

# NEWSBEAT



PRESBYTERY OF  
PORT PHILLIP EAST

January 2012

How St Leonard's  
UCA is aiding victims  
of human trafficking  
crimes. Turn to page  
3 for full story



Bidding adieu to  
Pastor Hannah  
Dungan after six  
blissful years...  
Photo feature on  
page 5



## Leighmoor opts for green future

**'SHOWING care for God's creation' - and saving costs - were the driving forces for Leighmoor UC to embark on a fundraising mission for solar panels in 2012... and they achieved their goal recently.**

Thanks to The Highett Community Bendigo Bank the Wickham Rd, Moorabbin church has been able to install 20 x 5Kw solar panels on its roof space.

The church council and congregation were delighted to receive \$2,200 toward the total cost of the panels, which came to \$10,454.

The Highett Community Bank has paid to organizations around Highett \$1,560,000 in support of appeals for financial assistance to various projects.

Geoff Serpell, Council Chair at Leighmoor UC, says: "The Kingston Community grant of \$5,000 was also gratefully received and other donations to bridge the gap, as well as the running of a concert to fully cover the cost of the panels. It is the church's desire to set an example for the community; showing care for God's creation by reducing the carbon footprint and lessen the need to generate more electricity by burning coal. The other benefit will be to reduce future power costs for the church and its many tenants."



POWER dressing... solar panels atop Leighmoor UC's roof

## Stamp of approval

**Whilst we are led to believe that postal mail has been replaced by email, the involvement of people across the synod who collect, trim and forward used stamps, along with phone and post cards, to be sold has resulted in \$39,975 being available in 2012 for distribution to 20 projects.**

The Uniting Church Synod of Victoria and Tasmania Stamp Committee receives requests to allocate funds that have been raised in sales to dealers and collectors of used stamps. Recipients this year include projects in Frontier Services, Mission Liaison Group, UnitingWorld, congregations and SHARE.

This brings the total of grants distributed by Sammy Stamp since 1977 to \$648,975.

Please save stamps from envelopes remembering to leave at least 3mm around the perforations.

Christmas stamps need to be sorted and forwarded early in January as dealers are keen to buy up all Christmas stamps early in the year.

Allan Clarke is the convener of Sammy Stamp and stamps can be left/sent to the Synod office, 130 Little Collins St Melbourne 3000. For further information contact Allan on 03 9557 1008 or angela Goodwin on Angela.Goodwin@victas.uca.org.au.

Groups in the country can contact ASIXA on 03 5945 1300 to arrange free delivery of parcels of stamps to Melbourne.



Above: David Evans, friend and solar advisor to Leighmoor and Geoff Serpell, Council Chair, at the newly installed smart meter to conduct power from the panels to the grid.

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](mailto:newsbeat@ucappep.org)



# Reflections on Faith

**Fortunately the Christian Seasons of the Year are not tied to the seasons we experience in relation to our location on the globe.**

*While my congregation is happily singing 'The North Wind is Tossing the Leaves', our Christian sisters and brothers on the other side of the globe are singing 'In the Deep Mid-Winter.'*

*We are however one in our praise and thanksgiving to God for the gift of Jesus.*

*I say all this because it gives a universality to the expressions of Christian faith.*

*We need to be expressing our unity in Christ during this season.*

*I hope that you have all had a blessed and peaceful Christmas.*

*This month's Reflections on Faith column is by Rev David Peel, Bentleigh UCA*

## Quote of the month...

"I love to think of nature as an unlimited broadcasting station through which God speaks to us every hour, if we will only tune in."

