

NEWSBEAT



MARCH 2015

NEWSLETTER FOR THE PRESBYTERY OF PORT PHILLIP EAST



St. Mark's fires up exciting Ashes to Go stand. Find out more about this initiative on page 3.



Pancakes in pictures, p5

Helping a family in crisis developed new community ties at Hampton Park. Moving story on page 9



Springvale launches multi-cultural Men's Shed at top-

brass community reception



MULTI-CULTURALISM in Australia does come with some challenges but when communities in Christ pull together nothing is insurmountable.

This is the message borne out of the establishment of a vital resource for the migrant community in Springvale.

"It began as a concept by our minister, the Rev. Paul Creasy," says John Gardiner, "which arose because he could see that many of the needs of the migrant men in our community were not being met."

The Shed has been in planning for the past four years as part of the ongoing mission in the multi-cultural area of Springvale. It is now complete and was commissioned on Sunday, February 8th as part of the normal church service, but in the open air and gathered around The Shed itself. Its public opening was on Saturday February 14th, accompanied by a barbecue lunch.

The formal opening began with a "Welcome to country" and a smoking ceremony by a member of the Bunerong/Wurundjeri peoples, all amid an enthusiastic crowd of more than 130 people. There were representatives of existing local men's sheds plus council and local and federal politicians present; all bringing their formal best wishes and promises of future support.

Cont. on page 2

The Village Uniting Church GARDEN PARTY

34 Rannoch Avenue, Mt Eliza

(Home of John & Kaye De Wijn)

Saturday 14th March 2015

5pm - 8pm

\$15 per person or \$30 per family

Tickets available at the Church office

Bring your picnic rug or chair, drinks & food, enjoy this beautiful garden & listen to the talent of local musician:

CHRIS ANNABLE



Chris is well known as a musician on the Mornington Peninsula. Inspired by artists like John Mayer and Tommy Emmanuel, he is a composer, singer, guitarist, and arranger in his own right. Chris' powerful acoustic sound comes from his creative guitar arrangements. As a song writer, Chris has released many singles and albums and is in demand as a session player and writes songs for other artists.



Proceeds go to the Ministry & Mission of The Village Uniting Church in Mt Eliza.
(93 Canadian Bay Road, Mt Eliza)

In case of wet weather, the event will be moved to the Church



If you would like to submit a news item for the Presbytery's monthly Newsbeat newsletter please send all articles and images to helen.beeby@gmail.com





Dates for your diary

- Service of Induction for Rev Bertram Mather to the Auburn Uniting Church, 81 Oxley Street, Hawthorn on Thursday 12th March, 2015 at 7.30 pm
- Synod PM's Conference, April 29-May 3, 2015, venue TBA
- Ministers Gathering - 23-25th June 2015 at Pallotti College.

Wominjika Place is perfect for migrant community

Cont. from front page

The Shed is a refurbished portable class room donated by one of the congregation and has been extended by use of a large covered area and a further timber decking extending into the existing church gardens, with further garden planting integrating them together. The whole garden and shed area was named that day as "Wominjika Place" Wominjika is the local Aboriginal word for Welcome/Hello. Keeping it as environmentally friendly as possible, they have allowed for rain water tanks and solar electricity panels and included a built in brick barbecue and pizza oven for outside events; also being available for congregational use.

The working concept has been for a meeting place for the men of this very diverse cultural area, not the usual workshop related men's shed, but a friendly meeting place for talk, computer learning and use, games, tea and coffee lounge, language classes, art group etc. a completely flexible syllabus to meet men's emerging needs.

From the start a planning committee was formed from the congregation and community representatives drawn from local ethnic groups, community organisations such as Springvale Council, Springvale Community House, the police, legal and trade union.

"This has been a remarkable example of co-operation between the Church and the Springvale Community. The shed is attracting grants from individuals and community groups and as the use of the shed programme progresses we will be looking for funding for future programmes to extend the mission of Wominjika Place," concludes John.



