

# NEWSBEAT



PRESBYTERY OF  
PORT PHILLIP EAST

June 2013

Sri Lankan  
service for  
spirited Raja.  
See page  
2 for full  
details



Last call for  
Somers Camp !  
Book now or miss  
out...application  
info on page 6

## Charting a course through the social media maze

US guru Bruce Reyes-Chow plans to share his worship insights  
with all members of the PPEP faith community

**HIGH Street UC, Frankston has the 'absolute pleasure' of hosting Bruce Reyes-Chow and his wife Robin during a working holiday this July.**

Rev Dr Robert Johnson first met Bruce in San Francisco a few years ago when he was beginning to set up a new contemporary style church in an old warehouse.

Rev Jay Robinson says: "I was very keen to meet Bruce on my trip to Princeton last year, but unfortunately he was a late withdrawal from the course I was taking.

"So we decided that it would be good to bring Bruce out to speak, not only to High Street, but to the whole church

on aspects around the use of social media and ask him: 'How can we do that well? Why is it good for the

church to have a presence in cyber space? What is the importance of cross cultural ministry? How best can we explore contemporary worshipping communities?"

Bruce is a native Northern Californian and third generation Chinese/Filipino, who lives in San Francisco. An ordained Presbyterian minister, he was the founding pastor of Mission Bay Community Church. In 2008, he was elected the Moderator of the 218th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, USA. He now earns his keep as a writer, speaker and consultant/coach with the Center for Progressive Renewal.

In his writing, speaking and living, Bruce is committed to expressing a Christian faith that is beautifully complex, unimaginably just and excruciatingly gracious. He also believes society and the church are strengthened by talking about issues like: denominationalism and the future church; faith and technology; race and politics, parenting, urban living... Bruce is a blogger and has a large social networking presence. He believes blogging is a spiritual practice and that technology is essential to a young church. Bruce will be sharing worship with High Street and the Melbourne Korean Church plus running a series of workshops and training sessions on social media. He will be spending time with the Cross Cultural Unit on their 2nd Gen camp, running a course at the CTM, and speaking with University Chaplains. He will be the special guest speaker at Revival, July 7, 2013 at High Street UC - 7pm.

Jay adds: "This amazing man has much he can teach and share with us. Make a point of connecting with him, or recommending him to some one you know to come and hear

See page 5 for more details of  
Bruce's daytime social media event



## Social Media fun!

We have a visiting expert from the USA (Bruce Reyes-Chow) in Frankston. Bruce is up with all the current and new social media formats and uses and so we thought we would offer some time with him to play, explore and create in the amazing area of social media and cyber space. So come and join in the fun.

Date: Tuesday 9th July 2013

Time: 7.30pm to 9.30pm

Location: High Street Uniting Church, 16-18 High Street Frankston

Cost: \$20 per person

Bring your computers, tablets or smart phones with you, we'll supply the good coffee and wifi internet.

You can find out some more about Bruce at [www.brucechow.com](http://www.brucechow.com)

Please reply to Jay Robinson at [jay@brucechow.com](mailto:jay@brucechow.com) or 0410 465 836

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)





# Sri Lankan peace mission forges new links

Commissioning Service marks new path for 'Raja'

*Raja's no stranger to fun and joy, as well as worshipful piety...*

*Pictured right: a Palm Sunday Walk and below: food and frolics at a church Garden Party*



OUT of the seeds of hope planted during a peace mission last year has grown a strengthening bond between the UCA and its partner church in Sri Lanka. For Rev M 'Raja' Rajakulendran has been appointed as a Community Minister to go and work with the Methodist Church in Sri Lanka.

A special commissioning service will be held this

**Sunday, June 16 at the 10 am service at Koornang UC, 117 Murrumbeena Rd, Murrumbeena.**

Spokesperson, Faye Sanderson says: "All are welcome to join the celebration and wish Raja a great time ahead. Raja will be going initially for 12 months. We hope people will join us to wish Raja well in this new initiative, which came out of a Pilgrimage to Sri Lanka last year; when a 10-member group of Sri Lankan people (of different ethnicities) from our Synod were led by David Pargeter on a peace mission."

