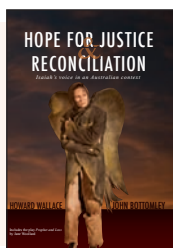


NEWSBEAT



PRESBYTERY OF
PORT PHILLIP EAST

April 2013



Book launch
by PPE
ministerial
authors. See
page 6



**God's
Tapestry, CCM
Conference**
details on
page 5



Fond farewell
for Rev Andrew
Hwang... story
and pictures
on page 5

Seaford 'rejoices' in bayside baptism

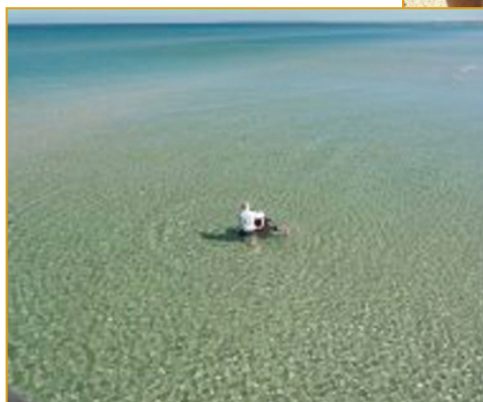
SEAFORD Uniting Church celebrated a unique event last month - an adult baptism in the bay, writes *Pastor Bob Hindle*.

Such baptisms are infrequent, but Seaford rejoiced in the baptism of Edward Harris on Sunday, March 3 by immersion in Port Phillip Bay; adjacent to Seaford Pier.

When Edward approached Pastor Bob Hindle for baptism, he particularly wished to be baptised in the same manner as Christ had been baptised. In discussions about the symbolic meaning of baptism and the commitments that are involved, Edward maintained his desire for baptism by immersion. When we discussed the practical aspects of the sacrament, it was agreed that it should be part of a regular worship service, as the support of the congregation is a most important feature.

We did not have a portable bath available and agreed that Kananook Creek posed a health risk; therefore the beach at Seaford was chosen, where members of the congregation could either stand on the pier or the beach.

The first part of the 9.30 am Service was abbreviated (about 35 minutes), then the congregation travelled by foot or car and re-assembled at the beach for the Baptismal Service on the sand. A 50 metres walk to waist-deep water enabled Bob to baptise Edward; we then returned to the beach to conclude the service. It was a joyful celebration for Edward and his relatives and a memorable occasion for our congregation. A highlight for me, as Pastor, was the fact that nearly everyone in the congregation came to the beach to support Edward on this special day.



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



Good Friday Gathering

CHURCHES of the Chelsea Parish area gathered together once again on Good Friday morning to worship in the park at the annual Gathering at the Cross.

This traditional service is held at Beeson Reserve just off Nepean Highway at Edithvale, pictured right. The service is organized by the local Ministers of the Churches in the area and is open to everyone, from local Church members to the people wandering up from the beach with their dogs.

This year a dialogue between characters of Jesus' day and a modern person were shared, acknowledging their gratitude for the salvation of the Cross. This dialogue was interspersed with the singing of "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross."

Attendees agreed that the time together was meaningful and it was great to gather with brothers and sisters from the local Churches - it was indeed a wonderful way to share in the message of Good Friday.



New life on Maundy Thursday



New Life was the theme of the art competition at Prahran Mission - judged by art auctioneer, Lara Nicholls, of Deutscher & Hackett.

The competition also represented new life for the Mission's **Stables** art program. This was the first exhibition for the Stables in its new home in Prahran having relocated from its previous home in Malvern East. Rod Kane, resident at Prahran Mission's Scottsdale PDRSS, pictured above was the competition winner, which was announced at the Mission's annual Easter lunch, where more than 100 disadvantaged people enjoyed a free lunch of lamb roast, dessert, hot cross buns and Easter eggs. Below: Waiting to hear who had won...



Lent Event stimulates fascinating discussions across Glen Eira

THE ministers of the Glen Eira region thought it would be good to do the Lent Event, deciding to have a group in each congregation and invite members of other congregations to join with us, writes Rev David Peel.

So we had groups at different times and locations to suit everyone. We asked everyone to designate the time and place of their choosing and encouraged members of our own congregations to go and participate in other congregations.

