

NEWSBEAT



PRESBYTERY OF
PORT PHILLIP EAST

August 2013

Crowds come
for Narre
Warren
North's 150th.
See picture
story page 10



How a cuppa
can build a
congregation.
Turn to page 3



Approaching fire... dealing with Special Circumstances

Rev Liz McMillan shares her concerns as our Presbytery deals with Synod's decision tackling debt, property and change

I FEEL like it's the end of a long hot January and February is looking to be even hotter. I wake every day expecting to hear that out of control bushfires are raging across Victoria. I feel anxiety for people and properties, writes Rev Liz McMillan, Presbytery Minister Pastoral Care.

But it's winter and my disquiet is for people and properties here in our presbytery as we face what feels a bit like a

fire-front of forced change. When a bushfire devastates any of our communities we rush to be of assistance through compassion but also perhaps as a salve to our own sense of helplessness in the face of such an event. That's how I feel in the face of the unknown effects that Special Circumstances may bring about in our Church. I feel this especially in my role as Presbytery Minister Pastoral Care here in Port Phillip East.

It may not mean the closing of a church or the displacement of a congregation or a minister. But what if it does? What will we do in the face of such a loss? Will we be prepared to bring blankets and food and invite people to come in and make their home with us for as long as they want or need? Will we weep with them for their loss? Will we continue to journey with them for years to come and encourage them to seek new life from the ashes of their much loved home?

And not only at the time of the immediate shock: there will be the hours of conversation dealing with questions of grief, betrayal and that sense of being asked to carry an unfair burden for the sake of the actions of others far removed from their own.

I believe we will. I believe that through our actions in the face of something as appalling as this that we will show ourselves to be a people of God who care deeply for one another.

This is my prayer and my hope as we, the Port Phillip East Presbytery Ministers, await the potential extreme

Cont. on page 3

Understanding your children



BEST-SELLING author of 4 million books, Steve Biddulph, is coming to Frankston to share his knowledge and humour on the most difficult job in the world - being a parent.

Australian-born Biddulph, whose mother still lives in Frankston, wrote *Raising Boys*, *Manhood*, *The Secrets of Happy Children* and *Raising Girls* and he will be delivering his wisdom and humour on these

subjects at High Street Uniting Church, Frankston on **Monday, August 12 on Raising Boys** and **Tuesday, August 13 on Raising Girls**, both 7.30pm. More information on these presentations on page 5.

Ticket prices, which include a light supper, are \$35 for one or \$60 for two (can be used over both nights.) Proceeds go to church outreach programs. To book go to www.frankstonuniting.org.au or contact Chris Johnson on 0418 175 373 or e-mail christopher@bigpond.com



Rev Liz McMillan pictured at her induction in May

If you would like to submit a news item for the Presbytery's monthly Newsbeat newsletter please send all articles and images to newsbeat@ucapapp.org





REV Lingky Widodo, pictured above centre, was surrounded by ministers from across the presbytery for his induction for Caulfield Uniting Indonesian Congregation.

Rev Swee Ann Koh, Director of the Multicultural-Cross Cultural Unit at Synod, was involved in the service last month with Chair of the Presbytery Rev Dr Paul Chalson. Rev John Mann, PM Administration, says of the service: "There was lovely singing, led by the congregation's band, and a delicious Indonesian meal afterwards. It was nice to see how well it was attended by members of Presbytery and members of other PPEP congregations."



Warm welcomes...



Rev Scott Finlay was inducted into the ministry team at High St Road (HSR) Mount Waverley last month too.

Scott joins the Rev Julie Ross and the Minister-in-association Rev Graeme Warne as a new member of the congregation's ministry team. The congregation filled the church to welcome Scott, who brings particular skills of creative worship leadership and working with young adults to the church. High St Road is one of the larger congregations in the Presbytery with a range of mission activities extending into the community; especially with families.

Make change happen on the **INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE**

The World Council of Churches has called on its member churches to "Communicate with ecumenical partners regarding the dire humanitarian situation within Syria and suffered by refugees from Syria in neighbouring countries..." Act for Peace has provided life-saving support to more than 12,000 Syrian families. Help us to continue this work by giving generously today.

