

NEWSBEAT



November 2012

PRESBYTERY OF
PORT PHILLIP EAST

Church
colours wow
Monash
diners.
Picture
feature on
page 7



Peter Whitaker
celebrates four
decades of ministry
with family, friends and
colleagues. Turn to
page 4 to hear how.



Festive date
for your
diary - not to
be missed!
Full story on
page 2

Merricks' delegates shape the future of cross-cultural ministry

BOUNDARIES were crossed and bridges were definitely built at the recent Cross-Cultural Mission & Ministry Retreat at Merricks Lodge - paving the way for cross-cultural developments and discussions that will shape UCA in the future.

It was held on our turf - Merricks Lodge is the Uniting Church campsite on the Mornington Peninsula - and was well attended by many (play spot the PPEP minister in the picture.) This year the Cross Cultural Mission & Ministry retreat participants harked from throughout Victoria and Tasmania and the retreat was held over three days; with more than 50 participants from congregations in VicTas.

Activities included community building exercises, pastoral conversations and presentations within the theme: Many Cultures, One God, One World and One Body. Professor of Old Testament Studies at the Centre for Theology and Ministry, Dr Monica Melanchthon, presented on the theme by examining and discussing



A festive centenary for Frontier Services

THE 2012 Centenary series of Frontier Services Christmas Cards is now available.

To place your order, please contact Frontier Services on 1300 787 247, or visit www.frontierservices.org to print and complete a Christmas card order form and mail it to Frontier Services, GPO Box 2527, Sydney NSW 2001. The cards are \$6 per pack of six, or as a special offer, last year's card series is still available for \$6 per pack of 10. Prices include postage.



stories within Genesis. She used the Old Testament text as an entry point to raise questions and ideas around diversity.

The Director of Cross-cultural Mission and Ministry Unit, Rev Koh Swee-Ann says: "What Monica shared was really challenging for all the communities involved. I hope all those who were there took notes and really reflect on what she said and the challenges she posed to us as a multi-cultural church."

Rev John Mann adds: "Our own Presbytery's emphasis on this aspect of our community life is important and everyone should be aware of these needs and opportunities. Further information about this and other events of this kind can be found through our Presbytery's Cross-cultural Network convened by Rev Hoon You."

Broadcast news from CCM

The following link is a Vimeo clip about the Cross Cultural Mission & Ministry Retreat that was held at Merricks Lodge. The video includes interviews from CCMM Director Swee-Ann Koh and speaker Monica Melanchthon. Enjoy... <http://vimeo.com/52133983#>

If you would like to submit a news item for the Presbytery's monthly Newsbeat newsletter please send all articles and images to newsbeat@ucappep.org



O Come All Ye Faithful

Invitation for the whole Presbytery to join in the festive fun

OUR first Presbytery Carols on the Green is coming up soon so mark the date in your diary!

It will be held on **Sunday 2nd December at Cornish College - 65 Riverend Road, Bangholme.**

Our afternoon program kicks off at 4pm with family activities including:

Make yours a Mission Without Borders?

Christmas is a special time of the year around the world when people come to celebrate the gift of God, Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the World.

Sparkling decorations appear and there is a festive atmosphere. But how can those in poverty in Eastern Europe, who barely manage to survive, celebrate Christmas?

This Christmas, as they have done in past years, **Mission Without Borders brings Operation Christmas Love**, which delivers 30,000 crucial parcels of food.

Each food parcel costs around \$40 and contains essential items such as flour, sugar, oil, rice and pasta, as well as sweets, chocolate, tea, soup mix, tinned foods and Christian literature.



Help make a huge difference in the lives of poor people, bringing joy and hope, and assuring every single beneficiary that God is providing for their needs at the time

they need it most. Contact MWB at PO Box 7533 Silverwater NSW 1811 or visit www.mwb.org.au



- Christmas craft;
- a Nativity scene that you can get dressed up and become part of;
- the activity staff from Merricks Lodge will be there for some fun and games;
- the Big Red Bus from Cranbourne will be there selling food and drinks;
- a photographer will be around to take family photos for a small fee;
- there will be magic and music;
- the Cornish College Parents Association will have a BBQ;

Then our Carols will kick off at 6pm with a range of items and lots of carols for everyone to sing.

There will also be the opportunity to give a gift or donation to the Share Appeal's Operation Santa. This appeal assists families and children in the local area at this time of Christmas.

