

# NEWSBEAT



September 2013

PRESBYTERY OF  
PORT PHILLIP EAST

Sweet music  
returns to  
Elsternwick.  
See page  
8 for ticket  
information



Strategic partnership  
shapes new direction  
for two UCA agencies.  
Turn to page 6 for the  
full story



Culture  
and  
youth  
combine  
for new  
outlooks



WANT to find out more about the developments in the Cross-Cultural Ministry of our church? Now's your chance, as this invitation has been issued:

**Cross Cultural Ministry  
event on Sunday,  
September 29 at 4pm  
at the Uniting Church,  
152 Drummond Street,  
Oakleigh.**

Rev Swee-Ann Koh, Director of the Synod Cross Cultural Mission & Ministry Unit of the Commission for Mission, will be the guest preacher at this service. There will also be participation by the Second Generation Youth Movement including Charlie Navallo, Mission Catalyst, Cross Cultural Mission & Ministry Unit, and others. Keep an eye out for their upcoming Unity Night as the last one was awesome. There will be a time of fellowship and refreshments following the service. All welcome – especially any of our X and Y Gen and the 'young at heart.'

## The bushfire approaches...

**BACK in July the Presbytery appointed a Liaison Group to respond to the *Uniting Our Future* Project Control Group (PCG).**

Congregations were invited to make their own responses to *Uniting Our Future* and many did, with some offering properties voluntarily to divest, or giving of their financial reserves. Presbytery appointed the three Presbytery Ministers, (Liz, John & Steve), Chris Begg (Presbytery Treasurer) and Gavin Faichney (Presbytery Property Task Group Convenor) to be the liaison group. Their task is being the primary point of contact for the PCG in its consultation with our Presbytery.

The Liaison Group has been very active during August visiting a range of congregations often at short notice, to hear their mission stories and convey to the PCG about mission life and activity happening on as many sites as possible. It has not been a task that time has allowed for a visit to all congregations, so some careful selection was made. The Liaison Group has been asking congregations three basic questions:

- Do you understand the *Uniting Our Future* process and what could happen?
- What mission activity is taking place on this site now, and is envisioned for the future?
- What scenarios are being considered if all or part of the property you have Beneficial Use of is sold, and what support would you need?

Liaison Group  
provides update  
on the Special  
Circumstances  
situation



of knowledge about valuable mission. The Group has been able to describe the missional value in some detail for all properties identified by the PCG for potential divestment. So what happens next?

The *Uniting Our Future* Project Control Group has been assessing properties on the Synod list based on a range of factors such as property value, marketability and consultation on mission value. It will make its final recommendations on property

The Liaison Group members have heard amazing stories of faithful work. It has helped the group fill in the gaps

Cont. on page 3

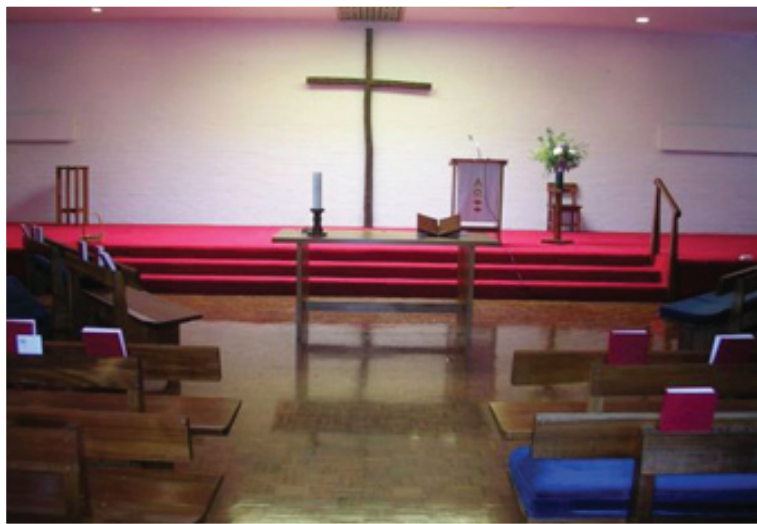
If you would like to submit a news item for the Presbytery's monthly Newsbeat newsletter please send all articles and images to [newsbeat@ucapapp.org](mailto:newsbeat@ucapapp.org)



## Door opens for the lonely in Beaumaris

As result of a letter from a member of the congregation St Martin's Beaumaris has decided to launch a coffee-and-chat drop-in centre at the church in Gibb Street, on three mornings a week, aimed at lonely people in the area.

