

# NEWSBEAT



PRESBYTERY OF  
PORT PHILLIP EAST

May 2013



**Bumper  
Synod  
issue -  
Pages 1, 2,  
3, 4 & 5...**



*Wesley  
Mission  
marks 120th  
birthday.  
See page 9*



**Warm  
welcome  
for new PM  
Pastoral  
Care... picture  
story page 6**

## Message of hope runs through the heart of Synod

**LIGHTS, colour, music, voices, cultures - the induction of the new Moderator, Dan Wootton, had it all...**

The Union Hall at LaTrobe University was crowded with Uniting Church ministers, agency representatives and lay members from across Victoria and Tasmania to mark the opening of Synod 2013.

All bore witness to a spirit-stirring service on an enduring theme: *'Wait, Listen, Trust... Hope comes.'*

Rich melodies and songs emanated from the multi-cultural choir, readings were made in the Dinka and Vietnamese languages and three young people represented the 'Voices' in the Opening Worship.

Youth Minister at High Street UC, Frankston, Rev Jay Robinson, choreographed the service and she brought in Bethany Broadstock, Stephanie Robinson and Theo Beeby, pictured right, to reflect the next generation of worshippers in the VicTas Synod.

"We tried to be as creative and inclusive as possible," Jay explains, "which is why our young people were involved and we used the stage imaginatively."

"Dan wanted the service to be a multi-cultural experience so we chose to have readings in other languages and asked representatives from other cultures to bring in bowls to lay on the table as symbols of openness."

The former Moderator Isabel Thomas Dobson delivered her parting report, describing her three and a half years in office as 'a varied and rich experience, stretching and costly, yet I will always thank God for it.'

While our new Moderator concluded in his Sermon after 'reflecting on the Word which is spoken eternally by God: "A vigilant spirit calls us to attend to that Word to Grow interiorly, to pray, to break away from attachments and defy fears... total entrustment to the One

who creates and sustains our lives with a heart overflowing with love and genuine hope."

Jay adds: "It went really well and it was great to see so many people there. Dan delivered a great message which shaped the tone of the rest of Synod." *Cont. on page 2*

*Pictured above right: laying on of hands with chaplains, young Voices, Moderator's past and present and General Secretary, Rev Dr Mark Lawrence. Right: New Moderator Dan Wootton. Left: Ex-Moderator Isabel Thomas Dobson*



*by  
Helen  
Beeby*



*If you would like to submit a news item for the Presbytery's monthly Newsbeat newsletter please send all articles and images to [newsbeat@ucappeg.org](mailto:newsbeat@ucappeg.org)*





Cont. from front page...

## Opening story...



*Top left: Choristers join together in song, including Jesu Tawa Pano; Jesus You are Here with Us. Top right: the Voices bring in the Bible, bread, wine and water jug. Above left and right: ecumenical representatives and Moderator's past and present make their procession through the gathered congregation. Left and right: Cross-cultural representatives from the Korean and Sudanese communities participate in the Opening Worship - with readings in Dinka and Vietnamese.*



### Prayer taken from Moderator's Induction service

God of history and God of all cultures, you call us to be in relationship with one another and promise to dwell wherever two or three are gathered in Christ's name.

In Australia we are diverse people; called to live together in peace.

We are amazed by your wondrous deeds in creating different cultures, languages and faces.

Open our hearts that, assured of our unity in you, we may boldly search out and celebrate the treasures of diversity among us.

In the name of Jesus, lover of all, we pray.

**Amen.**



## ... and down to business

**SATURDAY, Sunday, Monday and Tuesday at Synod 2013 saw a combination of Bible studies, theological reflections, prayers, songs, agency close-ups, ecumenical awards, minutes of appreciation and, of course, church business issues, writes Helen Beeby.**

Undoubtedly, the hot topic was how to deal with the debts left by the closure of Acacia College, along with; upholding Congress promises, re-claiming lost reserves and setting up a 'liquidity' account for future financial protection.