Raja will be supported by UnitingWorld and the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania, as the UCA has a Partnership Agreement with the Methodist Church of Sri Lanka.



## Laptop plea that will change lives...

**Imagine a Uni student in Australia who does not have a computer? It has become a basic necessity not just for adults or students but even for kids.**

I know there are unique elderly citizens who have chosen not to be too adventurous even to try to touch one in Australia. But they too are becoming a rarity and many are giving it a go.

The reality in Sri Lanka is that there are many University students who just can't afford one but have to use them for their study, research, assignments etc. Through some of my friends in Australia I am helping a Female student (old student of Jaffna College) from a very poor background, who gained admission to the Colombo University. While talking to her she told me that she does not have a computer and had to depend on using aher

friend's laptop whose brother is in the USA. I asked her how much she uses the computer for her studies. She told me that her lecturers assign work and tell them to look up in the internet. But she just can't afford one. I am writing to ask if anyone has a laptop at home just lying there collecting dust and not used or you know of anyone who may have one. I am happy to collect it and take with me when I visit Colombo late next month and give it to the Uni student who will be so delighted to get even a dusty old laptop. Some one's rubbish can be another's treasure

If you are able to help I would be most grateful.

Rev. G Dev Anandarajan  
Minister of Religion, Koornang Uniting Church





**Somers leaders are now out-and-about raising last minute funds for Somers Camp, practising with the worship band, and organising Bible study groups, hut groups and menus.**

We have only a few weeks to go until the best week of the year is here (well, maybe Christmas trumps it slightly, but only slightly!)

We even have our new Camp Rev Lauleti which is really exciting. We can't wait to show him some real Somers hospitality – DVDs will be available following camp....

We have a full contingent of slushies and the camp is filling fast but there are still spaces so please get the message out there. This year, some of the Christian schools, including our own Cornish College, has included the information in their school newsletters and we've been in touch with **Light FM** for a community slot at school drop off and pick up times, so the message is getting out there. Please get the information out to your congregations so that no child misses out. We are grateful for the financial support of a number of congregations who have offered to sponsor a camper or two, or who have taken up retiring collections. Remember, there are leaders who will come out to your service and speak for 5-10 mins about Somers Camp and enthuse people.

Don't forget us during camp week – we need your prayer support too!

If you'd like to see our youtube promo videos from last year, follow the links

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=utxCCTz47ck> - for junior campers

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cTr9Le91kvl> - for senior campers

or check out the website at [www.somerscamp.com.au](http://www.somerscamp.com.au)

For any more information or to book a visit, please email Rob at [core@somerscamp.com.au](mailto:core@somerscamp.com.au) and we will organise it asap. Thank you from everyone at Somers Camp. Or call Allan Gregory (Camp Dad) 0418 513 580 or Claire Dawe (Camp Mum) 0410 827 597.



# July 1-5, 2013

If you haven't submitted an application form yet visit [www.somerscamp.com.au/apply](http://www.somerscamp.com.au/apply) and fill one out.

And if you have any friends, family, or neighbours that might be interested please pass on the web address.



