

NEWSBEAT



APRIL 2015

NEWSLETTER FOR THE PRESBYTERY OF PORT PHILLIP EAST



Statue stardom in East Timor. Find out more about these amazing figures on page 5.

Who are these masked marvels? Check out the full story on page 4



Bringing in Chinese New Year breathes new life into Glen Waverley

EACH year Glen Waverley celebrates Chinese New Year with a huge community festival writes Rev Neil Peters.

The festival is held on Kingsway which is blocked to traffic and happens to be over the road from the church. This year the Glen Waverley UC congregation decided to get involved, as the recent vision statement, endorsed by the congregation, included community involvement and developing our connections with our strong Asian community. We held one combined Sunday service where the welcome, Bible readings and prayers of the people were offered in English and Mandarin or Cantonese. This was very well received. We had a small marquee over the road where we had volunteers assisting children to make a variety of craft items that reflected Chinese traditions. We also handed out 500 show bags that contained some little give-aways and a variety of information about church programs. There was the usual noise, music, dancing, food, drinks,

Glen Waverley



children's activities and community groups among a crowd of about 40,000 people. A great atmosphere, in fact. The church was open for tea and coffee in the afternoon and people could look around the

church or browse at our second-hand book sale. Through our contacts we arranged for a traditional Chinese orchestra to play at the festival. Many volunteers across a large age range put in many hours of work to make the day a great success. Many conversations were also had with people attending the festival. Now we will look at how else we can connect with our local community, building on this Chinese New Year initiative. Grateful thanks for everyone's efforts.

CICC YOUTH COUNCIL VICTORIA PRESENTS

G2G

GENERATIONS 2 GENERATIONS

YOUTH CONFERENCE

24TH – 26TH APRIL 2015

GUEST SPEAKERS || YOUTH DIRECTOR-BOB WILLIAMS
|| EVANGELISM DIRECTOR-KEN BEN

TOPICS || YTH CONVENTION CONSTITUTION || OUTREACH || TOOLS 2 SHARE FAITH || GENS || YTH & CHURCH || WELLBEING

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

- Release of Pastoral ties Max Champion, St Johns Mt Waverley Sunday May 3 at 10am.
- Synod PM's Conference, April 29-May 3, 2015, venue TBA.
- Ministers Gathering - 23-25th June 2015 at Pallotti College.

St Martin's finds hope in a modern wilderness

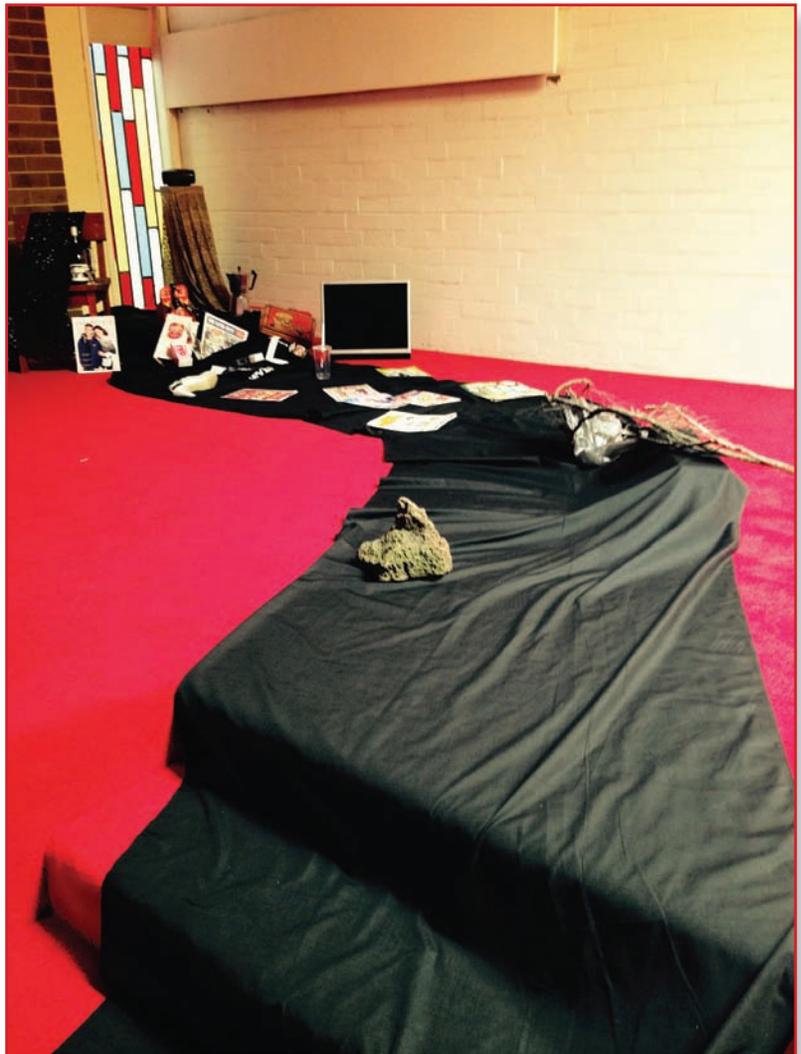
AN investigation into what seems to fill many people's lives sparked a thought-provoking installation in the worship space in Beaumaris during Lent.