The groups varying size, and responses to the material provided. Some found that the material helpful and were



able to respond positively to the action reflection model. Other groups found the material not so helpful in so far as it was difficult for them to relate the uniting world narrative to the biblical selection. Their solutions were varied, some focused on the scriptures with the mission stories having less prominence. Others spent time exploring the implications mission stories and found they had less time to explore the biblical connections. We had agreed at the outset of planning that each session was to last one hour. In reality I didn't hear of any group that adhered to that limit. Once the groups had formed they were keen to engage with one another in prayer, reflection, and study. The ministers are excited about the outcome. We think we would like to tweak the enrolment process and the pre-enrolment advertising. We believe that our way of doing it served to move our parishioners beyond the immediate limits of their own congregations and that we think next year it will be bigger and better.

Crucifixion re-visited at Ormond UC

CHORISTERS gathered from across Melbourne to perform a rousing rendition of Stainer's Crucifixion recently.

Ormond Uniting Church invited singers from around the city to take part in an afternoon rehearsal and evening performance on Sunday 17th March - a first for the church.

One of the organisers, Dianne Richter, says: "We had great support from people who advertised the event to choristers in a number of groups. The result - a choir of 48 people assembled on the day. Most had sung 'Crucifixion' previously, although perhaps not for many years."

Tim Clarke, Music Director at St. Paul's Anglican Church, East Kew conducted the choir, and Darren Taylor, Organist and Choir Leader at Ormond was the organist for the day. Our soloists were David Cox (Tenor) and Lucas Wilson-Richter (Baritone). Following a three hour rehearsal the group shared a BBQ tea, notable not only for the food, but also for the fellowship as people shared their stories about memories of past performances of 'Crucifixion' and the special meanings it held for them. At 7pm, worship, with 'Crucifixion' as the central feature.



Dianne adds: "Feedback from both choristers and the congregation indicates that this was a truly worshipful experience enabling those present to focus on the events leading up to and including the crucifixion of Christ, and the emotions, prayers and faith development that result."

"Thanks to all those who supported the venture, especially Tim Clarke for providing thoughtful, sensitive guidance to the choir and soloists, enabling us to participate in Stainer's piece so positively and in a spirit of fellowship."

Above: The 48-strong group of singers work through Stainer's Crucifixion before performing the piece for Sunday evening worship



Title challenge at Parkdale



Over Palm Sunday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday St. David's Parkdale Uniting Church developed a series called 'Easter - Title Fight' to explore the strategy, plan, authority and victory of Jesus displayed in his choice of the cross.

It was a great opportunity for congregations and visitors to look at the Easter story from a new perspective. They argued that it is easy to fall into the trap of thinking Jesus was a victim or a tragic martyr, and forget that we celebrate the culmination of the incarnation of the Son and Word of God as Jesus took on the power of sin and death for our sake, and defeated them both. Jesus - the ultimate Champion - may we live in wonder and thanks...

Reflections on Faith

Rita Snowden reflects "By a strange paradox over the past century, we have boasted that we have annihilated space by providing ease of transport and swift and reliable means of communication. But the price has been the disintegration of families, the sundering of lovers and the isolation of friends as never before".

In other words "Hello progress---Goodbye neighbour!" But is that the message of the Gospel? We are shown the way that Jesus handled the situation. In Luke's Gospel, chapter 10, verse 25, a lawyer approaches Jesus with the big question, "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" And the answer was that to be certain of the future you need to have two loves – God – and your neighbour. In other words we need to be caring of others. For caring involves loving someone as we love ourselves. We care when we try to see things from the other person's perspective. Caring is more than just liking, comforting or showing sympathy. Caring involves a concern that spills over into loving compassionate acts. The Apostle James puts it right on the line when he tells us that "Faith without works is dead". (James 2:26)

Perhaps one of the highest examples of that Text can be seen in the life of Edith Cavell, a Red Cross nurse working in Belgium during WW1. From time to time she came across allied prisoners who had escaped but were injured in the process. She was supposed to hand them back to the German Army but instead managed to get them to hospital in neutral Holland. She was captured and ordered to be shot as a spy. On that dreadful morning she dressed in her best uniform as a Red Cross nurse but before she walked to her death she took from the prison chaplain the blessed sacrament and repeated those lovely words from the hymn 'Abide with me' which were the last words spoken by the hymnist, Henry Francis Lyte:

*I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless;
ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.
So He was real! No show, no pose, no theatrical nonsense!
Edith Cavell showed us how we should act on the edge of the Great Tomorrow. Not goodbye. Just a simple heartfelt "So long – see you later",*

This month's Reflections on Faith column is by Rev Fred Wagstaff, retired.

Quote

"God who is eternally complete, who directs the stars, who is the master of fates, who elevates man from his lowliness to Himself, who speaks from the cosmos to every single human soul, is the most brilliant manifestation of the goal of perfection.

Alfred Adler

of the month...