They will be offering pickups and refreshments on the three days. At these times there will also be an opportunity for private meditation and prayer in the sanctuary for those who are in need.



PLUGGED IN  
991 Collaborative Music Night



Let there be

*Let there be music in experience, let there be music in thought, let there be music in wisdom, let life be the art of beautiful tunes and melodies in harmony and let them be shared through talent gift and skill in friendly uplifting spirit.*

991 Contemporary service.

St George's UCA Minister Rev Angela Tampiyappa.



21 september 2013 (6pm to 9pm)  
St George's UCA, 4 Chapel Street, East St Kilda  
Contact; [junusrohy@gmail.com](mailto:junusrohy@gmail.com)  
Steve: 0404451099 or David: 0402387490

## Dial 991 for musical magic

**St George's UCA 991 Contemporary Outreach will be holding an event, Plugged In music night.**

Plugged In music event gives youth a chance to showcase their love of music. We have invited people all around UCA for delightful musical performances. We invite you to join us for a joyful evening. We would also love you to share your passion of music with performances.

DATE: Saturday, September 21, 2013,  
6-9pm

LOCATION: St George's UCA,  
4 Chapel Street, St Kilda  
East

CONTACT: Junus [0434028488](tel:0434028488)  
[junusrohy@gmail.com](mailto:junusrohy@gmail.com)  
Steve [0404451099](tel:0404451099)  
David [0402387490](tel:0402387490)



# Unravelling the mysteries of modern slavery

## MODERN SLAVERY-

### WHAT TO DO

#### A PUBLIC FORUM

with

ROSCOE HOWELL – Slavery Links Aust. Inc.

DR MARK ZIRNSAK – Director, Justice and  
International Mission, Uniting Church

**4 pm, SUNDAY, 6<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER**

EWING CHURCH HALL, 57 BURKE ROAD  
MALVERN EAST. BOOKINGS: 9571 4575  
or email: [ewingmemorial@inet.net.au](mailto:ewingmemorial@inet.net.au)

### WHAT is modern slavery all about, and how do we approach this problem in Australia?

With the help of experts Roscoe Howell and Mark Zirnsak you can learn about this social justice issue when Ewing Memorial Uniting Church hosts a forum on Modern Slavery in October.

It will feature Dr Mark Zirnsak, Justice spokesperson for the Uniting Church, Victoria and Tasmania, and Roscoe Howell of Slavery Links Australia Inc.

They will be presenting a program to inform and encourage action.

"In Australia slavery seems to be unrecognised and unacknowledged," wrote Roscoe Howell in his book *Australians and Modern Slavery*. So what can we do?

All are welcome to attend this informative event to learn about the global and domestic problems associated with modern slavery.

## The bushfire approaches...

*Cont. from front page*

divestment to the Property Board. Under the Synod resolutions for Special Circumstances it is the Property Board who will make the final decision.

### When we will know?

On Monday, September 30 the Property Board meets to make the final decision. This will be for the first round of sales. A second may follow in 2014 if the financial targets are not met.

On Tuesday October 1 affected congregations and ministers will be phoned by a Property Board representative between 9am and 9pm. Presbytery Ministers will be advised when contact has been made and will follow this with a second call.

### What do we do?

All Church Councils are asked to schedule a meeting for that week of Tuesday, October 1 to Saturday, October 6, in consultation with Presbytery to be advised of all the divestment decisions for the entire Presbytery. This allows those directly affected to work out responses for their congregation. Councils of unaffected congregations should take the opportunity to plan ways to seriously respond and assist affected neighbouring congregations and agencies.

On Sunday October 6, as part of their regular worship gathering, Congregations are to be advised by their Congregation leaders. A team of Presbytery Ministers and PRC members will be present with directly affected congregations.

### What then?

Divested properties will be listed for sale in various real estate publications and websites on Monday October 7. Uniting Our Future is also organizing a Response Team to help affected congregations, agencies and Presbyteries.

Our Presbytery Minister Team is fully available to help congregations work through the grief and plan for what lies ahead. Presbytery will assist in these responses too, whether it is to help celebrate the life of a congregation, to facilitate moving to another place, congregation or agency or plan a new future. The Presbytery Liaison Team has been very encouraged in our conversations with the congregations and groups with whom we have met. In all cases these groups have given serious consideration as to how they may assist in this process. It has been a privilege to hear the concern people have for their own situation and the ways in which they can support their neighbours. How we continue to be church and provide Christian Witness in our communities is a challenge we all have to face in the years ahead. We will continue to work for God's Mission with God's Blessing.

