

# NEWSBEAT



December 2013

NEWSLETTER FOR THE PRESBYTERY OF PORT PHILLIP EAST



20 years on, and still going strong... See page 5 for birthday celebrations



Colourful welcome for Ann at Beaumaris-Black Rock. Turn to page 9 to share the good news.

## Meeting planned to shed more light than heat on UoF

Filling a need can be easy

PLEASE support families in crisis this Christmas with the Wesley Mission Victoria's **Food for Families** appeal. Simply donate non-perishable food and toiletries to participating IGA and Woolworths stores across Melbourne or donate cash online at [foodforfamilies.com.au](http://foodforfamilies.com.au)



IF YOU'RE still unclear about what exactly happened with the Acacia College closure and subsequent need to divest properties in the VicTas Synod, then come along to the PPEP **Uniting our Future Information Evening** next week.

This event - which will have a panel of Synod staff, Property Control Group members and Communications team representatives present - was set up following a request at the last special Presbytery Gathering on October 27.

The Special Information Evening will be held on:

**TUESDAY DECEMBER 3**  
**BEGINNING AT 7:30pm**  
**at NOBLE PARK UNITING CHURCH**  
**Cnr JOY PARADE/ALLAN ST**  
**NOBLE PARK, 3174**

Please distribute this notice to interested people in and around your congregation as this will also be an OPEN meeting.



## Carols ON THE GREEN

The UCA Port Phillip East Presbytery presents:

**Sunday 1 December**  
**4.00pm to 7.30pm**

**Cornish College**

65 Riverend Road, Bangholme (Near Patterson Lakes)

**Community Christmas Fun for the Whole Family**

4.00pm to 5.30pm - Children's activities including Interactive Nativity Scene, Arts and Crafts and more.

5.30pm to 7.30pm - Family Carol Singing and Christmas Message.

Hot Food and Drinks available to purchase. Gingerbread House Raffle with all proceeds going to the "Frankston Churches Community Breakfast"



## O come all ye faithful...

THE spirit of Christmas is truly alive and well in the Port Phillip East Presbytery - as this issue of **Newsbeat** reveals.

Throughout this season of peace and goodwill there are festive activities, carol services and nativities happening in and around churches, schools and parks across our patch. Check out the wonderful posters and promotional items dotted around this edition and encourage people you know to come along and share the Christmas spirit in your community.

The super-success of the Carols on the Green event last year has turned it into an annual favourite - with families and friends having a whale of a time. See the poster left for details of the fun and fellowship on offer.

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)



## 50th Anniversary celebration as doors close at Herald Street

**A COMBINED anniversary and closing service will be held in Cheltenham in January, following the announcement to divest Herald Street Uniting Church.**

Past members, friends and well-wishers are invited to celebrate 50 years of worship and the final service on:

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 19,  
2014 at 10am**

For more information please call Helen Cole, Congregational Secretary, on 9583 6620 or 9584 3203.

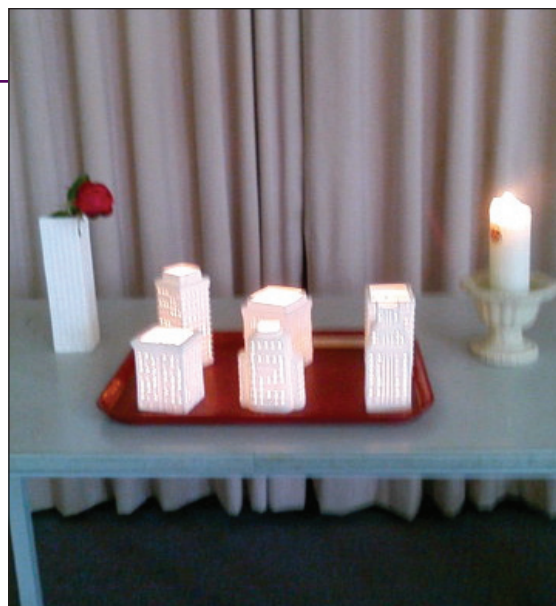


A website has been set up detailing every aspect of *Uniting our future*, the background the process plus resources for congregational use.

