



Mount Waverley cluster produces packed house on its birthday. Read their success story on page 4

Did Tidal Moon's ship come in? Find out on page 13



## Nations unite amid sea of world strife on Sharing Sunday

IN a week filled with international tensions in the wake of the MH17 air disaster, there was a beacon of hope at High Street Uniting Church, Frankston.

Three congregations - Cook Island Christian Church, the Chinese Evangelical Community Church and High Street Uniting Church - came together for One Great Sunday of Sharing. It was a service that combined the best of all nations and a spirit of multi-cultural solidarity. Readings were given in Mandarin

and Cook Island Maori, prayers were said by the three ministers for each other's congregation, and for troubles around the world, followed by powerful and



spirit-stirring hymns by choirs in different languages.

Rev Eddie Dean, of the Cook Island Christian Church, entertained us all with his humorous and thoughtful children's time - holding up a mirror to reflect on how special we all are in God's eyes.

Ross Huggard, chair of High Street UC's Church Council, said in his address: "This joint service unifies us all - in a wonderful mixed-up, diverse kind of way. Yet it reinforces that we can, and should, celebrate in fellowship together."

High Street's ministers - Rev Dr Robert Johnson and Rev Jay Robinson both spoke at the event to reflect on the wonderful mixture of nationalities and styles that were being shared together.

"We have come a long way since the white Australia policy," said Rev Dr Robert Johnson in his address, "but we still have a long way to go. Fortunately, people who are different are brought together" *Cont. on page 2*

## mainly music is the food of love for families in Koornang community



KOORNANG Uniting Church In Murrumbena has started an exciting - and rapidly expanding - New Ministry Venture called mainly music.

It is a Christian music and hospitality playgroup for Under 5's and their carers. Children's Ministry Pastor, Tai Alphred says: "Our mainly music team started only two weeks ago and we are already above capacity with 12 families registered! We love singing, dancing, playing instruments and having morning tea each week with the beautiful families in our community. Gooooo mainly music team!"



Cover picture:  
Rev Dr Robert Johnson, left, Rev Eddie Dean, centre, and Pastor Charles Ho lead the service.

Below: Rev Eddie Dean uses a mirror to reflect on who is 'special' in the world.

Right: Cook Islanders sing out to a combined congregation.

# One Great Sunday of Sharing



Cont. from front page  
by God's love - and sometimes amazing things happen."

Pastor Charles Ho, from the Chinese Congregation said it best when he reflected on the interfaith service, saying: "I think we've all felt what heaven is like this morning."

The inspirational service was rounded off with a delicious shared lunch of hearty home-made soups and international cuisine, shared by all congregations.

**Words by  
Helen Beeby  
Photos by  
Rod Carruthers**

Clockwise from left:  
the HSUC band add a contemporary flavour, Rev Jay Robinson leads the Call to Worship, Naomi Briggs from Zimbabwe - from the HSUC congregation, the choir from the Chinese Congregation sing a melodic anthem and a Cook Islander 'cutie' is admired by his mum.



Show and  
tell will  
grow and  
swell our  
community

THIS is an invitation for every congregation, school and agency within the boundaries of the Presbytery to showcase themselves and their mission activities - no matter how humble or how bold - and to invite our friends to share in this wonderful occasion, writes *Rev John Mann*. Make sure that the date 26th October is in your congregation/agency/school diary. Please display the flyer prominently in your Church or building. Invite your Councils, committees and fellowships to explore what they might do for this. Please contact Jay Robinson with your ideas and enquiries.

*A letter has been issued to all congregations by the Chair of the Presbytery, Rev Dr Paul Chalson and a powerpoint presentation will soon be sent round which can be shown to your congregation. Do spread the word so this event is supported and enjoyed by all.*

**WE want people to know they're part of something bigger...**

As Christians we understand that we're part of an enormous community of faith that spans the world. Yet, sometimes sitting in our churches it can feel a very small, limiting and even disheartening human experience, especially when a congregation appears to be reducing in size.

This is one of the reasons we're staging the **Presbytery on Show** event on **Sunday, October 26th, 2.30pm to 5pm** (note the date change from last issue.) As we are part of something much bigger, and fresher, and inspiring, and creative.

This is your chance to see, and share, what our church community is doing - and to learn from others what is working well for their community and stimulating growth. So tell your congregations, put the date in your diaries, come up with an idea for a stand (or at least for a carpool of visitors) and see how we are really 'all one' in the Presbytery of Port Phillip East.

# PRESBYTERY ON SHOW

Sunday  
October 26th  
2.30pm to 5pm



## PRESBYTERY ON SHOW

Is a great opportunity to share our stories, our dreams and our inspirations. It's an opportunity to see what others are doing and hopefully take home some great ideas. There will be stands showing the remarkable diversity of our presbytery, alongside agencies like the Justice & International Mission Unit, and UC Camping. We'll provide books and other useful resources for sale. There'll also be special moments to share gifts, skills, specialities and presentations throughout the event.



