

NEWSBEAT



MAY 2014

NEWSLETTER FOR THE PRESBYTERY OF PORT PHILLIP EAST



Dark before the dawn... daybreak services on page 5.



A new face at Mt Eliza UC. Meet him on page 7.

Wisdom's Feast returns for its annual arts extravaganza. See page 6.



Journey of life and faith for Chinese scrolls

AN opportunity to view a set of unique Chinese Christian scrolls has been set up thanks to the safe and secure hands of one of the Presbytery's most faithful servants.

Toorak UC Elder and Presbytery Representative Patricia Begg travelled to China from Australia with Rev Dr Ji Zhang and Rev Cath Taylor to negotiate the safe transport of a set of unique Christian scrolls from the Hefei City Church to Toorak Uniting Church.

Her participation in the April trip was the result of a personal request from Rev Dr Chris Page and Mrs Lyndel Pascoe, Manager of Kinross Arts & Spirituality Centre - where many of the scrolls will be exhibited.

Patricia tells of the trip, saying: "The first week was spent with two days in Ningbo, three hours south of Shanghai Airport by car, where we worshipped on Palm Sunday morning at the historic church in Ningbo and then in the afternoon we attended an ordination and met with members of the congregation.

The following morning we visited the Ningbo City Christian Training Centre, and spoke freely with these inspiring young people, finding their faith journey to be uplifting.



After lunch with their tutors, we left by car for Hongzhou that was two and a half hours away and met with the leadership of the Zhejiang Provincial CC/TSPN (the regional Christian Church body). The next day we visited Hongzhou Grand Union Church and the Church of the Rock where we met with senior members of both churches. We were able to spend the end of the day visiting the famous

West Lake and walking through the Night Market.

On Wednesday we left by high speed

Cont. on page 2

UCA walks the talk

WHO says the church isn't relevant any more? Look at these crowds of UCA folk outside the State Library along with thousands of others from across Victoria for the #walk4refugees Palm Sunday March.

More than 10,000 people were there all-in-all, and 500+ showed their support from Synod of Vic/Tas Congregations - an awesome effort all round!



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



Cont. from front page

train for Shanghai, two hours away. There we met with members of the National Office of the Christian Church of China (CCC). Housed in what had been the Church of England's boy's college in the English Concession over 100 years ago. It was a privilege to join the meetings as we learned a great deal about the concerns of the Church in China. We were taken to see what had been the C of E Cathedral in Shanghai - much damaged during the Cultural Revolution. Church people have gradually restored it and it nears rededication.

On Thursday afternoon we left, again by high speed train, for Hefei, about 700 kms NW of Shanghai.

Hefei has a population of 5.5 million, is very industrialised and surrounded by subsistence rice farming. For the people life is very hard but the church was a joy to be part of. The Hefei City Church, situated in the inner-city, is an active outreaching church to its community.

We spent Good Friday with Rev Xue Lianxi, one of the two ministers of this 9,500 strong congregation, where we spent a good part of the day choosing and discussing the scrolls that would return to Melbourne.

Hefei Church congregation has many and varied activities, some direct outreach and others for the congregation. They set up an art group specializing in scroll painting both calligraphy and pictorial. Toorak Congregation through our Uniting Arts complex has been negotiating through UW to have some scrolls come to Australia for an exhibition. This project has succeeded beyond my wildest expectation. I travelled back with 60 scrolls, exquisitely mounted on silk, that will hang in Toorak UC and neighbouring Kinross Arts & Spirituality Centre all May. They trace people's Christian journey through the medium of Chinese art. A mixture of calligraphy of varying ancient types expressing aspects of Christ's sayings from the Gospels. With scrolls depicting scenery, floral, flower and bird life as well as biblical scenes. They will be hanging from the May 1 and we would encourage as many people as possible to come and visit to enjoy this wonderful experience of bridge-building. This experience to travel in China visiting churches and congregations and witnessing the extraordinary outreach, such as nursing homes, medical outreach, bible training colleges, choirs, bands, orchestras, painting classes was a privilege I will never forget.



Above: two of the sacred scrolls from China that will be exhibited throughout May at the exhibition, see below.

