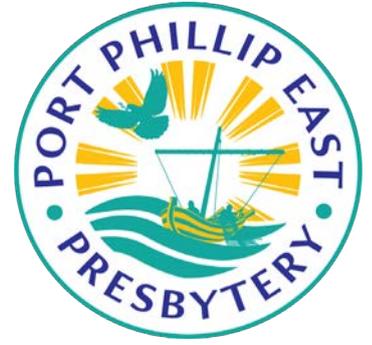


# Newsbeat

NEWSLETTER FOR THE PRESBYTERY OF PORT PHILLIP EAST



## FEBRUARY HEADLINES

PRESBYTERY  
HOPES FOR 2022

MINISTRY IN  
SCHOOLS  
UNIVERSITY  
ARMED FORCES

JOURNEY OF  
LISTENING &  
DISCOVERY

DAY OF  
MOURNING

MT ELIZA JACK &  
THE BEANSTALK

CAMPING AT  
MERRICKS LODGE

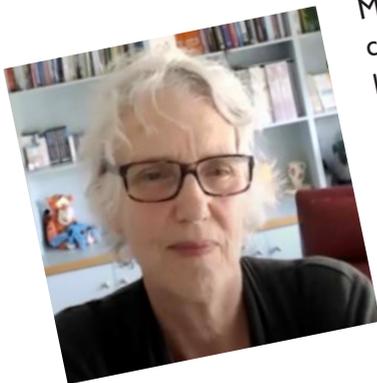
FEBRUARY 2022 ISSUE



Photo by Kim Cain,  
St Leonard's Uniting Church  
Brighton Beach

# Port Philip's East Presbytery's Hopes for 2022

An insight into what our leaders see for 2022



My hopes for 2022 would be that we may continue to grow in faith in our Presbytery living out the gospel in diversity, love and care for each other and the wider community around us.

**Anneke Oppewal**  
Presbytery Minister Pastoral Care

GROWTH

Even in the a world preoccupied with a global pandemic and the pressing reality of natural disasters, there are still pockets of God's goodness happening all around us. My hope is that 2022 will be a year where we can all be a part of bringing these moments to reality across the Presbytery.



FAITH

**Kelly Skilton – Convenor of Missions & Leadership Development Committee**

My hope for 2022 is looking forward to another grateful year as God is good and perfect. Even though we have been facing unforeseen circumstances because of COVID, I have strong faith in my Lord that he will make a way to escape, that I may be able to bear it (1 Corinthians 10:13).

REALITY



**Jay Robinson – Minister**  
Murrumbeena Uniting Church

My hopes for 2022 involve seeing my daughter who lives overseas and getting the opportunity to travel to her. For the church and particularly for Murrumbeena Uniting I hope and pray for connections, directions for mission and the opportunities to be God's people in the community that surrounds us.



**Anne Kim – Presbytery Secretary**



# HOPE

My hope for 2022 is that we will hear what the Spirit is saying about how we might reconnect with our local communities and in particular be with those who have been struggling the most in recent times. I also hope that we might continue to embrace some of the online avenues for faith development that we have played with over the last couple of years.



**Craig Mitchell**  
**Presbytery Minister**  
**Church Development**

I'm hoping for some breaks through the year when we get to have fun, enjoying one another's company, trying new foods, and celebrating the adventurous steps we've taken together. I'm looking forward to more stories from congregations, agencies and schools that remind us that we're a people of good news, not just for us but for the communities we live and work in. At the end of 2022 I'd like to look back on a year of growing healthy relationships and faith-filled living.

**Duncan Macleod**  
**Presbytery Minister**  
**Team Leader**

# GRATITUDE



That congregations are able to recover financially from problems over the last 2 years and continue to be viable. Also, that PPE can continue to expand in the growth corridors.



**Jeff Gardner – Presbytery Treasurer**

# SPIRIT



**Fiona Winn – minister at Armadale Uniting Church & member of Standing Committee**

My hopes for 2022 would be; an increasing awareness of - and gratitude for - all God has done for us in Jesus Christ; for all God is doing and, whatever the circumstances, for all God will do in and through even us, a genuine growth in courage, joy and trust in the Presbytery; and a renewed, refreshed sense of purpose for all communities of faith - members, ministry agents and ministers.

# HAPPINESS

**Gavin Faichney – Chair of Property Committee**



I hope that PPEP Congregations maintain the property for which they have 'responsible body status' as good stewards, enabling their missional activity to continue as witnessing Christians.

My aspirations are for the development projects at Ormond, St Leonard's Brighton, Melbourne Korean Church, Cheltenham, Edithvale and Pakenham to proceed without further delay and that the Money For Mission Fund sale of property at Dandenong Nth, Gardiner PreSchool, with the subsequent investments finalised.



# Journey of Listening & Discovery

Presbytery Chair Tom Spurling issues us a call to join in a journey of listening and discovery with first peoples in 2022.

I know that the Presbytery of Port Phillip East is situated on the unceded land of the Wurundjeri and Bunurong peoples of the Kulin Nation and I acknowledge this at the start of all Presbytery meetings. But I am well aware that I know very little about their language, their spirituality or their traditional way of life.

I've got questions I'd like to explore with others.