## 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 essential.

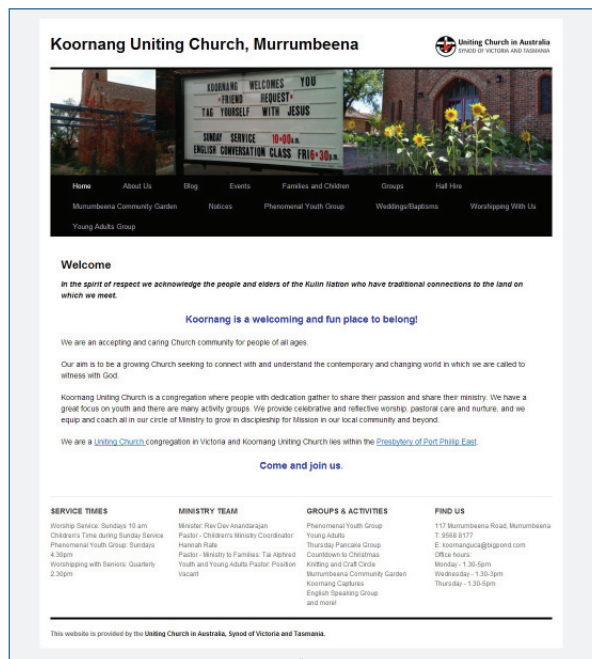
TO BOOK: Call Emily  
0435178825  
Or email, [emilycrisp025@gmail.com](mailto:emilycrisp025@gmail.com)

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

# Reflections on Faith

## “HOW can we help those who do not have faith?”

Ultimately, faith is God's grace working in us to understand and believe things far beyond our natural abilities. We cannot simply argue someone into believing, unless God works in their heart. Still, God can work through us to present the truths of the faith to others and remove confusion or misunderstandings about them. We should try our best to present the truths of the faith clearly to others, but even more we should lift up those who do not believe in our prayers, asking God to give them the grace of faith. The relationship between faith and understanding reminds us that faith is neither blind nor ignorant. Through faith, the mind is wed to God. Although faith is shrouded in darkness, God gives us real understanding in faith. The gift of understanding is a gift of the Holy Spirit and helps us to know the Truth more deeply than our eyes can see. God gives us this ability to 'see within.' He allows us to have an intuitive understanding.”



**Koornang Uniting Church, Murrumbidgee**

Uniting Church in Australia  
OFFICE OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA

Home About Us Blog Events Families and Children Groups Hall Hire  
Murrumbidgee Community Garden Notices Phenomenal Youth Group Weddings/Baptisms Worshipping With Us  
Young Adults Group

**Welcome**

In the spirit of respect we acknowledge the people and elders of the Kulin Nation who have traditional connections to the land on which we meet.

**Koornang is a welcoming and fun place to belong!**

We are an accepting and caring Church community for people of all ages.

Our aim is to be a growing Church seeking to connect with and understand the contemporary and changing world in which we are called to witness with God.

Koornang Uniting Church is a congregation where people with dedication gather to share their passion and share their ministry. We have a great focus on youth and there are many active groups. We provide celebratory and reflective worship, pastoral care and nurture, and we equip and coach all in our circle of Ministry to grow in discipleship for Mission in our local community and beyond.

We are a [Uniting Church](#) congregation in Victoria and Koornang Uniting Church lies within the [Presbytery of Port Phillip East](#).

**Come and join us.**

SERVICE TIMES	MINISTRY TEAM	GROUPS & ACTIVITIES	FIND US
Worship Service: Sundays 10 am Children's Time during Sunday Service Phenomenal Youth Group: Sundays 4-5pm Worshipping with Seniors: Quarterly 2-3pm	Minister: Rev. Glen Henderson Pastor - Children's Ministry Coordinator: Hannah Hale Pastor - Ministry to Families: Tia Aldred Youth and Young Adults Pastor: Position Vacant	Phenomenal Youth Group Young Adults Thursday Pancake Group Countdown to Christmas Knitting and Craft Circle Murrumbidgee Community Garden Koornang Chaplaincy English Speaking Group and more!	117 Murrumbidgee Road, Murrumbidgee T: 0368 8177 E: <a href="mailto:koornang@unitedchurch.org.au">koornang@unitedchurch.org.au</a> Office Hours: Monday - 1.30-4pm Wednesday - 1.30-3pm Thursday - 1.30-5pm

This website is provided by the Uniting Church in Australia, Synod of Victoria and Tasmania.



