



Synod reflections - the hot topics that will affect our lives and the fellowship that's found there. Pictures and stories pages 6, 7 and 8.

Finding hope from loss at Leighmoor UC. Thanksgiving service details on page 9



Churches unite on critical community issues

YOUNG Luke Batty's image beamed out on the big screen as his mother Rosie delivered a heartfelt plea for change to the many lives which are damaged by deaths such as Luke's.

Luke lost his life at the hands of his depressed and psychologically disturbed father during a cricket training session in Tyabb earlier this year.

Rosie was speaking at a Family Violence Forum held in September at the Peninsula Community Theatre - an inspiring and informative event which was spearheaded by an ecumenical initiative led by St Mark's Mornington UC - called Peninsula Voice Inc.

It is this groundbreaking partnership work that led to St Mark's scooping joint first place in the Uniting Church 2014 Ecumenical Awards, presented at the recent VicTas Synod meeting.

Peter Orton, of St Mark's, explains: "Peninsula Voice was created seven months ago, through a conversation between St Marks and the Mornington Churches of Christ. Our conversation centred on the fact there were many important community issues that were not being discussed in any depth, as the 24/7 news cycle does not always allow for this."

The momentum quickly spread. St Peter's Anglican and St Macartan's Catholic church joined the group. Then Mornington Shire came on board, along with



support from Mornington and Mt Martha Ministers Fellowship.

The local newspaper covered the Family Violence Forum, saying: 'The theatre was bulging to capacity with more than 540 people eager to attend, many standing. There were moments where it was difficult to see a dry eye; senior police included.'

Peninsula Voice Inc. is now regularly contacted to provide a comment on community and social issues by the local newspaper and opinion pages.

Peter Orton, pictured right, concludes: "We think, on the important issues, the community should drive the agenda and decide what is important and then move towards this, not just react to the results."

"It was very encouraging for Peninsula Voice to win the Uniting Church 2014 Ecumenical Award (shared) citation acknowledging the community work by the local Mornington churches. These types of awards are important, as they focus parishioners on the need for Christian churches to work together to expand Gods kingdom."