What happened between the Wurundjeri and Bunurong peoples after the founding of Melbourne in 1835 until their recognition as citizens in 1967?

How were the churches involved?

What is the result of this history when it comes to the health and wellbeing of the Wurundjeri and Bunurong people's health, well-being and socioeconomic status?

What do modern-day Kulin nation people want?

How can we as Second Peoples be good allies in the struggle for something resembling justice?

My participation in Tim Molineux's study 'Statement from the Heart' in January 2020 ignited a passion in me to do whatever I can to right the historical injustice of our conquest of this land.

The Presbytery at the March 2021 meeting agreed, as part of its Strategic Plan for 2021-2025, to consider strategies for advancing the Presbytery's capacity in relation to Covenanting – First and Second Peoples. At the December 2021 meeting we further agreed that in 2022 we will have a 'Journey of Listening and Discovery'.

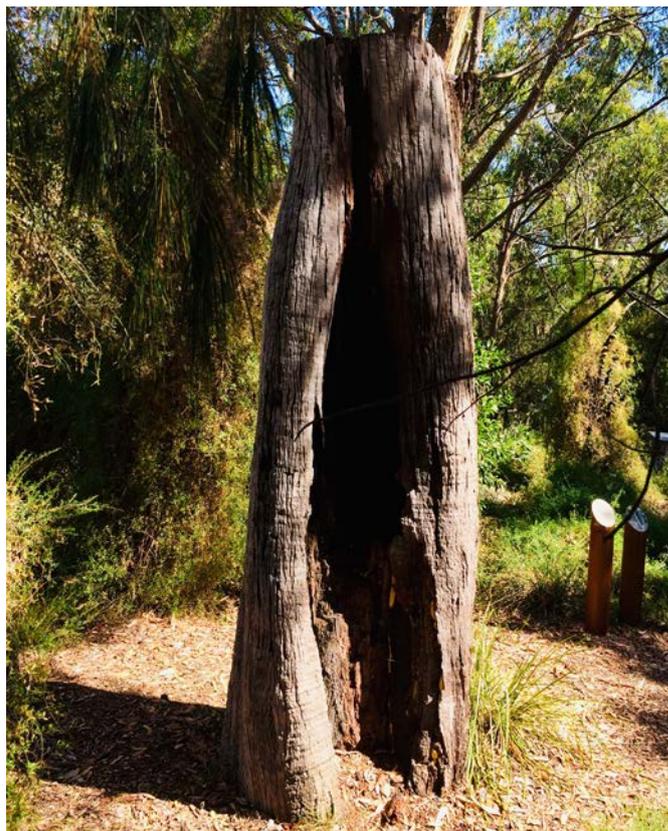
1. We want to have a better understanding of the life, work and leisure of the Wurundjeri and Bunurong peoples before and after 1835 and their hopes today.

2. Where possible we'd like to build relationships with First Peoples in our region

3. We want to become more aware of the impact of colonisation, including the church's role in this

4. We want to reflect and make decisions about how we might support First Peoples.

This will involve finding out what local congregations and communities have already discovered, starting conversations with local councils and with first peoples living amongst us.



The distinctive shape of the scar on this tree has been caused by the removal of a sheet of bark by members of the Kulin people. The bark from this Red Gum may have been used to construct a canoe. This tree was removed from its original site in Glen Waverley during the widening of Springvale Road in 1965. It is now in Valley Reserve, Mount Waverley.

We invite you to talk to us about what you have already done, as individuals, as congregations, and within your local communities. Tell us about what resources you might need to have a meaningful journey of listening and discovery in 2022. We already have two resources available on the Presbytery website: [Walking Together as First and Second Peoples](#), and [Statement from the Heart – a Study Guide](#). We will post more resources as they become available.

The MLDC is forming a task group to find ways to assist congregations and is looking for people who might join. Please contact the Presbytery Secretary, Anne Kim [secretary@ucappep.org](mailto:secretary@ucappep.org) if you are interested.



Dr Tom Spurling AM, Chairperson Port Phillip East Presbytery



# Where to for 2022?

## **Presbytery Minister Church Development Craig Mitchell reflects on opportunities for new directions in mission and ministry for Uniting Church members in 2022.**

In recent weeks, we've been hearing words like regroup, reconnect, regather, restart. Get the ball rolling again in 2022. We're seeking to work out how to 'be church' in this changed and changing environment. Suddenly we seem to be back on the COVID roller coaster, and that brings a whole host of emotions.

What will matter the most in 2022? What will make a difference to our neighbours and ourselves? What will lead to new life or new hope? How will we "seek first the kingdom of God"?

In late 2021 the Presbytery Mission and Leadership Development Committee (MLDC) worked towards proposed mission strategies for 2022 and possibly beyond. Kelly Skilton and Craig Mitchell hosted an "open space" workshop with about 20 people from both committees. Open Space is where any idea is a good idea and people can then generate and discern possible actions. In the end, we each nominated six areas for possible action. The MLDC then put this alongside information gathered from Presbytery members at other gatherings in 2020 and 2021. From a proposal to the Standing Committee, five focus mission areas emerged.