Come and bring your family for this fun and Christmassy event. There will be food to purchase or bring a picnic to have on the grass. Bring your rugs, chairs and best carol singing voices. There is lots of parking and space to wander. We have a wet weather plan to be in the hall, so come no matter the weather! Contact Rev Jay Robinson on jay@robinsonfamily.com.au or 0410 465836 for details.

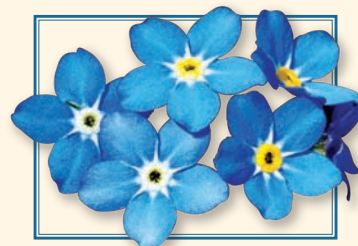
What's On...

- Teaching Luke and the Prophets - **Tues 13 - Thurs 15 November 2012** <https://event.goregister.com.au/lukeandprophets/>
- Prepare for the coming liturgical year with teaching Luke and the Prophets **Nov 13-15.**
- Fundamental Ministry - **Tues 27 - Thurs 29 November 2012** - a Fundamental of Transitional Ministry held in Launceston.

More details of these events are on the Continuing Education Website <http://ctm.uca.edu.au/continuingeducation>. The site has recently been given a major overhaul and now includes a blog. Also resources for life long learning are being added frequently.

If you have any questions, or require further information, please contact info@ctm.uca.edu.au or 9340 8800.

Road Trauma Support Services warmly invites you to the 12th Annual Time for Remembering. Sunday 18th November 2012 at 12 noon



To remember those who have died, acknowledge those who have been injured and recognise the impact of road trauma on our community.

Queen's Hall, Parliament House, Melbourne (Melways Ref. 2F K2)

Refreshments will follow the ceremony

You are invited to bring a small framed photo of your loved one or other symbol of remembrance

To RSVP and for further information please contact **8877 6900** or reception@rtssv.org.au

Proudly supported by



It's people that make a church

Reflections of 100 years at Edithvale UC strengthen this message

THE church car park was bursting and the side streets were full of cars, so it was a safe bet that the church would be overflowing write Chris and Martin Bell (members from 1963-1984.)



Grandparents, grandchildren, visitors from 'way back when' chatted happily trying to recognise faces in the congregation as Peter Cochrane ushered guests to their seats and we squeezed up to let one more person in. The combined choir looked resplendent with their blue 'V's' over their white shirts. It is always spine tingling to sing 'O for a thousand tongues' with 170 tongues plus Dorothy Evans on the new Hammond organ and Graeme Marshall on the piano. A fantastic start to a memorable service led by Rev Neil Peters, Pastor Di Paterson and Ms Isabel Thomas Dobson (Moderator).

delicious anniversary cake. Addressing a packed worship centre, Moderator Isobel Thomas-Dobson proclaimed the Word, including a reflection on the congregation rather than the building, the memories of events, relationships, music, food, ministers, celebrations and struggles.

The Moderator drew parallels between the congregation's journey and that of the disciples' growth in seeing and thinking as God sees things. She extended the thought into wondering what justice and fairness might look like, especially when we need to do difficult and unwelcome things like closing a school, and how we can learn from other cultures about serving.

She concluded by asking what we should look forward to in the future. The answer is we don't know, but by prayer, Bible study, worship and talking we can learn to be the best disciples we can be, who see God at work in the world around us, and know how to be as adventurous as those who began the journey 100 years ago.

In the Hall (built over one of the church tennis courts) photos and research from the past, collated by Rev Norman Marshall and Dorothy Evans, were cause for much interest as more and more food was brought in for lunch. The name tags were a real help to check if you knew the face above, but some folk had not changed much over the years. It was really great to catch up with friends and our children's friends from long ago.

Congratulations and well done Edithvale Uniting Church.



Heather Jones took us back in time with her reflections on the past 50 odd years and Melva De Young had the honour of cutting the

Above: Di Paterson creating an image of the church as a diverse group of people embraced by the loving arms of God and built upon Jesus as the foundation.



Above left: Presentations included a special altar cloth from St Josephs Catholic Church and a giant card and gift of \$300 from the Samoan Church which has shared the building with Edithvale for the last 20 years.



Above left: Mrs Melva De Young, member since 1953, cut the centenary cake

Two score years for Peter

FRIENDS, family and colleagues came out in force to celebrate four decades of ministry from Rev. Peter Whitaker.