Sunday 26  
October  
2.30pm - 5pm  
Cornish College  
65 Riverend Rd  
Bangholme

Contact Jay Robinson  
0410 465 836 or  
[jay@robinsonfamily.id.au](mailto:jay@robinsonfamily.id.au) for details

**ONE Sunday in June saw six congregations coming together for a special service of celebration, writes Rev Julie Ross.**

The six Uniting Churches in our cluster gathered together at High Street Road Uniting Church on June 22 for our second combined service and to celebrate the UCA's 37th birthday.

It was a joyous occasion with a combined choir and the Melbourne Fijian Uniting Church choir, pictured right, lifting the roof with their music. We hope that this will now be an annual event.

Rev James Douglas, from St Luke's, preached and Rev Scott Finlay presided. Approximately 300 folk attended, pictured below, and representatives from all the congregations participated in the readings and prayers. The churches involved were: High Street Road Mt Waverley, St John's Mt Waverley, St Luke's Mt Waverley, Mulgrave Uniting, St Mark's Uniting, Melbourne Fijian Uniting Church.

Participating clergy, pictured, were; Rev Scott Finlay, Rev Julie Ross, Rev Dr Max Champion, Rev Dr Howard Wallace, Rev James Douglas, Rev Dr Raj Perera.



# Sharing is caring

Joining together in worship is a surefire way to boost everyone's feelgood factor



**INTERNATIONALLY recognised for his work on faith formation and discipleship, John Roberto is coming to Melbourne.**

The dates are: **Aug 26-28 - 21st Century Faith Formation**  
**Aug 30 - Growing Faith in a Digital World**

The Uniting Church has secured this well-known author and Vibrant Faith Learning Exchange co-ordinator with more than 40 years of experience in Christian faith formation. He has authored books and program manuals in youth ministry, family ministry, intergenerational learning and lifelong faith formation.

<https://ucavt.goregister.com.au/2014johnroberto/registration/>

## Listen up...



## Where are we going?

Please note that a Synod information night will be held on Tuesday, August 5th at 7.30pm. The venue is Cheltenham Uniting Church, Charman Road. Topics to be covered include the Major Strategic Review and Uniting our Future.



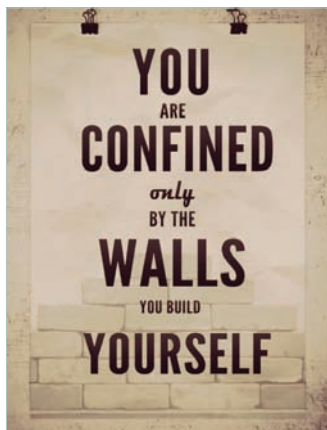
port phillip east presbytery childrens camp



Somers Camp (the Presbytery children's and young people's camp) is coming to Mount Martha Uniting Church at 5PM this coming Sunday, August 3. The Post Somers Worship will be held at Mount Martha - the team from Somers will be leading the worship - and those who attended the camp plus many others will be joining together to share stories and celebrate together. Everyone is welcome, please join us.



### Quote



of the month...

## Date shift at CTM

The dates for 'Talking Faith' at the CTM have been changed to 12-14 September and 10-12 October, which may make it possible for more people to consider participating, or to encourage others to participate in this intensive course exploring theology in the Uniting Church. The info and registration form with the new dates can be downloaded from the CTM website.



...for strength

Father, this world sometimes bewilders me and is beyond my understanding. I see poverty and disease, storms and earthquakes, war and killing. Many hearts are bound by ego and fear. Please strengthen my faith in your higher purpose and open my mind to the truth that everything is unfolding according to your divine plan. Let compassion and love for my brothers and sisters flow from me and may we all be uplifted by your glory. Amen

"Do not mistreat foreigners who are living in your land. Treat them as you would an Israelite, and love them as you love yourselves. Remember that you were once foreigners in the land of Egypt. I am the Lord your God" Leviticus 19:33-34



## Prayer Service for Refugees and Asylum Seekers 15 August 6pm

St Andrew's Uniting Church,  
Sherwood Avenue, Chelsea  
For more information phone:  
Rev Claire Dawe 0410 827 597



## Can you lead on social justice?

UNITINGJUSTICE Australia is responsible for providing resources and support to the national council of the Church (the Assembly) for the development and communication of the Uniting Church in Australia's policies and positions on issues of social and ecological justice and peace.

The Assembly is seeking to appoint a full-time Policy Officer to assist the National Director through research and the production of policy-related documents and information and advocacy resources. Application details at <http://assembly.uca.org.au/news/jobs>



## Reflections on Faith

**THE limitations of reason and argument in sorting the great questions of life are clearly evident in dealing with the reality of death, brought into sharp relief in the current debate about assisted dying.**

What I find unhelpful is the withering scorn poured on those who believe in an afterlife. One tires of the persistent, casual caricature of what believers actually believe – particularly about death and afterlife.