- Intercultural ministry and mission
- Listening to First Peoples
- Forming lifelong disciples
- New ways of being faith communities
- Expressing faith in everyday life



These areas sit within our Presbytery vision and values. The areas can incorporate existing work such as looking at regional ministry placements and fostering mission experiments with congregations.

Across our Presbytery's committees, we can consider what strategies can encourage their development. Congregations and leaders can be invited to explore them, and be resourced for them.

This is a step in prioritising Presbytery work alongside our regular responsibilities. The Standing Committee and MLDC will begin doing further work on possible strategies. At our March 17 Presbytery meeting there will be an opportunity to receive these as recommendations and discuss what would be helpful in resourcing congregations.

We hope that you see possibilities in these areas for our Presbytery to "seek first" what God is calling us to do and be. We invite you to consider these prayerfully in the coming weeks.

**Dr Craig Mitchell**

*"Coming into 2022 with established areas for mission priorities is an important step for PPEP. These five areas have come from active conversation and discernment across the Presbytery, and each of these areas give us opportunities for connection, exploration and action within our congregations."*

*I am looking forward to the provocative discussions and actions to come from these mission priorities, and I cannot wait for each of our faith communities to share how we are joining in with the work of Holy Spirit in the coming year."*

**KELLY SKILTON,**  
Chair of Mission Leadership Development  
Committee



On Sunday 23 January 2022 a Day of Mourning service was held at Glen Waverley Uniting Church and also on live stream, led by Alison Clarkson and Jan Clear, to reflect on the effects of invasion and colonisation on First Peoples and as an expression of the Uniting Church's commitment to justice and truth-telling. Members of the congregation participated in the worship, based on the liturgy from Assembly. The Glen Waverley UC Indonesian fellowship also used part of the liturgy in their online worship service on that day. We included a video of the Rev Mark Kickett's reflection in our service. Jan Clear concluded the reflection, encouraging members of Glen Waverley UC to commit to justice and truth-telling.

On our printed order of service was a picture of the Covenanting poster, with an explanation of it and also some of the introduction to the Day of Mourning by Sharon Hollis and Mark Kickett from the National news email.

Since the service we have had a number of appreciative comments and thanks, both from people attending worship in the church and from others taking part through the live stream.

Written by Alison Clarkson



# DAY OF MOURNING



# It's time First Peoples voices were heard

In an excerpt from [Crosslight](#) (January 2021), Cam Opie writes about a growing relationship with first peoples.

I'm Cam, an associate member of Willum Warrain and a member of the Village Uniting Church, Mt Eliza. I joined Willum Warrain in 2018.

About 15 years ago, when I was living in Adelaide, I met Kunyi, an Aboriginal artist, with whom, as it turned out, I went to primary school. She was called June Anne McInerney back then and I had no idea she or her siblings were Aboriginal. Having the privilege to meet again, I learnt Kunyi had been one of the Stolen Generation taken from her family to the Oodnadatta Mission Home during the 50s and subsequently adopted in Adelaide. In her words, her separation "took away my family, my culture, and who I could have been. These are not fairy tales, they are true, and I want people to understand". Now a recognised and amazing artist, she said "my paintings speak for me" in exploring the experiences of cultural loss, separation from family and finding happiness in hardship.

Eventually as an adult, Kunyi investigated and reconnected with her cultural roots and family and describes her art as a means of helping her deal with her difficult and long personal journey.

Reconnecting with Kunyi and listening to hers and other very moving and uplifting personal stories was a great privilege and, for me, was my real eye opener, which led me to more deeply engage with the work of Uniting Church Covenant with Aboriginal and Islanders Christian Congress in SA.



Peter Aldenhoven and Campbell Opie are two men from opposite sides of this cultural divide who are trying to affect real change at a grassroots level. Both are members of the Willum Warrain Aboriginal Association.

It was exciting for me when I moved to Mt Martha, Victoria in 2018, and soon found out about Willum Warrain (The Gathering Place). We have encouraged and had many members of our church offering support to Willum Warrain in many ways, visiting, listening, learning about Treaty, Truth Telling, and Statement of the Heart, bush tucker and, above all, the challenges and achievements of our First People.

The key thing for me is we need to listen and continue to listen and debate respectfully, because there's no one answer. There's no one view in the Aboriginal community or the non-Aboriginal community about what to do on January 26.

We need to work out what Australia Day really can be, rather than just change the date, because no day is going to be perfect. If some want a day to celebrate the coming of the fleet, that's fine, but I don't believe it should be an official celebration of the nation. I think it's a total anachronism, given the range of significant and profound gaps in relationship and living that need attention.

Some councils around the country are rethinking the nature of their engagement in Australia Day events with First People. Church groups are running alternative days of recognition that focus on the struggles of, and respect for, First Peoples. The call to change the date seems to be growing louder. But the reality is it will not happen overnight.



Every week, for over 15 years, primary school children across Australia have been visited by caring mentors from a local church through the Kids Hope program. The model is simple. One Child. One Mentor. One Hour a week. Kids Hope is Australia's largest early intervention, school-based mentoring program for children experiencing vulnerability – almost 2000 children across 250 schools. Initiated by World Vision, Kids Hope is now an independent charity.