Frankincense from the East

Christian Art and Calligraphy from China

May 2 - 30 2014



This exhibition features contemporary calligraphy scrolls by community artists living in Hefei City and who are associated with Hefei City Christian Church based in Anhui Province, China.

*Kinross Arts & Spirituality Centre
603 Toorak Road
Toorak, Victoria, 3142*

Enquiries: 03 98290340

Email: uat@toorak.unitingchurch.org.au

www.facebook.com/KinrossArtsCentre

Generously supported by the Victorian Multicultural Commission and Toorak Uniting Church - Elspeth White Bequest

Remember Somers safety... and subsidies for those in financial need

SOMERS Camp takes a great deal of preparation and planning and although we are covered by the insurance of the UCA and by our Synod's procedures and protocols concerning safety, over the years, people have tried to cut corners to get needy children into camp at the last minute.

This is entirely understandable on a compassionate level. However, this also compromises the safety of the children, the leaders (some of whom are under 18 years themselves) and the UCA as a whole.

We know you will be bringing lots of children to camp in 2014 so here are some guidelines to help you and us.

All campers must register by May 30, 2014. We cannot accept campers after this date – even Camp Mum won't say yes!

- All parents/guardians must have signed and returned an indemnity form otherwise the children cannot be accepted on camp, even if they are registered. This is particularly important if parents/guardians are not bringing the children to camp.

- There are a limited number of subsidised camper spaces at \$100 each. We have reduced our costs by having fresh food donated and big fundraising efforts by a group of leaders, but we do not have an unlimited supply of funds.



SOMERS SAFARI TRIVIA NIGHT

Port Phillip East Presbytery Children's Camp

SATURDAY 3RD MAY

Mount Eliza Uniting Church
93 Canadian Bay Road, Mount Eliza

Round 1 starts at 6:30pm SHARP
A great family night out
PRIZES for the winning team
SILENT AUCTION throughout the night
RAFFLE & DOOR PRIZE
\$12 PER PERSON
Tables of 10 (kids under 10 FREE)

BYO snacks and drinks (this is an alcohol-free event)
Bookings essential!
Get in quick, tickets will sell fast!
Email mandisanford@hotmail.com for Bookings

CONTACT DETAILS
somerscamp.com.au [facebook.com/somersuc](https://www.facebook.com/somersuc)
info@somerscamp.com.au

South Sudanese support for Somers



Parents of young people in the Pakenham Mission Area treated the congregation to some special South Sudanese Cuisine tucker after church on Sunday, April 13. Several of the youth attended and helped with the washing up afterwards. The youths are raising funds to pay for their upcoming Somers Camp costs, as eight young people from Pakenham are hoping to attend.

Please do not assume your church will be given these spaces – talk to us now about how many of your children need support or look at other funding options.

We do our very best to make sure that no camper is turned away through lack of funds but we need your help here too.

- All campers must be signed in and out of camp by the person bringing them. This is not for indemnity purposes – that is a separate form – but this confirms who is on camp and who is not. If you do not want to be the person signing in and out, make sure you have someone with you who will be able to sign for the children you bring or collect.

If you have any other questions about camp or require further information, please email core@somerscamp.com.au or phone Camp Mum (Claire) on 0410 827 597.

Diamond anniversary offers colour and clarity at St Mark's, Chadstone

by
**Rev Steve
Terrell**

IT was standing room only as more than 250 people gathered to celebrate 60 years of mission and ministry at St Mark's Uniting Church in Chadstone recently.

Once a church alone on a hill with stunning bay views, St Mark's was home for a Presbyterian congregation, with links to St. John's Mt Waverley and Monash congregations. It continues to accommodate the Commission for Mission's Bayview Homes, an aged care service which is now run by Wesley Mission Victoria, and also the Melbourne Fijian Uniting Church.

Known as St Mark's Uniting Community the morning congregation is now home to people from 17 nations.

After running children's and youth activities early in its history, shifting needs in the community made aged care services a more significant need to meet. A day centre for adults was established and over the years grew to the extent that Wesley mission Victoria were invited to take over management.

The service included a range of historical perspectives celebrating the inspiration of young people, care of older people, generosity, hospitality and adaptability of Gods people in this place, led by a string of faithful ministers, the latest of which is Rev Deacon Dr Rajitha Perera.