**Visit: [www.listeningpost.victas.uca.org.au](http://www.listeningpost.victas.uca.org.au)**

### Back by popular demand

Following the enthusiastic response to the 2013 CTM Lent Resource, the CTM has prepared an Advent Resource to assist individuals, households and small groups in their journey through Advent. Whether you use it in an individual or communal context, we trust that you will find it engaging, stimulating and helpful as you wait, watch and pray through Advent. The entire resource can be downloaded via [CTM Advent Resource 2013](#) or reflections can be accessed daily via the [CTM Advent Resource Website](#). <http://ctm.uca.edu.au/childrenfamilies/2013>



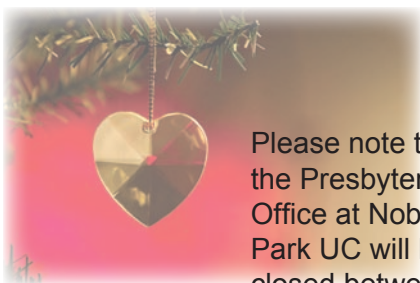
### Gift of Grace inspires prayers at Glen Waverley

AS an outreach to congregations affected by the divestment of property, Glen Waverley UCA has set up a special prayer time on Wednesday afternoons, writes Alison Clarkson.

Pictured above is a Uniting Church rose, Gift of Grace, and candle holders shaped like buildings which were lit as affected congregations were named. The prayer time, from 2-3pm, includes readings, silent meditation and prayer.

Members unable to be there in person are invited to spend time in prayer during that time, wherever they are.

### We need a new web master



### Christmas closure dates

Please note that the Presbytery Office at Noble Park UC will be closed between Tuesday, December 24 and Tuesday, January 2, 2014

THE Presbytery needs a new webmaster to follow the wonderful work of Rev David Peel as he prepares to step back from his role.

Applicants will need to demonstrate experience and expertise in web design, site construction and Search Engine Optimisation.

Working as part of the Presbytery Communications Task Group the candidate will be expected to extensively re-design the Presbytery website and provide ongoing maintenance.

This is a casual contractor position and a remuneration package is offered. Further information from the Presbytery Secretary at [secretary@ucappepe.org](mailto:secretary@ucappepe.org) or PO Box 696 Noble Park 3174





## Christmas dinner thanks

Our Father in Heaven,  
We give thanks for the pleasure  
Of gathering together for this  
occasion.  
We give thanks for this food  
Prepared by loving hands.  
We give thanks for life,  
The freedom to enjoy it all

And all other blessings.  
As we partake of this food,  
We pray for health and strength  
To carry on and try to live as You  
would have us.  
This we ask in the name of Christ,  
Our Heavenly Father.  
Amen

*written by Harry Jewell*

# Generations mark celebrations at Trinity

## **GUESTS, young and old, enjoyed a fantastic 160th Anniversary celebration at Trinity UCA recently.**

Harry Morgan and Robert Swift, pictured, cut the cake at the celebrations for the 160th Anniversary of the Brighton Congregational Church.

Harry at age 3 was the youngest member and Robert over 90 nearly the oldest member present.

The cake was shared with the more than 90 members and guests who had sat down for lunch after the morning worship in what is now called Trinity UCA.

The first public worship of a group of Independent Church folk (now better known as Congregationalists) was held in a 10'x12' tent in early 1853.

A temporary wooden structure was opened in November of that year and ultimately the substantial brick church which is still in use now was first used on 2 December 1875.

In 1884 a Fincham organ

was added and after major

refurbishment in 1995-

6 it remains an excellent

instrument to this day.

Extensive examination of the

records in the UCA Archives

has been undertaken and

from this a 40 page booklet was produced

and copies given to all families present.

The celebrations began on Thursday 7th

November when a display of historical women's

garments prepared by the Brighton Historical

Society was opened in Trinity House. On the

Saturday two concerts were held. In the afternoon

the Melbourne Composer's League held their yearly

concert called Four Colours:Gold which featured

numerous pieces by modern day composers

using flute and a wide variety of percussion

instruments. In the evening students and staff (and some parents) from the St.

Leonard's College presented

an eclectic program of music

across many genres. More

**by Rev Ian  
Cayzer**

than 160 people were present and over \$280 was donated for the Christmas Bowl Appeal.