Further supplies of posters, brochures or envelopes are available at the Melbourne office. Call Jeff Wild on 9650 6811 or email jwild@actforpeace.org.au. The International Day of Peace, created by the United



Nations in 1981, is celebrated on September 21 every year. On this day, individuals and nations across the world are encouraged to engage in acts of peace to promote the broader goal of conflict resolution.

"Peace day should be devoted to commemorating and strengthening the ideals of peace both within and among all nations and peoples." United Nations General Assembly, 1981

To register your church for an action pack for International Day of Peace email info@actforpeace.org.au, or free call 1800 025 101 by 28th August.



Pictured: Above and bottom right; Rev Ann Scott with members of the congregation during their Cuppa Church service on Independence Day. Below right top: Pauline Gallon, Audrey Dodson and Margaret McKay enjoying a cup of tea and catching up with community news in the Officer-Pakenham Mission Area

There's nothing like a good cuppa to bring people together

USUALLY a church service would not start off with a cuppa, a slice of raisin toast and a good old chinwag, but that's what happened recently at Officer Union Church.

Rev Ann Scott, the Officer Pakenham Mission Area Minister, was one of the leaders at the July 4 Cuppa Church service, along with members of the Officer Uniting Church. While Pamela Longmuir was the story teller on the day – telling the story of Moses leading the Israelite people out of Egypt and crossing the Red Sea; giving them a chance for new life. Pamela had people travelling that journey with Moses.

Marie Harding says: "I am a member of the Officer Pakenham Mission Area of the Uniting Church and on July 4 a new concept for church took place - Cuppa Church. About 40 people of all ages mingled in a relaxed atmosphere that people really enjoyed.

"This was the first of many Cuppa Church services that will take place at Officer Union Church, Tivendale Road at 9am on the first Sunday of the month. Interesting speakers will be there to share their stories and we invite people to come along and join us to experience church in a different way."

For any enquiries about the Cuppa Church concept please phone: Rev. Ann Scott on 5941 3495 or Ira Turner on 5943 2379.



Approaching fire...

Cont. from front page

heat of a February bushfire for as yet unknown and un-named ministers and congregations in our midst.

I am available (on behalf of the Presbytery Special Circumstances Liaison Group) for conversations and pastoral support for members of presbytery and congregations; please contact pm-pc@ucappep.org or phone 9005 7556.

For information on 'Special Circumstances' please contact the Synod 'Uniting our Future' special website through <http://www.listeningpost.victas.uca.org.au/>

If you wish to contact the Synod 'Uniting our Future' on any matter then use the email address unitingourfuture@victas.uca.org.au but PLEASE send a copy of all communications to secretary@ucappep.org If you wish to contact the Port Phillip East Presbytery Liaison Group then again use the secretary@ucappep.org address or phone 9558 4710

Statement on Special Circumstances - by the Presbytery Liaison Group

AT its recent meeting on July 13 the Presbytery discussed making its best possible response to the Synod Special Circumstances Resolutions and to the PCG that has been established by Synod Standing Committee.

In order to promote clear, non-conflicting internal Presbytery communication and appropriate pastoral care of congregations it was argued that there should be a prime point of contact in the Presbytery for information regarding property divestment. According to its yet unconfirmed minutes, the Presbytery in Council made the following resolution:

(PIC 13.07.11) It was resolved that the Presbytery in Council approve the formation of a Presbytery-based

Special Circumstances (Uniting our Future)-PCG - Liaison Task Group and appoint Steve Terrell, Chris Begg, Gavin Faichney, Liz McMillan and John Mann to its membership and to delegate the following tasks:

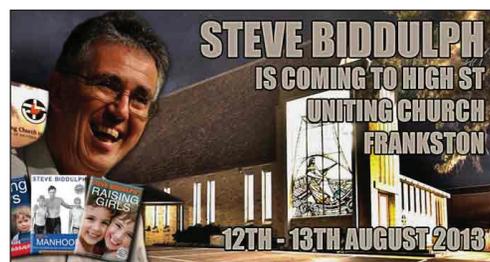
- 1) to receive offers from congregations and agencies of suitable properties*
- 2) help the "Uniting our Future"-PCG identify other properties within our Presbytery that might fulfil their task,*
- 3) help congregations and agencies deal with issues that might arise from subsequent proposed property divestment*
- 4) be 'Uniting our Future' - PCG's primary contact within PPEP for the exchange of all necessary information and advice*
- 5) speak on behalf of Presbytery*

and its congregations to attain the most beneficial outcome for the "Uniting Our Future" - PCG and ongoing mission in the Presbytery

6) to call upon other Presbytery bodies as appropriate

7) report progressively to Presbytery Standing Committee.