These matters were debated at length, with some conflicts of opinion, but the feeling that Christ was in the room remained paramount and the consensus system, pictured below right, ensured a balanced outcome in the decision-making process.

Letters released by the Moderator, Dan Wootton and General Secretary, Rev Mark Lawrence, following the four days of Synod are featured on page 4 and offer a fuller explanation of what has transpired and how it will affect the Uniting Church in VicTas in the future. More information will be released to congregations in the coming weeks.

There were other matters discussed during Synod, of course. Big issues, too. Proposals regarding the Royal Commission on Child Abuse and explorations of Ministry in the Educational Context were just two areas put forward affecting the UCA and its future reputation and mission work.

Yet it wasn't all business, business, business. There were opportunities to catch up with old friends and colleagues over a morning cuppa or evening meal. Chances to reflect in prayer and contemplation with the chaplains and Bible study sessions. Opportunities to learn more about the work of UCA agencies and organisations at the SHARE Expo. Even our Poet in Residence, Pádraig Ó Tuama, delivered some thought-provoking stanzas in his mesmerising Irish lilt.

All of which added up to a highly successful Synod, that may have heralded stormclouds of disquiet at the outset but ended up with shafts of sunlight breaking through the dark skies.

'Wait, listen, trust: Hope comes'...



*Top: group gathering. While some of the many PPE reps at Synod are pictured above and below*





“Dear Friends,

I write this following a challenging and engaging meeting of the Synod. The theme I had chosen was Wait, Listen, Trust: Hope comes and this hopefully resonated with the members, as we waited and listened with each other, and ultimately made decisions which rely on trust. One particular Synod agenda item, the financial sustainability of the Church, sparked substantial engagement over much of the four days. It proved to be a journey of intense involvement, prayer and lament. Out of it all, I believe that a sense of hope is emerging.

The Synod has resolved to declare that special circumstances exist and will initiate sale of real estate to raise approximately \$56 million. The sale of real estate will be guided by principles that include engagement with presbyteries regarding missional concerns. The Synod also resolved to consult with presbyteries, congregations, agencies and other UCA bodies across the Synod to look at other ways of generating funds for this project.

Working in parallel with this resolution, the Synod also resolved to undertake a major strategic review of the entire Church, which will help inform the implementation of special circumstances; form a vision and plan for the future of the Church and undertake a holistic financial sustainability review to support that vision and plan.

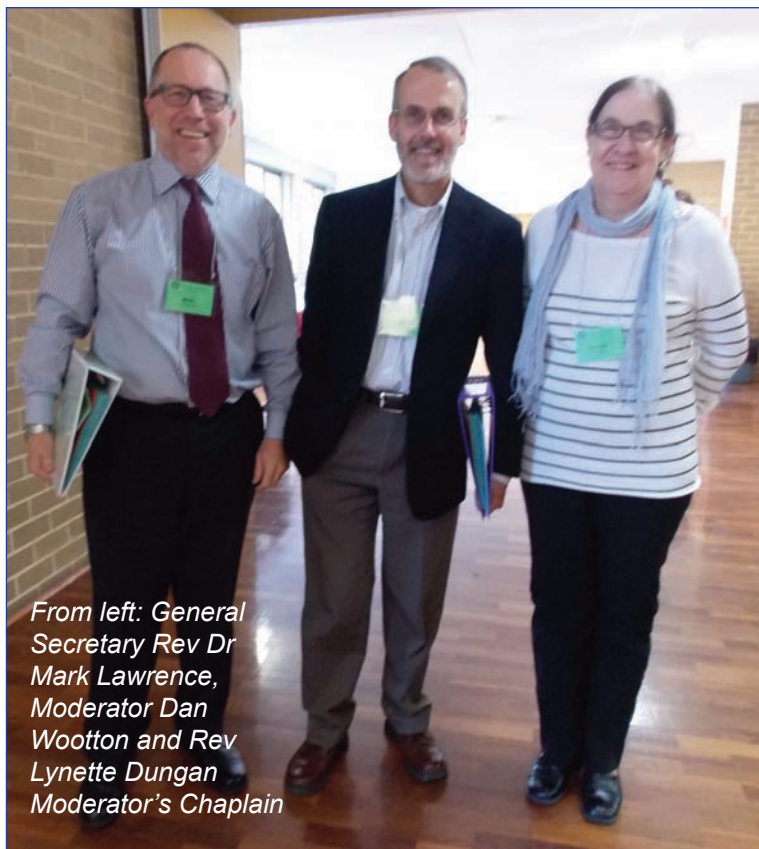
The oft-quoted phrase in paragraph 3 of our Basis of Union speaks of the Church as being “a pilgrim people, always on the way towards a promised goal...” I can use no better imagery than that to describe the circumstance in which this Synod now finds itself.