On the Sunday we had a special worship service at which the Moderator of the Uniting Church Synod of Victoria and Tasmania, Mr Dan Wootton, preached. An augmented choir sang at several points in the service. One piece was "The heavens are telling" from Haydn's Creation which had been sung at a concert at the time of the Jubilee in 1903.

Afterwards we sat down to a delicious lunch in Trinity House during which Rev Dr Ian Breward, a now retired Church History professor, spoke on the values that the Congregational Church has brought into the Uniting Church. Incidentally, the Trinity church building

in Black Street was the place where the Congregational Church in the mid 1970s decided to actually become part of the Uniting Church in Australia.

The weekend finished with an Organ Recital where our own organist and three others, including Chris Lancaster from St. Andrew's, entertained a crowd of 50-60 with a great variety of pieces.

It was a fabulous celebration which many members worked hard to achieve and which the whole of the Trinity community enjoyed.



# Alan moves on to pastures new

## Award winning carol service returns

Ecumenical Carols in the Park at Oakleigh was an initiative of the Parish Of Balkara and scooped an ecumenical award from the Synod in the past.

"This has become quite a tradition amongst our ecumenical partners in Oakleigh," writes Faye Sanderson, "and the combined choir band is made up of members from the partner churches."

This annual event started about seven years ago and is held on the first Friday of December. The churches aim to bring the real meaning of Christmas to the wider community, with the support of the Rotary Club of Oakleigh and City of Monash as well as other financial supporters. Many of the participants are school groups.

**THE November presbytery meeting witnessed an emotional send-off for Rev Alan Mathews as ties to his growth corridor ministry were officially cut.**

Alan gave a heartfelt speech about his six years in his innovative role as Pakenham-Drouin growth corridor minister - a role which presented many challenges, but one that he rose to meet with his creativity and people-centred approach.

Among his many achievements in the role was the Easter Arts Festival, which brought together artists, photographers and craft experts from across the Pakenham and Drouin areas.

Alan, a keen and experienced photographer, presented a collection of images he has shot over the years of his growth corridor ministry to PM Rev John Mann and Presbytery Chair Rev Paul Chalson.



*All smiles as Alan bids adieu to his latest role*



**Friday 6th December 7:30 - 9:30pm**



*Proudly Sponsored by*  
**Rotary Club  
of Oakleigh**

# CAROLS In the Park



**Warrawee Park Oakleigh**  
corner Drummond Street & Atherton Road

Wet weather venue: Sacred Heart Girls College Hall Latrobe St Hughesdale.  
An event of the Combined Churches of Oakleigh: Ph 9568 5161



- Fun festival activities & Sausage sizzle: 6:30 pm
- Local school choirs
- Celebrating our cultures
- Appearance by Santa
- Reliving the Christmas story





## Quote



*"The greatest use of life is to spend it for something that will outlast it."*

William James, 1842-1910, American psychologist and philosopher

**of the month...**

# Scores turn out for *Recreations* 20th birthday

**A weekend of 'Celebration and Thanksgiving' marked the 20th birthday of *Recreations* - the Op Shop of Springvale UCA.**

*Recreations* is part of the church and hall complex – a light and airy space, and not having to pay rent has meant being able to keep the prices very low indeed.

*Recreations* has had more than 90 volunteers in its 20 years. Some have moved into care or passed away but are remembered with affection and stories of their own special ways.

In the early days, patience was a great virtue – after a day's trading to count the cash, balance the books, and realise that the \$2.50 taken had come from the volunteers' own purchases!

In recent years a third volunteer has been added

by  
Llyn Howden  
and Christine  
MacDowall

to each session

to be free to talk to customers and just be able to 'be present.'

More than a third of volunteers are not church members and they soon become

friends and love the give and take of a lively venture, and belonging to something worthwhile

'*Celebration*' was a fantastic luncheon for volunteers, nearly 50 attended, with a tribute in

rhyme and an 'out of this world' fashion parade from the shop's store of treasures – frilly dress, dinner suit, pyjama suit, belly dancing outfit (you'd better believe it!), Paul Hogan lookalike and wig and t-shirt combo. The birthday cake was decorated with op shop miniatures – scarves, buttons, dresses and shirts.

'*Thanksgiving*' was on Sunday, the theme of morning worship, praising God for the witness of this venture which has reached out to the local community, provided assistance for those in need, provided funds to sustain ministry and been a source of vitality for the congregation.

