

# NEWSBEAT



PRESBYTERY OF  
PORT PHILLIP EAST

February 2013

X Factor star  
performs at Wesley  
Mission's new  
Strategic Plan launch  
event. Turn to page 2  
for full story



Dromana day out  
builds community  
spirit and church  
partnerships...  
Photo feature on  
page 6



## Pulling together packs a punch



*Hive of activity...  
volunteers make  
a molehill out of a  
mountain at MLGs  
'The Shed'*

**MANY** across the Presbytery of Port Phillip East may know of the call that went out days before Christmas for clothing and household goods to be shipped urgently to cyclone-devastated Samoa.

Few know the end of the story, write John and Ann Connan.

Promises of goods came in to the leaders of the Mission Liaison Group. Promises to come along to help also came in. The congregations at Brighton, Frankston and Mount Eliza gave a total of \$1,230 with which rice, flour, sugar and noodles were bought – at discounted prices. By Saturday morning 28th December it looked as though thirty to forty people might turn up. And it seemed that with goods coming in slowly while that morning's work might be a good start, the regular volunteers would be left to finish the packing some time in the second week of January.

That wasn't how things worked out.

Car after car arrived at The Shed, 176 Chapel Road, Keysborough, from as early as 7.30am. Some came with clothing and household effects. Some came with food for morning tea or lunch. All came with a willingness to work. And work they did.

The priority was for light-weight clothing and household goods. The crockery needed to be overwrapped – in clothing. Empty Pots and pans needed to be filled – with clothing. All went into cardboard cartons. That activity went on for over four hours.

Meanwhile a smaller team carried the cartons to the container where the regular MLG workers did the packing. After four hours solid work they needed a break. Some responding to the call for help arrived late – just in time to take over from the exhausted packers.

*Cont. on page 3*

*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)*





## St Andrew's 'Chinese lantern' will light the way for Uniting World

**UnitingWorld has appointed the Reverend Dr Ji Zhang as Manager – Church Partnerships, Asia to bring his knowledge and experience to bear between the continents.**

Dr Zhang will take up his role on 31 January, 2013.

Dr Zhang is minister of St Andrew's Gardiner Uniting Church in Melbourne, Australia and was chaplain for the Reverend Alistair Macrae when he was President of the Uniting Church in Australia Assembly 2009 – 2012. Dr Zhang grew up in Shanghai and moved to Australia where he undertook theological studies. He has presented and published widely and earlier this year the book version of his doctoral thesis covering a comparison of Daoism and Plato was published.

Dr Zhang has been involved with UnitingWorld for the past 3 years, serving on committees and facilitating engagement with the China Christian Council. Dr Zhang brings to UnitingWorld a strong capacity to reflect theologically, to manage programs and to help the whole Church understand more about emerging trends in what is popularly referred to as "the Asian Century".



## SOMERSCAMP NEEDS YOU!!

Somerscamp is looking for a Camp Rev.

They are looking for someone who has a passion for young people, is willing to talk and explore faith experiences and is not scared of having fun!

You would need to be available for the entire time of Somerscamp (1st week of July school holidays), as well as being able to attend some meetings and other events.

Expressions of interest for more information can be made to the Mission and Outreach Task Group convenor Rev Jay Robinson on

0410 465 836 or [jay@robinsonfamily.id.au](mailto:jay@robinsonfamily.id.au)

by Friday 1st March 2013



## Wesley's plan has the X Factor

Emmanuel Kelly, of X Factor fame, will be the guest speaker and performer at the launch of Wesley Mission Victoria's new Strategic Plan 2013-2015.