**PRESENTS**

**a Safe Church Master Class with Rev Dr Marie Fortune**  
**Melbourne Friday 4 October 2013**  
**Uniting Church**  
**Centre for Theology & Ministry**  
**29 College St Parkville Melbourne**  
**9am - 4pm**

**“Beyond the Basics: Healthy boundaries for church workers”**

**Topics include:**

- **Theology & boundaries**
- **Boundaries and technology, social media, finances and sexual attraction**
- **Self-care, privilege and responsibility**

using FaithTrust Institute's "Beyond the Basics" material.

This Master Class is aimed at providing practical help for those involved in abuse prevention, and in responding to allegations of clergy and church worker misconduct and abuse:

- Safe Ministry / Professional Standards / Ethics field workers, and committees
- Safe Church workshop presenters
- Regional ministers, archdeacons, presbytery ministers and pastors



**Rev Dr Marie Fortune** is founder of the FaithTrust Institute (1977), author of numerous books including: 'Is Nothing Sacred?', 'Sexual Violence: the Sin Revisited' and 'Keeping the Faith: Questions & Answers for Christian Abused Women'. She has been involved in clergy ethics and responding to abuse issues since the early 1980s and has served on the National Advisory Committee for the Office on Violence Against Women in the U.S. Justice Department, and the Defense Task Force on Domestic Violence in the U.S. Defense Department. Marie also edited 'The Journal on Religion & Abuse' from 2000-2008.

### Cost of each Master Class

\$200.00 per person

\$150.00 for NCCA SCTA members and attendees at Safe As Churches?6 Conference

**To register, complete the form attached and return to Josie Barnett:**

Safe Ministry Resources Pty Limited, PO Box 1012, Riverwood, NSW 2210

or email [josiieb@smr.org.au](mailto:josiieb@smr.org.au)

**Registrations CLOSE Friday 6th September 2013.**

**These Master Classes are a rare opportunity to learn from Rev Dr Marie Fortune in Australia ... places are limited, so register early!**

## Koornang is alive and live

Yes, Koornang UC now has its website operational (see above) The site is being built slowly, but you're invited to have a 'look-see' while it grows at [www.koornang.unitingchurch.org](http://www.koornang.unitingchurch.org)

## Quote

“People are often unreasonable and self-centered. Forgive them anyway.  
 If you are kind, people may accuse you of ulterior motives. Be kind anyway.  
 If you are honest, people may cheat you. Be honest anyway.  
 If you find happiness, people may be jealous. Be happy anyway.  
 The good you do today may be forgotten tomorrow. Do good anyway.  
 Give the world the best you have and it may never be enough. Give your best anyway.  
 For you see, in the end, it is between you and God. It was never between you and them anyway.”

*Mother Teresa*

**of the month...**



## Who is my neighbour?

**WE have new neighbours,** writes *Christine Clinch*.

Next door to St John's Uniting Church, Elsternwick, a new synagogue has been built. 18% of the population in Glen Eira is Jewish. We are looking for ways to be neighbours and to live together in community.

On Sunday 23rd June at 2.30pm, St John's Uniting Church Elsternwick has the honour of welcoming two extremely talented Jewish musicians Myra Lowe, Soprano, and Russell Shayer, pianist, to the church. The Opera and Jazz Concert will feature works by Puccini, Mozart, Purcell and Oscar Peterson. Tickets cost \$25 for adults, \$20 concession and \$10 for children, which includes afternoon tea. Christine tells Newsbeat: "St John's Uniting Church is a welcoming community, committed to interfaith communication, eager to learn about other faiths and to explore ways of respectfully joining together in harmony. In this musical afternoon, we can do just that, and we welcome members of the community to join us."

JCMA (the Jewish Christian Muslim Association) and GEIFN (Glen Eira Interfaith Network) hold some of their meetings at St Johns, and the recently formed Glen Eira Strings Orchestra, which includes people of different faiths, rehearses there weekly.

For concert bookings, please contact Christine on 0405 016 535 or email [stjohns.elsternwick@ucappep.net](mailto:stjohns.elsternwick@ucappep.net) or book online: [www.trybooking.com/CYFG](http://www.trybooking.com/CYFG) The concert will be held at St John's Uniting Church, 567 Glenhuntly Road, Elsternwick, VIC 3185 Melways 67 J3

## OPEN TO ALL INTERESTED IN SOCIAL MEDIA

Bruce Reyes-Chow will spend time looking at social media, how to use it and why the church should have a presence in this space.