We are all pilgrims on the road and some of us are carrying larger packs than others, some with multiple tents and equipment, others with little or none. In all this, one thing has been made clear; there will not be an expectation of those with little resources to share the load. Whereas those with greater resources will be encouraged to consider rationalisation and sharing.

Last Friday night in my final words to the gathered people of God, I spoke of hope: our contact with God’s Word renews our hope, consoles us in times of wavering, challenges our complacency and gently guides us in our attitudes and behaviour.

As you and the various councils of the church inevitably become involved in these matters I would urge you to reflect on your responses, and be reminded of the fruits of the Spirit set out in Galatians 5. How do we receive the actions of the Holy Spirit? Through patience; generosity; forbearance; honesty; humility.”

Blessings,  
Dan Wootton  
Moderator



*From left: General Secretary Rev Dr Mark Lawrence, Moderator Dan Wootton and Rev Lynette Dungan Moderator's Chaplain*

#### **Summary paragraphs re resolutions (38 & 20) in relation to Financial Sustainability and Divestment Principles**

Requested by Synod 2013 members to assist in communicating these resolutions with other members of the Church.

To contribute to the financial sustainability of the Uniting Church across Victoria and Tasmania, the Synod meeting has made some challenging decisions. The Synod declared that special circumstances exist (Reg. 4.6.3), and the Church is now looking to raise nearly \$56 million over the next 18 months: \$36.6m to extinguish the Acacia College debt; \$7.32m to replenish Synod reserves; and \$10m to develop a fund from which interest may be used to provide resources to assist with projects that meet with unforeseen circumstances and need support from the wider Church. The Synod also resolved to consult across the Church about how each council, agency, etc, may contribute to the reduction of the debt burden.

A second proposal outlining divestment principles for special circumstances was passed by consensus. This includes the establishment of a project control group consisting of specialists across a range of disciplines (including property, finance, and missional awareness), which will have oversight of this significant task, and report to the Property Board. In the light of declaring special circumstances, the Synod meeting also resolved by agreement to undertake a major strategic review of the whole Church. The Standing Committee has been asked to develop the scope and shape of this review.

Congregations and other parts of the Church will be supported through the processes of divesting real estate, and the strategic review.

Rev Dr Mark Lawrence  
General Secretary, 10 May 2013

# PPEP plays big part in Synod activity

Candidates inform us of Phillipino ambush plus two PPE reps selected for Synod SC

**WITH my 'Mama Paeru' hat on I ended up chauffeuring two people from CALD backgrounds during Synod, writes Faye Sanderson.**

Berlin Guerrero, PPE Candidate and former Pastor of our partner church in the Philippines, UCCP, and Rev Novita Sutanto, currently in Melbourne for three months from a partner church in Indonesia, GKI, and working with an Indonesian congregation in PPE and attending the CTM.

Other good news is the number of people from CALD

backgrounds who participated in the Opening Worship – including the massed multicultural choir – and the Synod meeting itself. At a gathering of people interested in

cross cultural mission and ministry on Monday lunchtime we had approximately 45-50 members of Synod join us. Thanks to all from PPE who participated in these events.

Congratulations also to Rev Laleti Tu'inauvai, pictured left, Minister at Endeavour Hills and Dandenong North, who was successfully elected to the Synod Standing Committee representing our CALD members. He is currently the Chair of the Synod Cross Cultural Mission & Ministry Committee and also on various committees of the Presbytery, including Standing Committee.