Emmanuel will be singing his newest song 'Dream Big', and participate in a 'question and answer' session, as part of the event on:

**Thursday 7 February**

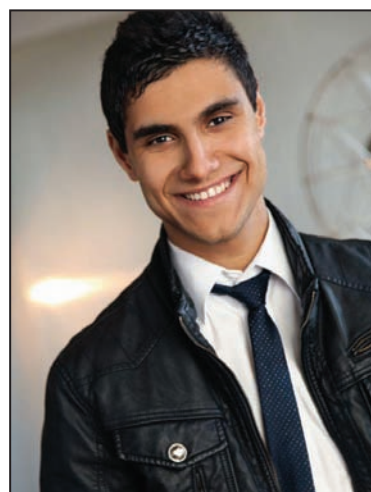
**3.00pm to 5.00pm**

**Melbourne Convention Centre  
Clarendon Auditorium, 2 Clarendon St,  
South Wharf, Melbourne CBD**

Melbourne teenager Emmanuel Kelly has always dreamed of becoming a professional recording artist. His determination and courage together with a beautiful voice and performance moved demanding judges and many of the 3000+ audience to tears and a standing ovation on The X Factor's opening night on 29th September 2011.

Emmanuel wowed judges Ronan Keating, Spice Girl Mel Brown, Natalie Bassingthwaite and Guy Sebastian with his heartfelt performance of the John Lennon classic Imagine. Emmanuel was born into a war zone and abandoned by his parents

in Iraq. Raised at an orphanage run by the Mother Theresa nuns before being rescued by Moira Kelly and brought to Australia for life changing surgery 12 years ago, Emmanuel has his eyes set on huge dreams. In his words: "You have to dream to achieve the greatest goals in life."





# God is good: All the time

*Cont. from front page*

Finally, just after 1pm the doors were ready to be closed. Someone had found a smiley face and decided that whoever opened the container in Samoa needed to be greeted with a smile. The doors were closed and the seal applied.

It had been a fantastic response. 62 people had signed in: some knowing nothing about MLG and its history, but willing to work on behalf of our sisters and brothers in Samoa. All worked hard and should have felt satisfied with what they accomplished.

What no-one knew that day was that because the packing happened in just one day, Swire Shipping managed to book the container onto a vessel going earlier than originally planned. By 3rd January it was on its way.

God is good! And so are the people of Port Phillip East!



Above and right: Service with a smile - Mr Happy will greet the cyclone-hit Samoans as they open the container-load of goods at the other end of the voyage...



Above and right: packing continues apace as more goods, and volunteers, arrive at the MLG HQ.. Below: The 'finger of God?' organises the shipment





## Jobs boost as HMASP goes from strength to strength

**HOTHAM Mission Asylum Seeker Project had an incredibly busy year in 2012 and their success means staff numbers have increased to 35 to deal with growing client numbers.**

In 2012, they provided housing, material aid and case work to more than 200 of the most vulnerable asylum seekers in Victoria. The largest group was couples with young children and single mothers with older children. Helga Svendsen, the new CEO, says: "None of our work could be achieved without the assistance of our loyal base of supporters. We want to give a huge thanks for their help this year."

Helga was appointed in January last year as the Hotham Mission ASP new CEO. Helga comes to Hotham with a range of experience and a strong passion for community work. Helga's most recent role was as a Facilitator at Sustainability Victoria. This experience has been crucial in aiding the effective growth of Hotham Mission ASP in 2012.

If you would like to get in touch with Helga please call 9326 8343.

# Reflections on Faith

*"I have woken up quite exhausted, after staying up to watch the men's final at the Australian Open between Djokovic and Murray. A wonderful match where, sadly for this Pommy, Murray was defeated. If you were also watching, you will have seen Murray's foot blistered, sore and toes bandaged. It took me back to the reading we shared in the morning from 1 Corinthians 12. All of you together are Christ's body, and each of you is a part of it. When one part of our body is not functioning well, it really does affect the rest of the body. One question we asked was - What gifts do you have? This is a question for us to ask of ourselves but it is also a question for us to ask of each other, helping others to identify the gifts they bring. When leaving a school camp where eight kids had been living together under the same roof for eight weeks, each of the kids was asked to write a thank you to one another for what they had contributed to their time together. One of them wrote an acrostic poem for my daughter Cool as a cube Lovely Intelligent Nice Colourful Hyper Youthful. It would be an interesting exercise to do the same for each member of our congregation. I sometimes wonder if we really appreciate what each of us has to offer. In being part of the body of Christ, we experience acceptance, belonging, God's love and love for one another. It's a good place to be."*