Celebrations were spread over a special service of worship held at the Leighmoor Uniting Church - a fabulous band formed for the occasion - with a lunch afterwards.

Rev. John Mann is photographed presenting Peter with a certificate to recognise his 40 year achievement. During his sermon, Peter recounted his journey of faith over much of his time of ministry, revealing many of his thoughts, feelings and sense of divine revelation to a call to ministry as a

young man in South Africa. Peter was ordained in the South Africa Methodist Church during a time when strong, but divided feelings around the issue of apartheid were being expressed - not only in the broader community, but the Church as well. This had potentially deep personal consequences for him and others who took a stand within the church against such racism. Rev. John Mann says: "Peter has served his call well over these 40 years and people of the Uniting Church remember his ministry, ACCESS ministries and his time with the Burwood congregation too. There were many of Peter's friends from these and other places who came to Leighmoor to help him celebrate. The Presbytery of Port Phillip East gives thanks to God for Peter's faithful response to his calling."



Quote...

"God has no religion."

Mahatma Gandhi

...of the month

40 Developmental Assets Training

1 December 2012 9:00am – 4:30pm
 Centre for Theology & Ministry 29 College Cres, Parkville VIC 3052
<https://event.goregister.com.au/40assetstraining/>

Assets gripping

THE 40 Developmental Assets are positive experiences and personal qualities that young people need to grow up healthy, caring and responsible.

Rod Dungan and Craig Mitchell are accredited trainers of the 40 Developmental Assets and founding members of Thriving Youth Australia and will be delivering Introductory and Advanced training on Saturday 1 December 2012 9:00am – 4:30pm Centre for Theology & Ministry, 29 College Cres, Parkville, 3052
 Cost: \$40

Rod Dungan is a long term Uniting Church youth worker, chaplain and community educator and has taught internationally on the Developmental Assets and Youth Ministry.

Craig Mitchell is currently the Christian Education Research Fellow for the UCA Assembly and has previously worked in the areas of children & youth ministry, Christian education, mission planning, leadership development and communication.

More information: info@ctm.uca.edu.au; 03 9340 8815, to register visit <https://event.goregister.com.au/40assetstraining>

Synod dates for your diaries

The next ordinary meeting of the Synod will be held from Friday, May 3 to Tuesday, May 7, 2013. Please put these dates in your diaries and avoid arranging other meetings during that time. Business sessions will run from the morning of Saturday 4 to the afternoon of Tuesday 7 May and will be held at LaTrobe University, Bundoora. Opening worship will be held at 7.30 pm on Friday 3 May and will include installation of our new Moderator, Dan Wootton.

Down on the farm with the Prahran Mission

THERE was something of the *Old MacDonald* about the Prahran Mission's faith community day trip in September.

For the group, consisting of veterans from the Day Rehab program, the Community Aged Care program, the PDRSS and some from the faith community service, visited Collingwood Children's Farm.

Ian Savage, Chaplain to the Prahran Mission, explains: "We were Christians, multi-faith, Jewish because, when organizing the excursion, I wanted to make connections across the Prahran Mission community – and to make sure the bus was full!

The trip was a delight! We got on well together. We all loved Lentil as Anything's vegetarian food. Seated around the refectory table we engaged in theological reflection. 'What story from your scripture does this remind you of?' Quick as a flash the answers came: 'the last supper,' 'the wedding at Cana in Galilee!'

After lunch we made our way to the Children's Farm. Some of us were more mobile than others but leaning on one another we all got round and saw all we wanted to see. The staff and volunteers at the Farm were very



helpful and supportive and told us about all the creatures at the farm from peacocks to cats.

Back at the Mission at 3.30pm, Open House (the Drop-in Centre) farewelled Jenny at the end of her placement. It had been a triumphant, bewildering and exhilarating experience. An opportunity to get to know one another and a challenge to see God in all things!"

Global Fellowship Day strengthens UCAF unity

A MULTI-CULTURAL program, which included hymns from South Africa and Thailand, was enjoyed by the Uniting Church Adult Fellowship (UCAF) recently.

Members and visitors attended the 2012 Synod of Victoria and Tasmania UCAF Council's Fellowship Day and AGM on Wednesday 24th October at the UC Centre.