'Please God, may we have the energy and enthusiasm to continue!'

*Recreations* Op Shop is on the corner of Albert and Balmoral Avenues, Springvale and is open Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 10am to 1pm (it will close for Christmas from December 16, 2013 and re-open on January 16, 2014.)



*Dorothy Shaw, Rev. Paul Creasy, and Ellen Elsley (cake decorator extraordinaire)*



## New blood at Hampton - one year on

**A JOYFUL service, led by Rev Ineke Giles, welcomed Tim Angus to his new role at Hampton.**

Rev Tim Angus was inducted as Minister of the Word in the Hampton Congregation on Sunday, November 24.

An address delivered by Rev Kim Cain (who was the Presbytery Representative on the Joint Nominating Committee) brought to a conclusion Hampton's vacancy - exactly one year on. Hampton is building two manses on the site of a disused tennis court, funded by the sale of their existing manse, so Tim will be living in the manse generously provided by Moorabbin-Highett congregation.



*Tim is pictured above with his wife Frances*



*Alistair Macrae gave an opening address at the launch of Joan Water's book on UCAF history, 'Faith, Work & Witness.' He says readers will be 'moved by the photos' and find 'memory and hope' in its pages.*

*"The UCAF has saved many a congregation from insularity and self-absorption," he said.*

## Special delivery

**JOAN Waters, author and former editor of the UCAFs Net**



**Work magazine, brought laughter and poignancy to guests at her book launch by comparing it to the recent birth of the baby elephant at Melbourne Zoo.**

"Book production has been likened to having a baby," she said. "There is anticipation and hard work, with the promise of relief at the end." Elephants, however, have to wait two years for their babies, and writing Faith, Work and Witness sometimes felt like 'delivering a baby elephant.'

"I believe the UCAF can still sing the Lord's song," she added, "and this book will remind people to reflect on its heritage and future through their faith, work and witness." Sales of the book on the day realised \$1,732 and copies are available from David Wang, at \$29.50, on 9251 5255.

# BETHLEHEM IN BRIGHTON

**SATURDAY DECEMBER 7TH  
10 AM TILL 1 PM**

**FREE ENTRY**

**INTERACTIVE NATIVITY  
LIVE MUSIC  
ANIMAL FARM  
NATIVITY PHOTOS  
CAKE STALL  
CRAFT ACTIVITIES  
SAUSAGE SIZZLE  
PLUS MORE**

PRESENTED BY THE COMBINED CHURCHES OF BRIGHTON  
IN THE GROUNDS OF ST ANDREWS CHURCH  
CNR CHURCH ST AND NEW ST, BRIGHTON



## Christmas trivia quiz

Answers bottom right...

1. Which Gospel(s) speak of the birth of Jesus Christ?
2. According to the Bible, how many magi visit Jesus after his birth?
3. An angel tells Joseph to name his

child Jesus, for it was prophesied that a virgin would give birth and call her son Immanuel. What does Immanuel mean?

4. When Herod orders the death of all male children under age two, he is fulfilling who's prophecy?
5. John the Baptist (Jesus' cousin) was how much older?
6. Where in the Bible do we find the Magnificat?
7. Why was Jesus born in Bethlehem, according to the Gospel of Luke?
8. True or False: The Bible tells us Christ was born in December.
9. How do shepherds learn of Christ's birth? In which book are we told?

## Check your chocolate this Christmas?



**PEOPLE gathered at South Wharf, Docklands to join the Stop the Traffik Campaign - specifically calling for Toblerone to be a traffik-free chocolate bar.**

The protest marked anti slavery day across the globe, so a group of Uniting Church, Salvos, (including small brass band) Baptists, Anglican and the Jewish Council of Women gathered together at the Mondeleze Australian Offices.

In the spirit of fun, music was played, juggling happened, a human Toblerone appeared before a presentation to Mondeleze representative, Simon Talbot, of thousands of signed postcards and 100 signed letters gathered by 15 year old Ben Lohning; accompanied by a heartfelt speech:

*"As a young Australian I don't agree with human trafficking. I don't believe that anyone should be bought or sold. Unfortunately the chocolate industry uses child labour especially down the Ivory Coast. I want to be able to buy chocolate traffik free. You have the power to change that. Please make Toblerone traffik free and make Mondeleze a company that ethical young people can be proud of."*

It was a great start to the global campaign, with Mondeleze gracious in acceptance and open in discussing their own hopes for the future of ethical chocolate in Australia.