Faith is not an affront to reason; faith and reason occupy different worlds. Faith is unreasonable only when you are unwilling, or unable, to engage in conversation about your beliefs.

What is important for the dying person is to realise that their life was worthwhile. It is for this reason that we should not focus on what we will get in another life, but what we have given in this life.

Moral life is not constituted by loyalty to some universal law, but by living out my responsibility for the other person. We all need assisted living prior to any consideration of assisted dying.

The dominant fear around death has always been the expectation of God's judgement. There remain some residual elements of this fear sustained by the notion of Hell.

A loving God is best conceived of as the counsel for defence. The judgement of such a God must be more like a knowing smile – an act of healing – than the judgement of a court of law.

PHILIP O'NEILL  
Oxford  
(Letter to The Telegraph, UK)

## Youngsters charge their batteries

INVITES are being extended to the **National Young Adult Leaders Conference 2014** **07 December 2014 2:00 pm - 12 December 2014 11:00 am** at **Naamaroo Conference Centre, Lady Game Drive, Chatswood in Sydney (surrounded by the Lane Cove National Park)**

The National Young Adult Leaders' Conference aims to encourage, bless, grow and empower UCA young adult leaders. We want to 'charge your batteries,' help you connect and synch with one another, give you some new apps (leadership and service skills) and have a lot of fun in the process.

Please read through the Information for Applicants and Referees document prior to registering. The document has information in regards to the conference vision, selection criteria and registration/application process. We have taken into account the variations in travel costs participants will incur and have tried to some extent, to even up the overall expense for people to attend. Details and prices at <http://assembly.uca.org.au/news/events/national-young-adult-leaders-conference-2014>

## Samoan conference

The Samoan National Conference will be held from:

**16 October 2014 12:00am - 19 October 2014 12:00am** at:

**Lidcombe Uniting Church 12 Frederick St, Lidcombe NSW 2141.**

**For information and registration details contact: Chairperson - Rev Sani Vaeluaga [sani.vaeluaga@bigpond.com](mailto:sani.vaeluaga@bigpond.com) or**

**Secretary - Mr Taumanupepe Sopo [stogatuk@optusnet.com.au](mailto:stogatuk@optusnet.com.au)**

## Why you should meet these 'colourful, charismatic Christians'

**THEY** are colourful in their traditional dress for special ceremonial and festival occasions. They are charismatic in that like us they are gifted for ministry, but also like to express themselves in worship, especially when singing, in a very physical way. They are vibrant Christians in a strongly Buddhist community, where they live together in harmony.

These are the Bunun indigenous tribe from southern Taiwan, part of the Presbyterian church of Taiwan - a partner church of the UCA. Twenty five years ago the Ringwood UCA with the support of the Synod sponsored two Presbyterian ministers from Taiwan for a six week visit to Australia, the Rev Bai Kwang Sheng from the indigenous Bunun tribe, and his wife a Taiwanese, the Rev Bai Lishwee. So they could experience something of the life of our first peoples they flew in through Darwin and Alice Springs and home via Redfern in Sydney, but spent time with aboriginal peoples in these three communities. Their visit included time at a Synod meeting, the visitors gallery of State Parliament as well as the usual meetings, worship experiences and ministries of a suburban church. Several years later, my wife and I were invited to visit

by Rev  
Arthur Poole



the Bunun community "...to see what we have done.. God give me a vision which touch my heart" (Kwang Sheng.) They had established the first aboriginal kindergarten in Taiwan: begun a ministry of visitation and meals to the shut in frail elderly: established an enterprise called The Bunun Cultural and Educational Foundation, which with wider church and community support has built accommodation for 150 visitors, restaurants, a coffee shop, gift shop and a multiplicity of business activity which helps finance the employment of over 90 young Bunun people. It is an amazing story of the inspired leadership of a young man whom the government rejected because of his paraplegic disability but whom the church accepted and trained, a 'girlfriend' who taught him mandarin during his theological training and now as his wife is the mother of their six children. The second child, conceived in Australia, is named Ringwood!

Ringwood, together with eighteen other Bunun young people will visit us in September for four concerts – **Ringwood UCA Sat Sept 13 7pm, Frankston High St UCA Sun 14 2:30pm, Beaumaris St Martins UCA Sat 20 7pm and Wangaratta Anglican Cathedral Sun 21 2pm. Tickets...\$25, \$20conc. family \$50.**

Their visit is sponsored by the Australian Welsh Male Choir who will share the program with the Bunun songsters.

For further information contact: Rev Arthur Poole 59 712 748, or e-mail [arthur.ruth@bigpond.com](mailto:arthur.ruth@bigpond.com)

### CCM explores colonial attitudes

ANOTHER exciting Cross-Cultural Mission & Ministry Retreat is going ahead this month, which will explore colonial attitudes within the modern church.