Acting President Jean Thorpe extended a warm welcome which was followed by a greeting from Moderator, Isabel Thomas Dobson. Ann Connan lit the Remembrance Candle and called on a representative from each Presbytery to light a candle in memory of the UCAF members who had passed away during the year. The speakers were Audrey Dropsy from the UCA's Culturally &



Linguistically Diverse Women's Group (CALD) and Rev Swee-Ann Koh, Director of the Cross-Cultural Mission and Ministry Unit. Juliette Tautala'aso shared her faith journey which began in Samoa, before being presented with the UCAF Pastoral Theology Prize by Jean Thorpe, pictured. During the afternoon session's AGM, Rev David Pargeter, Executive Director of Commission for Mission installed the 2013 UCAF Council and incoming president, Kristine Zerbst. The offering supported Hotham Mission's Asylum Seeker Project.

Cornish collects marketing gong



Cornish College Principal, Mr Kerry Bolger and Mrs Karen Te Maipi, Council Member, receiving the Marketing Institute Award. The Bangholme college won the prestigious Australian Marketing Institute Awards for Marketing Excellence in the New Brand, Product or Service Launch category (Victoria) for 2012.

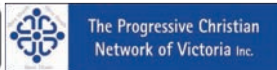
DO YOU WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

Community Services Expo and Church Fete

Saturday 17th November 2012

10.00am to 3.00pm

Ewing Memorial UC, 59 Burke Road, Malvern



Drop in and discover how you can make a huge difference in someone's life

"Be the change you want to see in the world"

Gandhi



Contact the Church Office on 03 9571 4575 for more information.



MULGRAVE UNITING CHURCH

62 Wanda Street, Mulgrave

ANNUAL FETE & CAR BOOT SALE

Saturday 1st December 2012

9.00 am to 1.00 pm

Homemade

- Christmas Fare
- Preserves
- Cakes / Biscuits
- Craft



Pre-loved

- Household Goods
- Treasures
- Books
- Toys

Plants



- Delicious Devonshire Tea
- Sausage Sizzle

Car Boot Sites \$15

Booking Enquiries - **9546 0352**

Letters to the Editor

Dear Newsbeat

Emmaus Walks were developed by the Methodist Church in the United States. Emmaus now comes under the umbrella of the Upper Room. It was brought to Australia through the Uniting Church in NSW. The UCA Assembly has a Memorandum of Understanding with Emmaus nationally. Emmaus Communities try to hold at least one Emmaus Walk a year.

An Emmaus Walk is a 72 hour live in Spiritual Walk that teaches, celebrates and lives out God's love and grace. The Walks are a good way to nurture discipleship and to develop leaders. Emmaus seeks to encourage participants to use their skills and gifts in the ministry and mission of a local congregation. Emmaus is not a church and does not replace a local church involvement. It is an Ecumenical movement. It is not a secret society. Participants are sponsored to attend a Walk.

If you would like to know more or have an Emmaus representative visit your Church Council please contact 9772 1529 npeters@inet.net.au
Rev Neil Peters
Chelsea UC

Goods for sale

Dear Newsbeat

A Hammond Organ is available to good home at a negotiable price. Two manuals, foot pedals, draw bars. Organ was re-conditioned two years ago and has had very little use since. The organists say that it has a very good tone. Inspection at the Red Hill UC. More photos available on request. Ring Jan Hall 5986 4456



Life's rich tapestry

International
Dinner
entertainments
delight
students from
around the
world

AN EXPLOSION of colour, culture and life is the only way to describe the International Dinner for 2012 - as these pictures reveal.

Monash Church offers English classes, playgroups, bible studies and family services for international students in the community and Uniting Church.

Part of this work is an International Dinner organised bi-annually, which enables everyone to meet together and share in food, fellowship and fun.

More than 160 members, students, family and friends attended with food from places as diverse as Indonesia, Iran, Japan and the Pacific Islands. Entertainers included The Korean 'Sori' Cultural Dance Group, the Monash Youth, the Monash Singing Group, Rev Lauleti Tu'inauvai and family singing songs from Tonga and the Keysborough Samoan Youth Group provided a superb finale with enthusiastic dancing to the delight of all who attended.

The night enables people from all round the Pacific and as far away as South America, Japan and the Middle East to learn about each other's culture, different foods and the diversity which makes up our world. As one Iranian student commented at the end of the evening: "We didn't know anything about Samoa till we came to the dinner, but the Samoans have really shown their culture and enthusiasm to us all, through their dancing. What a wonderful night."