For more details see our story on the Port Phillip East Presbytery website:

[ucappep.org/kids-hope-changing-childrens-lives](http://ucappep.org/kids-hope-changing-childrens-lives)



Amplify is Australia's largest Children & Families/ Youth ministry training event. Focusing on Children & Families ministry, Youth ministry and Serving Schools, this is a great opportunity for individuals and teams to learn and grow together. In 2021 it experimented with a Hub model and is seeking to expand the concept in 2022. The key presenter for 2022 has been confirmed as Rachel Turner from Parenting for Faith and Victorian Hubs will provide the opportunity to actually gather in-person! Hubs are being offered across the state in Berwick, Geelong, Mitcham, Nunawading, Bairnsdale, Benalla, Bendigo, Horsham, Traralgon, Warrnambool.

More information and registration details are provided their website [amplifyconference.com.au](http://amplifyconference.com.au)



The people of St Andrew's Berwick UC recently farewelled their Family and Childrens Worker Mathew Pendle, his wife Monique and their son Isaac. Church Council Chairperson Joy Jackson and Rev Wendy Snook shared words of appreciation. The liturgy of release was led by Craig Mitchell on behalf of the presbytery. Mat has a new full-time role managing a hospitality ministry in the growing region of Clyde on behalf of the Baptist Church. They will be greatly missed.



Uniting Vic.Tas is working with congregations in the Coffee Cup Challenge. Members put aside the cost of a cup of coffee each week from International Coffee Day on 1 October until Shrove Tuesday on 1 March. All funds raised will support people experiencing crisis, vulnerability and disadvantage. It's not too late to join in. Learn more or register your congregation to join the Coffee Cup Challenge, online: [unitingvictas.org.au/coffee-cup-challenge](http://unitingvictas.org.au/coffee-cup-challenge)

# University Chaplains on duty

We are privileged in Port Phillip East Presbytery to have five of the six university chaplains that Synod supports. Now when we say support, we actually mean each of these chaplains is supported and released to do ministry in these settings by the congregation who employs them. Here in PPE we have all our chaplains connected with Monash University, shared over 3 campuses – Clayton, Caulfield and Peninsula (Frankston). Rev Kharis Abadani spends time at Monash Clayton, Rev Jay Robinson and Kelly Skilton spend time at the Caulfield campus and Mandy Lake spends time at the Peninsula campus.



Normally life on campus would involve being present at Open Day, Orientation Week, Diversity and Inclusion Week, and any other event that the university undertakes. Our chaplains also make time for their own events such as workshops, bible studies or Pancake breakfasts, as well as one on one pastoral care and pastoral counselling. The last two years has meant they have become very adaptable at doing their thing online, including online certification of Statuary Declarations.

One of the most visible roles of a university chaplain is when the university community gathers for important events such as funerals, memorials, prayer services and some weddings. Chaplains are an important part of these celebrations and are used to working across varying requirements.

Jay recently was asked to conduct a non-religious prayer service for a team who had suddenly lost a member. Just the sort of thing they get asked to do and usually at very short notice. Fortunately, they are all creative ministry agents and making space for people to reflect, to share and to grieve or celebrate come fairly naturally.

Our chaplains are hoping to be able to actually be a presence on campus this year and look forward to meeting new students and staff, answering that question “What’s a chaplain?” (and the answer is - the most important person you need to know who will connect you with whoever you need connecting to and help in any way we can).

One description we have for our university chaplains is that they are people who loiter with intent – and that they do!

Jay Robinson



# Merricks Lodge

Kelly Skilton is a member of the UC Camping Committee. Here she reflects on how COVID-19 has put a slight halt to camping at Merricks Lodge on the Mornington Peninsula. Nonetheless, there still is passion and dedication to keeping Merricks Lodge alive and running.

Through the pandemic there have been a number of things across our community that have come to a grinding halt. It might come as a surprise to know that through this difficult season there is still a passionate, active and dedicated team keeping Merricks Lodge running and ready to welcome churches, schools, organisations and community groups. I hope that we are able to share more of the amazing things that happen across the Uniting Church camping grounds, and personally I can share some of these amazing stories with camping at Merricks Lodge across the past several years.

There is so much planned for our communities across 2022; perhaps it might even look like taking your church on a 'reconnection' camp later on in the year? Not only are the UC Camping Grounds continually upgrading their facilities, but they are in constant communication in how to best support and offer programs and experiences for the wider community.



## A window

**Presbytery Minister Pastoral Anneke Oppewal reflects on the difference our outlook will make in 2022.**

As the pandemic continues to wreak havoc with our plans and 'back to normal' seems to be moving further and further away into the far distance many of us have started 2022 realising that the future may look very different from the past. The fall out of the last two years is beginning to bite in many of our communities and even IF Covid loses its grip on us over the next few months, our life as a Church and the way we do things as followers of Christ will have changed significantly.

In that context I thought of a rabbinic story someone once told me. It is about a rabbi asking a rich man (could have been a rich woman) to look through a window and tell him what he/she saw. "The world", came the answer, "people in all their variety and complexity, their suffering, needs, tears, joy and laughter; the rich variety and challenges of God's creation." He then asks the man/woman to look in a mirror. And asks again: "What do you see?" "Myself", comes the answer. "What's the difference", asks the rabbi. "A layer of silver..."