The multi-cultural meeting is at The Holy Cross Centre, 207 Serpells Road, Templestowe and runs over two days - from Monday, August 18 to Tuesday, August 19.

There will be four sessions on the theme of 'Decolonizing the Bible and Christian theology' during the two-day event.

The retreat costs \$185 which covers overnight accommodation and food. Book now and find out more through Robyn Hosking on 9251 5271 or [robyn.hosking@victas.uca.org.au](mailto:robyn.hosking@victas.uca.org.au)

# Successes and failures fail to dim the big picture at MLG

The Parable of the Sower recently featured on the lectionary. I took up a theme from retired Anglican Bishop NT Wright: “it was a story of both failure and success.”

I would love to be able to tell you that everything the Mission Liaison Group does is a success. I can't. We do have 'failures.'

It's true that 2014 has been a roaring success – if we count the number of container-loads of school, kindergarten, hospital and general goods we've sent. Normally six or seven containers a year, by the end of June we'd shipped seven with another ready to ship.

Back in January we packed two containers in one morning – thanks to the Tongan community which brought goods and helped pack an emergency container for Tonga and one for Fiji. In February we sent the second emergency shipment to



the cyclone-devastated Ha'apai island group in Tonga. April saw a container go to the flood disaster in the Solomon

Islands that left areas of Honiara in ruins. Rev. Ikani Taliai Tolu, the minister seconded by the Free Wesleyan Church, expressed great appreciation to MLG supporters and the Melbourne Tongan community on behalf of all those whom he'd been able to help.

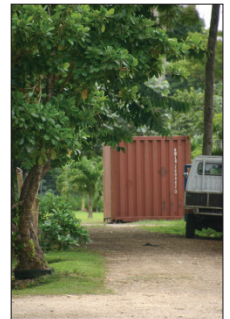
When Ann was in Brisbane for the South Pacific Area Seminar of the World Federation of Methodist & Uniting Church Women she met with Joy Jino who works with the United Church Honiara Circuit. Joy publicly thanked Ann and MLG supporters for what she had been able to pass on to those who'd lost their homes and possessions. Dr Namu Potoi, Secretary of the Women's Organization in Samoa, also spoke glowingly about MLG. So, MLG can report success after success this year. That's the way we like it.

So, what have been our “failures”?

The first relates to Fiji. When Ann was in Busan, South Korea, for the World Council of Churches Assembly, Rev. Dr Tuikilakila Waqairatu, President of the Methodist Church in Fiji, spoke with her about the fire which razed thirteen classrooms and the Principal's residence at the Sigatoka Methodist Primary School in mid-2013. He asked for help. Ann reminded him that the current regime in Fiji was causing considerable difficulties to the Church. Dr Waqairatu told her that he could overcome any problems. So, in January we sent school tables and chairs, school needs and household goods. Then we heard that Dr Waqairatu had unexpectedly died and we received a report that the container remained on the wharf in Suva while the General Secretary negotiated with government.

The second relates to Tonga. Last November the Hon. Lord Tu'i'afitu, Minister of Health in Tonga and a personal friend, told us he'd like to establish a kindergarten in an unused building in his traditional estate of Makave. So we packed one third of the annual container with kindergarten goods. When I arrived I was distressed to hear that no discussions had taken place with the people of Makave and no decision had been made. So the goods await that decision and onward shipment to Neiafu. Maybe another 'failure' is the container packed and ready to go to Port Moresby, but waiting for funds for cartage and shipping costs (about \$5,500.)

Great successes – and what could be classed as failures! All will benefit in the end...



## HEALING THE WOUNDS OF WAR

This year marks the centenary of the beginning of the First World War, and the final Memorial Service at St. George's.

ST. GEORGE'S EAST ST. KILDA UNITING CHURCH  
4 CHAPEL STREET, EAST ST. KILDA

**SUNDAY 24<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2014**  
**ANNUAL MEMORIAL SERVICE**  
**10:30 AM**

Remembering the 14 Battalion and the 99th anniversary of the death at Gallipoli of their Chaplain, REV. ANDREW GILLISON

### GUEST SPEAKER

Rev. John Bottomley  
Deputy Director, Creative Ministries Network  
and St. George's minister (1991 - 2004)

Battalion  
flags and  
banners to be  
marched into the  
Church.  
Medals to be  
worn.

**THEME: “Transforming Tradition”**

### FEATURING

Honouring 2/14, 14/32 and 39 Battalions, and Korean War, Malay Emergency, Vietnam War and Australian Peacekeeping and Peace-making Defence Veterans.

Candle-lighting for remembrance

Music by the Band of 4th/19th Prince of Wales's Light Horse Regiment

### LUNCH

Hosted by 2/10 Light Battery, 5/6 The Royal Victoria Regiment and St. George's congregation.