Above: South Sudanese members at Springvale UC delight the crowds with their stirring singing

DUE to a mission trip to North India at the end of March with a group from our presbytery and South Australia April Newsbeat will be a smaller edition. If you do have anything you would like to submit for publication in the April issue please send it to helen.beeby@gmail.com by March 15. Thank you.



Korean trip captured in full
 PRESBYTERY Chair, Rev Dr Paul Chalson has written up a detailed report of the Port Phillip East Presbytery and Port Phillip West Presbytery visit to Korean Presbyteries late last year and it can now be accessed on the Presbytery website on <http://www.ucappp.org/newsbeat/notices/>
 This was an important exchange due to the

historical ties between Melbourne and the Korean Church, and was obviously a fascinating cultural visit too, so it is well worth taking time to read it.

Taking church to the people

St Mark's and Mt Eliza provide Ashes to Go to local communities

On Ash Wednesday St Mark's Uniting Church took *Ashes to Go* - a new approach to a centuries-old Christian tradition - to Mornington Main Street Market.

Rev John Haig, Minister of St Mark's said, "This is part of an international movement that has clergy and lay people visiting locations in the community to mark the foreheads or wrists of interested passers-by with ashes, and inviting them to enter into a reflective preparation for Easter by seeking forgiveness and renewal."

In the Christian tradition, Ash Wednesday marks the start of the holy season of Lent. For centuries, Christians received a cross of ashes on the face at this time as a reminder of mortality and to receive God's forgiveness. *Ashes to Go* provides the opportunity to participate in that tradition for people who have lost their connection to a church, or have never participated before.

"Ashes to Go is about bringing the important traditions of our faith out from behind church walls and into the places we need them every day," says the Rev Emily Mellott, who maintains the website AshesToGo.org. She says: "As people get busier and busier, people need the church in new and non-traditional ways. We especially need reminders of forgiveness in the tough places of our working lives. The people who accept ashes on the street are often people longing to make a connection between their faith and the forces of daily life. *Ashes to Go* helps them feel that connection."

"This is a first for Mornington and I haven't heard of



any church doing in Australia previously. St Mark's joined with St Peter's Anglican and Mornington Church of Christ as part of the Mornington Food & Wine Festival last year handing out free bottles of water to those attending and we plan to do this again." Rev John says.

Rev Cameron McAdam, of The Village Uniting Church, Mt Eliza, also shared in this experiment. John is pictured above talking with an American Lutheran couple from Colorado who were disappointed that they might miss out on being "ashed" as their hosts were taking them to visit Phillip Island that night. St Mark's members, Doreen Gordon-Kirkby (pictured), Liz McKay and Ray Heinze helped during the day. More information about the *Ashes to Go* movement can be found at www.AshesToGo.org

any church doing in Australia



AS PART of the service on Sunday, February 22, 65 members of the Beaumaris Black Rock Congregation gathered at

St Martin's to participate in the "Release of Ties" service for our IIM Rev Ann Perrin, writes Margaret Wade.

Presbytery Minister Pastoral Care, Rev Liz McMillan, represented the Presbytery and led the formalities and our Chairperson of Church Council gave a fitting and moving farewell to Ann.