Dates for your diary

THESE are upcoming dates for Inductions in the Port Phillip East Presbytery - please show your support for these new callings by marking them in our diaries and joining together for the services...

- Cath Beaton – commissioning at Noble Park Aged Care 1312 Heatherton Rd, Noble Park VIC 3174 on April 12, 1:30PM
- Liz McMillan – induction at Frankston, High Street UC on April 28 at, 3:00PM
- Tim Angus – induction Hampton UC, November 2013. Date TBC.

... and thanks for all your help

THE Induction of Liz McMillan in April means we will be saying au revoir to Rev Ron Townsend, pictured below, who has been covering the Presbytery Minister Pastoral Care role for more than 6 months. We asked Ron to say a few words about himself to shed more light on his life and work:

He says: "I am a retired UCA minister (31/12/10) aged 66 years but find myself



daily challenged to remain 'young' because of Evie (4) and Annabelle (2) living with us - me, and Mardie, my wife. My daughter and her husband have lived with us for the last 1½ years and will be with us

for another year while their new house is built. I have served in eight settlements, including: parish, youth and school chaplaincy settlements since exiting in 1973 in the then Presbyterian Church. "I am passionate about 'The Tigers,' The Beatles, the family and the Lamb of God - who takes away the sin of the world and through God's Amazing Grace gives new life to ALL."

Tears flow at Andrew's emotional send-off



*Above: Prayers are uttered to guide Andrew on his new journey.
Below: Assembled guests at the service and Andrew delivers some parting words to the congregation.*

IT was hard to suppress a lump in the throat at the moving service to bid au revoir to Rev Andrew Hwang, recently. This was Andrew's last service - the release of the pastoral ties - conducted by Rev Ron Townsend and Rev John Mann at the Korean Church of Melbourne - Malvern Uniting. For Andrew has taken a call back to a church in Seoul, Korea. Rev John Mann says: "Andrew goes to Korea as a minister of the Uniting Church, and hopes to return to ministry in Australia in the future. It was a very moving service with many people expressing their love for Andrew and his family with the shedding of more than a few tears."



CROSS-CULTURAL CONFERENCE 'GOD'S TAPESTRY: CREATING SPACE FOR DIVERSITY' SATURDAY, 18TH MAY, 2013

GOD'S tapestry is an image about the identity and purpose of God's diverse people as a worldwide community.

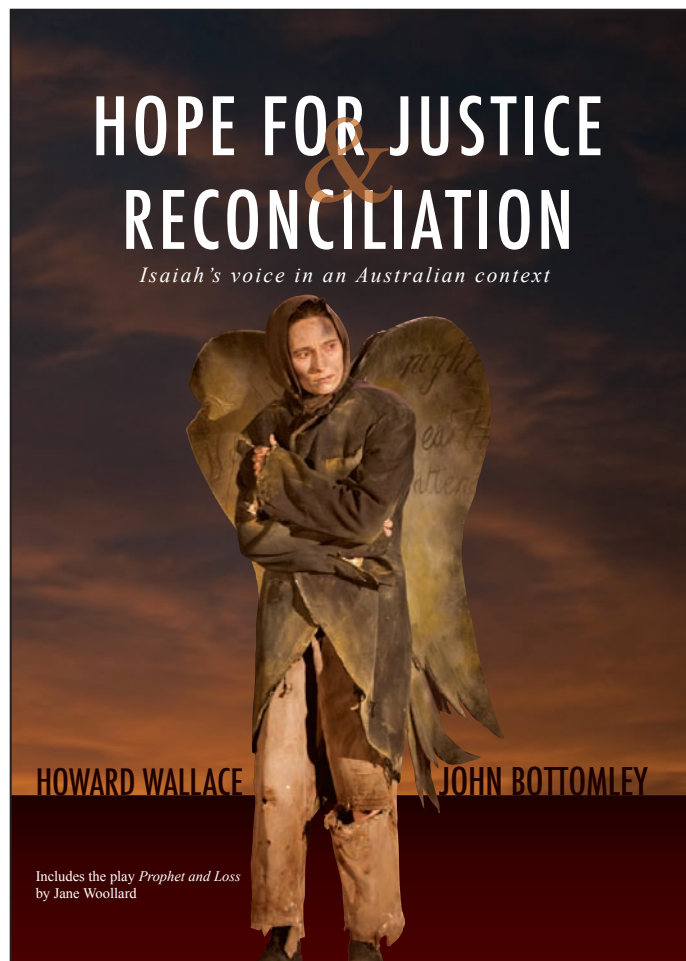
A tapestry has threads of many hues and tones, bright and drab; colours that complement and clash - but in the skilful hands of a weaver, he/she sees in these differences the possibility of a new creation. A tapestry depends on differences, thrives on multiplicity.