From the people who brought you the hugely popular  
*Countdown to Christmas* and *Countdown to Easter*  
comes.....

## Countdown's JUSTICE CREW!

A jam-packed, one day holiday event exploring issues of  
injustice and what Aussie kids can do about it!!

Be **educated** about life in Kenya  
Be **equipped** with Jesus' message of love and justice  
Be **empowered** to make a difference in the world

### Get Activated!



**Who:** Prep to Grade 6  
**When:** Friday 4th October  
**Time:** 9.30—1pm  
**Cost:** \$10

**Where:** Koornang Uniting Church,  
117 Murrumbeena Road, Murrumbeena  
**Enquires/Registration:** Hannah Rate  
hannahrate@hotmail.com/ 0488 569 099  
*(Registration closes Friday 20th September,  
so tell your friends and get in quick!)*

## Attention churches: Koornang UC is seeking Justice Crew for holiday happiness

Koornang Uniting Church in Murrumbeena has a long tradition of organising and running fantastic kids' programs and they have one coming up in the next school holidays.

**Attention Churches! Koornang Uniting Church is running another fantastic, one-day holiday event for kids:**

**Countdown's JUSTICE CREW!**  
**Friday October 4th, 9.30am-1pm**  
**Simulation Game - Craft - Games**  
**- Bible Stories - More!**

**Come and discover life in Kenya, the issues facing Kenyan kids, and what YOU can do about it!**  
**Countdown events are always popular so email Hannah Rate (see left) for a registration form before you miss out!**



## Who is Jesus? now at CTM

**DUE to significant recent demand the lay ministry intensive "Who Is Jesus?" will also be held at the CTM in Parkville.**

"Who Is Jesus?" is an introduction to the exploration and study of Christology: who Jesus was and is, what Jesus achieved and achieves, how Jesus is related to God and the Spirit, how glory and power are related to death on a cross, what the Bible stories and Christian traditions and theological reflection each have to say about Jesus the Christ. This intensive on October 25-27 and November 29-December 1, 2013 includes practical skills for leading worship and preaching, and is open to Lay Preacher candidates, lay worship leaders, Lay Preachers seeking continuing education, and anyone interested to learn more about Jesus Christ. Those who have registered for the two-weekend intensive in Shepparton are now invited to consider switching your participation to the CTM in Parkville, both for your own convenience and to 'relieve the squeeze' on the facilities in Shepparton. Course structure, readings and costs are the same. The leadership team look forward to hosting two great

weekends of discovery and learning, as we together explore our own faith and the faith of the Church.

If you have already registered and wish to switch from Shepparton to CTM Parkville please email Merryn ([Merryn.Gray@ctm.uca.edu.au](mailto:Merryn.Gray@ctm.uca.edu.au)) and we will inform the Shepparton leadership team. An updated registration form is available <http://ctm.uca.edu.au/layeducation/lay-ministry-intensives/christology/> If you know of others who might be interested to participate in this great time of learning please extend our invitation to them. Painting above: Baptism of Christ by Rosalind Hore.



# Expansion at Brighleigh UC as families feel the beat...

**FOLLOWING** a surge of interest and enthusiasm for the Junior Jam pre-schoolers music program Brighleigh is now offering two sessions instead of one.

At 9.30 am on a Thursday morning, local Music Therapist, Helen Efron, segues effortlessly from a welcoming Hello Hello song through favourites, Twinkle Twinkle and Jungle Beat, to instrumental songs using shakers and lollypop drums, as well as a big communal drum. At the end of the 35 minute session this first the group of nine families move into a smaller room in the hall and enjoy Mavis' homemade biscuits and fruit, along with a box of favorite toys to play with. Then comes the second session, another eight families at 10.20am, and



the program is repeated. Junior Jam has about 20 children from babies to four years old, including three sets of twins - plus several dads and grandmothers who accompany the children.

Kay Gordon, the co-ordinator, comments enthusiastically: "It is lovely to see the fun that the little ones are having as they sing along with Helen, dancing and playing the instruments to her music. Sometimes it can get a little hectic but it's all worthwhile when you see the joy on the faces of the little ones. The mums enjoy the sessions as much as the kids and there have been some great friendships formed through the program.

"Everyone at Brighleigh UC is delighted with the success of the Junior Jam program."