*This month's Reflections on Faith column is by Pastor Christine Clinch, St John's UC Elsternwick*

## Party time for Dorothy on her 80th birthday

**TRINITY House hummed with the voices and laughter of a large number of family and friends to celebrate a milestone birthday for one of their own - Dorothy Underwood.**

With some coming all the way from Geelong, where Dorothy grew up, the throng of her avid fans gathered in Trinity House, next to Brighton's Trinity Uniting Church, on Saturday, January 19 to help Dorothy celebrate her 80th birthday. Guests were entertained with beautiful performances on the piano by Merrowyn Deacon, Joy Hearne and Joan Ikin, followed by Dorothy entertaining her guests with several songs accompanied by Gwen Bowles. Dorothy mentioned taking part in a number of musicals while in Korea. In her earlier years one role was as Maria in *The Sound of Music* and in later years as the mother superior.

Friend and fellow UCAF member, Lencie Harding, says: "Dorothy has given more than 50 years of service to the church, including 44 years as a missionary in South Korea. This was where she met her husband Horace - who was born in Korea to missionary parents and grandparents. She describes her life as 'a chequered career' and is very grateful for its many experiences to date."



*Dorothy is pictured in a fetching party frock for her birthday performance for friends and family...*



# College gets off to a flyer

**THE year 2012 proved to be a fantastic start for the Uniting Church's newest coeducational college.**

Cornish College started with 219 students - from the Early Learning Centre to Year 9 - and grew by 10% over the year. Located on the old St Leonards College site at Bangholme the new medium-fee college has attracted considerable interest and will start 2013 with a 50% increase in student numbers; plus it's first Year 10 group.

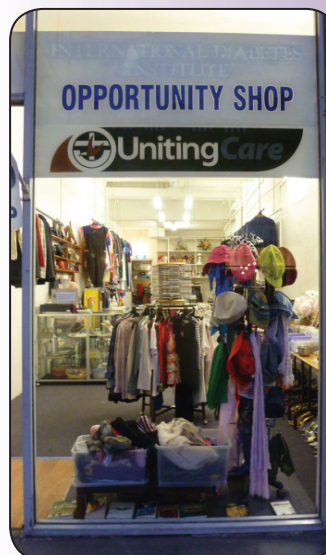
With fees considerably lower than the Category 1 independent schools, Cornish College is appealing to a much broader demographic. Demand for places is such that the College has had to double the number of classes at certain levels and commences three streams in Year 7.

Waiting lists already exist at a number of levels with major interest at the regular school tours, held one Saturday and one weekday per month. There has been great interest and support from the UCA and the College continues to work with a Presbytery subcommittee, which is exploring ways in which Cornish College and the UCA can work together to meet the needs of the broader community.

Principal Kerry Bolger says: "The work of the UCA in helping save this unique school, which focuses on 'Educating young people for a sustainable future,' has been a great witness to the wider community about the church's work."

The first joint venture was a Christmas Carols on the Green Concert which was a great success and families within the Presbytery are invited to an inaugural country-styled Carnival which is to be held on Saturday, March 2. With rides, craft and food stalls, demonstrations from Bayside CWA, face painting and lot's more it is sure to be a fun time. Contact 03 9773 1307 for further information and ticket details.

## Help wanted



Looking for something new in 2013? Why not volunteer at St John's Uniting Church Opportunity Shop, 302, Glen Huntly Road, Elsternwick? Regular hours to suit. Helping to raise funds for local and overseas charities. Training offered. Call Christine 0405 016 535 or email stjohns.elsternwick@ucappp.net or pick up an application form from the shop.

## Quote

"A man can no more diminish God's glory by refusing to worship Him than a lunatic can put out the sun by scribbling the word 'darkness' on the walls of his cell."

