



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 Petersen, 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.

twitter

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).

I am limited to what I can say about the Detention Centre, detainees or my work with DIAC or Serco; and the current UCA policy here is that we do not take or publish photos of detainees until they have been granted a visa. To do so may put them or their families at risk.

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



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



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



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@ucapapp.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 agency. "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

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," Ian 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."

My future my choice

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.

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.



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



Synod winner

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 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 to Warrawee Park for the festivities. The 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.

You are warmly invited to our:

Harvest Service & Garden Dedication

Port Melbourne Uniting Church
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

RSVP:
South Port Uniting Church office
Ph 9690 1188

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



The Mystery of God

Join us as we share and explore our thoughts around the mystery of God.

There'll be fun, food, and great people so don't miss out!

Friday 30th March 6pm to
Sunday 1st April 2pm
Shoreham Campsite

Talk to Jay Robinson for more details 0410 465 836 or hsuc.youth@gmail.com.



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