With hymn words interlaced with many historical photos, and a stirring challenge by Rev David Pargeter, executive director of the Commission for Mission, to imagine the future and shape tomorrow by our choices, the gathering looked to the future through the eyes of its newly formed young adults and youth groups before enjoying a well-earned afternoon tea.



TOP: Crowds turn out for the special 60th service and Rev David Pargeter discusses the bright multi-cultural, intergenerational future, above.



ABOVE and left: members of the youth groups join the fray and the choir sings out for the assembled guests.

Saints on the rise with St Leonard's...



ST Leonard's found dawn on the beach a great time and place for Rev Kim Cain, left, to lead a Service of New Light, writes Wendy Adams

The children couldn't resist making their own cross on the beach after the dawn service, pictured right, and afterwards people shared fish and hot cross buns.

For those who found dawn a difficult time to worship they joined the early risers for a different

scene later that morning in the church at a joyous Service of Light, pictured below.



ABOVE: St Kilda Football Club at their post recovery session on Easter morning after their miraculous 'comeback from the dead' victory over the Bombers – in the shadow of the St Leonard's Easter Day cross left on the beach after the dawn service. There is resurrection for Saints... 😊

Dawn breaks over the water on Easter Day

WESTERN Port Uniting Church - which encompasses congregations of Balnarring, Crib Point and Hastings - held dawn services at Hastings foreshore & Balnarring Beach on Easter Sunday.

A table beautifully adorned with candles, a cross and communion trays and chalices allowed the assembled folk from different churches in the area to look out onto Western Port bay as the rising sun shimmered across the water.

This thriving little community of churches, with strong ecumenical links, also uses proceeds from its Op Shop on Disney Street, Crib Point to provide small grants to support local community groups and activities.



Steve's back by popular demand

AUSTRALIA'S best known family psychologist has given talks worldwide to over 130,000 people. They have enjoyed his talks on raising children as they are highly entertaining, practical and emotionally powerful.

High St UC is very excited and challenged that Steve has agreed to come again to share time with us here, a place he knows well, having grown up here in Frankston.

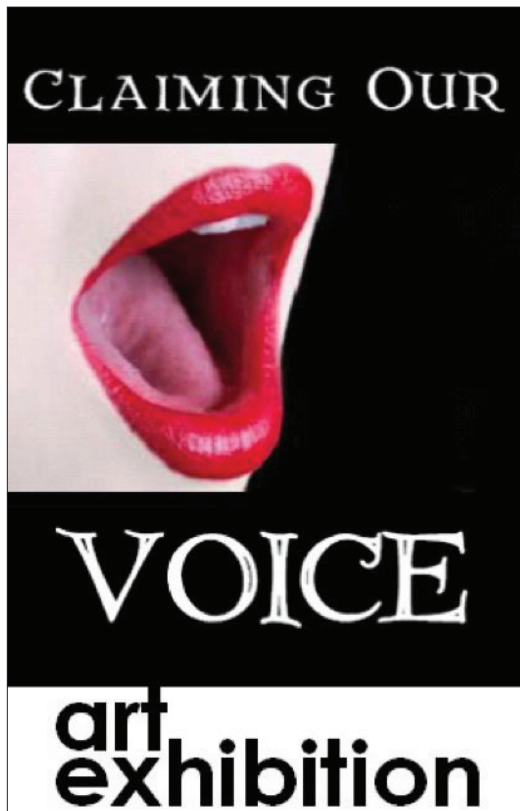
Night 1: SECRETS OF HAPPY CHILDREN – what's really happening inside kids' minds; how to be a stronger, more loving, more relaxed parent; how to help toddlers and children feel secure and settled; discipline methods that work; making sure your love gets through; the childcare dilemma

Night 2: ON RAISING GIRLS –Raising Girls to be wise, warm and strong ...

Wisdom's Feast is stuffed with goodies

Claiming Our Voice is a free-to-enter exhibition offering visual artists the opportunity to speak to the community through their creative talents: to raise their voices by way of the brush on canvas, the chisel on stone, the pixels on paper.