It has been said that the people of Australia don't seem to care about where their chocolate comes from, but we encourage people to keep campaigning and working together against human trafficking.

Useful resources;

[www.stopthetraffik.org/campaign/chocolate](http://www.stopthetraffik.org/campaign/chocolate)

[www.unitingjustice.org.au](http://www.unitingjustice.org.au)

## Keeping Christmas simple



*THIS is a nativity scene in the home of a Christian family in North India. They are members of the Church of North India, one of UCAs many partner churches around the globe.*

### Answers:

1. Matthew and Luke
2. No specific number is given, though three gifts has led to the number three being used most often.
3. God with us. Matthew 1:23
4. Jeremiah Jeremiah 31:15
5. Six months
6. Luke. It is the name given to Mary's praise. She begins "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Saviour." Luke 1:46-55
7. Joseph had to return home for a census. Luke 2:1-6
8. False. It is likely it was placed in December to offset the many pagan rituals already in winter.
9. An angel appears to them. Luke 2:8-9

# A simple idea to create community...

It took just six weeks to get from an idea to her first sale, but Roselyn Gilmour's story is much bigger than that, as I found out at Heatherton-Dingley Uniting Church's recent market, *writes Rev Steve Terrell.*

Roselyn's working life includes being a nurse, a kinder teacher's assistant, a full-time mum and now a fully qualified pastry chef. She is also a member of Bayside Church, and after joining a small group study called 'Amazing Freedom' realised she had a passion to be creative with food. The disappointment of a friend who was gluten intolerant led to the idea of creating gluten free chocolate fudge Christmas cakes. Roselyn's now has a new business *Kandy Cakes* and her stall at Heatherton-Dingley was her first day of trading.

The market itself is a response to exclusion, in fact. Karen Frazer, who lives with disability, is also extremely talented at knitting fabric animals. Karen is a neighbour to Margaret Howse, another H-D member who, aware of Karen's difficulty in selling her knitted items, thought the idea of a market might help. The extra income could also help Karen make ends meet. It doesn't stop

there... Margaret has a passion for people in senior years, especially in aged care facilities. Many have had to leave their pet with someone else, and yet pets can be such an important part of life for the elderly. Enter Karen's knitted creations, which she can make to resemble a loved pet! So they often find their way into someone's bedroom as a reminder of a loved pet who couldn't come and stay. Pets are big at Heatherton-Dingley. In November they held a Doggy Thanksgiving service. Back to the market. Having advertised in a seniors magazine, the stall holders share a remarkable theme. Most are raising money for a good cause. CWA is selling Devonshire teas. Parkdale UCA Craft Group is raising money for cancer research, having lost several



A Thanksgiving Service for What Dogs Do For Us' was held on November 17 for 90 people and about 35 dogs. Speakers came from Assistance Dogs Australia and Dogs for Kids with Disabilities. \$880 was collected through the offering for these organisations.

Morning tea, for people and dogs, was held following the service.

members to the disease. H-D members raise money for Sri Lanka, while Dot Plumber is selling copies of her children's book, which 'really is better read aloud' and writes hymns for the Doggy Thanksgiving too!

There are people who have just started a hobby, perhaps in retirement. Another lady said her husband thought she was accumulating a lot of jewellery she had made, so she took out a stall and is selling the lot. She'll be back next year! Margaret reckons it's a great way to raise money for the congregation. Table hire ranges from \$5-\$20 and the church also had a stall. It was easy to set up, and the car park has never been so full. But like most things, it's not really about the money or the produce, but the community and the stories of mission that could otherwise be lost in the rattle of small change.

## 2013 WESLEY CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICES

Come and join Wesley clients, staff, volunteers and stakeholders in celebrating the Christmas story in worship including the singing of Christmas Carols.

Four regional services are being offered in partnership with local Uniting Churches and their ministers.

You are invited to attend the worship at the most convenient location or date.

Please also join us for morning tea and chat following the worship to be hosted by the local congregation.