Forum Panel



Ken Lay
The Victorian Chief
Commissioner of Police



Rosie Batty
Director,
Luke Batty Foundation



Fiona McCormack
CEO,
Domestic Violence Victoria

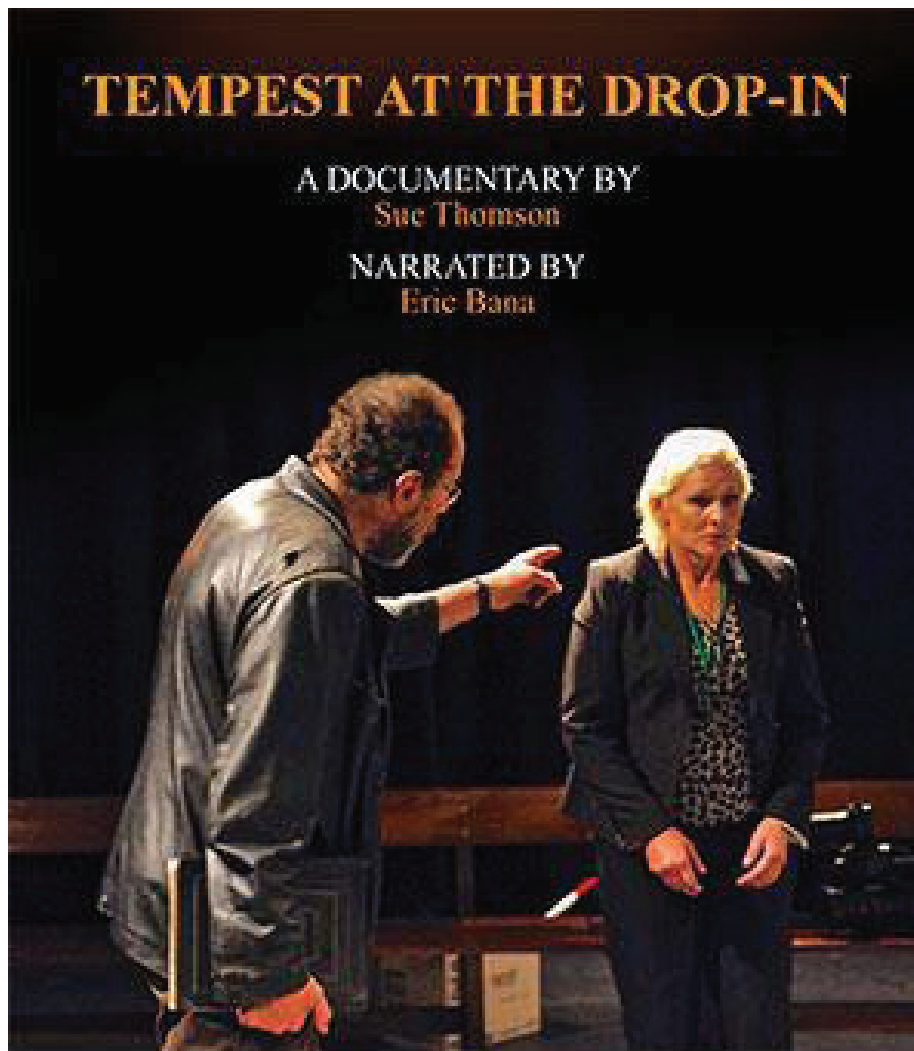


Rodney Vlasis
Rodney Vlasis,
A/CEO of Men's Referral Service
and No To Violence



Dates for your diary

1. MSI Courses Tuesdays October 7, 14 & 21 @ 6pm Frankston and Glen Waverley UC on 8, 15 and 22 October– visit www.ucappep.org/leadership-education/
2. Rev Hoon You – Induction – Port Melbourne UC, Friday, 24th October at 7.30pm
3. Presbytery on Show – October 26 at Cornish College, 2-5pm



TEMPEST AT THE DROP-IN

A DOCUMENTARY BY
Sue Thomson

NARRATED BY
Eric Bana

A STUDY GUIDE BY FIONA HALL



<http://www.metromagazine.com.au>

ISBN: 978-1-74295-487-5

<http://www.theeducationshop.com.au>

St. Kilda Parish Mission hits the small screen

St Kilda Parish Mission will be featured in a gripping documentary entitled **Tempest at the Drop-In** this month.

The thought-provoking documentary will air on ABC TV on October

12th at 10.30 pm. More details on www.facebook.com/tempestatthedropin

Rev Deacon John Tansey says: "Tempest at the Drop In, produced by Sue Thompson and Brian Nankervis and narrated by Eric Bana, is a story from the heart of St Kilda Parish Mission. Don't miss it."

Craft and Home Produce Market

Come and sample some of the finest home-made products in the presbytery on Saturday, October 11.

Doors will be open from 10am to 2pm at Heatherton-Dingley UC (cnr Kingston and Old Dandenong Roads, Heatherton) and all produce and craft will be home made.

Jams, chutneys, cakes and home made craft are just some of the stalls on the day. Devonshire tea will be available as well as a sausage sizzle. Come and start your Christmas shopping early. If anyone is interested in having a stall, please ring Margaret on 9551 9494. Stall costs are \$10 or \$20, depending on table size.

Quote

Never be afraid
to trust
an unknown
future to a
known God.

~Corrie ten Boom~

of the
month...

Grateful send-off for Dev after six fruitful years

IT was with deep gratitude and a little sorrow for their loss that Koornang UC bid farewell to Dev Anandarajan recently, writes Marg Edwards.

On Sunday, 14th September, Koornang Uniting Church Murrumbeena, said au revoir to their minister of six years with a moving Release of Ties ceremony, performed by Presbytery Minister Liz McMillan.

Individual members paid tribute to Dev for the contribution he has made over the past half dozen years, and the children made a special banner of thanks.

Dev was presented with an iPad as a parting gift - something he said he needed. To reflect the new as well as the past a baptism service was held on the same day.

The service was followed by a special lunch along with a magnificent Black Forest cake made locally in Murrumbeena.



Robin Mann has been one of Australia's leading Christian songwriters for 40 years, and his songs are sung and loved by many different age-groups and denominations. He and his wife Dorothy are the driving force behind the *All Together* series of Christian songs that we use so often in our worship.

Robin is great at sharing his skills in writing, performing and leading Christian songs and so we are delighted that he will join us at High Street Uniting Church for an evening of teaching and encouraging singers and musicians.