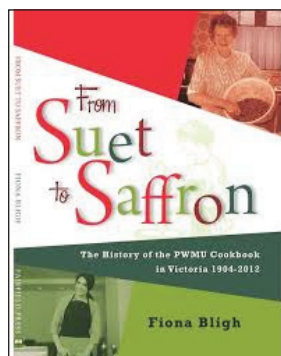
## Cooking up a treat

WHEN the Rev John Wilson, from the Presbyterian Church of Victoria, first heard that someone wanted to write a book about the PWMU Cookbook he thought it was going to be a dry, dull treatise that would be of little interest... At the launch of the book *From Suet to Saffron* by Fiona Bligh he had to admit

he'd been completely wrong in his assumption.

For the book "Is much more than a history of a cookbook," he explains, "it gives us a glimpse into Australian kitchens for the last 100 years, reflecting on Australian society and how Australian cooking has had to adapt to the needs of the kitchen and our environment."

Proceeds from the book, priced at \$20, will go to mission work and it is available at [pwmu@ozemail](mailto:pwmu@ozemail).



## Leading the way

The Pallotine order in Australia offers scholarships or study grants 'to enable lay people to further their understanding and skills in leadership/ministry or a specialised activity which is consistent with UAC aims and objectives.' If you are interested in applying more information is available on <http://ctm.uca.edu.au/layeducation/st-vincent-pallotti-scholarships-for-lay-people/>



# New partnership provides bright future for St Kilda Drop-In and Prahran Mission's future

**THIRTY FOUR years ago a small group of Christians started a 'cuppa and chat' program in St Kilda,** writes Rev (Deacon) John Tansey.

That small activity grew to become the St Kilda Parish Mission Drop In - a Psychiatric Disability Rehabilitation and Support Service.

Then, 12 years ago its governance shifted to become an agency of UnitingCare and formed the basis of St Kilda UnitingCare.

Now, this vital service has joined forces with the Prahran Mission to mark a new chapter in the organisation's development and growth.

As part of a special service marking this transition of governance in this new partnership with Prahran Mission, the words of the song 'From little things big things grow' accompanied images of faces - the faces of the many people who make up the community of the St Kilda Parish Mission and the Drop In Centre.

## Dignity, respect, mutuality

The 40+ people attending the celebration heard that the mission is an opportunity for people who would otherwise be on the streets 'to be treated with dignity, respect, mutuality and equality - a chance to build self esteem and self respect that has seen people go on to achieve more in their lives than they thought possible. They talk about being human, about being known by name, and having life put back into their lives.'

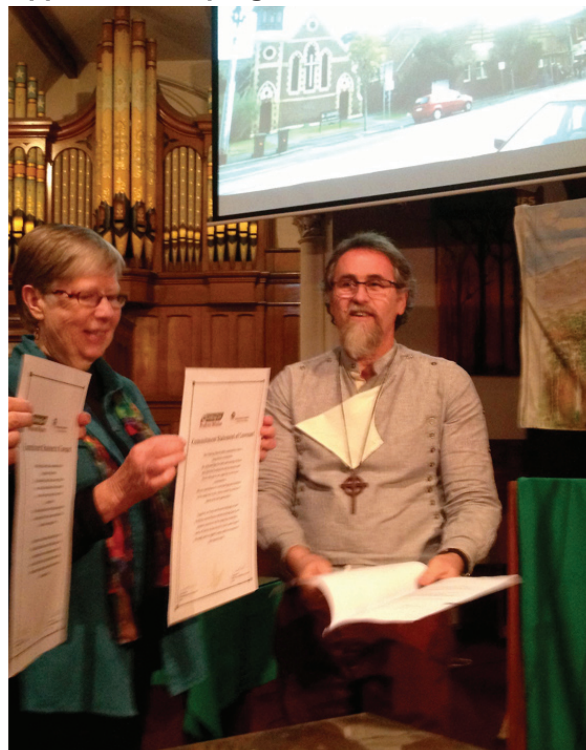
## Family

It was a night of stories, celebration and cries to keep the Drop In going. But the story is not just about a Drop In and a feed. Participants shared their stories of the difference walking into a church had made, and how they now feel like they belong to a family.

## Shepherd

The story of Jesus coming as a good shepherd who gives up his life in order that others may have life, defined the basis for all that is done at the mission.