As we move into 2022 are we tempted to batten down the hatches, focus on the bottom line, and move into survival mode? Are our decisions becoming guided more by what we see in the mirror, our angst, our survival, than by what we might see if we look through the window.

There is a world out there. Crying out to us. There are people, there is creation waiting for connection. For an open hand and an open heart that is not afraid to give. Church is not about us. Church is not about survival. Church is about fullness of life in every direction, good news, joy, flourishing people – Love.



# Wellbeing at Brentwood

Rod Dungan, commissioned as Youthworker in the UCA in 1994, has been in placement as School Chaplain at [Brentwood Secondary College](#), Glen Waverley, since 2004. We asked Rod to tell us about ministry in a public high school.

**Where does the school's support for a chaplain come from?**

Brentwood has had a commitment to chaplaincy since 1998. Originally it was supported through fundraising by local churches and the sale of second hand books. But since 2003 the position has been fully paid for through the College budget, with the position recognised as part of both the college leadership team and the wellbeing team.

**What do you mean by wellbeing?**

Wellbeing at Brentwood is focused on students strengths offering support to every student through its Open Door policy and extensive wellbeing program which allows us to connect with over 500 students each. These connections help students re-engage with school, restore relationships, support transition, engage in learning and build their resilience by work in class with students and individual counsel. We also support a number of families and the 150 teachers and support staff of the college.

Brentwood also supports around 100 university students (training in social work, youth work, art therapy, counselling, psychology, community services) to gain their practical experience in their 6 to 9 month placement at the college. We work together to support students in the program, in lunch groups (Green team, Digitech, CALD conversation, LGBTQIA+, Faith group) a prayer room, meditation practices, development of student leaders, attending camps, and other special events like RUOK day, Mental Month, Youth week, Environment Day, and Sorry Day.

**What are the main issues affecting partnerships with churches?**

1. A need for volunteers outside the college to work together on projects. Denominational and individual support for students at the college needs to be alongside other members of the wider community. This is addressing the times when church groups saw schools as their mission fields and had not respected the wider values of the college community.

2. Changing policies and practices in education.
3. The impact of the COVID pandemic and the lockdowns and no access to people from outside the college and a lack of understanding by school leaders of the need to continue to offer support to young people and their families.



**What can we do to support the work of chaplains in schools?**

1. Have a member of your congregation contact the Chaplain and just listen!
2. Get an ecumenical or multi-faith team together to support the school (when COVID restrictions allow). Supporting lunchtime groups, helping mentoring students around pathways, supporting students financially and/or with food and/or emergency accommodation.
3. Write support notes to members of the teaching staff, the chaplain and wellbeing staff.
4. Offer to help with school programs – environmental, gardens, art, theatre or sport.



Picture of a dedication. Ping and Rod did the dedication together, of a memorial plaque for a much loved teacher.

# Chaplaincy & Wellbeing at Cornish

Rev Claire Dawe began as College Chaplain at [Cornish College](#), Bangholme, in Term 4, 2021. Here Claire writes about the way her ministry is developing.

Cornish College has a tradition of Chaplaincy and Pastoral Care and I was honoured to be appointed as the College Chaplain in Term 4, 2021. This was the time when the community regathered and returned to on-campus learning, a time which brought into focus the value of Chaplaincy and the Wellbeing team as a whole.

Some students embraced being back together whilst for others, it was and remains a very challenging time. Those challenged included students who began at Cornish just before or during one of the lockdowns, VCE students, Year 7 and Prep students who were stepping into new curriculum structures, and those who navigated other major education milestones or personal challenges.

In addition, I raised awareness of my pastoral care role by spending much of my time moving across the classrooms, being available at lunchtime for 'incidental' conversations and connections, and accepting teachers' invitations to take part in special activities in order to facilitate these connections. Some needed specific support around gently returning to school; others just needed to know I was there for them.

As a College, we talk to students about carrying 'invisible backpacks' and supporting them to understand their own, as well as how and where to unload them. In doing so, we believe we are equipping students for life as well as learning.

Cornish College has developed sustainable thinking dispositions, which are represented by the Rings of Sustainability. These include natural sustainability, personal sustainability, urban/ technological sustainability and, socio-cultural sustainability. I have explained this to students as a star with five balanced points – physical, emotional, social, mental, and spiritual. In order to grow and make a difference in the world, I have begun to encourage students to explore all five points of the star and seek support when they are struggling.

Cornish is fortunate to be situated on 100 acres of Bunurong land, and we must acknowledge with respect the custodianship of the Bunurong People and their Elders. Students' learning occurs in our 100



acre classroom enabling greater engagement and joy as they participate in outdoor learning. Additionally, the 100 acres support student wellbeing and will host our chapel services for worship and discussion.

As a school community, we haven't been able to come together since I began. Therefore, I have recorded community videos to connect and provide messages of support to our families. As well as chapel services for times when we cannot physically gather in one place, I am beginning to build online spiritual resources for the community to access in times of need.

I look forward to providing pastoral care for the entire community in 2022 as everyday challenges arise, with the long-term aim to establish a faith community for all who call Cornish home.