**Date:** Tuesday 9th July 2013

**Time:** 1pm to 5pm

**Venue:** High Street Uniting Church 16-18 High Street Frankston

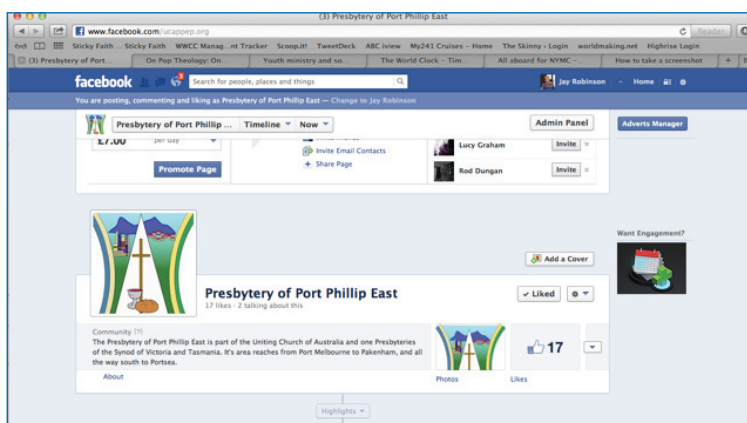
**Cost:** \$40 per person

Bruce is an ordained Presbyterian minister, he was the founding pastor of Mission Bay Community Church and in 2008, he was elected the Moderator of the 218th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) at the age of 40. He now earns his keep as a writer, speaker and consultant/coach with the Center for Progressive Renewal. His books include "The Definitive-ish Guide for using Social Media in the Church", a comprehensive guide on social media. You can also find him at [www.reyes-chow.com](http://www.reyes-chow.com) for more information.

Please reply for numbers:

[frankstonuc@gmail.com](mailto:frankstonuc@gmail.com) or 9783 3400

## Presbytery joins Facebook



**FOR those of you who are Facebook savvy PPE now has a Facebook page that you can Like and keep up to date, minute-by-minute, with what is going on.**

Just head to [www.facebook.com/ucappep.org](http://www.facebook.com/ucappep.org) and click on the Like button and you will be connected.

This is a new area of our communication and connecting and so watch this space as it grows and develops. We are still working on photos and such to be our banner but you will recognise the PPE logo on the page.

Those who Like the page will receive feeds on what is going

on and be able to post news items and events on the page for us to see and respond to. As we explore further just what being a church connected into the world of social media today with the visit of Bruce Reyes-Chow (see details on front page) we will be using this technology to reach out and be a positive presence in cyberspace. If you have any questions about this please contact Rev Jay Robinson ([jay@robinsonfamily.id.au](mailto:jay@robinsonfamily.id.au)) for more information or hints on just how to get connected.

**Opera and Jazz Concert**  
at St. John's

Sunday 23rd June 2.30pm

Enjoy a musical afternoon at St John's with  
**Myra Lowe - Soprano**  
**Russell Shayer - Piano**

Featuring works by Puccini, Mozart, Purcell and Oscar Peterson

Afternoon Tea will be served.

\$25 Adults  
\$20 Concession  
\$10 Children

St John's Uniting Church  
567 Glenhuntly Rd (Car Foster Street)  
Elsternwick, Victoria 3185

**For bookings, please contact:**  
Christine Clinch: 0405 016 535  
[stjohns.elsternwick@ucappep.net](mailto:stjohns.elsternwick@ucappep.net)  
or book online: [www.trybooking.com/CYFG](http://www.trybooking.com/CYFG)