Trish Graham says: "I was drawn to really explore this after being asked to offer an image for Lent. I happened to be reading Rollo May's *Man's Search for Himself* where he explores 'emptiness within' both individually and collectively.

"I also happened to spend a brief time on the Gold Coast at Surfers Paradise (which I have quietly renamed Consumers Paradise) at this time. Both of these things informed my display," *pictured right*.

The display begins with the empty space we all experience at certain times and the space to which many of us go intentionally during Lent. As the black road turns there is a branch of dead ti-tree. The sharpened end points to the cross (sadly out of the picture.)

The 'fuzzy end' of tiny branches has a plastic bag caught within. This end points towards all of those distractions with which we fill our lives – screens, parties, addictive substances such as alcohol, coffee, drugs. There are sales brochures and fast food packages alongside the clock, marking our time and governing our lives, which sits on the tarnished gold pedestal, tick, tick, ticking away.



Leading the way

EVERY congregation and community relies on a range of leadership roles and a network of leaders. Living Leadership recognises the organic and evolving nature of leadership in challenge and times of change. Build capacity, insight and resilience for your leadership in this 6-day intensive, and enhance

your capacity to lead in whatever teams - whether church, work or community based.

Hosted by the experienced team of the Centre for Theology and Ministry (CTM), come along as an individual or part of a group and engage the skill, passion and diversity of the CTM team.

When: May 4-8, 2015

Where: Centre for Theology & Ministry, 29 College Crescent, Parkville, VIC, 3052.

Cost: \$270 (\$230 for individuals registered by April 10 or \$230 for individuals registered as part of a group

More Info: <https://ucavt.goregister.com.au/livingleadership2015/registration/individuals/>

ACT FOR PEACE

CONFRONTING INJUSTICE TOGETHER
THROUGH THE **actalliance**

TWO great ways to help refugees and people around the world is through Act for Peace. Why not try:

1. Ration Challenge – commit yourself to eat the same rations as a Burmese refugee living in a Thai refugee camp for a week. Or, as a church, conduct a refugee meal and forward the proceeds to Act for Peace for our work with refugees. Invite a speaker for the occasion.
2. Act for Peace Speakers Network – Act for Peace has volunteer speakers, trained and resourced to speak at a church or group or service organisation function. Contact Jeff Wild on 9650 6811 or jwild@actforpeace.org.au

A day to bowl you over

It's Harmony Day again! A great opportunity to meet up with other Sri Lankans as well as others.

Enjoy some cricket, food, dance, drama and music and have loads of fun as we unite across and beyond our ethnic, cultural and religious divides. Many people supported and attended the event last year and we look forward to seeing you, your family and friends this year too. Date: Saturday March 28th 2015

Venue: Wesley College, High Street Road, Glen Waverly. 3150, Melbourne.