I am looking forward to hearing the joy of our students as we commence the 2022 school year and I can't wait for more pastoral walks around the 100 acres.



# Robert Johnson Scholarship



Cornish College's latest scholarship is named after the Rev Dr Robert Johnson, the inaugural chair of the Cornish College Council and later, the Chair of the College Board of Directors. Robert was instrumental in supporting the founding of Cornish College through his work with the Uniting Church. He saw the value in a Cornish education with two of his own grandchildren being amongst the first students of the school.

Rev Dr Robert Johnson writes, "When we established Cornish College in 2011 we dreamed of an inclusive and diverse school – my dream is that anyone can come to Cornish, if it is the right school for them, regardless of their family's financial capacity."

Cornish College is delighted that, exactly ten years since the opening of the College in 2012, we are able to honour the legacy of Robert Johnson by establishing this new scholarship in his name.

## Who can apply?

The Robert Johnson Scholarship provides a Cornish College education for a student who would not otherwise have the financial means to attend the College. It is available to current Year 6 students who do not attend Cornish College, for entry to the College in Year 7 in 2023.

## Selection criteria

The key selection criterion for this scholarship will be whether it is likely to make an important difference in the life of the applicant and, whether it will make a difference in the life of Cornish College, particularly in its diversity.

A Robert Johnson Scholar will be someone who is passionate about contributing to change and making a difference for a sustainable future.

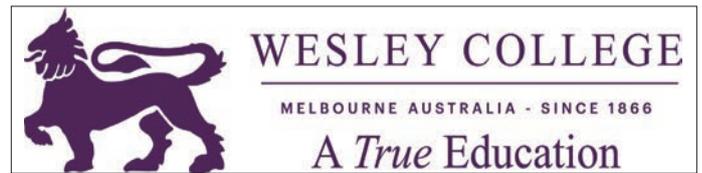
The following criteria will be considered, as part the application process:

- Personal alignment with the College values – respect, integrity, creativity, compassion...always with courage
- Having aspirational goals for achieving success in education which go beyond academic performance
- Being committed to the leadership of social justice and contribute to school and community opportunities to promote this
- Preparedness to engage in student-directed curriculum and learning opportunities that exist and develop at the College
- A link to the Uniting Church is not essential, but would be advantageous

APPLY ONLINE BY 25 FEBRUARY, 2022, [cornishcollege.vic.edu.au/the-robert-johnson-scholarship](https://cornishcollege.vic.edu.au/the-robert-johnson-scholarship)

# A year at Wesley College

School chaplain Bradon French reflects on his first year working with [Wesley College](#), Glen Waverley campus.



When I started at Wesley, I placed a yellow L plate on my office window. Partly to remind myself, and partly to manage expectations of the community on the new guy.

As students returned to campus this week, I replaced the yellow L plate with a red P plate. It's baby steps. I thought I'd share how I justified the promotion.

My first year at Wesley was deeply satisfying, though it was not without its challenges. I enjoyed the opportunity to grow into the role of Campus Chaplain while also redeveloping my skills as a classroom teacher.

We confronted individual and systemic crises, as well as shifting between campus and remote learning too many times to recall, always with a priority of ensuring the safety of the community.

I think it's reasonable to say that Covid restrictions and remote teaching limited some opportunities to participate in the breadth of the Wesley College experience. In that way, I fear I may still have some training wheels on into 2022.

In some ways, 'turning up' is my greatest achievement. Each day I am in awe of the opportunity afforded to me, and the responsibility it carries. It can be overwhelming. Similarly, a daily 5:45am alarm and an 80km drive to work might once have been considered a formidable challenge for pre-Wesley Bradon. Yet I did not dare miss a day.

Perhaps the achievement I am most proud of, however, is best captured by theologian Miroslav Volf:

"Though brokenness runs like a crack through the entire edifice of the world and the depths of its pain are at times inexpressible, they are secondary. Goodness is primary; it is primordial and ineliminable. Joy is, therefore, more basic and stronger than its opposite."

My hope is that I might support the Wesley students and staff to seek and share joy. Joy that is not naïve nor temporary, but joy that is both the beginning and the end of authentic personal, social, and political transformation. Joy that is best experienced in community.

I hope that in my work this year, I have hinted at this joy. Joy that draws us to worship and empowers us for the active love of God and neighbour.

As I said, it's baby steps.

Bradon French



Bradon French  
Chaplain, Glen Waverley Campus

## Rev. Steve Terrell has a chaplaincy story with a bit of a difference

To start, even though still a UCA minister of 30 years, he's not in a regular placement and instead is employed as a Chaplain in an independent Christian college. Beaconhills College was started jointly by local Anglican and Uniting congregations 40 years ago. Now with campuses in Pakenham and Berwick, the college has four chaplains - enough to earn the Head Master the nickname "the Bishop of Beaconhills".

Steve also serves on a volunteer basis with Australian Army Cadets as Victorian Deputy Brigade Chaplain. It's a serendipitous arrangement, bringing together Steve's passion for developing leadership and resilience in young people, education, and his background in the military..