C.S. Lewis, 'The Problem of Pain'

of the month...







## Family Fun Day proves a winner



**HOLIDAYMAKERS and congregation families joined in the fun at the Free Family Festival in Dromana during the summer break, writes Jan Hall.**

On two consecutive Fridays after Christmas and New Year, Southern Mornington Peninsula UC ran a Free Family

Festival in the car park - which was highly visible being opposite the beach.

The hall was opened up to the "littlies" where play dough, blocks and crayons were supplied. The mothers got some peace and a free cuppa.

Outside around the edge of the car park there was woodwork, painting, face painting, balloon animals, bubble blowing, crafts and circus skills. The centre was kept for co-operative games that were announced at regular intervals. Sponge relays, volleyball played with water balloons and sheets, and best of all throwing wet sponges at the clown whose job was to catch them in a bucket.

A free sausage sizzle had everybody standing around talking to each other.

Jan says: "We had lots of children with their families joining in. A questionnaire was available asking the children what else they would like to do through the year. It is up to us now to follow up.

"Our thanks go to Jay and her young people from Frankston UC. Jay was a wonderful MC and her young people were very creative. Alan Gregory from Mt Martha UC and Camp Dad at Somers Camp was our woodwork wiz. The kids

loved him and it was so great to see the dads help their children build letter boxes for cubbies and other wonderful things."

"Fusion" and their leader Tim Strange was the inspiration behind the event. He ran the games in the centre and had many ideas. Mt Martha, Frankston and Southern Mornington Peninsula UC's have now built up skill sets that we can share with each other so the next festival could well be at a neighbouring church. Watch this space...





# A love that lasts...

**It was difficult not to call it 'Just Married' even though they will be celebrating their 47th wedding anniversary on February 12.**

Rev Deacon Val Aumann and husband Rev Peter Aumann are pictured at Dorothy Underwood's 80th birthday celebration. Both Peter and Val have been ordained for over 50 years. Their jubilee celebrations at Ewing Memorial in 2011 and 2012 respectively filled the church. Peter will celebrate his 80th birthday on Feb 10 with a family party followed by a lunch with his Ewing Memorial UC friends.



## Reasons to be cheerful... 1, 2, 3

Lent Event is an opportunity for congregations all over Australia to deepen their faith, connect with communities overseas and to learn more about being 'a people on the way.' Here are our top three reasons why you should join Lent Event for the journey in 2013:

1. At Lent, the call of Jesus on our lives compels us to stop and do things differently.
2. It makes a huge difference to the lives of our partners in Asia, Africa and the Pacific.
3. It grows faith and life here in Australia.

## Show your support

All members of Presbytery are warmly invited to attend the induction and Presbytery procession of Rev Anne Scott at Pakenham UC on Sunday Feb 10 at 6:00 PM

## Microloans develop nations

**Last month Bentleigh UC made its 53rd loan to help people from disadvantaged nations help themselves.** From a 'pool' of \$575 the church's M&O group has lent \$1,325. The loans are gradually being repaid and we are receiving that money back into our account. Whenever it builds up past \$25, we re-lend it. Some of our money has been 'recycled' three times.

Eighteen of the 53 loans have already been fully repaid. All loans are being repaid on schedule, except one - which ended in a loss of \$2.87!

Who do we loan to, and why? Here is one example: Chanthorn lives in Takeo province in Cambodia with her husband and six children. She sells noodles and earns \$3 per day; her husband drives a taxi and earns \$5 per day, three of their children work and each earns about \$3 per day. Bentleigh UCA, and thirty others, lent her \$1,000 to purchase a motorbike for her husband's taxi service to allow him to earn more income. We grumble about our ability to live on the Australian pension; try providing for a family of eight on \$17 per day.