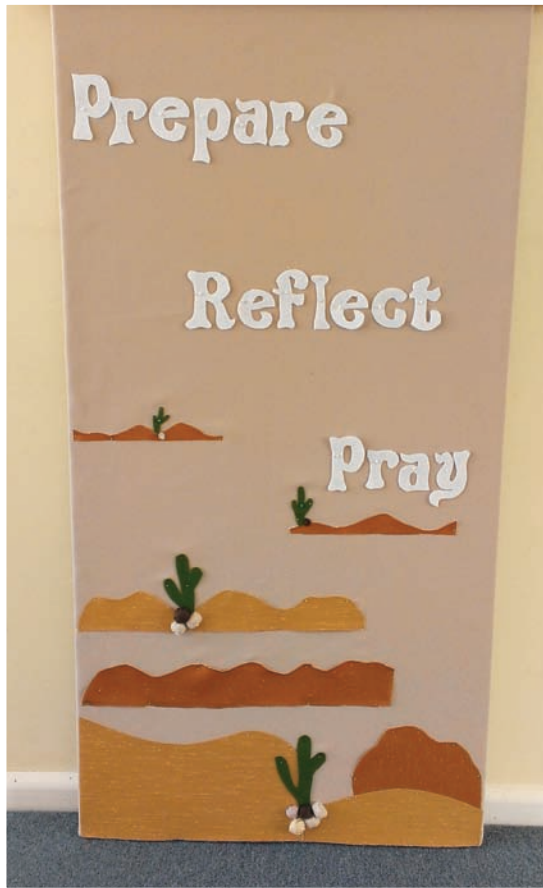
Jenny thanked Ann for her leadership and encouragement, counselling and support over the past 16 months as we have journeyed on the path it has chosen. She also recognised the musical contribution of Chris and his trumpet in our services. We have all appreciated the richness that a second instrument can bring to our worship and singing.

We all wish Ann and Chris a happy and fulfilling time as they move to Clarence Uniting Church in Tasmania.

A farewell to Ann



Lenten banner proudly displayed to boost church outreach



PICTURED left is the first in a series of banners that the craft ladies of St Martin's Uniting Church, Beaumaris have prepared for Lent and Easter. The craft ladies meet on a Friday morning and usually spend their time making items for sale at the church fete in November. However it was felt that they could contribute to the outreach of the church by preparing the banners for display in the side windows of St Martin's for those walking past to view.

Managing your money

Developed by a UK based charity, Christians Against Poverty (CAP), is a budgeting and money management course open to the wider community, writes Wendy Adams. It is a DVD and workshop based course and runs over 3 weeks, - Tuesday evenings 17th, 24th and 31st March 7.30 – 9.30pm. Here are some comments from previous participants: "I have the tools in place to manage my money and remove the stress and anxiety"; "I feel more knowledgeable...more confident"; "I'm now living within my means and improvement in savings with time." Contact Judy on 0408 387 230 to get more details or book a place.



A free course to help you manage your money better and learn to budget, save and spend well

Course Info

budget. save. spend.

Starting: Tues March 17,24,31

Venue: St Leonard's Uniting Church, 2 Wolseley Grove, Brighton

Book by calling: Judy 0408387230 **Time:** 7.30-9.30pm

Run by: St Leonards

www.capmoney.org

facebook.com/CAPAustralia [@CAPAustralia](https://twitter.com/CAPAustralia)

Christians Against Poverty is a national charity offering award-winning, free, face-to-face debt counselling through 30 CAP Debt Centres across the Australia. The innovative charity also offers financial education through the CAP Money course. For details of CAP's services, or to support the charity, visit www.cappausat.org.

PO Box 298, HUNTER REGION MC 2310. e capmoney@capausat.org t 02 4914 0800
ABN: 92 104 471 916 Australian Credit Licence: 426494

Crepe capers at St Martin's encourages locals to join the fun

DELUXE gourmet pancakes were the order of Pancake Day at St. Martin's, Beaumaris Uniting Church recently.

They had a fantastic Pancake evening, offering gourmet pancakes and even vegetarian or gluten free ones.

For a donation of \$5 adults or \$2 for kids diners were given two pancakes, ice cream, maple syrup and an amazing variety of fruits (not frozen mixed berries!)

There was also a choice of wonderful coffees, tea, and cold chocolate milk or a soft drink to wash it all down.

It was a very special social evening for all, with some even bringing in their own fish 'n' chips to start with and then enjoying their pancake desserts. People were allowed seconds - and many did.

More than \$300 was raised for Uniting Care because many in the congregation donated the fruits, and money for the necessary pancake mix, maple syrup and ice-cream - including soy ice-cream - catering for all. It was a great way for locals to join us and they did.



Flipping pancakes and taking donations were just some of the roles adopted by St Martin's UC folk.