Led by Rev (Deacon) John Tansey, pictured, Mrs Desleigh Kent, on behalf of the St Kilda Parish Mission,



## Classical moments

There will be a

***Pleasant Sunday Afternoon of beautiful classical music with***

- ***Priscilla Taylor - harpsichord***
  - ***Andrew Weiss - cello***
  - ***Anne Shirley-Peel - violin***
  - ***Ingrid Austen - piano, organ***
- at Bentleigh Uniting church  
497 Centre Rd, Bentleigh  
on 27th October at 2.30 pm.***

Entry donation of \$10 will go to the SHARE Appeal.

Call Mary 9557 0321 or the church office on 9557 4780

and Prahran Mission CEO Quinn Pawson, Drop-In participants and congregation members joined in a Covenant Statement and signing of a Memorandum of Understanding.

Candles represented prayers for the future and were accompanied by encouragement by all parties concerned to go on with our work and look forward to a rich journey into the future, 'co-authoring and co-delivering' a great mental health service.

The words of one participant sums up the essence of the Drop In ministry: "I come to have my name heard once or twice a week."

Of course, the service finished with a hearty feed before heading out into a cold, wet night.

# Reflections on Faith

“ Z Z Z Z z z z Z Z Z z z z Z Z Z z

*I'll be very quiet church leader, take your rest and don't allow me to disturb you. We in the Aussie Christian Church nodded off some years ago and have been having just the best time, moving from a state of deep sleep to that dreamy, magical state where fantasy resides and reality is kept far away.*

*Some might say that we started dropping off to sleep about 1960 or thereabouts, before that there was only hard work. All those people coming to church, I reckon there must have been 60% of the population showing up on Sunday, and then we church leaders went into schools to teach their kids scripture all week, being a church leader back then was hard, exhausting work.*

*Things have certainly taken a turn for the better, life has become more manageable:*

- *The 60% of the population showing up on Sunday has now become 10%, much more realistic.*
- *Not sure if their kids are being taught scripture at school but if they are it's not by us. If someone else is willing to do it then more power to them.*
- *We used to have to get people born again which was a pain, that's all pretty much stopped now, we place the emphasis on keeping the people happy.*
- *All that prayer has stopped too, prayer for this and prayer for that, it took up a heap of time and we were busy already.*
- *Before we fell asleep we were a Christian country but you can hardly say that now. Back then we went by God's rules and now we make up the rules as we go along.*

*Will the church wake from it's slumber?*

**by John Cross and the team at Eternity**

## Reminder: mark your calendars...

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, November 24, 2013
- James Douglas – induction St. Lukes, Mt Waverley; Jan 2014

## Quote

“The sun does not shine for a few trees, and flowers, but for the wide world's joy. The lonely pine on the mountain-top waves its sombre boughs and cries, 'Thou art my sun.'

And the little meadow violet lifts its cup of blue, and whispers with its perfumed breath, 'Thou art my sun.' And the grain in a thousand fields rustles in the wind, and makes answer, 'Thou art my sun.' So God sits effulgent in heaven, not for a favoured few, but for the universe of life; and there is no creature so poor or so low that he may not look up with childish confidence and say, 'My Father, Thou art mine.’”

**Henry Ward Beecher**

**of the month...**

Bethel Pastoral Centre  
Abuse in the Church  
Prevention & Healing

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE

**BETHEL AGM**

ON

**WED 4 SEPTEMBER 2013**

AT

**10AM**

FOLLOWED BY MORNING TEA

**Bethel Centre  
59 Doncaster Road  
North Balwyn**

Please let us know if you can come by calling and leaving a message on 9859 8700 or emailing Marilyn on [marilyn.mangold@victas.uca.org.au](mailto:marilyn.mangold@victas.uca.org.au)

All welcome



## Dinner invitation

Everyone is invited to a Presbytery Cross Cultural Dinner to celebrate our unity in Christ and to share stories and enjoy singing, dancing and food from various cultures.

Saturday 21  
September, 6pm  
at Monash Uniting  
Church,  
1939 Princes  
Highway,  
Clayton North (Cnr  
Koonawarra St)

Please bring a dish of  
food from your culture  
to share and BYO soft  
drink

RSVP: by September  
9 to [hoonyou@uniting.com.au](mailto:hoonyou@uniting.com.au)

## Back by popular demand...

**TWO talented local performers, soprano Myra Lowe and pianist Russell Shayer will return to entertain an audience at the Uniting Church in Elsternwick this October.**

On October 6, 2013 at 2.30pm St John's Elsternwick, 567 Glen Huntly Road, is hosting a second concert of classical and popular pieces.