Passed by Consensus
As Congregations make their own decisions about offering money and/or properties to the Synod Fund, they are strongly encouraged to keep the Presbytery informed at all points. Please copy letters and emails to the Presbytery Secretary at secretary@ucappep.org



RAISING BOYS – 7.30 pm Monday, 12th August

Everyone who has boys today is concerned for them. We all want our boys to grow up to be happy, positive, caring and motivated. Come and hear about how this can be done – in simple, practical ways that will make immediate sense...

RAISING GIRLS – 7.30 pm Tuesday, 13th August

What's happening to our girls? At all ages, they need our help to believe in themselves. They are growing up too fast, and stressed and unhappy. Yet girlhood is meant to be an adventure and a joy. Come and hear what we have to do to raise our daughters well. From toddlerhood right through the teens, there are specific things you can do to help them to be wise, warm and strong.

TICKETS are \$35 single, \$60 double (either 2 on one night, or for one on both nights)

YOU MUST BOOK!

For more details and to book go to www.frankstonuniting.org.au or
Chris Johnson: Mobile 0418 175 373
chris-robert@bigpond.com
Marg Scarlett: Mobile 0419 805 362
pcs@cogroup.com.au

Working effectively with people from diverse faiths in Gippsland



Friday 30th August, 2013
12:30pm- 4.30pm
Gippsland
Multicultural Centre Community Room,
102 Buckley St, Morwell
\$55.00 per person (incl. GST)

Gippsland now has a much more diverse population, including people from a wide range of faiths. Working effectively with people from diverse backgrounds includes developing an understanding of faiths in our region, and how our services can be best delivered to meet the needs of our diverse community.

Forum Overview

This short forum will provide participants with an understanding of:

- The Muslim community
- The Buddhist community
- The Hindu community

And barriers which prevent service access.

Forum content will include: Understanding Diverse and Newly Emerging Faiths in Gippsland

- An overview of Islam, Hinduism and Buddhism
- Understanding the myths and misconceptions regarding the Muslim, Buddhist and Hindu communities in Australia
- Customs and cultural expectations
- Improving cultural sensitivity
- An overview of resources available

Speakers

Members of each of these communities will present information on the above and on issues experienced in the Gippsland region.

창립 40주년 기념 감사예배 및 장로·권사·의원 임직예식
 The 40th Anniversary Service & Commissioning of Elders, Kwonsas and Church Councillors



가장 오래된 교회, 늘 새로운 교회
멜본한인교회
 Korean Church of Melbourne

Celebration success for KCM's 40th birthday



THE 40th anniversary and commissioning service at the the Korean Church of Melbourne proved to be immensely successful and drew crowds of people to the church in Malvern.

Special guests at the occasion included Chair of the Presbytery, Rev. Dr. Paul Chalson, and Mr. Dan Wootton, the new moderator of the Victorian Tasmanian Synod. The service on July 7 also saw the commissioning of Elders, Kwonsas - female officebearers equivalent to male elders in the Korean church - and Church Councillors.

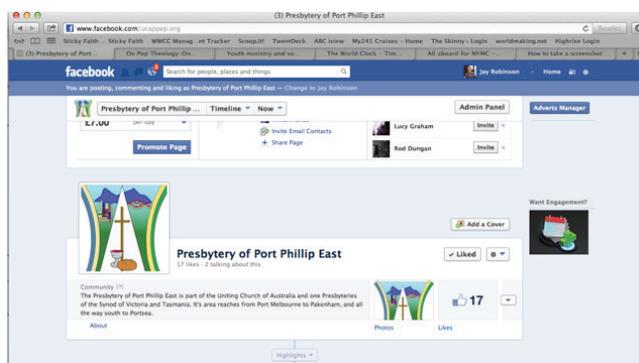
The event was just the beginning of celebrations planned for the 40th year of the Korean Church's arrival in

Melbourne. More activities to mark the anniversary are planned for the coming months.