Lunch \$10:00. RSVP 0423673273 if attending lunch

Lunch bookings: **RSVP** by 15 August by phoning 0423673273 or charmpolo@yahoo.com

All other inquiries: Rev. Angela Tampiyappa 03 9731 0604





Uniting Church in Australia  
SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA

**ST. GEORGE'S EAST ST. KILDA**

**A SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING AND FAREWELL  
FOR ST. GEORGE'S BLESSED 137 YEARS\***



**SUNDAY 31 AUGUST AT 10.00AM**

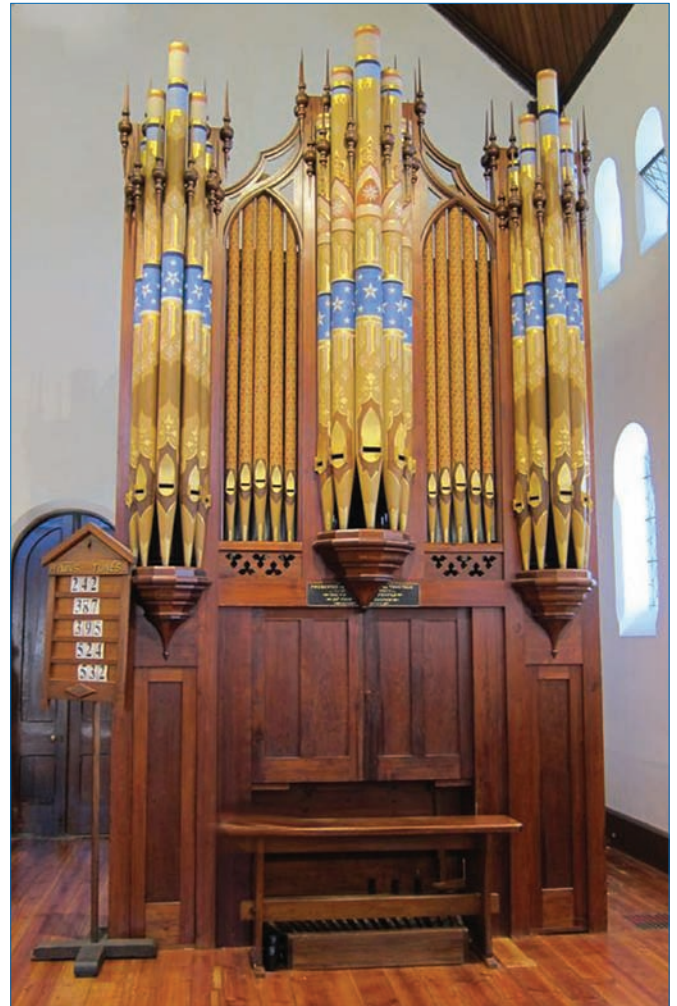
**ALL WELCOME**

*'If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.'*

Enquiries: Rev Angela Tampiyappa T. phone 9731 0604. Email; [atampiya24@gmail.com](mailto:atampiya24@gmail.com)

\*St. Georges Church at Chapel Street, St. Kilda East was divested under Uniting Our Future and the congregation is moving to Burnley St, Richmond

*Pipes help the people of Gaza*



AN ORGAN RECITAL in aid of the Act for Peace (National Council of Churches) Appeal for support for the people of GAZA will be held on

**Sunday, August 31, 2014  
at 2:30pm.**

The performance will be played on the famous 1884 Fincham Organ, pictured above, by Merrowyn Deacon.

The home of this beautiful church organ is Trinity Uniting Church, 17 Black Street, Brighton, pictured below. The minimum donation requested is \$10.



**RAISE THE ROOF!  
Music Workshop**

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> August  
12:30pm- 4PM**

VENUE: Brunswick Uniting Church

212 Sydney Road, Brunswick (corner of Merri Street) Melbourne VIC, Australia 3056

Please have lunch before attending. Tea, Coffee and cold drinks supplied for afternoon tea.

RSVP By 9<sup>th</sup> of August on Next Gen Facebook page or email

Natalie Sims [natalie@ucvic.org.au](mailto:natalie@ucvic.org.au)

Fie Marino [fie@ucvic.org.au](mailto:fie@ucvic.org.au)

Next Gen: Synod of VicTas with Brunswick Uniting Church presents

**RAISE THE ROOF! MUSIC WORKSHOP**

Music is a very integral part of worship. *Raise the Roof* is a music workshop for young and diverse people designed to explore the nature of music and its use within worship. Anyone can attend you don't have to have any musical talents. It will be a chance for a diverse range of young people around the synod to come together and jam with each other.

If you play an instrument please feel free to bring it with you. We encourage all those with a voice to also come and sing as we learn and worship God through music. This will be a wonderful opportunity to meet new people from different cultures and backgrounds and a way to experience the different ways music is used in different parts of the Uniting Church in Australia.



# Dayspring marks two decades with Dan's musings

**DAYSPRING runs ecumenical presentations on a wide variety of issues of faith and spirituality, plus a Christian Meditation program - and it has been doing so for 20 years.**

The 20th Anniversary of Hampton's Dayspring program was celebrated at a dinner held on July 23 at the Parish Centre with the guest speaker UCA Synod Moderator Dan Wootton.

