



# FED News

Formation. Education. Discipleship.



## NCYC 2014

Tom Kerr writes:

NCYC 2014 “Yurora” went very well. It was a truly multicultural, discipleship developing, Uniting Church in Australia event with around 800 participants and 200 adult leaders from diverse cultures and great representation from Congress.

I attended this event and served as a community leader, chaplain and Naamaroo community host.

It was also my privilege to co-facilitate the Yurora Management Team’s Debrief day. There was a lot of positivity in the team about the growth and blessing they experienced in running this event. The Assembly shouted them dinner on the beach at Manly to thank them.

Conversations about who will host the next NCYC are underway. We hope to have at least one and possibly two bids to host this event.

See Craig’s NCYC videos - [vimeo.com/album/2674849](https://vimeo.com/album/2674849)

## February 2014, No. 1

This is an occasional newsletter from the UCA Assembly Formation, Education and Discipleship (FED) team.

The new Assembly FED Working Group met for the first time in December 2013 in Melbourne. The membership consists of

Rev Dr Ian Price (Chairperson)  
Ms Susan Burt (SA)  
Rev Lindsay Cullen (NSW/ACT)  
Rev Sue Ellis (SA)  
Mr Drew Hanna (VIC/TAS)  
Rev Duncan MacLeod (NSW/ACT)  
Rev Dr Adam McIntosh (VIC/TAS)  
Mr Rick Morrell (WA)  
Dr Deidre Palmer (SA)  
Ms Elaine Rae (QLD)  
Mr Neil Thorpe (QLD)  
Rev Robin Yang (VIC/TAS)  
Rev Glenda Blakefield, Assembly Associate General Secretary (ex officio)  
Rev Tom Kerr, National Faith Development Consultant, Youth & Young Adults (staff)  
Mr Craig Mitchell, National Director - Formation, Education & Discipleship (staff)

Plus additional members to be co-opted.

The Working Group meets annually with a number of sub-groups operating between meetings.

## CONTACT DETAILS

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# Who are we?

## Craig Mitchell, National Director - Formation, Education & Discipleship



Craig is based in Adelaide, South Australia. He has worked for the Uniting Church for over 25 years in youth and children's ministry, Christian education, mission planning and leadership development. He was formerly on the faculty of Uniting College for Leadership and Theology and Flinders University. He has qualifications in economics, youth and children's ministry, religious education, communication and vocational education. He is currently working on a PhD through Flinders University.

## Tom Kerr, National Faith Development Consultant, Youth & Young Adults



I've had the privilege of working with young people my whole working life. First I was a primary school teacher, then a congregational youth worker, a regional youth worker, then in a Synod role and now in a national role focusing on faith development of youth and young adults. Children's holiday programs, youth ministries, camps, religious education in schools, young adults Bible study groups, young adult retreats, alternate faith communities, discipleship resources and experiences have all been part of my journey.

## Communication & Social Media

We've been setting up or rejigging FED communications networks over the last several weeks. Here's how people can connect with FED work nationally. Click links to visit WWW.

### Assembly Website

[assembly.uca.org.au/education](http://assembly.uca.org.au/education)  
[assembly.uca.org.au/youth-and-young-adults-faith-development](http://assembly.uca.org.au/youth-and-young-adults-faith-development)

### Facebook Page

[www.facebook.com/UCAFED](http://www.facebook.com/UCAFED)  
186 Likes to date

### Facebook Page

[www.facebook.com/UCACHildrensMinistry](http://www.facebook.com/UCACHildrensMinistry)  
188 Likes to date

### Facebook Page

[www.facebook.com/UCAUnitingYouth](http://www.facebook.com/UCAUnitingYouth)  
312 Likes to date

### Facebook Group - Discipleship

[www.facebook.com/groups/formingfaith/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/formingfaith/)  
250 members

### Facebook Group - Multimedia

[www.facebook.com/groups/multimediaministry](http://www.facebook.com/groups/multimediaministry)  
247 members

### Twitter Feed

[@UCACHristianEd](https://twitter.com/UCACHristianEd)  
147 followers

### Craig's Blog

[growing-disciples.org](http://growing-disciples.org)

### UCA Education & Mission Workers Network

[www.linkedin.com/groups/Uniting-Church-Education-Mission-Workers-6624805/about](http://www.linkedin.com/groups/Uniting-Church-Education-Mission-Workers-6624805/about)

### Tom's Blog

[raidingthefridge.wordpress.com](http://raidingthefridge.wordpress.com)

### About Face

[aboutface.org.au](http://aboutface.org.au)

### NCYC

[ncyc.com.au](http://ncyc.com.au)

## Coming National Events

### National Young Adults Leaders Conference

Tom has begun planning for The National Young Adult Leaders Conference. It will be held at Naamaroo Conference Centre in Sydney in December this year from Sunday the 7<sup>th</sup> of December to Friday morning the 12<sup>th</sup> of December with facilitators arriving a day early to prepare. This will be one of his major projects for the year.

#### About FACE 5-18 January 2015

About FACE will link in with the Congress National Gathering in Tasmania in January 2015. It will also include the opportunity to be hosted in communities as well as briefing and debriefing. Planning with the VicTas Synod will be ongoing throughout the coming year.

[www.aboutface.org.au](http://www.aboutface.org.au)

#### John Roberto Visit

John will be visiting Australia in late August and early to conduct training sessions on the Vision and Practice of 21st Century Faith Formation, based on his book "Faith Formation 2020". The visit is being co-ordinated by the VicTas Synod. Dates soon.

## Childrens and Youth Ministry Training

The lack of training for vocations in ministry with children, youth and families in recent years has been a concern for the Children's Youth and Families National Coalition, (ChYNC). Chris Barnett (VicTas) and Melissa Neumann (SA) have been researching and promoting possibilities for vocational training in this field. This initiative arises partly in response to the recommendations of the 2009 Assembly Task Group on Children, Youth and Family Ministry.



## Lay Education

### National Lay Educators' Network Gathering

Craig participated in this annual gathering in Brisbane in February, along with synods' staff and Chris Walker. The agenda included training and assessment of Pastors and Lay Preachers, online and blending learning developments, the Period of Discernment, culturally-specific lay education, training for Mission-shaped Ministry, resource sharing, and discussion about collaborative work nationally.

## FED Working Group

The new FED Working Group is organised around several sub-groups which are getting underway in 2014.

**National Events** - team leader Drew Hanna

**Schools** - team leader Elaine Rae

**Resources and Processes** - team leader Susan Burt

**Research and Development** - team leader Rick Morrell

**Innovation, New Faith Communities and Leadership**  
- team leader Rohan Pryor

## Future Plans

Tom and Craig will be participating in Assembly Uniting Faith & Discipleship team meeting in Sydney 9-10 April, and the ChYNC gathering in Adelaide 6-9 May.

Craig will be attending "A Clear Call", the National Mission & Evangelism Conference in Adelaide 28-30 March. Part of Craig's new role is to relate to this network on behalf of the Assembly.

Craig will be leading a number of training events for the Presbytery of Tasmania 9-13 May.

The FED Working Group meets in Melbourne 18-19 June.

You've heard of TED Talks. Stay tuned for this - coming soon.

**FED** stories  
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