Smiles and stomach satisfaction made Pancake Night go down a treat in Beaumaris last month.



Dadirri Labyrinth Reflection Days 2015

"Finding Heaven in the Here and Now" with Bronwyn Pryor, friends and family.
Saturday 14th March
Location: 60 Bass Meadows Blvd, St Andrews Beach 3941, 10am to 4pm, Lunch: Please bring food to share; Morn/Aft tea provided. Cost: \$10 [pension \$5]
Booking: please register by the previous Thursday evening: Tel. 5988 5257; email robron@pryor.org.au; [website <http://dadirri.pryor.org.au>]

"To listen and let the earth be glad, to hear the pounding of the sea, and the crops burst out with joy and the trees rustle and praise requires, at least, quiet. We must put ourselves before creation and listen. Open your senses and take in all that is moving before you... all that is required is to know that God dances in the creation. Tune your senses to the play of God, and when you are ready, join in the Sabbath dance." Dan Allender, Sabbath, p48.

Quote

"Great minds discuss ideas; average minds discuss events; small minds discuss people."

Eleanor Roosevelt
of the month...



Announcements

A Service of Induction for Rev Bertram Mather will be held at the Auburn Uniting Church, 81 Oxley Street, Hawthorn on Thursday 12th March, 2015 at 7.30 pm. All welcome.

St. John's Uniting Church, Virginia Street. Mt. Waverley is presenting Stainers Crucifixion on Tuesday 31st March @ 8pm. All enquiries please contact Valda Clark 9807 2723.

on patience and busyness

In western culture 'busyness' is seen as a virtue. If we're not busy in some way then we believe that we are of less value. Of course this is not true - our sense of value comes from understanding how much God loves us (and our friends and family.) To be good at patience, we need to know that it's OK to stop for once in a while.

"Lord, help me to place all my securities in You. Please release me from thinking that I need to be busy."

"But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control." (Galatians 5:22-23, NLT)

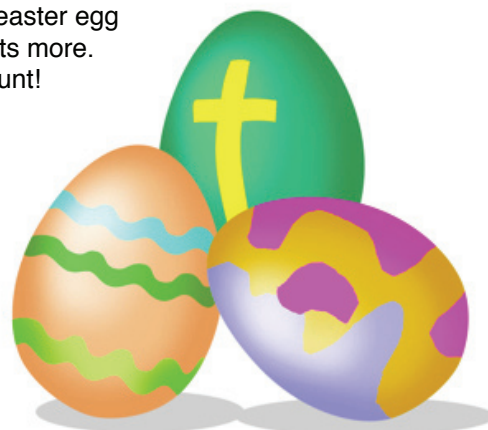


EGG -SPLORES EASTER

Rock Solid Kids is EGG-Sploring Easter.
This time we've included more opportunities for children to be part of our fun and games.
Rock Solid Kids is now open to children from Kinder age to year 9.
Some other changes are our times 9am to 12.30pm and we will be providing morning tea only.

It will be a fun morning filled with craft, chocolate making, knitting, easter egg painting, sporting challenges, gardening with a difference, and lots more.
And don't forget there will be the ever popular Easter Egg Hunt!

Wednesday 1st April
High Street Uniting Church
16-18 High Street Frankston 3199
RSVP: Wednesday 25th March 2015
frankstonuc@gmail.com
9783 3400
Gold Coin Donation please



New Chaplain makes his mark at Scotch Oakburn

AS THE new Chaplain at the Uniting Church's Scotch Oakburn College in Launceston, I was invited to share with the students and staff a bit about myself and what motivated me to come here from the mainland, writes Rev Steve Terrell.

I happened to mention among other pursuits my newly acquired motor bike, which quickly gained the interest of most of the students, and a few staff :)

Not long after, I was besieged by one class who had managed as one to assemble themselves around my bike and me, and then recruited their teacher to take a photo. Here is the result!