Another from PPE elected to Synod Standing Committee is Dick Carter, Ewing Memorial and Chair of UC Funds Management, below.

Faye adds: "I was the one at Synod who raised the issue of the church leader in the Philippines who had been ambushed and his wife killed. It was Berlin Guerrero, currently an asylum seeker (who had been imprisoned on trumped up charges in the Philippines before the Synod rescued him during the last Synod meeting) who told me. I heard the following day that apparently the Phillipino church leader was shot in the throat and had regained consciousness but needed surgery. The Mayor's wife was caring for him and Pastors were keeping guard for his safety."



## Rev Dr Peter Blackwood Farewell Celebration

On behalf of the  
Synod of Victoria and Tasmania

The General Secretary, Mark Lawrence,  
invites you to a celebration to farewell

**Rev Dr Peter Blackwood**  
on

**Friday 31 May 2013**

UCA Centre, 130 Little Collins Street, Melbourne

**3.30pm in the chapel**  
to mark the conclusion of Peter's placement  
as Associate General Secretary

**4.00pm in G1/G2**  
for a farewell and afternoon tea

RSVP: 20/5  
Robyn Hansen 9251 5215  
robyn.hansen@victas.uca.org.au



# Presbytery welcomes new Pastoral Care Minister at sunshine service in Frankston



**THERE** was definitely an atmosphere of warmth and celebration at the Induction Service of the PPE's new Presbytery Minister (Pastoral Care) Rev Liz McMillan.

Family, colleagues and presbytery representatives filled the sacred space at High Street Uniting Church, Frankston to formally appoint Liz to her new role. Sunshine beamed through the windows at HSUC during the service and Rev Swee Ann Koh delivered a stimulating sermon reflecting on the Apostle's inclusion of the Gentiles and the importance of an embracing, cross-

cultural Uniting Church. A delicious high tea followed the service, and gave everyone chance to catch up on events and friendships.

Liz is the full-time replacement for Rev Dr Mark Lawrence who took over the position as General Secretary of Synod late last year.

Rev Ron Townsend (retired) did a sterling job as Acting PM Pastoral Care during the interim months.



*Sunshine and smiles... Top left: Rev Liz McMillan thanks Rev Dr Paul Chalson, Chair of PPEP, for leading the service. Top right: Liz is congratulated by fellow ministers from across the Presbytery. Above: Prayers are said to guide Liz on her new journey.*

## Quote

"The Christian life is not a constant high. I have my moments of deep discouragement. I have to go to God in prayer with tears in my eyes, and say, 'O God, forgive me,' or 'Help me.'"

Billy Graham

of the month...

## CROSS-CULTURAL CONFERENCE 'GOD'S TAPESTRY: CREATING SPACE FOR DIVERSITY' GANNAWARRA CENTRE, NORTH ESSENDON SATURDAY, 18 MAY, 2013

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.

There are six engaging Electives for you to choose.

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



## Green goodness

**THE Trinity Uniting Church in Brighton decided that one means of engaging more directly with the wider community was to build a Community Garden on the grassed area next to the tennis court.**

People in nearby streets were contacted to see if there was any interest in this idea, thinking that those in flats or apartments or those with no garden might respond. Rev Ian Cayzer says of the venture: "A number of people did respond positively and the Church Council decided that this was enough to take the plunge. We have built 10 beds which are 6 metres by 1.2 metres in size for local gardeners to use. We are charging \$100 per year for their use. There is also a smaller bed which we have designated the 'Community Bed'. All gardeners and some Trinity members are going to manage it."

All the produce from this bed and excess produce from the other gardeners' needs will be donated to the Brighton Benevolent Society for them to distribute to needy members of society.

"We now have 10 very excited and enthusiastic gardeners with plants leaping out of the rich soil with which we filled the beds," adds Ian. "Even passers-by in Lindsay Street wander in curious to discover what is going on. Some are envious they didn't get the chance to take a bed themselves." The Garden was officially opened by the Mayor of Bayside, Councillor Stephen Hartney, on Sunday 28th April and a blessing offered by Minister, Rev Ian Cayzer. Further information from [trinity.brighton@uniting.com.au](mailto:trinity.brighton@uniting.com.au).



