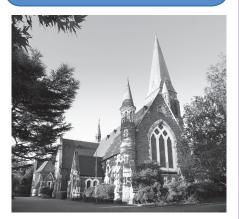
NEWSBEAT



PRESBYTERY OF PORT PHILLIP EAST

Bluestone gem given state festival honour



The beautiful bluestone church in Toorak has been honoured by the Victorian Heritage Festival organisers as part of their upcoming programme of events. Toorak Uniting Church will be throwing open its doors to the public on Sunday, May 6 from 12 noon till 5pm as part of the prestigious festival that recognises the historical treasures in the state of Victoria.

Everyone in the presbytery is invited so please put the date in your diary. There will be an illustrated talk at 2.15pm on the church's architectural history. Stories will also be told of the great love, heroism and courage depicted in the church's stunning stained glass windows.

The art gallery and café in the old manse will also be open for refreshments and fellowship. Lyn Peterson, of Toorak Uniting Church, says: "Please come to the presentation or just wander round during the afternoon and look at our beautiful old church from the history/architectural point of view. Invite your family and friends. TUC is at 603 Toorak Road, Toorak, near the corner of St George's Road. Please contact Lyn Petersen (03-9531.4267 or email lpetersen9@ bigpond.com)

Webwise for

Gen-Ys

Youth team builds new site to bridge the gaps

UCA Youth now has a fully functioning - and funky - website which provides vital resources for youth ministry across VicTas.

Most of the summer has been spent putting it together and it should prove to be an invaluable tool to everyone in the presbytery.

The website is http://ucayouth.org.au

On the site you'll find resources, recommended core approaches, event and training opportunities and other fun thoughts.



Drew Hanna, spokesperson for the UCA Youth team, says: "Something we've been working on throughout Lent is posting a reflection on one of the 40 developmental assets each

day. It's not too late to hop on the site and catch up on the first 12 asset reflections.



"We are also launching an E-newsletter that will be delivered into peoples inboxes up to 8 times throughout the year. The aim of the E-newsletter is to highlight key issues, experiences and opportunities that will benefit ministry to and with young people."

So what we need you to do now is:

- Jump onto the website http://ucayouth.org.au have a look around and give us feedback on our offerings.
- Sign up to the E-newsletter (located on the homepage.)
- Forward this email to your networks to help spread the word, eg ministers, key leaders and young people.

The first E-newsletter is going out next week with a focus on Easter. If you have resources or events that are engaging young people around the theme of Easter then

please email info@ucayouth.org.au to include them!
"We look forward to hearing from you," adds Hanna.



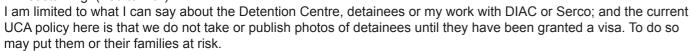


Christine on Christmas

Rev Christine Senini has been appointed chaplain on Christmas Island through the WA Synod. It's a tough role but she's rising to the challenge...

"SPEAKING broadly, my approach is three pronged, and I like to refer to it as working from the outside in:

- Establish a base of operations; observe and assess the environment, culture, and context; consider needs, goals, and priorities (Dec to Jan).
- Embed myself within the Island community; develop a profile and engender trust; project confidence, competence, capability, and understanding. (Jan to Feb).
- Explore and implement opportunities; work as a 'force multiplier', connect the community with the detainees and develop programs and activities that are self sustaining. (Feb to Mar).



People can often be confused about the role here, it is more than just visiting and spending time with the detainees, it is more strategic than that. The key opportunity here is to work within the often confused and complicated structures



to provide opportunities to improve the lives of the detainees while they are here.