Have your say to more than 200 people from around Victoria in this exhibition to be shown as part of **Wisdom's Feast*** at Warragul over the weekend of 13 – 15 June, 2014. You are invited to enter up to two works of art and there is opportunity to sell.



For information or an Entry Form, contact Alan Mathews on 0417 344 247 or alanm@aanet.com.au or Roberta Adams on bertiebeetle@dcsi.net.au Entries close 30th May. *Wisdom's Feast is hosted by the Uniting Church. Through hospitality, arts, music, speakers and workshops, it aims to make connections between artists, church and community. Wisdom's Feast has been run annually and is now in its fifth year (and draws people from Victoria and Tasmania). Full details of all the dates, times and activities for Wisdom's Feast will be featured in the June issue of Newsbeat. Renowned singer, songwriter Fay White will lead the feast.

More information and to register: <https://event.goregister.com.au/wisdomsfeast2014>



What's happening to our girls? At all ages, they need our help to believe in themselves. They are growing up too fast, 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 to teens, there are specific things you can do to make them strong.



Be generous in prosperity,
and thankful in adversity.
Be fair in judgement,
and guarded in thy speech,
Be a lamp unto those who walk
in darkness, and a home
to the stranger.
Be eyes to the blind,
and a guiding light
unto the feet of the erring.
Be a breath of life to
the body of humankind, a dew to
the soil of the human heart,
and a fruit upon the
tree of humility.
Amen

Baha'i Prayer for Peace

New challenge for Cameron as he bids a fond farewell to Camperdown

MOVING ministries, and homes and schools can be a tough time - but if the welcome is warm and the opportunities bright then it can make all the difference for a new placement.

Rev Cameron McAdam received such a welcome at his induction at Mt Eliza UC recently but he admits it has been a big step for the family.

"We were in Camperdown in Western Victoria for nine years," he says.

"This was my first church (I also had a small church in Derrinallum) and Camperdown was a wonderful time in our lives, with great ministry together. We were very involved in the church and wider community there so it has been a big wrench and change to move."



Cameron is married to Georgie, and they have three children, Ruth, aged eight, Esther, aged six and William, aged three.

"We are impressed by Mt Eliza's involvement of the wider community in the facilities and I look forward to helping the church build further bridges between the church and community. Mt Eliza is a very busy multi-age church and the possibilities for ministry are really quite exciting. We're loving the beach, too!"

Don scoops appreciation award



GRATEFUL thanks were shown to a volunteer from the Officer, Pakenham Mission Area recently - for 'his bright personality and amazing ability for remembering people's names' writes Rev Ann Scott.

On Friday April 11, Bruce Chappell, pictured above, thanked Don Martin for his volunteer work. Don from Outlook has been a great attribute to the program. Bruce presented Don with a Certificate of Appreciation on behalf of the Pakenham Uniting Church as the partnership between the Drop in Centre and clients and their supervisor from Outlook has been helpful on several fronts. We have all learned to value each other's special gifts and formed meaningful friendships.



Dates for your diary

- Presbytery in Council meeting - Saturday, May 3, 9.30am for 10pm start; Cornish College, 65 Riverend Road, Bangholme. General Secretary, Rev Mark Lawrence will speak on Major Strategic Review.
- Next Presbytery in Council meeting, Saturday, July 5, 9.30am. Cornish College.
- Keysborough Samoan Congregation - Moderator visit May 11, 10am at Chapel Rd, Keysborough - all welcome.
- Claire Dawe ordination - Mt Eliza UC, Saturday May 24 at 3.30pm.
- Treasurers In-Service Day Sunday 24th August 12:30 - 3:30pm, venue TBC.

Milestone birthday for first Methodist service in Karingal - do you have any memorabilia?

Karingal Uniting and St Peters Lutheran Combined Congregation is to celebrate 50 Years since the first Methodist Service was held at the former Karingal High School in Ashleigh Avenue this Sunday, 4 May 4, at 9.30am.



If you (or anyone you know) has past links to either the Karingal Methodist or Uniting Church, it would be appreciated if you let them know that they would be very welcome to attend the Service and the following Morning Tea.

If they had any early photographs or memorabilia that they would be prepared to share that would be wonderful. Enquiries to Kieth Pyke on 9789 9727

You have to laugh...