George Washington Carver

## Could you be a crisis counsellor?

**HELPING those affected by disasters is a great skill - but it is a skill for which people can train.**

The VCC is identified in the Emergency Management Manual of Victoria (EMMV) to:

- Provide personal support, psychological first aid and emotional spiritual care to individuals and communities
- Provide Community Chaplains for early psychological first aid interventions.
- Coordinate a multi faith response to emergencies
- Coordinate the emergency chaplaincy network for Victoria.
- Provide outreach activities with trained outreach and visitation workers.
- Coordinate State services of worship and assist in the organisation of public memorials and gatherings for the recovery of affected communities.
- Provide advisory and training resources for recovery and development for faith based organisations.

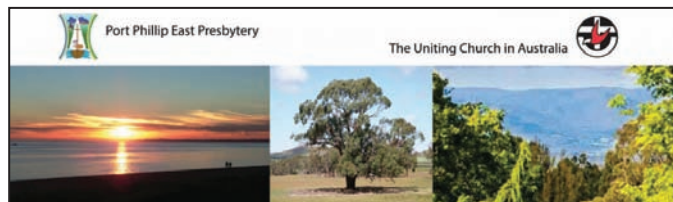
VCCEM has been involved in large scale events such as fires and floods, support workers for a community vigil for the life of Sarah Cafferkey and outreach support on finding Jill Meaghers body in the Macedon Ranges.

Co-ordinator, Michael Downing, says: "This role suits individuals with flexibility to attend incidents as they arise. We understand the need to juggle other commitments and there will be times when you may be asked to attend and will not be able to appear."

# How green is your garden?

The Justice and International Mission Unit has produced a new guide for churches who are thinking about starting a community garden. This is a 'how to' guide with lots of practical tips and resources about how to make your community garden a success and what other churches have done with their land.

Download a copy from: <http://greenchurch.victas.uca.org.au>. Or to request a hard copy phone: (03) 9251 5279.



FOR information about up-coming Presbytery meetings and events visit the [Calendar](#) page on the PPE website at <http://www.ucappeg.org/calendar>.

Once you're on the page, click on [Agenda](#) and it will provide a simple, straightforward list which you can then print out.

## VCC EMERGENCIES MINISTRY

COMPASSION IN TIMES OF CRISIS



### KNOW HOW TO RESPOND TO PEOPLE TRAUMATISED BY DISASTER

<b>WHERE:</b>	High Street Uniting Church 16 – 18 High Street Frankston
<b>WHEN:</b>	Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup> January 2013 (Level 1 – one day training) Friday 18 & 19 January 2013 (Level 2 - two days training) (9am – 4pm)
<b>MEALS:</b>	Morning, afternoon tea & lunch provided (Please inform us of any dietary requirements)
<b>COST:</b>	Level 2 - \$60 Level 1 - \$30 (Covers cost of meals, training materials, processing and cost of ID card and lanyard)
<b>WHAT TO BRING:</b>	Current Working With Children's Check and Police Check (if you have them).
<b>REGISTRATION:</b>	REGISTER ONLINE AT: <a href="http://WWW.VCCEM.ORG.AU/TRAINING">WWW.VCCEM.ORG.AU/TRAINING</a> OR BY PHONING 9650 4511
	PARKING AVAILABLE IN THE CHURCH GROUNDS
	FURTHER INFORMATION: Call Michael Downing (Frankston Area Coordinator) 0414 665 448 or <a href="mailto:michael_downing@yahoo.com">michael_downing@yahoo.com</a> ; or Craig Campbell (Assistant State Manager) 9650 4511 or <a href="mailto:ccampbell@vcc.org.au">ccampbell@vcc.org.au</a>

This training is essential for all in the faith community intending to respond to emergencies and disasters in Victoria. The Victorian State and Local Governments are continually increasing the requirements for people to enter disaster areas. The VCC is authorized by Government to coordinate and integrate faith communities' response when disaster occur.

# Forging a real connection

**IT must have been about two years ago that the young adult members of our church started talking about beginning a partnership with some Indian church partners.**

Shortly after a fundraising dinner was planned that resulted in thousands of dollars being raised for an 'exposure trip' to India in July 2011.