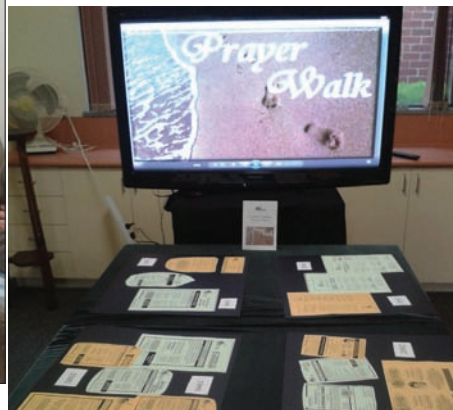
Dan spoke about his daily commute by train to the city, which includes a 40 minute walk to and from the station, and gives him the opportunity to reflect and pray. Quoting many of the Desert Fathers, Dan's address was particularly relevant to many of those present

and the 'Dayspring experience'. Dan noted the 'busyness' of his fellow commuters, noting that it was socially perfectly acceptable to be in constant contact with others via media and technology, but not quite so acceptable to sit quietly and 'do nothing'.

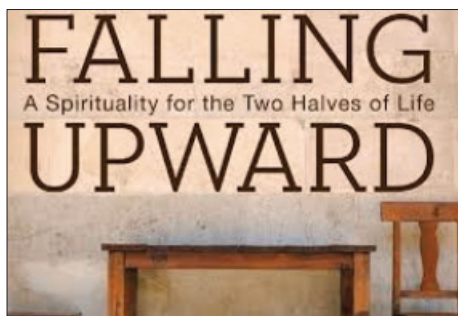
Also present on the night was Peter Wiltshire, who initiated Dayspring in 1994 while Minister at Hampton. Peter spoke of the original vision and development of

Dayspring, and commented on the unique success and longevity of the program. Another long-time Dayspring stalwart, Nancy Duncan, in thanking Dan for his presentation, also commented on the uniqueness of the program and emphasised that the event should not only look back on twenty years,

but also look forward for future growth and development. A display of memorabilia set up for the evening illustrated the quality and variety of presentations that have occurred over the 20 years of Dayspring. If you have any enquiries, please contact them at [dayspringcontact@hotmail.com](mailto:dayspringcontact@hotmail.com) or phone 9598 3369.



**by Ian Menzies**



The full response to Richard Rohr's book was originally published on Sarah's blog: <http://sarahtellsstories.blogspot.com.au/>

Richard Rohr, in *Falling Upward*, talks about two stages of life - a first half of life and a second half of life.

I think of this as our spiritual reconfiguration. Rohr describes a first half of life that features a need for security, knowing, boundaries and certainty. I am defined by who or what I am not. Faith is more conservative and the Bible is more literally understood as we seek a firm footing in the world.

Entering the second half of life, we become more accustomed to mystery, developing a broader vision of ourselves as whole in the community. We are "happily participating in God's vision for" us rather than pursuing our own visions. Rohr says that in this stage we are "a serene disciple", living in our own unique soul as never before, yet paradoxically living within the mind and heart of God.

As Rohr describes it, it sounds wonderful. It sounds like home.

# The world comes to the Peninsula



## Higher education chaplains scope for global gathering

**REV Jay Robison, Youth Minister at High Street UC, was front and centre on a recent photoshoot for the Bendigo Advertiser.**

Jay accommodated and ferried around a number of international chaplains recently as they prepared for a multifaith conference in 2016. Bendigo has been chosen to be the host city for a multifaith conference for university chaplains from across the world.

A delegation from the International Association of Chaplains in Higher Education visited the town to plan for the 2016 conference, which will bring more than 300 chaplains to Bendigo from Europe, Asia, Africa, North and South America.

Bendigo was chosen for the conference - held every four years - for its culturally diverse history, good accommodation and strong chaplaincy team. The delegates were all Christian chaplains but the organisation's chairwoman Cass Howes said her organisation was a multifaith body, and, come 2016, there would be university chaplains of all faiths converging in Bendigo. Bendigo councillor Rod Fyffe said the 2016 event would be an opportunity for Bendigo to be on the "international stage" again.

**Well, the World Executive of the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women are truly committed to their task, writes Rev John Connan.**

World President, Ann Connan, invited her Executive to meet in Melbourne from July 13 to 18. The women, from Switzerland, Panama, New Zealand, England, Bulgaria, South Africa, U.S.A., Chile, Sri Lanka, Singapore, and India, pictured below, arrived at the Holy Cross Retreat Centre in Templestowe on Saturday, July 12th.

On Sunday the group worshipped at Mt Eliza UCA and then were hosted at a wonderful lunch prepared by members of the congregation. A great time of fellowship was enjoyed by all before the international visitors headed off to Phillip Island to see the Penguin Parade.