Robin Mann Seminar
8:00pm, Thursday 9th October 2014
at High Street Uniting Church
16-18 High Street Frankston 3199
Suggested donation: \$10

Reflections on Faith

The reason for the Seasons

THE Coatesville Uniting Church in Bentleigh East has had a long history of openness to innovation. The church enjoys a worshipping culture that encourages creativity and a deep sense of exploration of its calling within the community. Just over 12 months ago, the church launched its own program to complement its call to reflection, prayer and mission. Called **Seasons**, the program is quite simple, but has realised quite amazing outcomes in knowledge, mission, creativity, action and prayer. Using the various seasons of the year as its centrepiece, we dedicate each season to focus on an area of need. "Winter 2013 saw us (in addition to our usual activities), focussing on the subject of Healing" explains program author Peter Heazlewood. "During that season, we committed to informing ourselves about issues of healing, studying issues of healing in the Word, engaging in

creative exercises on the theme, identifying mission activities around healing and engaging in prayer for healing in our community and across the world."

Resource material is distributed to the various groups across the church, with encouragement for each group to engage the process to the extent that they chose. Activities including prayer are in the hands of each group, as well as being incorporated as part of general worship. As such, there is a community immersion in a particular theme. To date, Coatesville UCA has worked through seasons of Healing, Hope, Light and Homelessness. We are currently working through a season of Peace. Mission outcomes have been quite amazing. For example, during the Season of Healing, members (and beyond) started producing Red Cross 'Trauma

Teddies' to comfort children in situations of trauma. Several hundred teddies later, we're still engaged in this process – and participation in healing in the community continues! During the Season of Homelessness, amongst other things we supported the production and distribution of purpose-built backpacks for those in the community who 'sleep rough'. These have been simple, but highly effective ways of focussing our thinking and praying, and realising real outreach outcomes in the community. Along the way we've created music, focussed Bible studies and celebrated the contributions and talents of our people.

Coatesville is wanting to share the potential of Seasons and invites other churches to access Seasons materials and participate in the process. We have experienced amazing outcomes and insights along the way. A locally produced program, Seasons costs nothing, but has potential to change lives in ways we can only imagine.

For information and material - www.greatplacetobelong.com

Hymn Fest

**Sunday Afternoon
October 19, 2pm**

Come & Sing with us,



**Bentleigh Uniting Church
497 Centre Rd. Bentleigh**

**It's FREE
Sing old and new favourites**

Another Pleasant Sunday Afternoon

www.ucapnep.net/Bentleigh

Only 3 weeks to go...

Presbytery on Show's planning is well underway and all we need now is the commitment of congregations/agencies/schools to be part of this great event.

We need you to be there and to bring with you a crowd of people from your place of ministry so that you can experience all of the best of the presbytery.

There will be information sessions on worship, music, Godly Play, Communications (including websites and social media), the ability to talk with people from Justice and International Mission, from SHARE, from the CTM, as well as our presbytery ministers and office bearers. If you haven't submitted one already these are the documents you need to print, complete and send to Jay Robinson at Frankston Uniting Church, 16-16 High Street, 3931:



Presbytery on Show letter

Presbytery on Show Information

Presbytery on Show reply slip

Presbytery on Show Flyer

To find them click on: <http://www.ucappep.org/newsbeat-2/events/>



...of hope

The branches are heavy with summer leaves.

The trees are sprouting all around us.

We know summer is near and on this warm air there is a scent of something new: new life is coming to the empty places. Where there is no love, there will be flowers of compassion. Where there is no peace, there shall be soft fields of rest.

Where there is no joy, there will be fresh springs of hope.

Give us parts to play in bringing hope, peace, joy and love to the empty place in the lives of loved ones

and in the life of the world.

Amen.



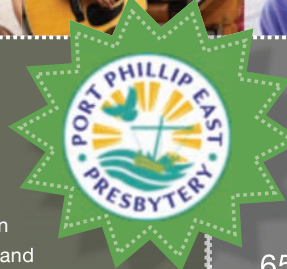
PRESBYTERY ON SHOW

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 for details



Hearing each other at Synod... questions are asked, views are expressed and working groups discuss key issues.

Searching at Synod...

THIS year's Synod meeting saw thought-provoking issues discussed, reconciliation from past hurts and exploration of the future for the Uniting Church. Powerful stuff.

The main 'news' items had to be: our troubled relationship with ACCESS Ministries and, by inference, the future of religious education in schools; and developments regarding the Major Strategic Review of the UCA VicTas.

For me, however, one of the most important areas for discussion was the question of: 'What is the 'new normal' for church?'

Times have changed and the future of the church means different things for many different people. Working groups explored how to build on 'signs of hope' and face new challenges rather than perhaps viewing church life as a matter of 'survival.'