Rev Paul Chalson said in response to the service: "Thank you for your invitation to participate in the 40th anniversary celebration and commissioning service of the Korean Church of Melbourne. My wife Betty and I both enjoyed it and were very encouraged by the service and happy to be with you on this important occasion. Thank you also for the gifts of towels, pen, cross and journal."

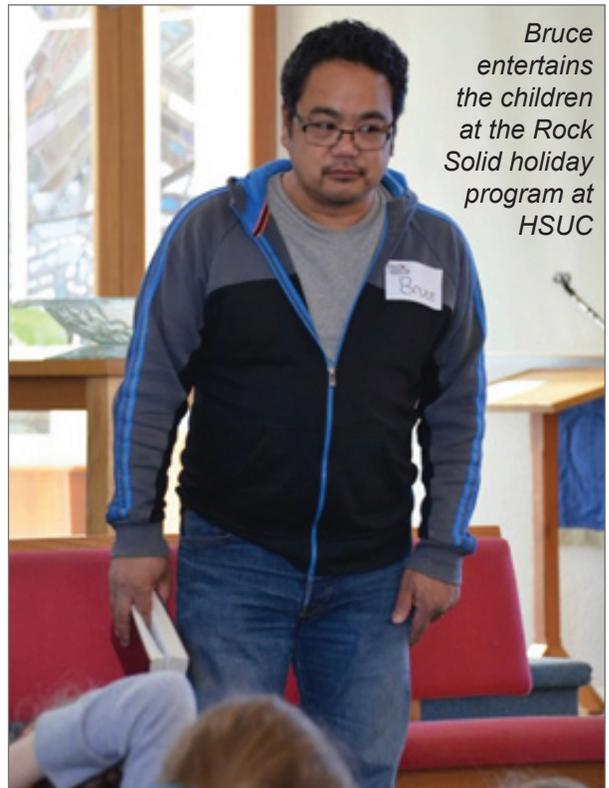
People Like us...

MOUNT Martha Uniting Church has joined the Presbytery in setting up its own Facebook page... So if you happen to be on Facebook take the opportunity to 'Like' both the PPEP and Mt Martha Facebook pages because by 'Liking' the pages you are able to keep up with activities, stories and prayers from Mount Martha Uniting Church and the Presbytery. Also, if they get more 'Likes' it improves the functionality of Facebook for them too...



Social media meets UCA Vic/Tas with exciting results

DURING July Bruce Reyes-Chow and his wife Robin, from San Francisco, visited Melbourne for a working holiday. Bruce is a minister in the Presbyterian Church of the USA and he shared with us his love and knowledge of social media as well as glimpses into racial issues. There were a number of workshops, preaching engagements, special appearances and lots of coffee conversations. The three sessions held on social media at High Street UC were full of fun and packed with great information. Everyone left with new skills and ideas, as well as the ability to implement them. Rev Jay Robinson from High Street helped to promote Bruce's visit and is now even more hooked on social media than before (is that possible? LOL!) If you are keen to talk about Bruce's presentations or ask questions about social media and its uses; or new apps and programs to help with social media Jay is the person to talk to. This was just the beginning in a great connection with Bruce and his work with the church around social media.



Bruce entertains the children at the Rock Solid holiday program at HSUC

WWW@MLG

NO, it's not an email address... but, hopefully, it contains a message.

The message: WILLING WORKERS WANTED at MLG - The Mission Liaison Group with a 47-year history of serving our Pacific-partner churches. MLG is a small, dynamic and enthusiastic group of less than a dozen women and men responsible for sending over 200 cubic metres of goods each year to Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Tonga, Samoa and Kiribati on a regular basis – with an occasional emergency shipment thrown in. MLG helps our sisters and brothers in the Pacific as we recycle selected second-hand and new goods with the possibility of a second life. Tuesdays and Thursdays between 8 and 10.30 am the volunteers set to work sorting and packing. We're kept fit, putting effort into a worthwhile job – and enjoying fellowship.