Yes, the fellowship at church was very warm, but the weather at the penguins was very, very cold!

Four full days of work, including planning for the World Assembly in Houston, Texas, in August, 2016, was punctuated by a visit to Healesville Sanctuary and a ride on Puffing Billy.

Evening 'entertainment' included a talk about the Uniting Church by Alistair Macrae, an update on Methodist Inter-church dialogues by Robert Gribben and a viewing of 'Rabbit Proof Fence'.

And so the 'World' departed Melbourne.



UNITING AgeWell is the new name for Uniting AgedCare - a concept that follows the biological ageing journey and gives the client choice, autonomy, flexibility, and community.

The model has six components which focus on wellbeing and the promotion of independence.

- AgeWell Connect: Connecting people to the whole of their community
- AgeWell Being: Supporting wellbeing of body, mind and soul
- AgeWell Assist: Assisting people with services to live at home
- AgeWell Restore: Restoring wellbeing through therapy services
- AgeWell Care: Providing respite and residential care
- AgeWell Palliate: Providing support and spiritual guidance at the end of life

For the full picture visit <http://www.unitingagedwell.org/>

# A cold but musical winter at Cranbourne

IT'S been a very musical time at Cranbourne Regional UCA over recent months, writes Rev Wendy Snook.

For our Australia's Biggest Morning tea event, where we raised more than \$1000 for cancer research, we had the gifted Cranbourne Chorale as the guest performers.

We also had a wonderful night in May with Ken



Nicol, pictured right, formerly of the UK band 'Steeleye Span', at our May concert

evening. His guitar work was magical, and his singing was wonderfully smooth. You could hear the professionalism as soon as he opened his mouth. And we were honoured when he praised our CRUCA- based band, Journey Bound, (his support act, followed by Dominic Finley), and particularly the playing of our recorder player extraordinaire, Colin Smith.

In June at the FUN night, our student supply minister Berlin Guerrero stole the show with his rendition of 'Vincent'. In July, our main act for the FUN concert was the group Tidal Moon, consisting of harpist - singer Barbara Jeffrey and guitarist - singer Jose Garcia. Everyone loved them. Journey Bound has been in demand since, most recently for a Kingston Christmas in July concert event.



It is always on the thirrd Saturday night of the month. All welcome.

Meanwhile the CRUCA Food Truck team soldiers on despite the wild wet and cold weather we have been having. Number have dropped a bit, but we still have people needing food and company, which we are glad to provide. We can always do with donations towards our costs, because with the drop in State and Federal government grants to Foodbank,



the cost of Foodbank food has risen. Sharon

and Terry are two of our regulars who enjoy belonging to the Food Truck community on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays at Lyell St carpark Cranbourne, and Fridays at Duff St, Cranbourne West, all from 6.30 to 8.30pm.

**Journey Bound will be the main act for the August FUN concert night at Cranbourne Regional UCA Saturday 16th August 7.30pm. \$7 entry includes supper, and it is cheaper if you are willing to perform!**

## Water welcome!

**AN established relationship with a school in Timor L'este with HSUC, Frankston, has developed into a lifeline water supply being supplied by an engineer in the same congregation.**

John Coulson, and his wife Marion, felt that John's water supply engineering skills could be used to help provide water to needy places. After a conversation with Tim and Mandy Lake about their work in East Timor the plan was hatched to provide running water to the village for the first time. Marion says: "After travelling for hours up a terrible road we arrived at Cucara, our village. The whole village was there to welcome us! Hundreds of children, men and women. We were draped with handwoven scarves and ushered onto a dais by the school.

The headmaster, the head man of the village, the head man of the education department, the deputy head man were all speakers! "A young man from the village with quite good English was master of ceremonies. They proceeded to tell us at length how happy they were to be getting a water supply, how wonderful we were and how hard they were going to work to finish the job, all with lots of applause. We then each had to make our speeches with pauses for translations, but these patient people stayed to the end, even the children."

# JOIN US ON AN INDIAN ADVENTURE

**THE Mother & Baby Health Clinics Project supported by High Street UC, Frankston has received a welcome boost from the SHARE Lenten Appeal.**



The program was selected as the international project for the appeal and it clearly resonated with Victorians who generously donated a staggering \$23,659 in its support. HSUC spearheaded the project last year after a call to action from the Church of North India. The Field Office was opened in February after funds were sent over and now the project is up and running.

More than 11,000 mothers and 7,000 children in villages in the Punjab are being helped by the project through education in health, hygiene, literacy, nutritional and environmental issues and maintaining smaller families by expanding contraceptive methods. It will also reduce maternal mortality, child mortality and provide ante and post-natal care to 70% of rural women within the next 5 years along with health education to prevent STD and HIV infection.



This is carried out through monthly 'Health Posts' in 30 villages in 3 districts of Punjab supervised by community organisers and nutritionist/health workers. These clinics and workers are where the funding goes.

