

NEAC Wardens Report | Jan-Dec 2025

Human Resource Management

In 2025, NEAC made some substantial changes to the ministry staffing profile. In consultation with Parish Council and the Wardens, Andrew decided to pursue a full time assistant minister for 2026, and we subsequently welcomed James Marquet to this position.

Some other staffing updates:

- Andrew Errington commenced a short term teaching contract with Anglican Youth Works, to support their training program.
- Peter Rodgers commenced an exciting new part time role with Living Faith, one day per week.
- Jenny Wallace reduced her hours working in the Administration Officer role.
- Emily Savige commenced in a new part time role at NEAC as the Administration and Communications Assistant.

At the end of 2025 we sadly parted ways with Fergus O'Shea, who had been part of the ministry team at NEAC since 2023. We're thankful to God for Fergus' ministry to us and the dedication and zeal for the gospel he demonstrated throughout his ministry – particularly his care for the Youth Group. We wish Fergus all the best in his next exciting venture, as he works with churches to promote and strengthen supports for people with intellectual disabilities.

We take great encouragement from the work of staff team and support from the parish throughout 2025, in continuing the work of the gospel in Newtown and Erskineville.

Risk Management

NEAC continues to monitor compliance with the Sydney Anglican Diocese Safe Ministry policy directives, including the screening of leaders working with young people and protocols for record keeping.

The wardens continue to oversee routine administrative and compliance tasks, such as annual risk and insurance reporting to the Diocese, work health and safety, and incident management. Property maintenance remains the highest risk to at NEAC, which is explored in more detail in the Property Maintenance report.

Safe Ministry Report

The safety and wellbeing of children and young people in our community is a priority for us at NEAC. The programs at NEAC that are addressed in this report are: Lil Church; Littlest Church; Youth Group; We Belong; Junior Jivers; Pupil Free Day Programs; and Special Religious Education (SRE, aka Scripture in Schools).

The Wardens would like to acknowledge the diligence and efforts of Jenny Wallace, NEAC Administrative Officer, and Rebecca Lowe, NEAC Safe Ministry Representative, in monitoring and supporting NEAC's compliance with Safe Ministry requirements. We give God thanks for the work of the various leaders involved in the ministries listed above, who have extended care, prayer and the gospel of Christ to our young and vulnerable.

We pray that 2026 might bring more leaders to support these programs, to sustain them and even grow them beyond our imagining.

SAFE MINISTRY - 2025						
Total No. of NEAC Members with:	2024		2025			
WWCC clearance	68		69			
Safe Ministry Training	63		59			
Total No. of NEAC Members who completed/renewed:						
WWCC clearance	27		30			
Safe Ministry Training	27		32			
NEAC Members involved in ministry with children/young/vulnerable people						
Total no. Leaders/Volunteers	33		46			
% compliant with Safe Ministry Training (incl WWCC)	100%		98%			
Special Religious Education (SRE) in schools						
No. of Schools NEAC Coordinates Scripture*	4		4			
<i>*Camdenville, North Newtown, Newtown, Darlington</i>						
SRE Leaders under NEAC Supervision						
NEAC members/parishioners delivering SRE	5		6			
NEAC supervised leaders (non-parishioners) delivering SRE	5		4			
Other Church's authorised leaders delivering SRE	10		20			
TOTAL	20		30			
Ministry programs for children, young and vulnerable people						
Program	No. NEAC Leaders <i>(NB. Non-NEAC leaders in RED)</i>		Avg. no. attendees		No. occasions	
	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025
LiL Church	4	7	22	25	51	50
Littlest Church	3	5	12	15	51	50
Additional leaders for holiday coverage (LiL Church & Littlest Church)	7	7	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Youth Group - Graveyard Youth	6	6	13	20	36	35
Youth Group - Sunday Youth	3	3	8	11	37	30
Youth Group - Sunday Bible Study	2	2	2	8	30	22
We Belong	4 + 6	6 + 5	6	6	13	17
SRE*	5 + 15		86		128	
Pupil Free days	6	6	40	40	3	3
Jivers	3	3	25	25	34	34
TOTAL**	64	44	214	110	383	238
<i>*SRE occasions estimated based on avg of 32 weeks of SRE classes delivered per school (x4 schools)</i>						
<i>**NB. SRE and Pupil Free Days data for 2025 was unavailable at the time of reporting.</i>						

Wardens' Maintenance Report

Grant Work

The *Caring for State Heritage 2023–2025* grant project to repair the roof over the crèche was completed in May.

Both grant applications submitted last year were unsuccessful:

- Community Partnership Grant (2025): Renovation of the toilets in the Newtown Hall
- Caring for State Heritage 2025–2027: Restoration work on the Spire and Belltower

Current Grant Applications

The third and final round of the *Safe Places for Faith Communities* grant opened in mid-December and closed at the end of January. Despite the difficulty of obtaining quotes over the holiday period, we submitted an application to replace missing and damaged stained-glass window grilles. If successful, we will be able to replace most of the medium-sized window grilles, though not the two large ones.

Our thanks go to Jenna Weston for her work in helping to prepare this application.

Major Maintenance work

Completed

- Rectory verandah: In July, the rectory verandah lintels were repaired to address structural sagging from concrete cancer..
- Broken and cracked windows: In November, all broken and severely cracked accessible windows in the church, hall, and rectory at Newtown were replaced. This has significantly improved the appearance and safety of the site.

Planned

As noted at last year's AGM, the women's toilets require renovation. Once we confirmed the grant outcome, planning began for a parish-led DIY refurbishment. We have approached several major companies for support, and we are grateful to Dulux and Reece Plumbing for providing free paint and discounted bathroom ware. Harry Williams has also engaged a cabinet maker who is constructing a new vanity at a favourable price. Once dates are confirmed, we will advise the congregation of the renovation schedule and the period during which the toilets will be unavailable.

Through generous donations from the parish, we now have \$76K in the National Trust restoration account and are preparing to seek quotes for Phase 0 works of the spire and bell tower. This phase will include targeted repointing of sandstone, detailed mapping of blocks requiring replacement, and if necessary, minor make-safe works. These activities will stabilise the stonework and provide a clearer understanding of the scope and cost of the full restoration. The work will be undertaken using a cherry picker rather than scaffolding to keep costs manageable.

Maintenance Priorities for 2026

- Women's bathroom renovation
- Phase 0 of the spire and bell tower
- Drainage improvements around the church
- Men's bathroom renovation (if feasible)

Working Bees

Parish Council and the Wardens extend sincere thanks to everyone who attended working bees at both the Newtown and Erskineville sites throughout the year. The 2026 schedule includes:

Newtown: 7 March (completed), 12 September, 5 December

Erskineville: 11 July, 7 November

Working bees typically focus on larger gardening tasks beyond routine maintenance, gutter cleaning, clearing and organising storage areas, disposing of unwanted or broken items, additional cleaning of the church, painting, and general repairs within the skill set of volunteers. Everyone is welcome—no special skills required.