This happens at 176 Chapel Road, Keysborough [Melway 94B1]. Some live close by, others travel more than 20 km to be involved.

All are willing workers. All come with a variety of skills and backgrounds. Some with teaching backgrounds sort and pack reading books and textbooks for kindergartens and schools. Some had their own businesses and bring management skills.

When we had the "flash-mob" late in 2012 to help pack a container for cyclone-Evan-devastated Samoa, others discovered how much fun it can be to put time into a worthwhile cause.

We're always looking for willing workers on a regular or occasional basis, whether people can volunteer once a week, or whenever they can join in.

We also need a few people with particular skills to help out from time to time. Gerry has been our bike mechanic over many years. We're getting more and more bikes: most need a little work done on them. We did have a sewing machine mechanic, who would check out the machines sent in – but he had to retire some years back. In recent times we've been receiving computers and small TVs. We could do with a computer technician to check them out as well. Right now we're looking for someone with metalwork skills to repair the tailgate on our caged trailer. So if you could offer MLG your time, or could find someone with specialist skills, you'd have the satisfaction of knowing how Welcome are Willing Workers @ MLG.

Interested? Ring **John Connan on 9781-2636** or 0419572936, or send an email to jconnan@hotmail.com.

Reflections on Faith

“JESUS often talked about money and possessions, for he knew how easy it is to put our trust in them and not in God. We see others with more and it is easy to be jealous. We are constantly bombarded with messages about how if we just bought this, all our problems would be solved. If only it were that easy! The reality is that it does not matter how large our house is, nor how flash our car, nor how beautiful our clothes nor how large our bank balance, we can still be deeply unhappy and unfulfilled. Jesus says: Take care! Protect yourself against the least bit of greed. Life is not defined by what you have, even when you have a lot. God points out that those who pile up riches for themselves but aren't rich in God's sight risk losing the lot. So what does it mean to be rich in God's sight? Jesus was rich in God's sight. He may have had no home or possessions, but he was rich in his relationship with God, rich in the family and friends he had and the friends he made. He was rich in having a life filled with purpose and meaning, knowing that he was part of God's plan to renew the world. They are the things which make our life rich and help us use the possessions God lends us for a time.”

Rev Dr Robert Johnson, HSUC

Dates for your diaries...



Code of Ethics workshops for ministers in the Presbytery of Port Phillip East will be held on:

- Thursday September 26 - Mt Eliza UCA, 10am-12pm
 - Thursday October 3 - Noble Park UCA, 10am-12pm
 - Tuesday October 8 - Hampton UCA, 10am-12pm
-
- International Celebration for Presbytery - September 21- venue TBC.
 - Brenda Cooper – release of pastoral ties; Sept 29 - The Village Church Mt Eliza
 - Tim Angus – induction Hampton UCA (0.6) November 24, 2013
 - James Douglas – induction St. Lukes, Mt Waverley; Jan 2014

Quote

“I can see how it might be possible for a man to look down upon the earth and be an atheist, but I cannot conceive how he could look up into the heavens and say there is no God.”

Abraham Lincoln

of the month...

Prayers FOR THE ROYAL COMMISSION INTO CHILD ABUSE

A prayer for those who experienced abuse

Gracious and healing God, we thank you for the many ways that you touch our lives - giving us hope in the midst of despair; comfort and strength to live, when we are at our most vulnerable.

Be with all those today who are suffering - living with brokenness and pain.

We particularly think of people who were sexually abused as children.

May your Spirit be a comforting and healing presence in their lives. May they find peace and nurture within relationships and communities of safety and trust.

Open our eyes and give us wisdom to see where we can bring your healing and hope in our relationships, neighbourhoods and communities as your hopeful and compassionate people.