**Tuesday Dec 10th 11am (Rev. Lavingi Tupou)**  
Footscray (St Andrews) Uniting Church – 310 Barkly St, Footscray.

**Wednesday Dec 11th 11am (Rev. Dr. Apwee Ting)**  
Dandenong (Trinity) Uniting Church – cnr Scott & Robinson St, Dandenong.

**Tuesday Dec 17th 11am (Rev. Alistair Macrae)**  
Wesley Uniting Church – 148 Lonsdale St, Melbourne.

**Wednesday 18th 11am (Rev. Stan Clarke & Rev. Peter Rivett)**  
Ringwood Uniting Church – 30-32 Station Street, Ringwood.

Enquiries to Rev. Gavin Blakemore – Director of Mission  
9666 1267 or [Gavin.Blakemore@wesley.org.au](mailto:Gavin.Blakemore@wesley.org.au)



# Musical welcome at Ann's induction

*Pictured right: Presbytery ministers, Rev Steve Terrell, left and Rev Dr Paul Chalson, right, join special friends of Ann Perrin for the laying on of hands during her induction ceremony at St, Martins, Beaumaris UC, below.*



**A COLOURFUL gathering celebrated the induction of the new minister at Beaumaris-Black Rock UC recently.**

Congregation members, special friends and Presbytery ministers and representatives welcomed new Minister Rev Ann Perrin on the evening of Friday, November 22. The Induction Service was conducted at St Martin's Beaumaris, by Rev Paul Chalson while Rev Steve Terrell gave the sermon. "It was a joyous, as well as reverent, time," says Margaret Wade. "The St Martins Singers (much depleted) sang with the accompaniment of the piano, flute and Ann's husband Chris on the trumpet." The service was followed by a wonderful supper, with time for all to eat and chat.

## Chaplaincy post

FUSION Mornington Peninsula in partnership with Mahogany Rise Primary School is seeking a highly motivated person to help us deliver quality youth support and development programs in the school and local community.

The part-time chaplain (16 hours) will need to have strong organisational and time management skills plus a strong desire to see change in the lives of young people and their communities. Contact: [morningtonpeninsula@fusion.org.au](mailto:morningtonpeninsula@fusion.org.au) Fusion, PO Box 293, Mornington VIC 3931



*Christmas Alight  
presents .....*



## The Mess of Christmas

*Friday 20 December  
4pm - 5.30pm*

@ Glen Waverley Uniting Church  
cnr Kingsway & Bogong Ave  
Glen Waverley

*Come to one session  
or come to both.*


**Who can come:** Children, parents, grandparents, people of any age wanting to explore the meaning of Christmas

(children must be accompanied by an adult who is responsible for them during the session)

For further information and to let us know you're coming, please contact the church office 9560 3580 or [office@gwuuc.org.au](mailto:office@gwuuc.org.au)  
Bookings are helpful, but not essential.

*Sunday 22 December  
5pm - 6.30pm  
Followed by a BBQ tea  
&  
Carols on Kingsway  
@ 7.30pm*

**Cost:** by donation



### OUT OF THE SHADOWS


*charity fund-raising exhibition : supporting centre for holistic healing*  
IMAGES AND VOICES OF SRI LANKAN WAR TRAUMA

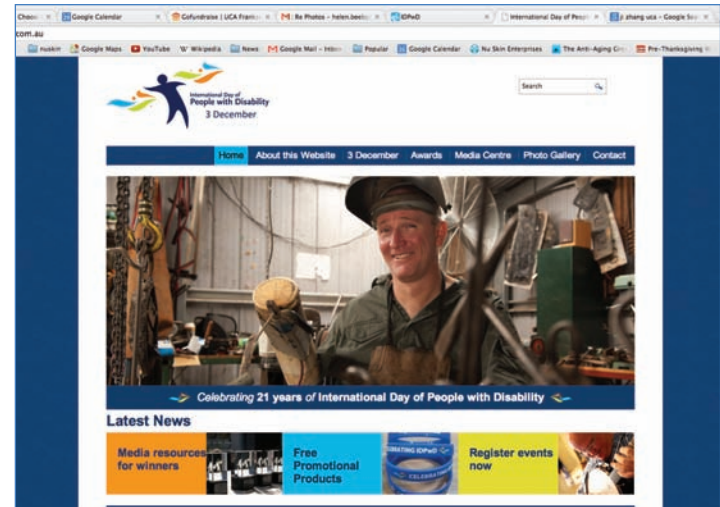
*"these images show the legacy of a war where safe zones were routinely targeted, where bloody battles took place right in the midst of homes and lives, and where the civilian sacrifice was significant. showing the everyday struggle of living with agonising disfigurement, harrowing memories and departed loved ones."*  
Shelley Morris - Photographer