## Reflections on Faith

"Truth is, life is PAINFUL. No one gets around the pain of life, we all have to go through it. The pains of life are our gauntlet of training. Regardless of what you think you are never in control of the circumstances of your life but you are in control of the attitude that you have as you face them. Too frequently we take the perspective that PAIN in our lives is PUNISHMENT instead of PREPARATION. Maybe God permits pain in our lives as a PREPARATION for something HE has planned that is far greater than anything we could imagine. A paradigm shift in our perspective may be what is needed to turn OUR PAIN into HIS GAIN. by Pastor Corky Calhoun."

### Songs of thanks and praise from young Tongans at Robinvale



**THE group of seven students pictured above are of Tongan heritage - although all have been born in Australia, writes Rev Ian Cayzer.**

They came to Melbourne from the Robinvale UCA to present a program of singing and dancing to the Trinity Uniting Church in Brighton as a means of saying thank you to the congregation for the help we have been able to give in supporting them.

This assistance has enabled some young people to travel to the last NCYC in Queensland. The Robinvale Secondary College has also been helped to allow the Year 12 students to go on a short camp which helped strengthen their relationships with each other as they were about to start the hard work of Year 12.

*Editor's note: Toorak UCA has also been involved with Robinvale and we will take a closer look at their activities in the June issue of Newsbeat.*



# Points of prayer and reflection add new dimension to Hampton landscape

**MEMBERS and friends of Hampton's Dayspring program discovered a new side to their suburb when they undertook a 'Prayer Walk' recently.**

The 3km Walk was a circuit from the church to the nearby beach parks, cliff tops and back.

Organiser Ian Menzies explains: "There were regular reflection points at which participants were encouraged to reflect and pray on various themes evoked by the locations."

"For example, Bayside's Bicentennial Obelisk in Triangle Gardens, pictured, has three faces: a rough side representing the area's indigenous heritage; machined representing the current age and polished representing the future. Participants were invited to reflect on all three of these themes."

The adjacent Bravery Garden evoked thoughts of courage, a war memorial heroism and sacrifice, while lifesavers and coast guards brought to

mind volunteers. More than 20 such sites and themes were identified on the Walk.

For the less able, a 'Virtual Walk' – a DVD version of the same journey – was shown in the church as an alternative to the Walk itself. The Walk was followed by a dinner enjoyed by all as they shared their experiences. Some comments from participants included: "That was amazing!" "I had no idea there was so much there to see and think about." "The DVD was terrific." "I want to do it again!"

Copies of the Walk booklet are available by contacting 9598 3369.



## **The Victorian Chapter of the Australian Church Library Association**

**is meeting on Saturday, 1st June, 2013  
from 2.00 to 4.30 p.m.**

**at Holy Trinity Anglican Church,  
cnr Doncaster and Church Roads,  
Doncaster (Melway 47 G1)**

### **The program will include**

- **looking at the church library;**
  - **a speaker, Madeline Calcutt, who has written novels for teenagers, picture story books, plays and short stories for adults about women;**
  - **a sharing session on publicity resources - please bring any brochures and other materials you use to publicize your library;**
  - **a swap table - bring along books, videos, cassettes, CDs and other resources that you no longer need.**
- For more information please ring Rachel on 9850 4828.**



**I leave you now  
with this prayer:  
That the Lord  
Jesus will reveal**

Himself to each one of you,  
That He will give you the strength  
to go out and profess that you are  
Christian,  
That He will show you that He alone  
can fill your hearts.  
Accept His freedom and embrace  
His truth, and be messengers of the  
certainty that you have been truly  
liberated through the death and  
resurrection of the Lord Jesus.  
This will be the new experience, the  
powerful experience,  
that will generate, through you, a  
more just society and a better world.  
God bless you, and may the joy of  
Jesus be always with you.  
**Amen.**



# Milestone anniversary for Wesley Mission

ONE of Victoria's most vocal organisations on social reform celebrates its 120th birthday this month.