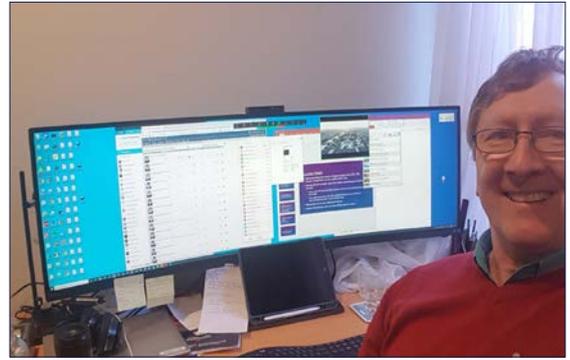
Both the College and Army Cadets are multifaith contexts. Many college students are from other faiths or none, and as a "teaching chaplain" the Religious and Values Ed subject Steve writes and delivers naturally includes educating about a variety of world religions as well as Christianity.

Steve says, "It's such a privilege to be in this trusted position, and hopefully enable a community to reflect its Christian values by being deeply respectful of other faith perspectives. I love the look on, say, the Hindu kids' faces when I tell them they are the "subject matter expert" for this unit on Hinduism and they have permission to correct me if I've got something wrong!"

Beaconhills was very well prepared for the move to remote-learning. Steve became quite adept at Zoom, flipped learning, and pre-recorded Chapel services ready to be beamed out to students at home. After consulting with students, Steve has retained many aspects learned during lockdown such as self-paced learning and personalised approaches to assessment.

As part of the Australian Defence community, Cadets, as Australia's premier youth development program also seeks to be culturally inclusive while helping build young people who are resilient and respectful leaders. Chaplaincy in Defence, whether it's Permanent/Reserve (combat) or Cadets (non-combat), is clearly defined.

"We provide spiritual guidance, pastoral care, character development, liturgical services and advice to command. It's a brilliant system because it is the chaplain's faith that equips them to provide a unique capacity in the Defence context", says Steve.



The Cadets themselves love having chaplains around, especially when they are out bush or under stressful conditions at promotion courses at an Army base. Chaplains, often referred to as "padre", take on a variety of roles.

One of Steve's favourites is being awake before everyone else to get a campfire going. He also facilitated a "uniform adjustment" to accommodate the headwear requirements of some cadets of the Sikh religion, much to the delight of both the cadets and their parents.

Steve says one of the most rewarding experiences was at a recent promotion course setting up a Muslim prayer space to accommodate a number of brand new cadets from Sirius College's new unit, although he admits being up pre-dawn for their first prayer time was a bit of a challenge!

*Struggling to pay the rent?*

*Think it's time to sell your beloved family cow and swap her for a handful of Magic Beans?*

*Has a giant and his evil wife threatened to take over your house, village or kingdom?*

## **IT MUST BE PANTO TIME!**

Mt Eliza Community Pantomime is a group established by [The Village Church, Mt Eliza](#) as part of our community outreach. The group began in 2019 when some playgroup and church families began to discuss their common love for theatre, pantomime, and of course Mt Eliza is filled with families and large numbers of immigrants from the UK. The simple intention is to bring life and joy to all who take part and attend a production.

Pantomime is an English-style, bright, joyful, and funny telling of a traditional children's story. The sets and costumes are full of colour and there are traditional characters, such as a pantomime dame – a man playing the role of a woman, and Daisy the Cow. Best of all, pantomime includes loads of audience participation and is fun for people of all ages.

In 2019, Mt Eliza Community Pantomime held their first production, Aladdin, which the Village Church produced and supported. We had hoped to do another production in 2020, then 2021, and we are delighted to finally bring the story of 'Jack and the Beanstalk' to the stage on the weekend of February 18-20, at the Mt Eliza Community Hall.

A wonderful cast, crew, and band have been working away on Jack since the later part of last year. A lovely pantomime community has formed and it's great that the church is at the heart of this joyful activity. Tickets to Jack and the Beanstalk, very affordable theatre, can be purchased through Trybooking.



**Rev Cameron McAdam,  
Minister of Mt Eliza Uniting Church**



Mount Eliza community Pantomime is Proud to bring you ....

February

18th @ 7pm  
19th @ 6pm  
20th @ 12pm

# Jack AND THE Beanstalk

By James Barry

Proudly supported by



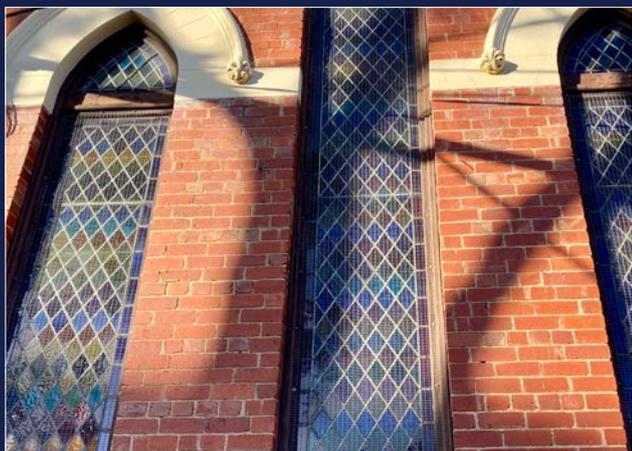
Mount Eliza Community Hall

Tickets Adult \$25 Kids \$12 and \$65 for a family

Booking Link: <https://www.trybooking.com/BVTOH>

A fun filled magical Pantomime for the whole family

BOOK NOW!