The Uniting Church in Australia is a Church that reflects God's tapestry. Today in the Uniting Church in Australia there are more than 2,000 non-English speaking congregations and growing. And on any Sunday, the Uniting Church offers worship to God in no less than forty different languages.

'God's Tapestry: Creating space for diversity' Conference explores the richness of God's diverse tapestry and how we can be enriched by its diversity. There are six engaging Electives for you to choose.

For more information and registration form please click <http://blogs.victas.uca.org.au/crosscultural>





Prophetic words...

Collaboration leads to new book release

TITLE: *Hope for justice and reconciliation: Isaiah's voice in an Australian context.*

Authors: *John Bottomley and Howard Wallace - with the text of the play Prophet and Loss by Jane Woollard.*

In this new book, Howard Wallace and John Bottomley have brought together Isaiah's ancient voice and the voices of those struggling with today's difficult times in our community. Both the Australian church and nation face difficult times. National reconciliation, the place of worship in contemporary mission, injustice at work through work-related death, grief and bullying, the tension between business and theological understandings of corporate governance, and the suffering brought by post-traumatic stress to victims and perpetrators of violence challenge the foundations of modern life.

The book of Isaiah brings together prophetic words about trust and justice in times of difficulty, words of hope in times of captivity, and words of judgment as the community reshapes its life after overwhelmingly tough times.

While a great distance lies between contemporary Australia and the situations of ancient Israel evident in Isaiah, the poetic structure of voices in Isaiah speaks across that distance and calls the church to imaginatively rethink its prophetic role in society.

APPLICANTS SOUGHT FOR JOAN STOTT UCAF BURSARIES

DO you know someone who would benefit from a theological or leadership study grant?

Applications are invited for a \$1500 Joan Stott Uniting Church Adult Fellowship (UCAF) Bursary to be awarded to two suitable candidates for study in 2014. These awards which are now in their fourth year are offered annually at the discretion of the incumbent UCAF National Committee (currently based in W.A.). They honour Mrs Joan Stott's contribution to the Uniting Church and the UCAF. Their purpose is to assist those who are committed to or who already are in formation for leadership or theology within the ethos of the Uniting Church. Each applicant must be under 35 years of age at the date of application.

The bursary will be paid to the 'Place of Study' except for accredited candidates for ministry who may use the funds towards their formation, e.g. additional courses or resources.

Applicants should indicate how the grant will be used, e.g. for study or tuition fees etc. A short faith journey statement and a précis of their ultimate goals at the end of their study are also requested.



Application forms are available from Mr David Wang and should be returned to him by 31st May, 2013. Contact david.wang@victas.org.au or write to him at 130 Little Collins St, Melbourne 3000. Phone: (03) 9251 5255



Last year's successful candidate - the first from the Synod of Victoria & Tasmania - was Hannah Rate, a member of Koornang Uniting Church, Murrumbena.

Hannah is inspired by the words of the apostle Paul: "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is —his good, pleasing and perfect will." (Rom 12:2)

Chapel concerts

Haileybury College will be running Free Public Lunchtime Chapel Concerts on Wednesdays from 1.20 - 2pm on

- 8 May, 2013
- 22 May, 2013

Come and be inspired by some of the finest classical and romantic music performed in one of the architectural jewels of south-eastern Melbourne. Enquiries: 9213 2222.

New service takes flight

REGIONAL Airline Skytrans has launched a community partnership with Frontier Services which will strengthen the delivery of services and care provided to remote families across Queensland.

Under the partnership, Skytrans will provide Frontier Services' staff with flights to remote locations across



Queensland to enhance the provision of vital services; particularly children's services for young families and health care in remote communities.

Regional Manager

Karen Harvey believes the partnership will assist child care workers with the Frontier Services Remote Family Care Service to reach isolated families and provide relief child care for up to three weeks a year.

Connecting homeless people to helpers

FRANKSTON Connect will be a one-day event which aims to connect homeless people to service providers.

Over the next few months assistance for the event will be called for from all levels of Government, non government agencies, private sector and volunteers.

Aim:

Frankston Connect is a collaborative effort between service providers, government agencies, private sector and the general community.

Goals:

- Improve access to services and housing for homeless people in Melbourne.
- To enhance collaboration between service providers with the sharing of best practice to create real solutions to complex problems that results in a stronger community.
- Connecting vulnerable people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness to local services to meet their immediate needs and enhance their overall quality of life.
- Provide services that open doors out of homelessness.
- Raise public awareness of homelessness in the community.
- Offering pathways to housing options and self sufficiency.