It was the start of something that has now become a project very dear to our congregation's heart. At church council recently we have discussed the idea of growing the partnership with one of the projects witnessed by the young people in India - schools for children of sex workers - a project run by UnitingWorld partner, Churches of North India. We visited a school in Delhi, called Nav Nirman, and learnt lots about the issues the students and their mothers face.

Most of the children at the school are victims of 'people trafficking.' Where girls and women are taken from their families in rural areas under false pretences and put to work in brothels. Their subsequent children have little hope for the future, unless they are given an education.

Churches of North India is committed to helping this become a reality and, since our visit to Nav Nirman, schools for children of sex workers have opened in Calcutta and something similar has started in Assam. Most importantly, they continue to educate rural communities in the north about the perils of trafficking. Back here in Brighton, we are hoping to continue our connection with this vital work in several ways. Firstly, our Christmas Day collection went towards this project and we hope that the money raised will help to keep these incredible schools open and potentially help to fund new ones.

Our young adults have hosted a fundraising lunch, with music by one of their bands, which was an excellent opportunity to celebrate the great work in the 'children of sex workers programme' while informing their friends of all they have seen in India. All money raised will go towards our St. Leonard's Christmas Appeal total.

Also, we are hoping to take a group of adults on an exposure tour next May/June to witness this incredible

## Christmas angels deliver

WHEN an urgent appeal for 'angels' to put together Christmas hampers for folks in need was issued, Ewing Memorial UC answered, *writes Lencie Harding.*

The Ewing congregation was asked to donate items suitable for hampers by Prahran Mission's Erica Myers-Davis and they responded generously with a wonderful variety of Christmas goodies including cakes, puddings, mince pies, ham, condiments, chocolates and shortbreads.

The baskets for the hampers were donated by Ewing folk and also the Caulfield East Op Shop. A fun time was had packing the hampers and then wrapping them in red, green and yellow cellophane. Contents labels were attached and 19 hampers were ready for delivery.

A special thank you to Maree Burnett, Ewing's Administrative Manager, for co-ordinating the effort.

Kaylea Fearn, Youth Ministry Coordinator, tells Newsbeat of her eternal passion for India, and how the congregation at St. Leonard's UCA is changing the lives of innocent children caught up in human trafficking crimes



*Students at Nav Nirman School for Children of Sex Workers, Delhi, India. Photo: Kim Cain*

work in action, amongst other life-giving work done through international partnership. This sort of trip is an incredible privilege for anyone who comes along, as we get to move off the tourist path and into the lives of real people in their local communities.

Children and staff in these places open their doors and their hearts to us in extraordinary circumstances and we have the chance to form lifelong bonds that could change both of our lives forever. I can honestly say that my first trip to India in 2004 changed my world forever, and there is no place quite like it. We would like to extend the invitation of the study tour to all congregations in the Presbytery. Places are limited to 12, so if you are interested in finding out more, contact us at [contact@stleonards.org.au](mailto:contact@stleonards.org.au) and we'll be in touch.

Our Uniting Church tradition has always been to look outwards at Christmas and this year I'm excited that we are doing this in new and old ways. Our prayer is for peace, justice and relationship this year, as we look towards the reality that began with the birth of Jesus.



# Community spirit scoops Ecumenical Award

IT was hot and windy but the interactive tableau of the story of Christ's birth went down a treat for families in Brighton recently.



The story was told by all the Christian churches in the community, with the tableaux set up in the grounds of St Andrew's Anglican Church. *Bethlehem in Brighton* is an ecumenical initiative involving the Christian Churches in Brighton who have formed the Brighton Covenant of Churches. Children were guided around the stations by angels from the Baptists, while Mary, Joseph and the Innkeeper were from St Leonard's UC and the Church of Christ. There was a Baptist and Anglican shepherd, three Wisemen from St Leonard's, Herod from Trinity UC and his assistant from St Joan of Arc Catholic Church.