Two speakers epitomised these ideas: Revs Kerrie Graham – marking 50 years in ministry - and Rev Randall Prior – retiring as Principal of the Centre for Theology & Ministry. Very stimulating speeches.

Randall Prior's speech was spellbinding and he received a standing ovation. I hope it is available on video somewhere.

Kerrie Graham, who spoke brilliantly at the Tribute service to remember minister's who had passed on and 'milestone' anniversaries of current ministers - 50, 60 and even 70 years since ordination. Kerrie recalled all 29 candidates in his ordination year were 'men being assessed by men' and 'thankfully that has changed.' He said it had been an exciting time for the Church in terms of membership growth, something which has sadly not continued.

Yet he was far from downcast about the future of the church. It has seen many paradigm shifts: the Apostolic age to the fall of the Roman Empire, the Mediaeval Church, the Reformation and the Modern

church... now we are at the cusp of a new 'paradigm.' Kerrie ended with wise words, however: "God evaluates not according to success; but faithfulness. The bush is burning, not extinguished and, best of all, God is with us."

by Helen Beeby



Synod showcases good news and exciting dreams and visions for the church



SYNOD revelations:
Clockwise from above:
Penny Mulvey, Director of
Communications, conducts
a Q & A session with 'Major
Strategic Review' Committee
members; Jill Tabbart speaks
at the launch of the new
Pilgrim Theological College
and current Moderator Dan
Wootton congratulates the
next Moderator (2016) Rev
Sharon Hollis after
she is elected.

Catching up over a cuppa...



Morning
and afternoon
tea offered some great
opportunities to talk to old and new
friends and colleagues. It also
provided space to mingle with
award-winners and guests
who were making one-off
appearances at various services
and celebrations that occur during
Synod meetings.



**Photos by Rev
Peter Beale
(and some by
Helen Beeby)**

What Synod decided...

UNITING CHURCH OUTLINES FIVE REQUESTS FOR ONGOING SUPPORT OF ACCESS ministries



The Uniting Church in Australia Synod of Victoria and Tasmania has resolved to issue five requests to ACCESS ministries, and if not satisfied with evidence of a positive response, will withdraw as a Supporting Church from 1 July 2015.

The consequence of the Synod decision is that ACCESS ministries has 8 months to demonstrate positive responses to the following requests in order for the Church to retain its Supporting Church status:

1. A commitment to changes in the governance practices and structures that facilitate the full participation of members of the Council of Christian Education in Schools (trading as ACCESS ministries) in the policy development and direction setting of ACCESS ministries.
2. Increased and transparent communications with the General Secretary of the Uniting Church Synod of Victoria and Tasmania.
3. An inclusive and consultative approach to the development of the Special Religious Instruction (SRI) program materials, a commitment that these materials will be theologically broad and pedagogically sound and that this is reflected in the training of SRI instructors.
4. The removal of the compulsory nature of the Partnership Program payment.
5. A conversation with the UCA Centre for Theology and Ministry (CTM) about the possibility of the CTM's involvement in the training of SRI instructors.

The Synod also sought to affirm, acknowledge and thank Uniting Church members whose dedication over many years contributes to the work of ACCESS ministries and its predecessors as CRE teachers, members, Council members and Board members.

Uniting Church SRI instructors will continue to be affirmed and supported by the Church.

The Uniting Church is deeply committed to ongoing engagement with other faith traditions and for young people to be exposed to a well structured pedagogically sound general religious education program in the Australian curriculum. As a result, the Synod, in the same resolution, also resolved to request two bodies within the Church (the Commission for Mission and the Centre for Theology and Ministry) to actively work for the inclusion of General Religious Education (GRE) in schools.

This resolution is the culmination of three years of investigation by a task group of the Church, examining a number of aspects of Christian education in schools, with particular focus on the governance, SRI program materials and instruction and communication by ACCESS ministries.



Communications & Media Services

Have your say...

The ACCESS Ministries issue was debated heavily at Synod 2014, resulting in the recommendations above. We're throwing this open to a wider audience now and if you have a view on the nature of ACCESS Ministries and/or the situation regarding religious education in schools and chaplaincy roles please send them to *God in our schools?* helen.beeby@gmail.com marking Newsbeat in the Subject Line.