This chaplaincy has become a ministry with a very clear agenda for me; Do whatever I can to enable a generation of students to leave school clear about what difference they can make in creating a world where every person could live life to the full (John 10:10). It seems to me that Jesus intended for this vision to not just be for those with privilege and resources. It must be as true for the beggar on the back streets of Bangladesh, as for the privileged of Melbourne or New York. One of my great disappointments with the education system as we've designed it, is that children start school believing they can achieve something, and some think they know what it is, but by the time they get to Year 9 or 10 and start career planning, many have little or no idea what difference they can make. In an attempt to solve the problem we look back over their past achievements to see if we can find some skills that will indicate a future occupation, which is like driving a car using the rear vision mirror. Worse still, we have become so complacent that we think this is normal. Well, I beg to differ! Fortunately, I feel that God has been growing in me over the last 10-15 years a way for me to make my difference. Coming to Tasmania to finally "midwife" the delivery of this gift was not originally on my radar, but the mysteries of the Placements process and the Spirit of God have worked their magic again, and here I am!

To sum up my first few weeks I'd say, "I think I've died and gone to Heaven!" I can't believe the opportunity I've have been offered, and the trust placed in me to live as faithfully as I can.



*STEVE motors on... pictured above is former Presbytery Minister, M & E, Steve Terrell with Year 4 students of Elphin Campus, Scotch Oakburn College
Photo, by Jenny Gibson, is approved for use in UCA publications excluding Facebook.*

For sale

A large advertising notice board, maroon in colour and in very good condition. Suitable for use outside a church property. Comes with letters so you can create your own messages. Formerly used at Broughleigh Uniting Church before it was sold and closed. Price \$3500. Further details from Kay Gordon mobile. 0417 511745.

Skills for Life continues

'Skills For Life' free is a series of community information sessions to help us discover solutions to many day to day issues that we are facing.

The series commences on the 19th February and ends on 18th June 2015. Topics for the seven sessions are: 'Everyday Finances' - who wouldn't like to stretch their income further?; 'The Young & Restless' – an exploration of the parent/teen relationship, communication, negotiation, boundaries and respect; 'Relationships & Family' – good communication strengthens our relationships; 'When A Child Is Born' – a life changing time in more ways than one; 'Blokes Talk' – an interactive session exploding some

man-myths and stereo types; 'Life Struggles' – there is hope, even when our problems seem to be insurmountable; 'Understanding Dementia' – what is dementia? risk factors, main signs and an overview of risk strategies. Each sessions is to be professionally delivered by an experienced presenter. Venue: Narre Warren North Uniting Church, Main Street, Narre Warren North. Flyers available. For more information contact Trevor Ratcliffe, 'Skills For Life' on narrenorth.uc@gmail.com or 9700 5061 or 0428 472030.

FAITH can move mountains. Some are harder and higher than others. Take the experience of cancer.

Diagnosis a shock, confronting. A mountain to climb. A challenge, as you undertake treatment. There are many there with you, in the days and weeks, old and young - too young. Some come with family, a friend, some alone. Gradually you are greeted with a smile, a friendly face, learn a name. A few are silent, not coping perhaps. You do not intrude. Already you are taking a step up the slope, supported by caring staff, who greet you each time, and with the latest treatments. Making light of those strange looking machines, so necessary for their work. Sadly, some you have begun to know so well don't make it. That is a reality. You feel you have lost a friend whose courage you have so admired along the way. Sympathy becomes compassion, for those who have been there for them daily, and have lost someone deeply loved. Is faith a

Reflections on Faith

cotton wool which can protect us from the risks of human life? No. But it is the way forward, and, in the people you have met you have witnessed a kind of courage and a measure of hope, which are the stuff of real faith. Saul of Tarsus had an encounter on the road to Damascus. Life changing. As Paul, the Apostle, he faced mountains to climb on his journeys, rough seas, and fierce opposition. A physical ailment which he called his "thorn in the flesh" dogged him, which was never removed, in spite of his prayers. Even this he used to effect. Always he could go on in the strength he owed to his Companion on the way. By stepping out in faith, whatever the mountain, we may be surprised by the support of those we meet, and be blessed.