For more details of the loans scheme visit [www.kiva.org](http://www.kiva.org)

Other good project sites supported by Bentleigh UC are: Women for Women in Africa <http://www.womenforwomenin africa.org.au/> and Timor Leste Village Lighting <http://www.ata.org.au/international-projects-group/>

### Creative? Fun-Loving? Joyful? Faithful?

The Koornang Uniting Church at 117 Murrumbeena Road, Murrumbeena, has a part-time (average 20hrs/week) position available for an energetic

### YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS PASTOR

who will spiritually nurture our Phenomenal Youth Group and group of Young Adults and grow them in number. We're looking for a proven leader who is confident and is prepared to have a go. Social media skills a must!

Email: [koornanguca@bigpond.com](mailto:koornanguca@bigpond.com) for a PD. Applications in writing by 1 March 2013 to: The Council Secretary, Koornang Uniting Church, PO Box 3063, Murrumbeena Vic 3163. Enquiries: Glynis M: 0407 506 662

## Synod shows its stance

**THE Synod recently pledged to continue a close and respectful dialogue with those of the Islamic faith in the wake of a planning application faux pas.**

General Secretary, Reverend Dr Mark Lawrence, said the Synod did not endorse the grounds for an objection to the construction of a Mosque in suburban Melbourne made under the name of the chairperson of the Monash Uniting Church Congregation.

Dr Lawrence said he was disappointed with the wording of the objection and stressed that it was not a position supported by the Synod.

He said that while any member of the community may have valid grounds to object to a Mosque on parking and noise concerns but the suggestion that it could be a "a training ground for religious fanatics" was an outrageous and unacceptable statement.

"It goes against the Uniting Church's strong desire to interact with all faiths in a respectful manner. The statement inadvertently has wider ramifications that should not be interpreted as the position of the Church," Dr Lawrence said.

# Serving those who have served

**THE Creative Ministries Network continues to provide Veteran's Well-Being and Support and is keen for people who may benefit from these services to come forward.**

This free service is available for former defence force men and women and their families aiming to enhance their personal healing, health and spiritual wellbeing. This ministry is open to all who have experienced military life, whether engaged in active service or not. They provide hospitality, home visiting, counselling, contemplative quiet days, de-stressing techniques, retreats, creative arts and other activities that may emerge from this

experience. If you feel you or your family may benefit from this ministry please email: john.phillips@cmn.unitingcare.org.au or tel 9692 9405 or 0438 545 359; visit www.cmn.unitingcare.org.au



John Phillips, pictured above, is the Veterans Chaplain. John has spent many years working in parish communities, schools, and health care. An Anglican priest, pastor, theologian and Master of Counselling, John has spent the past nine years caring for patients, their families and staff in haematology/oncology and palliative care at the Mater Hospital in Brisbane where he journeyed with many veterans.



## Bentleigh generates solar savings all round

Early in the year, Bentleigh UC gave the Robinvale congregation \$12,000 to put toward the installation of solar power at their church. The system became operational toward the end of 2012. This will result in a saving for their parishioners of at least \$2,500 per year (increasing at 10% p.a.) for the next twenty-five years. That's a gift that keeps on giving.

On Boxing Day, the solar panels on the roof of the Activities Room had generated a total of 26,659kWh of electricity, writes David Evans. Is that a big deal? Yes, it is - it means the machine has saved Bentleigh UC \$6,000 (and 14 cents!) in electricity costs. By the end of January, the machine is expected to have ticked over 30,000kWh, a cumulative saving of \$6,400, the equivalent of almost 37t of carbon dioxide emissions. That, in turn, is the equivalent of reducing car travel by a whopping 181,000km ... half way to the Moon! The installation of the solar machine, plus a number of behind-the-scenes energy efficiency measures, means a reduction in annual energy requirements by 62% as the diagram below depicts.

### Prayer for asylum seekers

God of hospitality and refuge,  
come to us here in this place of  
security and safety.  
Remind us that you are the God  
Almighty;  
large enough for all people,  
all nations,  
all tongues.  
Help us, with the  
presence of your Holy Spirit,  
to be able to create space  
for those who seek asylum and  
refuge.  
In the name of Jesus, your Son.  
Amen.  
*A prayer from Uniting Justice Australia*