RENOWNED author Steve Biddulph is coming to Trinity Uniting Church at 17 Black Street, Brighton for 2 nights only.
Wednesday 5th November, Raising Girls [7pm for 7.30pm]
Thursday 6th November, Raising Boys [7pm for 7.30pm]
 All tickets are \$30 (+30c Booking Fee) from www.trybooking.com/101528
 Light supper provided. For further information please contact 0409 860 427 or trinity.brighton@uniting.com.au

Leighmoor resurrects its strength through commemorating its history

Leighmoor Uniting Church will be celebrating our 160th anniversary of Worship at 189 Wickham Road, Moorabbin this year, writes Erica Fox.

Members of the Presbytery are invited to join us in our celebrations on Sunday October 19th from 10am with morning tea to follow. This anniversary is particularly important as it will be used to celebrate the past of not just Wickham Road but our recently sold property at East Boundary Road which was first used 60 years ago in 1954. In addition we will be celebrating the joining of Leighmoor with part of the congregations of Moorabbin and Highett Churches in 2014. This is a great opportunity to look to a future in our

renovated buildings whilst remembering where we have come from.

Thank you to all who have made our difficult journey this last year such a huge success.



Organ events in the pipe line



LAST call for these stirring celebrations of organ music:

At Trinity Uniting Church, 17 Black St. Brighton.

Saturday, October 4th at 2:30pm: John Hargraves from South Island Pipe Organs will talk about the organ and its restoration.

Sunday, October 5th at 10:00am: Special Church Service with choir featuring the organ.

Sunday, October 12th at 2:30pm: FREE ORGAN RECITALS in the church followed by refreshments, champagne and finger food and BIRTHDAY CAKE in Trinity House. All welcome.



Mt Eliza Inter-Church Council presents

A Just World

Saturday 11 October
9.30 am - 3 pm

Retreat and forum featuring three outstanding presenters, stalls, activities, reflection and more

Rev Dr Gordon Preece

Faith for a Just World

Gordon will explore why Christians should be interested in a just world, through an exploration of theological and biblical foundations to social justice.

Sr Brigid Arthur CSB

Action for a Just World

Drawing on her experience as teacher, principal, and co-founder of the Brigidine Asylum Seekers Project, Brigid will explore the pastoral and practical dimensions of Christian action for a just world.

Justice Debbie Mortimer

Law for a Just World

Justice Mortimer will give a summary of international refugee law and Australia's human rights obligations, and the difficult practical and policy choices facing all nations when encountering people who for various reasons feel compelled to flee, or leave, their homes.

Village Uniting Church, 93 Canadian Bay Rd, Mt Eliza
\$10 (includes lunch)

Register by **Friday 10 October**

phone: **9787 1683**; email: **ucame@hotmail.com.au**

Assembly election results...

THE Synod members who were elected to be members of 14th Assembly meeting in July 2015 are as follows:

Lay:

- Blakemore, Aaron
- Clarkson, Sue
- Greenwood, Adrian
- Grinton, Geoffrey
- Hanna, Drew
- Harrison, Anna
- Lawrie, Cheryl
- Nunn, Carlynnne
- Prewer, Rachel

- Pryor, Rohan
- Shields, Cameron
- Skilton, Kelly
- Stabb, Heidi
- Thomas Dobson, Isabel
- Threlfall, Lorraine
- Wilkie, Wendie

The Synod Standing Committee was requested to arrange for another youthful member (layperson) from VicTas to be a member of the Assembly.

You are invited to the:

**Induction service
of
Rev Hoon You**



As minister of the
Port Melbourne congregation
South Port Uniting Church Parish Mission

7.30 pm

Friday 24th October 2014

Port Melbourne Uniting Church

Cnr Nott & Bridge Sts, Port Melbourne

Refreshments to follow the service

RSVP ph 9690 1188 or janet.hoare@southportuniting.org.au



Ordained:

- Blakemore, Gavin
- Byrnes, Jennifer
- Clarke, Stan
- Cook, Michelle
- Crowe, Greg
- Fotheringham, David
- Hannah-Jones, Avril
- Kioa, Jason
- Koh, Swee Ann
- Liersch, Denise
- Mosso, Lauren
- Thompson, Allan
- Ting, Apwee
- Vaeluaga, Sani
- Withers, Sue

**Mis-spelled truth
(from church notices)**

- All singles are invited to join us Friday at 7 p.m. for the annual Christmas Sing-alone.
- Thursday night – potluck supper. Prayer and medication to follow.
- Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our church and the community.
- For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.
- Today there will be meetings in the south and north ends of the church. Children will be baptized at both ends.
- The ladies of the church have cast off clothing and they may be seen in the church basement Friday.

