you have given our
group this year. They have all been passed on with our
knitted garments and rugs to those in need in our
community.

Wishing you the very best for 2025.

Robyn Webb

Special morning tea

A morning tea will be held following the morning service
on 2 March to honour the memories of Jan Land and
Jeanette Noack, for whom plaques have been placed on
two seats in the front garden. Friends and families of Jan
and Jeanette will join us.



Roseville Ministry Contacts

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