"He's not in there! Oh, wait - he's changed his status to 'risen' "

Discovering Dilkusha



THE Social Justice Group of Sandrinham Uniting Church recently held a Coffee and Dessert night. Jessica Hamilton, who is currently studying nutrition at Monash University, spoke about her experience volunteering at the Dilkusha Children's Home in Fiji. \$400 was raised during the evening which Jessica will send to the home to be spent on ways of improving the children's diet.

Last call for musical coup this Sunday, May 4th



Ken Nicol - of Steeleye

Span fame - will be performing at Cranbourne Regional Uniting Church, Lesdon Avenue - along with Dominic Finley of Cutting Crew 'I just died in your arms,' pedigree at a special concert on Sunday, May 4, 2014 commencing at 7pm. It is not often that high calibre international artists stop over in Cranbourne to entertain. It is even rarer when they donate some of their income towards the church. Tickets \$20 online at www.cranbournefolkuniting.org. Enquiries call Jose on 0430 451 399.



A request for help from our friends at the UC Uniting Church St Kilda Parish Mission:

Hello friends,

I am writing to you on behalf of my Theatre Company SPARC.

SPARC Theatre is a company of performers with disabilities who live in unstable housing in inner Melbourne. SPARC want to go to the 2015 Parkes Elvis Festival, Australia's premiere festival celebrating the King of Rock and Roll, Elvis Presley.

We have been fundraising for a while, supported by the wonderful Cathy Horsley, and as director I am determined to make this happen - but we do need a bit of help as fundraising is not going as well as I might have hoped. Please could you share the information amongst your networks and pledge a little (or a lot) if you are able. It is so important to both myself and the company that this happens. Thank you in advance in your help in getting a busload of Elvis Fans to the concert!

Check out SPARC on Youtube talking about their love of The King of Rock and Roll.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=978T_Sfiv24

We are seeking your assistance to get the message out there about SPARC's fundraising campaign. Or perhaps you would like to make a pledge.

We are seeking to raise \$7,000 to pay for bus hire, accommodation and entry fees for 10 SPARC Theatre ensemble members.

Here's the fundraising site for our project - Get SPARC to Parkes?<https://www.indiegogo.com/projects/help-get-sparc-to-the-2015-parkes-elvis-festival#home>

Any help is greatly appreciated.

Love, Katie

Historical documents – Aged care in Victoria and Tasmania

Do you have any historical documents that record in words, photographs or memorabilia, the historical background to our Church's mission with older people?

As Uniting AgeWell approaches its 10th Anniversary we, along with the Uniting Church Archives, are interested to preserve the records of our past. People have already contributed existing histories, meeting minutes, denominational magazines and photos documenting our congregations', denominational and corporate history of care for older people from the 1940's until now.

As many of our aged care communities were founded by the faith, generosity and persistence of local congregations

items of interest often reside with many individuals and former and present councils, boards and agencies of the church. We are aiming to have such items safely recorded and stored for future enquiry and research.

If you have anything you would like to contribute and to be considered for inclusion in the Uniting Church archives, please contact: Rev John Clarke, Director of Mission, 9251 5209 or JClarke@unitingagewell.org. (If you know of others who might have something to contribute, please pass on this invitation.)

Thank you,
John Clarke
Director of Mission
Uniting AgeWell



Quote



"The great gift of Easter is hope -

Christian hope which makes us have that confidence in God, in his ultimate triumph, and in his goodness and love, which nothing can shake."

Basil Hume

of the month...

Editor's note: *due to an extended visit to the UK for a wedding I will only be compiling a small issue of Newsbeat for June. If you have anything you would like to promote for the months of June and July then please send it through to helen.beeby@gmail.com, marking Newsbeat in the Subject line, by Wednesday, May 14.*

We will then have a bumper issue in July to catch up on all the news and activities that have happened while I was away. So, keep up the good work!

Peter Hurley

Fantastic Entertainer
Organ, Piano & Singing



Bentleigh Uniting Church

497 Centre Rd
Bentleigh 3204

**Sunday
May 18
2pm**

\$10 Donation Supports



enquiries - phone
Mary 9557 0321



www.ucappep.net/Bentleigh