Events: From 9am: Six-a-side cricket (plus drinks, food, face painting, clown etc.) 11.45am Multicultural Concert followed by free lunch (you may give a donation.)

Please pass the word around to your contacts. Call Maheshini on 9801 4349

RSVP's by March 20th will be much appreciated for catering and seating purposes.

Market Day magic

St David's Uniting Church at 152 Drummond Street, Oakleigh. is holding a Market Day on Saturday, April 18, from 9am till 2pm. Pat Murnane says: "We provide stalls and people pay \$10 each for them, so we have quite a variety of new and used goods. We also have Devonshire Teas, a sausage sizzle, plants and a White Elephant which we run ourselves. Please do come along and enjoy the activities, food and fellowship.

Delicious food * Exciting Cricket * Inspiring speakers * Amazing performances

Harmony Day

WRITING A NEW STORY FOR SRI LANKA

Free Admission All are welcome

FREE CONCERT AND CRICKET

Saturday 28 March

WESLEY COLLEGE AUDITORIUM AND GROUNDS
(620, High Street Road, Glen Waverly - Melways Ref: Map 62 A12)
9:00 am - 3:30 pm

Cricket 9:00 am - 11:30 am
Concert 11:45 am - 1:00 pm
Sri Lankan Lunch at 1:15 - 3:00 pm

SRI LANKA INVITES is a group of Sri Lankans from various backgrounds who are continuing a journey of peace and reconciliation. Its primary aim is to pave the way for Sri Lankans living in Australia to meet and form links beyond religious, ethnic, political, cultural and other divides.

Toward that aim we present to you Sri Lankan Harmony Day

Winner of the Serendib Gold award for Community Harmony, 2014

Supported by



Mohammed Mohideen



Shanaka Fernando



Professor David De Kretser



Annathala & Rev. Jeffrey Abayaskera

With Professor Paul Komesaroff, Rev. David Pargeter, Maheshini Perera, Rev. Dev Anandarajan and Assistance from the UC Synod Vic/Tas

For more info contact:
Larry Marshall 9331 2678 larry.marshall@victas.uca.org.au
Maheshini Perera 9801 4349 mheshini@optusnet.com.au
Dev Anandarajan 9504 3077 gunam58@optusnet.com.au

Facelift, About Face and family fun at O-P

OFFICER Pakenham Mission Area has been a really busy place recently, writes Belinda Clear.

Over January we had new carpet laid in the worship area and meeting areas, as well as painting done. Some hard working members of the congregation helped to remove the old carpet and sort through the storerooms. All the hard work has paid off and the building is looking great.

Sunday, February 1 marked an exciting morning in both the Officer and Pakenham congregations. Officer celebrated the lifelong journey's that each of us travel with a lunchbox blessing. There were some very excited children and brightly coloured lunch boxes! At this service Emma also shared with the congregation about her About Face experience. It was great to hear of the challenging learning experience she had while she was away.

At Pakenham, we celebrated John McKay's 65th Anniversary as a Lay Preacher. John led worship and Rev Ann Scott presented him with a certificate to mark this significant occasion. John's family came along as well and the congregation shared in a special morning tea after worship.

Our Play and Learn playgroup celebrated Shrove Tuesday in style. We made pancakes from scratch and the children proved to be extremely willing helpers, with some assistance from the mums. With some amazing smells permeating the church building, it was not long before the craft group and the Bible study group came in and joined us for morning tea as well. A fantastic morning was had by all.



Anti-clockwise from top: Members have it covered when it comes to the new carpet project, Rev Ann Scott commends John McKay



and the littlies create and devour pancakes at the Play and Learn playgroup on Shrove Tuesday...



How you can help those in need in Vanuatu

Mission Liaison Group (MLG) is to send a container for cyclone relief in Vanuatu.