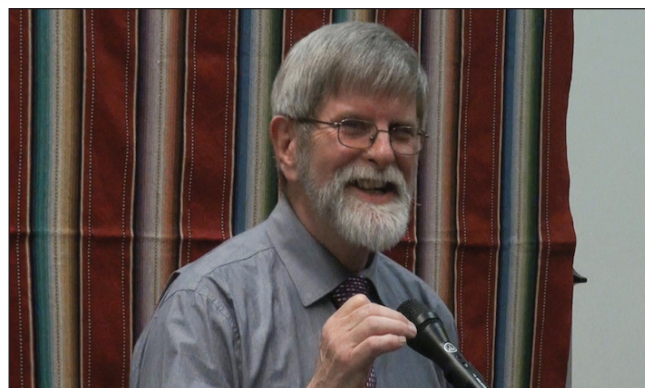
photo: Sav Schulman

**Visit the Presbytery website at [www.ucappep.org](http://www.ucappep.org) for news & events, leadership education and more....**

## Fond farewells for Peter at Synod send-off

FAMILY and staff turned out to farewell Associate General Secretary, Peter Blackwood, at his retirement gathering last month. While anecdotes about his life were shared by his son, the range of different cultures among Synod staff was highlighted as people each spoke farewell messages in their home country's native language.

Peter was appointed Associate General Secretary on the retirement of Allan Thompson at the end of 2008 - a position which focusses on the Synod's responsibilities to ministry across Victoria and Tasmania, a large part of that through the Placements Committee.



## Wit and wisdom

Six-year old Angie and her four-year old brother Joel were sitting together in church. Joel giggled, sang, and talked out loud. Finally, his big sister had had enough. "You're not supposed to talk out loud in church." "Why? Who's going to stop me?" Joel asked. Angie pointed to the back of the church and said, "See those two men standing by the door? They're hushers."



O Lord Jesus Christ, saviour, friend and brother, be with me this day. Strengthen me in all it's temptations; give me courage and power to face its responsibilities; inspire me to see its opportunities. May this day be one of growth in thy fellowship. **Amen**

# Positive Ageing

Abundant living in older age

**Saturday 31st August 2013**  
**9.30am - 3.30pm**

\$25 Donation (includes lunch)

**Keynote speakers:**  
Janet Wood: 'Positive Ageing – A new conversation about ageing'  
Rev Canon Dr Stephen Ames: 'The Theology of Ageing'

**Workshops to be offered on:**  
Legal Matters  
Spiritual and pastoral care of self and partner with dementia  
Opportunities for Volunteering  
Contemplation and Meditation  
Be active your way  
Right time for care

Registrations close Friday 16 August

**Enquiries to:**  
Nell Potter:  
mail@nbuc.org.au  
9857 8412  
North Balwyn Uniting Church  
17-21 Duggan St, North Balwyn, Vic 3101

Jenny Preston:  
jennyp@kondananizambia.org  
0419 595 987

Sponsored by North Balwyn Uniting Church

"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly" — John 10:10



## NCYC is back!

**YURÓRA is a rebirthing of NCYC hosted by the Parramatta-Nepean Presbytery.**

Yuróra is a Dharug word meaning passionate. Yuróra seeks to mobilise young people to experience Jesus, to act in faith, to shake the church and beyond.

### Where/When?

It will take place in an NCYC precinct in Masons Drive North Parramatta NSW from 7th until the 10th January 2014.

NCYC 2014 is open to all young people aged 16-25 with adult volunteers (26+) assisting at the event. It will be a festival-style event based at North Parramatta in Sydney. Port Phillip East Presbytery is currently organizing a bus tour to get to NCYC 2014 and back, so that we can be part of this amazing event.

Costs are being finalised but the plan is to leave Melbourne on Monday 6th January around 4pm and head straight up to Parramatta. We will then leave on Friday 10th January and head down the coast to come back home through Gippsland to arrive either the Monday or Tuesday 13th or 14th January. Registration costs are \$250, plus accommodation, and we are planning to stay in church halls whilst up there and on the way back, so those costs will be as low as we can make them.