**WEDNESDAY 4 DECEMBER 2013**  
6:00PM - 9:00PM  
AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY GALLERY (ACU) GALLERY  
26 BRUNSWICK ST, FITZROY

ADDRESS BY PROFESSOR DAMIEN KINGSBURY  
VISUAL PERFORMANCE BY HOLLY GRACE & GUESTS

ENQUIRIES: JOHN BOTTOMLEY 9827 8322





DECEMBER 3, 2013 marks the 21st year of the International Day of People with Disability. It is a day to raise awareness about people who live with a disability, and to encourage ideas and actions to enable people to be full participants in community and church life throughout the year. The website, left, at [www.idpwd.com.au](http://www.idpwd.com.au) provides prayers and involvement.

**Rule change shapes new direction at kinder**

**WHEN** the rules changed to mandate 15 hours of preschool for 4 year olds in January, we knew we had to think outside the box if we were going to continue to offer two 3-year-old groups and a child-friendly sessional program, writes Peter Shen. **Our solution is Saturday morning 3-year-old kindergarten!**

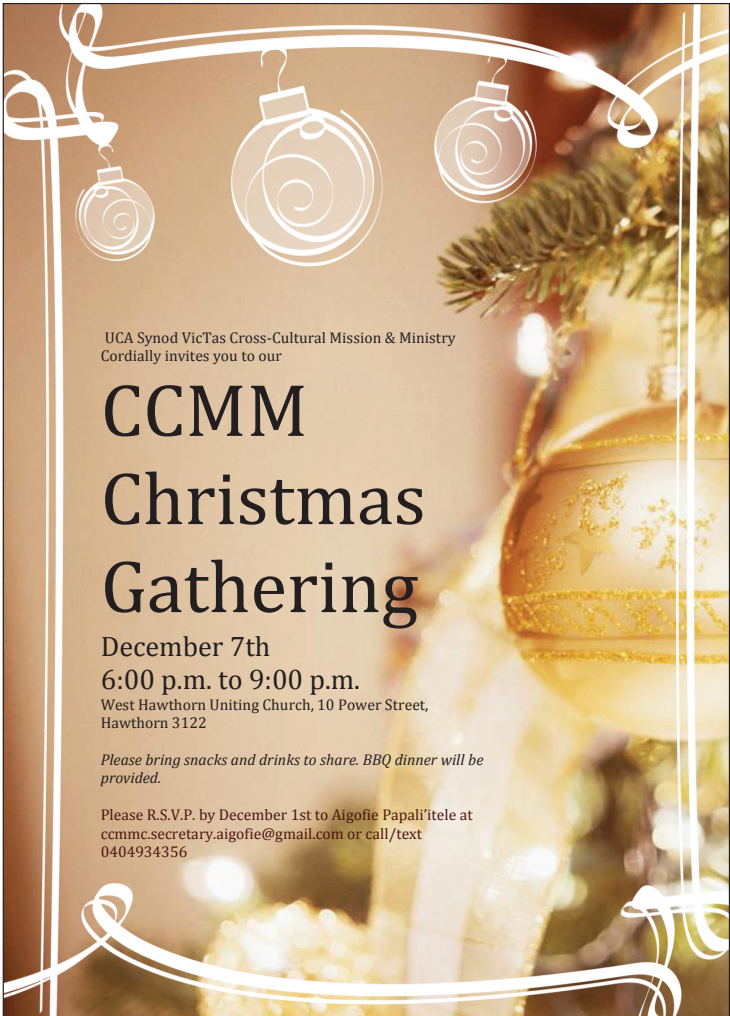
The Saturday morning program has been relaxed and welcoming for children and families. This year the Dads enjoyed participating in their child's kindergarten experience, doing fruit duty, getting to know their child's friends and our large angora rabbits in their new 'palace.'