At the entrance assistants from St Joan of Arc gave children a show bag which included activities and a list of the times for the Christmas services in all of the participating churches. The drama tableau concluded with an opportunity for children to have their photo taken in the manger scene, place a prayer on the prayer tree, and make some craft items to take home to remind them of the birth of Jesus. Live



music was presented by the St Leonard's youth band; there were baby animals to cuddle; a sausage sizzle and the important cake stall. The event was advertised through kindergartens and schools and more than 150 children participated. Wendy Adams, Chair of the Church Council at St. Leonards says: "Bethlehem in Brighton won the 2012 Ecumenical Award so this might encourage others to apply for the Award. There are some great things happening in our Presbytery and we need to make them known."

## Record takings for this year's Christmas Bowl



*Joshua deBell, Kaylea Fearn and Nathaniel deBell play their part in the Christmas Bowl collection...*

FOR the last nine Christmases members of the Brighton Covenant Churches have sat outside the Safeway Supermarket in Brighton for the 'Christmas Bowl' collection. Individual churches - Catholic, Anglican, Uniting, Churches of Christ and Baptist - organise a roster for each day with volunteers from 9am through to 5 or even 7pm. This effort lasts for one week in mid December and in recent years has consistently raised well over \$4,000. This year was an exceptionally good one, as the final figure for the week was \$5,258. Together, churches across Australia raise almost \$2.5 million annually through the Christmas Bowl, which provides much needed assistance to people affected by conflict and poverty around the world. The Christmas Bowl began in 1949, when the Rev. Frank Byatt placed an empty bowl on the table during Christmas dinner and asked guests to contribute the cost of their meal to support refugees escaping the devastation of World War II. Many PPEP churches run their own Christmas Bowl collections but Rev Ian Cayzer, 0409 860 427, can advise on this simple way of raising money.



# Fond farewell for Hannah

**AFTER six delightful years at Koornang Uniting Church the congregation, family and friends bid an emotional farewell to Pastor Hannah Dungan as she takes up a new post in Canberra.**

Just two days before Christmas, Koornang UC, Murrumbeena, celebrated the Release of Pastoral Ties of Pastor Hannah Dungan who has joyously engaged in her children's, youth, young adults and family ministry at Koornang and in the wider community for nearly half a dozen years. Rev John Mann, the Presbytery Minister for Administration, represented the Presbytery and many spoke of Hannah's wonderful contribution to the life of the congregation and the wider church. Everyone wishes Hannah well in her new role as Community Development Minister at Kippax Uniting Church in Canberra.



Above, right and below: Rev John Mann, PM Administration, and Rev Dev Anandarajan, Koornang UC, provide Pastor Hannah Dungan with a poignant but joyful Release of Ties service...



Top right and right: Hannah cuts the 'thank you' cake and enjoys some last-minute festive fun time with the little ones...



## Advent decor stops traffic

ONE church created a lot of interest this Advent - with many cars stopping to look and passers by taking photos of the unique decorations.



St Leonard's Rev Kim Cain, pictured, chose the theme 'We have vacancies.' following on from Luke's gospel of 'no vacancies' for Mary and Joseph in the inn.



The artwork was done by Kaylea Fearn and Kelly Skilton. It included a star, angel, shepherd and sheep, the three Kings and a pregnant Mary and Joseph.

## POSITIONS VACANT

**Pastor – Ministry to Families**

**Pastor – Children's Ministry Coordinator**

Applications are sought for two exciting part-time positions to continue the children's and family ministry at Koornang Uniting Church in Murrumbeena. Both pastor positions have flexible hours with an average of 10 hours per week.

If you have a passion to nurture the faith of young children or engage with parents of young children to foster their commitment to Christian living, we would be pleased to hear from you.

For a position description for either position, please email [koornanguca@bigpond.com](mailto:koornanguca@bigpond.com) or call 9568-8177. Applications close on Friday 25 January 2013 and should be emailed to the Council Secretary at the same email address.