If you are keen to come to NCYC 2014, even if you need more details, please let Rev Jay Robinson know asap on jay@robinsonfamily.id.au or 0410 465 836 so we know how many people we can start planning for.



# Diary dates for 2014

THE **Season of Teaching and Learning** in 2014

is going ahead and the Doctrine working group is preparing four new studies plus some study resource recommendations.

Four people on the Doctrine working group are preparing the new studies:

Ben Myers (using selected scripture passages), Geoff Thompson (drawing on the Basis of Union), Rod Horsfield (using some Doc. bytes) and Wes Campbell (focusing on the context). There will also be the opportunity to attend various conferences. The Mission and Evangelism Network is organising a national conference on Mission and Evangelism in Adelaide from 28-30 March, 2014 with John and Olive Drane from Scotland as the key speakers. An intensive at Uniting College in the week following with the Dranes will also be possible.

The Doctrine working group is organising 'back to back' conferences on the *Basis of Union* and Preaching in Sydney on 22-24 August and 25-28 August, 2014.

There will also be the President's Ministers' Conferences in Charleville (June), Sydney (July) and Jerusalem (September). Ministry agents can be encouraged to attend one or two conferences making use of their provision for study leave.

Further information from  
Rev Dr Chris Walker  
National Consultant Theology & Discipleship  
P. 02 8267 4483  
M. 0408 405 466  
F. 02 8267 4222  
E. [chrisw@nat.uca.org.au](mailto:chrisw@nat.uca.org.au)

## See beautiful Perth...

**REGISTRATIONS are still available for the UCAF National Celebration, so why not make this your holiday trip this year?**

You and your friends are invited by the UCAF National Committee (currently based in WA) to join together at the UCAF National Celebration from 16th – 20th October in Perth, Western Australia.

If you've never been to the fabulous city of Perth by the famous Swan River, now is your chance. There will be worship, Bible studies, guest speakers, Assembly and Synod insights, outings and activities around the theme: 'Who is my neighbour?' Total cost including meals and hotel accommodation is \$990 (air fares not included). \$440 extra for a single supplement. A registration form with more information is available from David Wang at 130, Little Collins St, Melbourne. Email: [david.wang@victas.uca.org.au](mailto:david.wang@victas.uca.org.au) or Tel: (03) 9251 5255.



## 2013 MELBOURNE CONCERTS Iwaki Auditorium

21 APRIL • 16 JUNE • 25 AUGUST • 1 DECEMBER  
THE AIR FORCE BAND  
SQUADRON LEADER MATHEW SHELLEY

### FREE ADMISSION

THE AIR FORCE BAND  
SQUADRON LEADER MATHEW SHELLEY

2013 MELBOURNE CONCERTS  
IWAKI AUDITORIUM  
ABC SOUTHBANK CENTRE  
SOUTHBANK BOULEVARD, MELBOURNE

web: [www.airforce.gov.au/band](http://www.airforce.gov.au/band)  
e-mail: [airforce.band@defence.gov.au](mailto:airforce.band@defence.gov.au)  
ph: 03 9256 2727

#### Sunday 21 April, 3.00pm

Short Ride in a Fast Machine	Adams
A Moorside Suite	Holst
Padstow Lifeboat	Arnold
Symphonic Metamorphosis	Hindemith

#### Sunday 16 June, 3.00pm

Passacaglia and Fugue in C min	Bach
Tuscan Serenade	Grainger
Colonial Song	Grainger
Florentiner March	Fucik
Pines of Rome	Respighi

#### Sunday 25 August, 3.00pm

Festival Variations	Smith
Liturgical Dances	Holsinger
Lincolnshire Posy	Grainger
Crown Imperial	Walton

#### Sunday 1 December, 3.00pm

"Sunday Live" – ABC Classic FM broadcast

Toccata Marziale	Vaughan Williams
Symphony No.53 "Star Dawn"	Hovhanness
Liberty Bell	Sousa
Symphony No. 1 "The Red Tree"	Shelley
Short Ride in a Fast Machine	Adams