That said, I am active and well accepted in the two Churches on the Island (Catholic and non denominational Christian Island Fellowship) and work closely with their representatives who also attend the Centres. I am also working with other faith groups on the Island (Bahai, Buddhist, Muslim) and after much



hard work, am close to convincing the Imam to implement regular visits to the Centres. My emphasis, however, is on an interfaith, non judgemental presence amongst the detainees, the detention centre staff, the community, the AFP, and the ADF. My dress of the day is my clerical collar which works brilliantly as an 'identity' for an Island Chaplain. The Muslim detainees happily accept me understanding that my collar means 'I am some sort of Imam (Christian equivalent)', and my collar never fails to make an immediate connection with the community - even if it is only initially 'polite curiosity'. For an Island that is full of people wearing uniforms my collar provides a distinctive, unique, and

MURRUMBEENA **COMMUNITY MARKET**



Saturday 14 April 2012 9am – 2pm 117 Murrumbeena Road (Melways 69 A5)

For the first time - Tools from the Hand Tool Preservation Association of Australia. In commemoration of ANZAC Day, ANZAC biscuits will be provided with purchases of tea or coffee at the Market Café, and Mother's Day gifts will be available ... plus ... Art Books, Cards, Confectionery, Cosmetics, Eco- products, Fresh Produce, Gourmet Foods, Honey, Jewellery, Crafts and Quilts. Plants etc. ENTRY BY GOLD COIN DONATION

extremely effective signal (and reference point) of my presence, participation, and commitment to the Island. Perhaps the biggest challenge here is to create an understanding of chaplaincy, particularly community chaplaincy. The other big issue here is earning trust and projecting a sense of permanence. To earn the trust of the community is an enormous achievement (without fail, the first question here is 'how long are you here for.')

While I refer to the Island as delightfully quirky, it can be a complex and confusing culture that, without understanding the context and history, can be full of pitfalls that could alienate, offend, and curtail opportunities."

*The full version of Christine's first blog, along with a series of articles Christine has penned for the Christmas Island newspaper is available. Contact jay@robinsonfamily.id.au

Partnership partner sought for Pastoral **Support**

UNITINGCARE Community Options (UCCO) is looking for a Pastoral Support and Culture Worker to play an integral role in the organisation. The candidate reports directly to the Manager People and Culture and will be responsible for providing pastoral support to staff, volunteers and clients. You will also play a key role in developing and coordinating organisational culture initiatives including employee engagement and team building activities, and reward and recognition. You will also participate in employee relations matters as required.

In this role, you will liaise with local congregations to raise awareness of the work of UCCO and develop partnerships between the church and agency.



To fulfill this role successfully you will have qualifications in counselling (or a related discipline) as well as:

- Demonstrated experience in direct chaplaincy support/pastoral care.
- Ability to facilitate difficult conversations.
- Skills in assisting people through significant life transitions
- Understanding of church structures and culture
- Excellent communication skills
- Ability to work autonomously and in a team
- Experience in organisational culture initiatives (desirable)
- An understanding of the community sector (desirable) Current Driver's Licence
- Above all, this role requires a candidate who is able to build and maintain strong relationships in and out of the organisation. Email your resume and cover letter to jobs@ucco.org.au

For further information or for a confidential discussion please call Cassandra Hatton on (03) 9239 2500.



THE combined choirs of Koornang UC, St Columba's Noble Park UC, Leighmoor UC and the Yarawa Wesley Methodist Church Choir from the Fiji Islands brought the house down at a recent carol concert.

The service, held at Koornang, included traditional Fijian carols and an amazing rendition of the Hallelujah Chorus.

Marg Edwards adds: "The show continued during supper we were entertained with more singing and dancing in the hall. It was a great night for all."



Fijian magic





St John's Uniting Church Elsternwick celebrates 125 years of being church in October 2012

St John's Uniting Church Elsternwick celebrates 125 years of being church in Elsternwick on 31st October 2012. The anniversary service will take place on Sunday 28th October at 10am and other celebrations are being planned. We would love to hear from you if you or your family have had any connection with the church over the last 125 years - with the worshipping community, the scouts, the girl guides, the tennis, cricket, football clubs, the dances....

Please contact us by phone - Audrey 9523 8413 or the Pastor, Christine Clinch, by email stjohns.elsternwick@ucappep.net or by letter PO Box 4069, Hopetoun Gardens, VIC 3162. We look forward to hearing from you!