It costs just \$31,000 a year to fund such a massive project in India. It is proposed that the project will be self-funding after three years.

We're going to visit the project in March, 2015 and we're calling on interested parties to join us:

### Why join us on the trip?

Uniting Journeys (part of the Commission for Mission, VicTas Synod) is developing responsible travel programs to stimulate people's thinking when they tour other countries. To think more deeply about the culture and explore new ways of communicating with people in different nations when we travel. Uniting Journeys has developed a program that combines an exotic sight-seeing tour of North India with a project visit to the Mother & Baby Health Clinics Project.

This 12-day trip will contribute directly to the work of this vital program which is changing the lives of so many families in this area of the world and will ultimately benefit Australia and the global community.

Travel for thinking people

**UNITING JOURNEYS**

### Who should come along?

Ideally, we would like applicants who have an interest in such areas as international development or healthcare, but it is not a pre-requisite. You may have skills that would be beneficial to the project in some other way, and we encourage such suggestions. Or you may simply want to support a project that is changing people's lives and helping families. Everyone will have the chance to see the beauty of India at the same time - including the Taj Mahal, the Golden Temple and heritage sites in New Delhi.

### Costs?

\$4,500 - which covers all flights/travel, accommodation costs and a donation to the Mother & Baby Health Clinics Project. Applicants can either self-fund or fundraise for these costs (we have a Fundraising Toolbox



sheet available and will offer support.) A travel visa and some inoculations will be required. For a booklet explaining more on the project and the full itinerary e-mail frankstonuc@gmail.com and visit <http://responsibletravel.org.au/>



## Dates for your diary

1. Church Council In-Service Day, August 9th @ Dandenong UCA - Topics will include: Why are we here? - Understanding the mission of God, Strategy for mission - What is it and how can we use it?, Organising for mission - Signs, shape and practices of a healthy Church Council. Register [www.ucappep.org](http://www.ucappep.org)
2. [Presbytery-Synod Information Session - August 5th, 7.30pm, Cheltenham UCA, Charman Road](#)
3. Rev Lauleti Tu'inauva – release of pastoral ties, August 3rd 10:30pm Venue Endeavour Hills UCA
4. [Presbytery in Council – Wednesday, August 27, evening meeting. Venue Cranbourne UCA](#)
5. Treasurers In-Service Day - Sunday, August 24, 12:30-3:30pm Venue Bentleigh
6. [St Georges – Thanksgiving & Farewell Service at Chapel St East St. Kilda, August 31, 10am](#)
7. Rev Hoon You – release of pastoral ties Monash August 31st, 10 am
8. [Rev Christine MacDowall – release of pastoral ties September 7, 10am at Brighleigh UCA](#)
9. MSI Courses Tuesdays October 7, 14 & 21 @ 6pm Frankston – visit [www.ucappep.org/leadership-education/](http://www.ucappep.org/leadership-education/)

## The shape of things to come

**THE FIRST Mission Shaped Introduction course went down a storm and Warwick Barry explains why it was so useful...**

“During the first three Tuesdays of July, representatives from the Presbytery of Port Phillip East conducted a series of sessions on the topic of Fresh Expressions of Church.

Some 26 participants from a variety of churches in the presbytery gathered to consider and discuss challenging material, facilitated by Rev Steve Terrell and Rev Greg Fry.

Two thirds of the church council at Ormond attended and a large team of helpers prepared food and meals on each Monday evening, under Dianne Richter and Robyn Mulder's skilled direction.

We explored the reasons why fresh expressions of church is necessary, much of the material was drawn from the UK (videos etc), showing what various church and 'para' church groups are doing. We also heard about the great work Hampton Park UC is doing in Australia. In constantly changing table groups, participants considered what elements are essential for these fresh expressions to occur, and much questioning and reflection for everyone continued beyond the sessions.

Changing culture, relationships, spirituality and less knowledge of the Christian faith have all created a need for the church to meet people where they are at in life, and to work with them to develop new forms of church meaningful for them.

Key elements such as simplicity, creativity, flexibility and shaping things around broad community involvement are pivotal. Much of these experimental forays involve ongoing conversations with people outside the church, joining in joint activities and may be short or long term in nature. There is no guarantee of success either. We need to learn to think and dream big, to act small and creatively within a culture of equal participation and to be very open to the leading of the spirit.

Like the concept of church Peter Ward espouses in his book *Liquid Church*, the church needs to be like water, seeking a path in a twisting and turning landscape, fluid and changeable, not static and unchanging. This will not come easily for those of us used to the current forms of church, but discipleship with Jesus is a continuing adventure and learning experience that calls us to be faithful in God's mission activity in the world.

This needs to be viewed as a journey, not a one off event.

God grant us hope, courage and His presence and grace to walk in faith and love with our community.”



Visit the Presbytery website at [www.ucappep.org](http://www.ucappep.org) and [www.facebook.com/ucappep.org](https://www.facebook.com/ucappep.org) for news, events and more....