Give us courage, insight, power and passion for justice and liberation of those who are abused and oppressed. *Amen*



Tamil Church Melbourne
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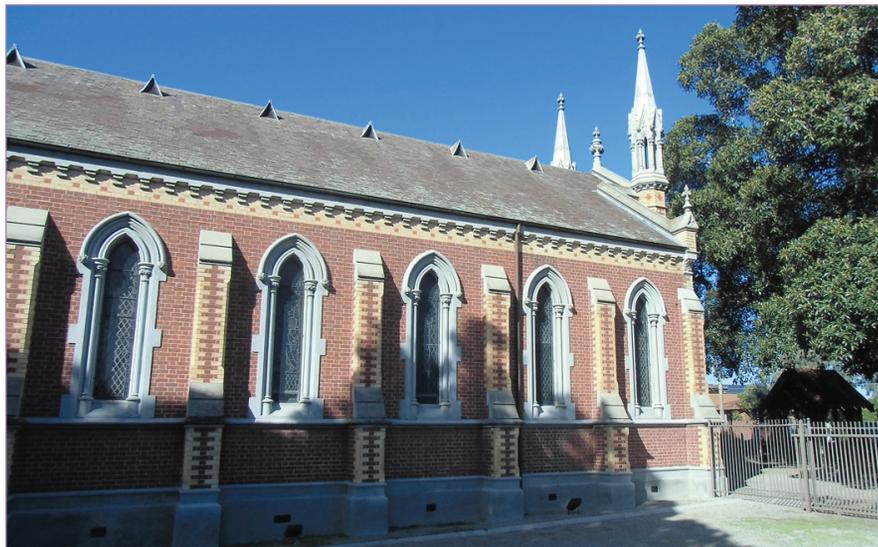
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Tickets are available NOW!

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Prem Arumainayagam
0434 533 804
prem07@optusnet.com.au
adult \$15 & child \$10

Come
let us sing
for joy to the
Lord
~ Psalm 95

Chandler Community Centre,
28 Isaac Rd, Keysborough VIC 3173,
Date: 17th August 2013, from 5pm onwards



THEN AND NOW

Trinity marks 160 years of service

IN February 1853 a group of Congregationalists first met in a 10' by 12' tent somewhere near Black Street, Brighton, writes Rev Ian Cayzer.

By November a substantial wooden building had been erected on the site. By 1875 the elegant brick church which is now in Black Street was erected.

Prayers FOR THE ROYAL COMMISSION INTO CHILD ABUSE

A prayer for the church

Holy God, through Jesus your Son, in the power of the Spirit, you brought your church into being. Imbue it in these challenging days with a willingness to courageously and honestly face the mistakes of the past. Help us all to confront and confess our failures that we may continue with integrity to speak out for truth and justice in our nation and boldly declare the salvation promised to all who repent and believe in the good news revealed in Jesus your Son.

Amen

On the 8th, 9th and 10th November this year Trinity will celebrate 160 years since those events. The Moderator, Mr Dan Wootton, will help us celebrate in worship on the Sunday. We will have a catered lunch afterwards. We are also considering having a Celebration Dinner in a local hotel on the Friday evening at a cost of \$40 per head during which a talk on the history of the church will be given by a noted Church Historian. More details of the program will be advised later in the year. But to help us in our planning an early indication of the attendance of people outside our local membership will be welcome. If you would like to come please contact trinity.brighton@uniting.com.au or phone 9592 4716.

Putting even more care into the community

SOUTH Port UnitingCare welcomed a new CEO, Dianne Embry, in April of 2013 and has a new Strategic Plan dedicated to supporting those who are vulnerable.

Focusing on connecting young people to education, training, employment as well as prevention of disengagement through positive social experiences, South Port UnitingCare provides two Chaplains to three local schools who do amazing work supporting pupils, families, schools and the local community.

South Port UnitingCare also connects seniors to each other and the broader community and provide advocates so people live independently for as long as possible.

Danielle McCaffrey Community Development Worker, says: "South Port UnitingCare has more than 50 dedicated volunteers, without whom many of our services could not exist. They work with our young people and our seniors to foster community relationships. We are always on the lookout for new volunteers and would welcome other congregations to be involved." Please contact 9690 1188 or email info@southportuniting.org.au for more information.



Keeping communities healthy and connected; South Port UnitingCare has a new CEO who is sharpening the organisation's offering to the young and the elderly in their area.