"The last concert in June this year had an inspiring combination of opera and jazz, including Puccini and Mozart arias and Oscar Peterson compositions. An old favourite O Mio Babbino Caro was also a highlight. The October concert is entitled Handel to Houston and promises a mix of classical and popular music," says Michael Forbes.

If you are interested in an entertaining, uplifting Sunday afternoon, put this date in your diary. Tickets can be ordered from St John's on 0411 405634, or you can simply come along on the afternoon and purchase your tickets at the door.





**Presbytery of Port Phillip East**

# **Cross-Cultural Celebration**

Cross-cultural Network task group presents  
a special dinner of  
**Celebrating our diversity  
with multicultural food,  
music and stories**  
**To Network the Body of Christ**

**Sat. 6pm. 21st Sep 2013**

**at Monash Uniting Church**  
1939 Princes Highway, Clayton Nth.

Bring a plate of food from your own culture and soft drink  
RSVP to [hoonyou@uniting.com.au](mailto:hoonyou@uniting.com.au) by 9th Sep 2013





## ST LEONARD'S Brighton Beach celebrated the 100th Birthday of Nance Hobbs recently.

People gathered to pay tribute to Nance and her lifetime commitment to the church and her significant contribution to St Leonard's over many decades. Nance joined in the singing of some favourite songs from the past, and in reminiscences of other notable happenings in the year of her birth - 1913 - and guests drank a toast to her continued health and happiness. Events in Nance's own life were highlighted in the decoration of a beautiful birthday cake which she duly cut as everyone sang 'Happy Birthday'.

Nance has always given freely of her artistic and culinary talents, writes

*Valerie Byrne*, providing floral arrangements both in the church and for many special functions. Her delicious cakes were also a feature of many an afternoon tea or supper - not to mention the cake stall at the annual St Leonard's fete.

"Throughout her long life Nance has remained modest and unassuming," says Valerie, "but she is greatly loved and respected by the St Leonard's community. We have been privileged to have her among us."

## Nance strikes a century... in years



## Birthday girl

GLEN Waverley congregation member, Irene Marriott, also turns 100 on September 13, 2013 marking another milestone birthday in the Port Philip East Presbytery.

Irene comes from a pioneering family in the Glen Waverley area - there is even a street in the area named after a family member - and she has been involved with the GWUC since Union, and indeed, well before that, writes John Hurst.



### A Special Prayer for Fathers

God, bless all the fathers in the world. Guide them to be good role models and loving to all their children. Help them to be a father like You are. Give them grace and patience to handle situations in a loving way.

**Amen**

# Where art meets psychiatry

**THE 30th Annual Art Exhibition *Shadows and Reflections: There are no Shadows without Light* is to be held at Chapel off Chapel Art Gallery on Wednesday, October 9 - with special guest speaker from the Cunningham Dax Collection, Director Dr Eugen Koh.**

The Cunningham Dax Collection consists of over 15,000 creative works on paper, paintings, ceramics, and textiles created by people who have experienced mental illness or psychological trauma. This unique collection is the only one of its type and size in Australia. There are only two other collections of similar size and stature in the world: the Prinzhorn Collection in Heidelberg, Germany, and Musee L'Art Brut in Lausanne, Switzerland. The Collection is housed and conserved by The Dax Centre, Melbourne. It is named after founder Dr Eric Cunningham Dax. In 1946, while the superintendent of a modern psychiatric hospital in England, Dr Dax invited a professional artist to facilitate art programs for his patients. This quiet beginning is now recognised as the first formal introduction of art into mainstream psychiatry. Prahran Mission participants have produced an amazing array of artworks in a variety of media for the exhibition. The opening night on October 9 at 5pm will be a massive collaboration by participants who have had a hand in

every aspect of the show from exhibiting their works, designing the catalogue, catering for the event and performing in the music group.

There will be an opportunity to meet some of the artists and hear their stories on the night at the 'Meet the Artist' Session at 5.30pm.

Linda Kaiser's 'It's All Light' piece won the poster competition of which she says "Well I have never known fruit to grow in the dark, but it's ok, as I do wish to become firmly rooted on the earth."

The exhibition runs from 9th—25th October.

If your congregation would like to hear about Prahran Mission's work - please contact Erica Myers-Davis or Chaplain Ian Savage on 9692 9500 and we can arrange to give a talk to your congregations and fellowship groups.

Prahran Mission will shortly be writing to all congregations to ask for their support with supplying or making food and toiletries hampers for families in need this Christmas.