### THE TIME IS NOW!

Presbytery is calling for nominations for members of the VIC/TAS Synod meeting being held at Box Hill Town Hall, 30 June – 3 July, 2022.

This year we are planning for a face to face conference. We're looking for 42 people, a cross section of people from the Uniting Church.

Download the nomination form from the Presbytery website [ucapnep.org](http://ucapnep.org) and send it to our Presbytery Secretary Anne Kim by 28 February.



### WE FAREWELL

With regret we let you know that Cameron McAdam has resigned from his role as Deputy Chair of the Presbytery. Cam's vision and drive were crucial to the reforms being implemented in the Presbytery and we will be ever grateful to him for that. Presbytery is calling for nominations for the Deputy Chair role, and for a member of Standing Committee.

# Christmas Installation at Glen Waverley

For the second year in a row Glen Waverley Uniting Church created a magnificent Christmas installation which was presented across three rooms. The installation was an invitation to experience Christmas with our senses of sound, touch, sight, smell and thinking about taste. The display offered reflections and questions to stimulate our own personal thinking and reflection on the story of Christmas. It was an invitation to experience Christmas in a new way and to reflect more deeply on the impact of the birth of Jesus for us. It was a moving and thought provoking exercise to take a journey through the Installation.

The display was open for two weeks to the congregation and the public. Our big challenge is finding ways to better engage with the public. Of course, the COVID situation did not help with this.

It is great to be able to utilize the creative gifts of people in offering this expression of ministry and mission.





## NEW TO THE TEAM

Port Phillip East Presbytery is happy to announce the appointment of Sarah Manase as Presbytery Communications Officer. Sarah's role includes editing the monthly Newsbeat magazine, as well as working with others in the Presbytery to curate content for the website and social media channels.

Sarah brings experience and training in event management and communication, with a qualification in public relations from Swinburne University of Technology.

She is also working two days a week with the VicTas Synod as an administration assistant, with particular focus on event management.

Sarah started in January 2022.

She can be reached by email: [comms-officer@ucappep.org](mailto:comms-officer@ucappep.org)

## Tell us what's happening...

Port Phillip East Presbytery Office  
PO Box 696, Noble Park, VIC 3174  
03 9558 4170

Tom Spurling - [chair@ucappep.org](mailto:chair@ucappep.org)  
Anne Kim - [secretary@ucappep.org](mailto:secretary@ucappep.org)  
Duncan Macleod - [pm-tl@ucappep.org](mailto:pm-tl@ucappep.org)  
Craig Mitchell - [pm-cd@ucappep.org](mailto:pm-cd@ucappep.org)  
Anneke Oppewal - [pm-pastoral@ucappep.org](mailto:pm-pastoral@ucappep.org)  
Jeff Gardner - [treasurer@ppe.victas.uca.org.au](mailto:treasurer@ppe.victas.uca.org.au)  
Sarah Manase - [comms-officer@ucappep.org](mailto:comms-officer@ucappep.org)



### Uniting in prayer for February

Each week congregations are encouraged to include their neighbours in their prayers. The Presbytery's prayer calendar covers congregations, schools and agencies of the Uniting Church.

February 6	<b>St Leonard's College, Brighton</b> – Principal Mr Stuart Davis, Chaplain Rev Judith Watkins  <b>Wesley College</b> – Principal Mr Nick Evans, Chaplains Mr Bradon French & Ms Kaylea Fearn
February 13	<b>Cornish College</b> – Principal Ms Nicola Forrest, Chaplain Rev Claire Dawe
February 21	<b>School chaplains</b> – Mr Rod Dungan, Rev Steve Terrell, Rev Judith Watkins, Ms Kaylea Fearn, Mr Bradon French
February 27	<b>University chaplains in our Presbytery</b> – Rev Kharis Abadani, Ms Mandy Lake, Ms Kelly Skilton, Rev Jay Robinson

*Let us pray  
for a world  
thick of thin places,  
where God is near  
and Christ skips beside us  
joyfully rejoicing  
because all is well.*

*Let us pray for a world  
where tears are no more  
and cemeteries  
full of freshly dug graves  
are a thing of the past.*

*Let us pray for a world  
where death has  
disappeared  
and loss and grief  
no longer meet  
with restrictions  
and limited access  
to comfort and care*

*Let us pray for people  
who live the future now  
without fear  
their hearts and minds open  
to welcome and embrace  
whoever is looking for shelter.*

*Let us pray for an end  
to whatever mars  
the image of Christ  
the Church is living out  
and a future  
where pain, grief and tears  
are obsolete.*

*Let us sing of  
what we dream of  
and imagine the future  
into the present  
because here and now  
is the time to start living  
the reality of God's love.  
Amen*

# PRAYER OF HOPE

by Annete Oppewal



The Presbytery office is at 1 Allan St, Noble Park.



03 9558 4710



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Email stories for Newsbeat to [comms-officer@ucappep.org](mailto:comms-officer@ucappep.org)