THE Commission for Mission once again has the privilege of being the host for the About FACE (Faith And Cultural Exchange) 2015 program.

The next program will run for two weeks from 5 –18 January, 2015.

About FACE is run in partnership with the National Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (UAICC/Congress). The 2015 program will involve: briefing; time living in Congress communities across Australia; sharing with others at the Congress National Conference in Tasmania; and debriefing. The About FACE program has been a unique and amazing program in the life of our Uniting Church for just over 30 years. The program celebrates the Covenant relationship between the Uniting Church in Australia and the



UAICC, and encourages participants and those supporting them to be actively involved in Covenanting and working together for reconciliation in our Uniting Church and in their wider communities.

“If you have come to help me, you are wasting your time. If you have come because your liberation is bound up with mine, then let us work together.”

*Lilla Watson,
Aboriginal elder*



To share some words from Rev. Ken Sumner, past Congress National Chairperson: “About FACE is critical to Congress. The sharing of our stories and culture brings an awareness and understanding for healthy relationships.

About FACE gives hope to the future of the covenant that we have between the Uniting Church and Congress.”

Anyone above the age of 18 can participate in the program, so adults are very much encouraged to join. It's also something that a group of people from your congregation might consider attending together – rather than just an individual. **Call 03 9251 5271 or e-mail info@aboutface.org.au ASAP if you want to take part.** To find out more about the program visit www.aboutface.org.au.



Ewing Memorial Uniting Church Malvern East

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR/SECRETARY

We are seeking a part-time administrator/secretary for our Church's office. Duties include assisting the church officers and the Minister; liaising with members of the congregation; liaising with the public via telephone, email and in person, especially with regard to weddings, funerals, baptisms; preparation of newsletters; management of bookings of church property; management of correspondence and office records; and maintaining the accounting records.

Hours are flexible and will average 20 hours per week. A competitive remuneration package will be negotiated.

Applicants should be mature persons able to work without direction with good communication skills and proficient in the usual office duties, including computer skills in Word, Excel, Publisher, PowerPoint, etc., and also be able or willing to learn to use the QuickBooks Pro 2010-11 accounting software suite.

The person sought will be a Christian able to work within the ethos of the Uniting Church and the Ewing congregation.

Applications with resumés should be submitted to Dick Carter, Chair of the Church Council, at ewingmemorial@iinet.net.au by 17 October.



Come and meet The RUGMAKER from MAZAR-E-SHARIF

Najaf Mazari fled, Northern Afghanistan in 2001 after being tortured and narrowly escaping certain death during the genocide of Hazara men in Mazar-E-Sharif by the Taliban.

Reluctantly leaving behind his wife and 6-month-old baby, he made the dangerous journey overland, eventually crossing the ocean to the shores of Australia where he ended up in the Woomera Detention Centre. In April 2007, he was granted Australian citizenship.

He wrote the book, *The Rugmaker of Mazar e Sharif* which sold 50,000 copies and was a VCE required text for four years.

"Why did my troubles catch the eye of God? It is a puzzle that can never be answered".

"Australia," he says, "is a land that I love in the way that a man loves the friend who saved his life."

He says that he continually wonders why he has been so lucky; "chosen to prosper":

Come and meet Najaf and hear what Julian Burnside QC, AO, Human Rights Lawyer suggests, is *"the story of all refugees"*.

2.30pm, Sunday 26th October 2014

Padua College, Ursula Frayne Hall, Oakbank Road, Mornington, Victoria 3931.

Contact the Mornington Community Information and support

Centre Ph. 5975 1644,

Free event or by Gold Coin Donation

www.trybooking.com/105995

Sponsored by:



mornington
CHURCH
OF CHRIST



St Peter's Anglican
Church Mornington



St Mark's Uniting
Church Mornington



St Macartan's
Mornington



Mornington
Community Centre



MORNINGTON
PENINSULA
Shire



COMMITTED TO A
SUSTAINABLE
PENINSULA



PENINSULA VOICE
Learning • Conversation • Engagement

The NEW Port Phillip East Presbytery website is an exciting additional resource tool for communication across our churches, agencies, schools and communities. We welcome submissions to the website, Newsbeat and Facebook, but should advise that photographs may be used across all unless instructed otherwise when submitted.

Visit the Presbytery website at www.ucapppep.org and www.facebook.com/ucapppep.org for news, events and more....

The views expressed by contributors and editorial to Newsbeat are not necessarily the views of the Presbytery.