A new development blooms in Rosebud

Rev Steve Terrell, PM for Mission & Education, explains how one church's dream of building a home for those with intellectual disabilities has moved one step closer to becoming a reality

'Beyond the NDIS' was an event held recently to develop a ground-breaking concept for those with intellectual disabilities, their families and the wider community.

It was organised by CLA, a body of parents of adults with intellectual disabilities, who are in conversation with Southern

Mornington Peninsula congregation about a potential redevelopment of the Rosebud site into a best practice purpose built 'village.'

This village will accommodate the congregation, a number of people with intellectual disabilities and a variety of other activities.

In a speech at Beyond the NDSI, Rev Steve Terrell said: "The range of activities

conducted by UCA agencies is quite broad, including aged care, social and affordable housing, disability services, various forms of social support and emergency relief as well as a range of rural support services.

Just to put it in perspective, nationally we have more outlets than Macca's, we employ more people than Australia Post, if you counted our customers you'd get to more than 2 million, served by 35,000 staff and 24,000 volunteers. All of this is supported by another national network of 2,500 congregations, with about 1 million attendees who on the whole gather weekly to be refreshed, renewed and inspired to go and do it all again next week.

On the Peninsula, we are working towards creating our

Prayers FOR THE ROYAL COMMISSION INTO CHILD ABUSE

A prayer for the Royal Commission

God of wisdom, we pray for those who will serve as Commissioners, that they will deal graciously and fairly with all who appear before them. Grant to them the insight and discernment they will need to properly fulfil their responsibilities and ensure the best possible outcomes from the work they do. We ask that the conclusions they reach and the recommendations they make will help those who have been victims of sexual abuse in the past to feel that justice has been done and hope restored.

Amen



own story that expresses those values in a new way.

Triggered by a small newspaper article, our congregation



at the southern end of the Peninsula became powerfully aware of the needs of those living with intellectual disability and their families. Southern Mornington Peninsula Uniting Church and CLA have now been working together since early 2012 to see if they could bring a dream and a mission into reality. They are dreaming of a place to call home.

Actually it would be home to a few groups;

the congregation who worships and cares for the

community there, those who might live there and the wider community on a day to day basis. A place where everyone feels like they count. What if those who use the space could participate in meaningful activities? These might include the opportunity to be creative, to learn hospitality skills such as coffee making and waiting, a place for playgroups, a place where people could focus on health and wellbeing, perhaps even to be creative in the garden.

What if this was not just about the practicalities of day-to-day life, but also offered the opportunity to explore the spiritual dimensions of being human, and to form real community.

The Uniting Church thinks these are good dreams to have, and that this is a good project to try and deliver here on the Mornington Peninsula. It resonates with our sense of Mission. We do hope that this dream will become reality. And if it can be done, it will be an honour to be able to share some of the journey of life with those who are doing it tough, but whose lives are still special, who are loved by God as much as any person, and who have so much to offer the world."

"This is an outstanding example of mission being planned in partnership with a variety of church and non-church bodies, attracting strong attention and support from all levels of government as well as private sector philanthropists."

A fine way to spend a Pleasant Sunday Afternoon...



THERE was standing room only at the 150th anniversary of the Narre Warren North Uniting Church.

The day started with a beautiful communion service led by Rev. Ineke Gyles and ably assisted by Rev. Aigofie Marino, pictured above, where all seats were filled.

The service was privileged to have the new Moderator, Dan Wootton and his wife Kathryn attend, pictured right, with Dan giving us a message from the pulpit. Many people from years gone by joined the throng, and stayed for a well catered luncheon. Then followed one of the biggest and best **Pleasant Sunday Afternoons**, with entertainment from home-grown talent and members of the congregation's Samoan community.

"We were also entertained by members from Dandenong North, Endeavour Hills and Hampton Park Uniting Churches," says Sharon Hill. We also heard a brief history of our Church Congregation from Mrs Suzie Maggs - telling us all that worshipping commenced in a tent in May 1863 - and our church building was opened in 1867.

"A big thank you to all who made the day go so well, from those who assisted during the service to the many who catered for lunch, and to all who made the Pleasant Sunday Afternoon such a success."

The Narre Warren North Church was established in 1863 and a new Church building opened in 1867.

Today, the Church is recognised, historically, for its social significance.