Are YOU experiencing
housing difficulties or homelessness?
Come and CONNECT
with local community support services.
FRANKSTON CONNECT DAY
Wednesday 17 APRIL 2013
An event Promoting Health and Wellbeing.

Seaford Community Centre,
Corner Station and Broughton Streets, Seaford
11.00am – 3.00pm

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| • Free Food | • Community Resources |
| • Community Stalls | • Free Health Screening |
| • Housing / Tenancy Advice | • Giveaways |
| • Free Hearing Checks | • Free Flu Shots |
| • Entertainment | • and MORE! |



Visit the Presbytery website at www.ucappep.org for news & events, leadership education and more....



In Port Phillip East Presbytery we pray for one another. Let us pray for the following congregations, agencies or schools:

Apr 7 - Easter 2: Defence Force Chaplains in our Presbytery

Apr 14 - Easter 3: St. Leonard's, Brighton Beach congregation and Growth Corridor Ministry

Apr 21 - Easter 4: Caulfield, Indonesian congregation

Apr 28 - Easter 5: St Kilda East (St George's) congregation

Royal Commission starts investigation...

Dear Colleague,

You will be aware that the Federal Government, with support of States and Territories, has established a Royal Commission into Institutional Responses into Child Sex Abuse. The Uniting Church supports the objectives of the Royal Commission and pledges its utmost co-operation.

The values statement that is to guide the UCA in responding to the Royal Commission can be found at <http://assembly.uca.org.au/rcvalues>

The Uniting Church, through its congregations and other councils, schools and agencies has a long and rich history of working with children to assist their spiritual, emotional and social development. Because of that history it is likely that our church, along with other churches, charitable organisations and government agencies, will receive attention from the Royal Commission.

Therefore, the Assembly, with Synods, has established a national framework for engagement with the Royal Commission. An important part of the framework is enabling various parts of the Uniting Church to act collaboratively, and, as far as possible, to speak with one voice.

Another part of the national framework relates to a media strategy. The only Uniting Church persons authorised to make comment to the media regarding the Royal Commission are the President and the Moderators (or their nominee/s). This does not, of course, limit the capacity of worship

leaders to refer to the Commission in sermons and prayers, and some appropriate liturgical resources will be made available shortly.

A Royal Commission has extensive powers to compel persons and bodies to appear before it and subpoena the production of documents.

So ministers who are aware of matters which may come to the attention of the Royal Commission, which may not be known in the wider church, are encouraged to share such knowledge with the Moderator or General Secretary of their Synod, at an early date.

The Assembly has appointed a task group to oversee our engagement with the Royal Commission. The General Secretary, Rev Terence Corkin, is chairing this task group, and Rev Allan Thompson is Executive Officer for the task group. Any queries to Allan on 0417 325 560 or email allant@nat.uca.org.au

Our prayer is that through the work of the Commission there will be healing justice and reconciliation for all those who have suffered, and the Commission will identify how all children can be protected from abuse in the future.

Grace and Peace,
Andrew Dutney (President)

South Casey Mission Area Launch and BBQ



Time: 12.30pm-2.30pm
Sunday 14 April 2013

Contact Rev Wendy Snook ph 5995 2755
and Rev Deacon Mat Harry mob 0413309280

To find the Playspace, turn south from the Berwick-Cranbourne Road, then drive left into the Casey fields sports area, go straight ahead around the round-about, continue past the main football stadium, and it is near Ovals 2 & 3, on the left hand side of the road. There are carparks on two sides of the Playspace. Join us on the northern end, near the BBQ's.



Join us for the launch of the South Casey Mission Area by the Port Phillip East Presbytery, VicTas Synod, Uniting Church in Australia, which includes a new partnership of Cranbourne Regional UCA and Uniting Place Hampton Park UCA! It will be celebrated by a community and church gathering at the northern end of the Casey Fields Playspace, Cranbourne-Berwick Road, (extension of Sladen St) Cranbourne.

There will be a short ceremony of thanksgiving and inauguration of the Mission Area, followed by a BYO BBQ. There are free BBQ facilities there, a wonderful children's play area and equipment, and a beautiful lake and park setting. For use of a wheelchair compatible swing, a prior booking to get the key is needed. The Cranbourne Regional UCA Food Truck intends to be in attendance, with free water and hot drinks.

Don't forget to bring your own food, drinks, fold up chairs, tables, umbrellas, and picnic rugs, to supplement the on-site facilities.