There is a shortage of 3-year-old kinder sessions in the City of Monash. As St Luke's Preschool is a program of St Luke's UC so we are able to accept enrolments from outside the City of Monash



Our quality program facilitates learning through play tailored to each child's needs, enabling children and families to flourish in a fun and loving environment led by highly experienced staff - recognised for their excellence.

St Luke's Preschool has vacancies for Saturday morning 3-year-old kindergarten program in 2014. For queries, contact our Enrolment Officers - 3-year-old Suzannah Hawtin 9833 3772 or 4-year-old Tonia Preyser 0433 594 016:)



UCA Synod VicTas Cross-Cultural Mission & Ministry  
Cordially invites you to our

# CCMM Christmas Gathering

December 7th  
6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.  
West Hawthorn Uniting Church, 10 Power Street,  
Hawthorn 3122

*Please bring snacks and drinks to share. BBQ dinner will be provided.*

Please R.S.V.P. by December 1st to Aigofie Papali'itele at  
[ccmm.secretary.aigofie@gmail.com](mailto:ccmm.secretary.aigofie@gmail.com) or call/text  
0404934356



# A life well lived

Frank G Watson

Engineer

September 2, 1927 - October 11, 2013

**T**he 30 million or so passengers who use the Melbourne Underground Rail Loop each year all benefit from the great engineering and project management skills of Frank Watson.

For Frank was the General Manager and Director of Engineering of the Melbourne Underground Rail Loop Authority (MURLA) from 1971 to 1983.



## World War II

Frank George Watson was born in Boulder, Western Australia. He commenced his Diploma of Mechanical and Electrical Engineering at the Western Australian School of Mines in 1945 and by doing both the day and evening classes completed the course work in two instead of three years. In place of doing his thesis, to complete his Diploma, he was appointed as a Lecturer in the Mathematics and Physics Department of the School, to help cope with the influx of students returning from World War II. Despite studying day and night, he still found time to gain a pilot's licence in 1947.

## Service to Uniting Church

Frank came to Melbourne in 1948 to participate in the Government Aircraft Factory's Practical and Administrative Training Scheme. He was actively involved with Scots' Church in Melbourne where he met, and in 1951 married, Margaret Peacock. Margaret died in 2006, the same year that she was made a Member of the Order of Australia 'For service to the Uniting Church in Australia, particularly through a range of executive and representational roles both nationally and internationally, and to the ecumenical movement'.

The newly married couple moved to Tasmania in 1951 when Frank was employed by the Hydro Electric Commission which was rapidly expanding its hydro-electric installations. He found time to not only do a BA in Economics and Philosophy Whilst living in Kingston, south of Hobart, he and three friends purchased a property to enable the Presbyterian Church to establish the Kingston Youth Centre. He designed and supervised the construction of the main accommodation unit. This survived the disastrous 1967 bush fires and also record breaking hurricane force winds. The property is known as Rowallan Park and is now the Kingston Uniting Church.

## Tunnelling

Frank's skills and expertise in tunnelling were recognised in 1971 when he was appointed the General Manager and Director of Engineering of the newly formed MURLA. He subsequently was appointed to the Authority's Board. He was responsible for supervising and coordinating the planning, financing and construction of the Loop and then handing it over to Victorian Railways to operate. The Loop was opened in stages between 1981 and 1985. Queen Elizabeth II visited Museum Station during her 1980 tour of Australia. In his later years Frank proudly displayed the photo of him talking to Her Majesty during this visit. Frank and Margaret were both committed members of the Uniting Church.

## St Luke's

Frank was an elder at the Ashburton Presbyterian Church then later at **St. Luke's Uniting Church, Mt Waverley**. He also served as Convenor of the Property Committee for Maroondah Presbytery. Frank celebrated 50 years as a lay preacher in 2006.

Family get togethers were a favourite activity, both in Melbourne and when travelling. He tried to attend every event in which a family member participated, be it choir concerts, field sports, car rallies, kayak relay marathons or theatre musicals.

Frank is survived by his two children, Jenny and Donald and his three grand-daughters.

\*Donald Watson is Frank's son and Tom Spurling is a family friend and former Dean of Engineering and Industrial Sciences at Swinburne University of Technology.

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