Wesley Mission Victoria marked this epic anniversary on May 3 and commemorated the milestone with an event held in Wesley Church.

About 100 guests, including members of the Uniting Church, the Wesley Board, staff, volunteers and clients attended the event, which concluded with a sausage sizzle. For 120 years, Wesley has been known for its outspoken advocacy for social reform, beginning as Melbourne Central Methodist Mission in 1893 to assist people in need - particularly abused, homeless, or impoverished people. Over the years, Wesley has expanded by developing a wide range of programs and services, adding action to its advocacy. Today, Wesley provides more than 50 different services from 100+ locations across Victoria, assists more than 53,000 people a year, employs 980 staff, and boasts more than 1600 volunteers. Wesley's services include, residential, community based and business services spanning Aged Care and Support Services, Disability Services, Crisis & Homelessness, Children, Youth & Family Services, including foster and kinship care,



Community Detention, Social Enterprises and Disability Employment Services.

Ms Shurlee Swain, co-author of *The Challenge of the City*, a history of the Wesley Central Mission, and who was the guest speaker at the event, says: "The principles which guided the mission in its early years continue to be apparent in the organisation today, even if they are expressed in different language and a different form. Wesley quietly seeks constantly to transform faith into action in meeting the needs of those whom it serves." Wesley plans to conclude celebrations of its 120th year at the Annual Report to the Community in November.

## Web designer sought

PORT Phillip Presbytery is looking for a 'webmaster' to help re-design our website and continue it's upkeep and maintenance. Knowledge of Social Media would be an added advantage. A remuneration package is on offer, commensurate with the role, and the candidate would be required to attend quarterly Communication Task Group meetings. Interested parties should write 200 words on their skills and experience to [secretary@ucappep.org](mailto:secretary@ucappep.org) at the outset and further details will then be sought from a short list of applicants.

TRIVIA NIGHT

Saturday June 22nd

6pm, round 1 begins at 6:30pm SHARP

SILENT AUCTION

Bring loose change for games  
BYO snacks and drinks  
**PRIZES** for winning table

Mount Eliza Uniting Church

Book by June 8: \$10 per person, or \$80 a table of 10.

Book after June 8: \$12 per person.

Children under 10 free.  
Bookings esseential.

TO BOOK: Call Emily  
0435178825  
Or email, [emilycrisp025@gmail.com](mailto:emilycrisp025@gmail.com)



This is an event for all ages and no alcohol is to be consumed. We hope you will be respectful of this. Thank you.



Yes it's that time of year again! Time to apply for Somers Camp 2013!

This year we are very excited to launch our brand new online camper application forms! This saves loads of paper, not to mention hours of time. It automatically collates application forms for us.

Simply add the below URL into your web browser and away you go. It should save you loads of time!

<https://www.smartsheet.com/b/publish?EQBCT=63c7a9d7334a4355abd23e7af3d44bf7>



# Remembrance Day memories....

EWING Memorial's morning service, which included ANZAC Remembrance, brought together young and old to pay tribute to all those soldiers who have battled to defend their country and uphold our freedom from tyranny.

The wreath was laid on Ewing Uniting Church's **Warriors Wall** by Mr Geoff Welchman, right, who also recited the Ode of Remembrance to the assembled guests.

Geoff is pictured with accomplished trumpeter Adam Burnett who played the *Last Post* and *Reveille* at the moving service.



## Bringing people together



**THE launch of South Casey Mission Area involved a wonderful service in the park as an open air worship-celebration and fellowship event.**

"The weather was as wonderful as the fellowship," writes Rev John Mann, PM Secretary & Administration, "Worship was led by Presbytery Chair, Rev Dr Paul Chalson, PM Mission & Education Rev Steve Terrell and SCMA Ministers' Wendy Snook and Mat Harry. Members of the Hampton Park and Cranbourne congregations came together on this special day to cement relationships and forge new ties that will benefit both congregations."