New congregation recognised in **Port Phillip East**

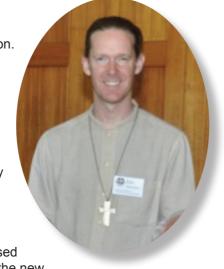
The Presbytery of Port Phillip East has recognised a new congregation as part of the **Creative Ministries Network.**

Presbytery Chairperson, Rev. Ian Ferguson, pictured, led a service of recognition for the new congregation at the agency's recent anniversary service. Welcoming the new congregation, Ian said: "This new congregation is the first congregation of the Uniting Church to be recognised as part of a UnitingCare

"The Presbytery congratulates the Network's Board for this initiative. The Board has previously been a faith community of our Presbytery, and a year ago they approached us to begin the steps towards

You are warmly invited to our:

recognising a congregation. After a series of fruitful conversations the Presbytery signed a Memorandum of Understanding to clarify the mutual responsibilities of each party. We were all greatly assisted in talking this through by the Assembly document, 'being church differently," he added. Ten people were recognised as founding members of the new



congregation at the service. Each person came forward when their name was read out to put their name on the congregation roll. "There was a great spirit of joy and a sense of new life in the service,"lan said.

"The Presbytery has appointed two members to guide and support the members of the congregation as it develops and to learn from their experience. We hope this is the first of many new congregations to be recognised in our agencies and schools in the future."

Garden Dedication

Port Melbourne Uniting Church

Harvest Service

Cnr Nott & Bridge Sts, Port Melbourne in the garden, weather permitting

> Sunday 1st April 2012 9.30 am

Followed by morning tea

Guest Preacher: Isabel Thomas-Dobson

Moderator, Uniting Church Victoria & Tasmania

South Port Uniting Church office Ph 9690 1188

For more information: Rev Peter Batten, Ph: 0419 255 585 peter.batten@southportuniting.org.au





Everyone deserves to live life to the full, even if you are young and living with a brain injury. Wesley Mission Victoria is opening a new "my future my choice" residential home in Cranbourne for this reason. Wesley CEO, Rob Evers explains: "Wesley is pleased to open this new house which will provide a secure, home-like environment for young people facing the same challenges"

"At 'my future my choice,' our residents have the opportunity to socialise and remain connected to the community while developing their independent living skills in a supported environment.

"The opportunity this offers to young people is something we can all be proud of," he adds.



Reverend Deacon Val Aumann, Dip Tchg (E C E)

Golden milestone for Val Aumann

AT 8pm on Thursday, March 8th, 1962 people gathered at The East Bentleigh Presbyterian Church to witness Val Aumann's commissioning ceremony.

To honour the 50th anniversary of Val's commissioning a service was recently held at Ewing Memorial Uniting Church, Malvern East, with more than 120 people in attendance.

Many had travelled from the various parishes around the state in which Val has served for five decades to celebrate her work, attend the Eucharist Service and enjoy the afternoon tea in the church hall after the service.

Val and her husband, Rev Peter Aumann, who also celebrated 50 years of ministry in May 2011, prepared the Order of Service - which included many personal favourites.

Val took part in the Inauguration Service for the Renewed Diaconate at Wesley Church, Melbourne, in February 1993 and was accredited as a Deacon at that time.



Synod

OAKLEIGH scooped the individual winner's prize at the Synod Ecumenical Awards in 2011 for the work of Ted Young, St David's on behalf to Warrawee Park for the festivities. The winner of the UCA Parish of Balkara.

The prize was picked up after Oakleigh's

Ecumenical Carols in the Park service where the good weather brought 2000 people audience joined in singing their favourite carols and local groups also entertained.

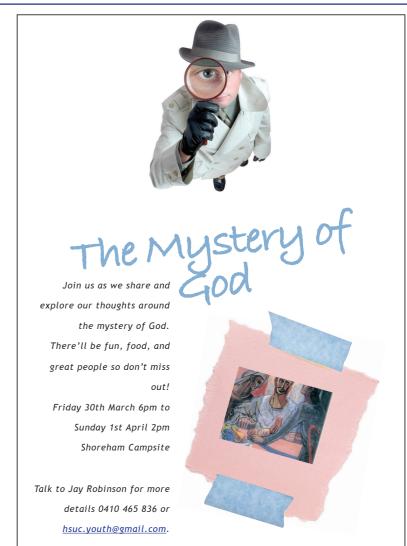
Crafty way to showcase Hastings UC's new look

WHAT better way to put to good use the renovations of the Hastings Centre of the Uniting Church than to stage the Western Port Craft Fest.

