

Kellys in Kyabram

with Jacob & Sarah Kelly • September 2025



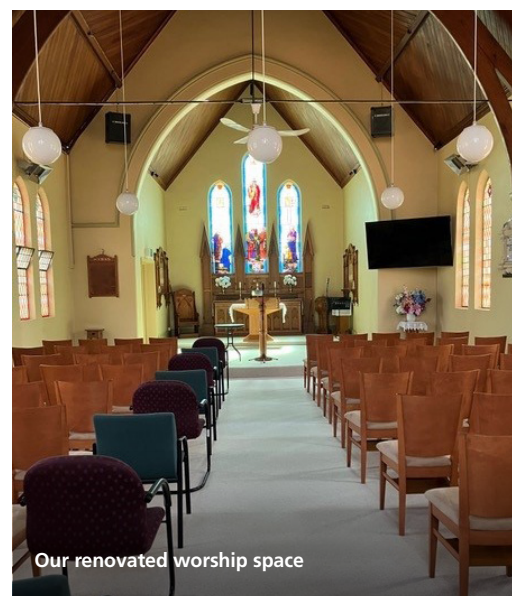
2025 has been a year of change in our church – quite an interesting and exciting time. At the end of last year, our church made the decision to merge the traditional and family services to form a single all-ages service.

Previously, these two services had met in two different rooms and the original worship space needed a bit of repair and renovation. To solve this problem, we met in the church hall for the month of January while we did works in the church sanctuary. In the end, we were able to get everything done by our target date, thanks to the help of BCA Nomads Bev & David Ivins and a team from the congregation (see left).

It's now been six months since the two services have been meeting together in the new space and there have been many joys and trials. One of the greatest joys we have seen is the way in which many people have joyfully welcomed the new service and can now celebrate the fact that they have more friends at church.

However, there have also been challenges, the biggest one being that it has taken some time for the two congregations to value the strengths of each other's worship styles – particularly when it comes to music. As you can imagine, this has meant that the last few months have been a busy and challenging season as we have worked to unite the two groups and get them on the same page.

For Jacob this has involved working closely with the key lay-leaders of the church, providing training to those who serve during worship and lots of pastoral conversations.



Our renovated worship space

Another exciting thing that has happened this year was our church retreat. Over a weekend in February, a group of about 20–30 from our church went away for a retreat. We stayed together at a Girl Guide campsite in the bush and were blessed to be able to spend time digging through Titus with the help of Peter Adam.

This was a great opportunity for the people in our church to grow in faith and get to know each other better – especially some of our newer members.

Again, we were so thankful for the help of BCA Nomads Allen & Suellen Crouch who helped



Main Image: Kyabram

Circle Image: The Kelly family

Middle Image: A service in the bush during our retreat

Bottom Image: Jacob with some of the helpers who worked on the renovation

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us prepare and serve meals and led our clean-up crews. On the Sunday morning for church, we went to the bush chapel which was marvellously located amongst nature, what a perfect ending to a great weekend away!

The past summer in Kyabram was unusually humid, with overcast skies and surprisingly, very little rainfall. Over autumn and winter, we had a sudden shift into the cold season, but yet, still very little rain.

This has had a wearisome impact on the people in Kyabram, especially our farmers who rely on seasonable weather for growing

crops and raising cattle.

Additionally, because Kyabram doesn't have a natural water course (only man-made channels and dams), the lack of rain and unpleasant weather can have a tiring effect on the people living here. Many people feel drained or worried about when we will get a good season of rain again.

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On the home front, we have had some exciting developments. This year Theo started his first year of kinder which has enabled him to grow in his independence and to enjoy time with other kids his age!

Even more exciting than this, in May, we welcomed a new addition into the family, Josephine! While this has come with some sleepless nights and busy days, it has been a joy to get to know Josie, and see Theo adore her and take on the role of big brother.



Please pray for both Theo and Josie; that they would grow up in the knowledge and love of the Lord, and that we would be faithful parents to them.

As you will no doubt have heard, our ministry in Kyabram is drawing to a close. We are moving to Wagga Wagga, where Jacob will be the Associate Minister at South Wagga Anglican in the Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn. We will miss BCA but finish with grateful hearts. Thank you for supporting us through prayer and taking an interest in what God is doing in our family and through our ministry in Kyabram.



Love in Christ,
Jacob, Sarah, Theodore & Josephine

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