By Bill Pugh. Retired Minister

Minister's reflection space

The Invitation

The invitation to a 'Bethany space' is to gather as a group of ministry colleagues on a monthly basis for conversation and time of quiet reflection, to share a simple meal which will incorporate a Eucharist.

A Bethany Space?

Naming this gathering a 'Bethany space' picks up the way Jesus found in the home of Mary and Martha and Lazarus a place of hospitality, where Jesus extended an invitation to attend to the 'one thing needed.'

What's it about?

The invitation arises out of our need to gather with colleagues in such a way that we receive the gift of being listened to, with trust and gentle challenging to hold us and encourage us in ministry.

The form of the gathering

Tea and coffee would be available as people arrive. The group would then listen as someone reflects for 15 minutes on how they are living out their ordination or commissioning or inductions vows – and on what is giving life in their ministry. Then a time of response - 15-30 minutes.

Time for reflection

There would then be a time of quiet reflection – there are comfortable spaces at Hampton Uniting Church, the beach is nearby, and local parks – there are coffee shops in Hampton if someone wanted to sit and write a journal.



You are invited to a 'Bethany Space' for hospitality and reflection on the heart of the matter as Ministers of the Gospel
Wednesday 18th March 2015,
Hampton Uniting Church
17 Service Street, Hampton.
10am for morning tea/coffee
10-30am Fiona Winn on the heart of the matter
11am Prayer/Walk/Reflection
12 noon Shared lunch and Eucharist

A simple shared meal

Then at about midday we would share a simple meal using the facilities at the church. Tim would be willing to make a large pot of soup and bake some bread, and people could contribute dips or a salad or some fruit to share.

And the Eucharist

Either as part of the meal, or at its end, we would share in a very simple eucharist. People could offer to preside. We would then bless each other for whatever else the day held for us. We envisage we would be tidied up and gone by 1pm at the latest.

A monthly gathering?

If a group took up this invitation we imagine it might develop its own life over time. We imagine that we might meet once a month. Tim is happy to host the initial gathering at Hampton, but it may be that the group will meet at different venues. Contact Tim Angus 0400 383 628 fordangus@netspace.net.au

by Rev
Deacon
Mat Harry

Food, fellowship and festivities renew hope for brave Hampton Park family



A SOCIAL worker from UnitingCare Connections was working alongside a single mother with several children, assisting them to get back on their feet.

Whilst providing support the worker noticed that they had little family or social support and were essentially fairly isolated. It was approaching Christmas and the mother expressed that this would be their worst Christmas ever, as they did not have anyone to share the day with and there was little money for presents. The social worker asked their client if they would like to join in with Christmas Day Lunch at Hampton Park Uniting Church and the client was pleased to have somewhere to take the children for that part of the day. Bravely – without knowing anyone – this mother arrived at Uniting Place and was greeted by friendly

welcoming volunteers as soon as she opened the door. Upon signing in the lady was shown to a table by one of the volunteer 'hosts' for the day. The host introduced themselves to the mother and children and ensured they felt relaxed and were aware of the program for the day. As the table host engaged the mother in conversation, the children soon began playing in the playground with other children and loved the lolly treasure hunt in the Community Garden. The children came back inside for drinks and to excitedly tell mum all about the fun things they had been doing.

The Master of Ceremonies welcomed everyone, the band began playing songs,

we said grace and the sumptuous first course of roast meat, vegetables and salads was served. The family was overwhelmed by the quality of the meal and enjoyed it thoroughly. Of course the children were even more impressed with the desserts.

For the children nothing compared to the excitement of Santa arriving. The younger kids squealed with delight. The smiles on their faces were priceless as they came forward to receive their stocking.

The sounds of laughter, conversation, the clattering of plates and dishes, the band and MC all added to a wonderful mix of celebration at Uniting Place – and for a time at least, the stresses and concerns of the world were put on hold.

And the single mother and children made friendships so that they have begun participating in other activities at Uniting Place – feeling greater social and personal support.



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.