Skillsfest
Growing Our Community

Port Melbourne Neighbourhood House
SouthPort UnitingCare

South Port Uniting Church
Port Melbourne Uniting Church

4-8pm
Saturday 24th November
2012

www.southportuniting.org.au/events.html

community groups - all ages together - Activities include: Garden Angel competition (enter your own angel)

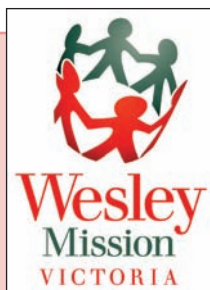
Soccer success

LAST month staff and clients from Wesley's Children, Youth and Family services, southern region, won the Dandenong Street Soccer Challenge after fielding two teams at Dandenong's Pop-Up-Park. Wesley convincingly won the round-robin-tournament by beating teams from other local organisations including the Magistrates Court; Youth Support and Advocacy Service; WAYSS; the City of Greater



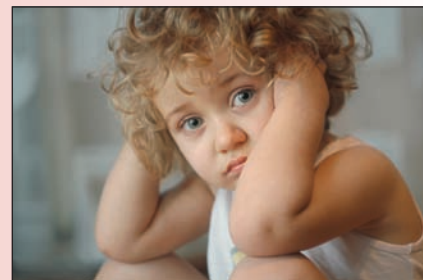
Dandenong and two street soccer teams.

Players, including staff and vulnerable youths, were of all ages and cultures and the match was a fantastic opportunity for the local community to come together in a fun and supportive environment. *Picture by Ursula Brain.*



Seasonal saviour?

Can you volunteer to help families in crisis? Wesley Mission



Victoria needs volunteers to help with Food For Families, our annual appeal collecting donated non-perishable food items and toiletries for disadvantaged families in the lead up to Christmas. Volunteers are needed to collect donations at participating Woolworths and IGA stores across Melbourne. All donations will go directly to helping people in need. For more details please contact Liz De Nittis on 9666 1253 during business hours.

GRINGOS GUZZLE GUACAMOLE AT MT ELIZA'S MEXICAN FESTIVAL



ARRIBA! ARRIBA! There was a celebration of Mexico at the Uniting Church in Mount Eliza when youth group members held a Mexican night for the congregation, their friends and their families recently.

This was their fourth themed fundraising dinner where youth group members planned, cooked and served the entire meal and organised games and entertainment for the children and adults. It was a great night of piñatas, pin the tail, yummy Mexican food and fellowship. Particular mention has to go to Christina, a year 11 youth group leader, who is doing her VCE food tech – very useful for such occasions!

Toilet humour

A giant toilet recently appeared in locations across the CBD, as part of the Melbourne Fringe Festival, to draw attention to the 2.4 billion people in the world who do not have access to a toilet.

Lack of access to a hygienic toilet is the leading cause of death for thousands of children around the world every day. "Talking about toilet habits is uncomfortable, but when not talking about toilets costs the lives of 2,000 children-under-five every day, we need to start talking crap," chief executive of WaterAid Australia Adam Laidlaw said.

The tour visited the electorates of 35 Federal Members of Parliament calling on them to commit greater funding for sanitation aid. The toilet tour was jointly organised by Micah Challenge and WaterAid. Visit <http://www.toilettour.org.au/> if you'd like more to go on :o)

Halt maternal deaths in South Sudan by creating midwives

The new nation of South Sudan was born in war. Two million people were killed and four million displaced in 25 years of vicious conflict. Inter-clan conflict is rife and illiteracy as high as 90 per cent. Not only that, South Sudan's maternal and infant health figures are the worst in the world. It's estimated that 10,000 mothers die during pregnancy or childbirth every year.

UnitingWorld is working with the Presbyterian Relief and Development Agency (PRDA) to train young women in South Sudan in basic maternal health care. Each woman at PRDA's Midwifery School is being trained for 18 months before returning to home communities. Every one will become a life-saving presence for mothers and babies.

Please give whatever you can today, knowing the long-term difference your gift will make through these skilled maternal health workers.

Visit <http://www.unitingworld.org.au/help-save-the-lives-of-thousands-of-women-and-children-in-south-sudan/>