The event will celebrate and exhibit the best craftwork in the Western Port area (and sometimes the wider Mornington Peninsula) by a vast array of wonderful local craftspeople and community groups. An event will enable these individuals and also the community groups to not only display their work - and sell if they wish - but promote their group as well. There is already a 'full house' of groups and individuals wishing to participate. Along with demonstrations of craftwork and mini workshops to teach basic 'get started' skills. Morning and afternoon tea/coffee plus a light lunch will also be available.

This event would enable outreach and by our 'quietly enthusiastic action' demonstrate a willingness to encourage and interact with the wider non-church community in accordance with our Mission and our Vision.

> Western Port Craft Fest **Hastings Church** Saturday, 31st March 10am to 4pm Gold coin entry.



'Once in a lifetime' opportunity to hear theological marvel

THE Presbytery has achieved a major coup with the imminent visit of Princeton Theological Seminary Professor Darrell Guder.

To understand how valuable his visit will be, here is short bio on the website The High Calling which describes him thus: "Darrell Guder was appointed to the Henry

Darrell's dates and times

Leadership Matters:

April 15-18 at Grantville

(Sunday arvo – Wed arvo)

April 22 and 29, May 6 and

13 at Noble Park (3.30-8pm

Lodge with Gippsland

Choose from...

Option 1

Presbytery

Option 2

4 Sundays:

incl dinner)

3 days:

\$185

\$100

Winters Luce Chair of Missional and Ecumenical Theology in January 2002 at Princeton Theological Seminary, where he challenges the church to reclaim its missionary spirit. The California native earned his Ph.D. in Hamburg, Germany, and was a youth pastor and college professor there. He also directed the Institute of Youth Ministries of Fuller Seminary and Young Life and was academic dean of Whitworth College."

Rev Steve Terrell described his visit next month as 'a once in a lifetime opportunity,' adding: "He is researching his material and coming to us for input. This is a very exciting opportunity, and to talk about his work in context of what we are doing is remarkable."



Darrell Guder: Princeton Theological Seminary Professor of Missional and Ecumenical Theology

Urgent call for Form 1

In preparation for Darrell Guder's visit the Presbytery would like all congregations who have not done so recently, to complete a Form 1. This form invites congregations to describe how they think God functions in their neighbourhood, and how they are called to participate in God's action. This gains a clearer picture of the missional life of the Presbytery, and is helpful for congregations. Form 1, and 'How to use Form 1' are on the Synod website (www.victas.uca.org.au/property-andinsurance-services/property/application-forms/). The adage, "more effort in = more benefit out" applies here. Please email completed forms to Rev. Steve Terrell and bring to May meeting.

Press picks Merricks Lodge

MERRICKS Lodge - the Uniting Church camp site down in Merrick on the Mornington Peninsula was given a full-page feature in the Western Port News recently.

virtues of this 'hidden gem' were extolled in the extensive

piece, accompanied

by two glorious photographs of the lake (minus the kayaks which provide great fun to 'mess around in boats') on the site and the quaint cabin accommodation. Well worth a visit with your

congregation or failing that maybe join up with another congregation already planning to head down there?



Merricks Lodge – a hidden jewe



Darrell's dates and times

FOR Presbytery members, Church Council, ministers and other leaders:

> Sat May 26 ıpm - 5pm

Session 1 (members and visitors.) Approx 1pm

- What is happening to the church in our time, and where is it leading?
- Does the church have a future and what might thatbe like?
- The shape of the church in a post-Christian culture

Session 2. (members) post afternoon tea Conversation starters include:

- Missional Church when the church buildings are tired
- Missional church when we feel old and tired
- Missional church when we've got no money
- Missional-church when there's no existing church community
- What are the essential ingredients of the church?
- What form and content for Christian Worship in a missional context?

Registration for all events by April 5 via forms from www.ucappep.org or Steve Terrell