They are getting a new container delivered and are aiming to fill it in the next couple of weeks. Priority items are kitchen pots and utensils, linen and clothing, solar torches, candles and matches, insect repellent baby needs, toiletries - soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes etc. Deliveries can be made to their storage hall at 176 Chapel Rd, Keysborough, adjacent to the Samoan Uniting Church. MLG can also accept monetary donations towards the shipping costs. Please call 0419 572936 for more details of how to help.

Uniting World has established an Appeal and have sent staff to Vanuatu to assist Richard Tatwin in arranging distribution of aid received. Please pass the word to any of your friends who would like to donate financially or with goods as Richard is on the ground with Uniting World to share out items as they arrive.



Snap happy

Calling all shutterbugs! The Synod CoMS team is looking to spotlight the work and activities of congregations across Victoria and Tasmania. We welcome submissions of images that give insight on the life of the church, which we will feature on our main VicTas website and social media channels. If you captured a special moment on your mobile that you want

to share, please send it along too. Emmet O’Cuana, Online Content Coordinator 130 Lt Collins St Melbourne, tel: 9251 5274, email: Emmet.OCuana@victas.uca.org.au, website: victas.uca.org.au



Ian’s statues to grace the processions in East Timor

TWO life-sized statues have been constructed in steel and fibreglass materials for presentation to a community in East Timor.

The statues were constructed as an ecumenical project by retired Uniting Church minister, the Rev. Ian Johnston, right, at the request of Mr Les Harper of St Thomas More Parish Catholic Church and the East Timorese Church.

They depict Christ as teacher, and St Thomas More as statesman and teacher, holding a book showing biblical inscriptions in the Tetum language. The statues have been on display in the Uniting Church in Mount Eliza.



Les Harper, of St Thomas More Parish says: “In 2008 we were asked by a few of the people of the village of Tequinomata to build and refurbish their primary school. It was in a real mess. The task of building was completed during 2010, after collecting funds, and having villagers contribute

their time and effort for no payment. The people were very pleased with the result and asked if their church and school could be called ‘St Thomas More Tequinomata.’ They then asked if their Church building could be finished after running out of funds 10 years ago. The

parishioners of St Thomas More Mt Eliza agreed and the church was finished and dedicated in 2012. The people then asked if they could have a statue of St Thomas More to put into the Church and also carried proudly in procession and touched, as is their culture. Ian Johnston, former minister of the Village Church, Mt Eliza, created the life size statue of St Thomas More and one of Christ. He worked on these statues unstintingly for eighteen months and they were shipped by container to East Timor in February 2015, and will be dedicated during a visit Ian and his wife Elaine will make in June 2015.




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](https://www.facebook.com/CAPAustralia)
@CAPAUstralia

Christianity Against Poverty is a national charity offering onward referral, free, face-to-face debt counselling through 20 CAP Debt Centres across the Australia. The innovative charity also offers budget education through the CAP Money course. For details of CAP's services, or to support the charity, visit www.capmoney.org. PO Box 206, HUNTER REGION NSW 2310 - capmoney@capmoney.org 1 82 4914 0500 ABN: 92 124 471 516 Australian Credit License: 426594

Quote

“Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn’t do than by the ones you did do, so throw off the bowlines, sail away from safe harbour, catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore, Dream, Discover.”

Mark Twain

of the month...

For sale

In case you missed it... 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 Brighleigh Uniting Church before it was sold and closed. Price \$3500. Further details from Kay Gordon mobile. 0417 511745.

When generations work together...

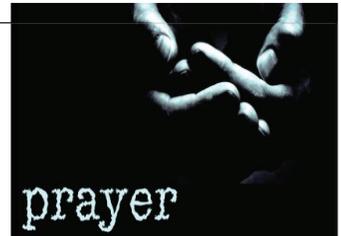
Some useful sites:

- Multi-Age Easter Services <<http://sa.uca.org.au/cfm/ministry-leaders/all-age-worship/easter-services>>
- Intergenerational Faith - some case studies <<http://www.intergenerationalfaith.com/case-studies.html>>
- How churches are becoming intentionally intergenerational <<http://bishopperryinstitute.org.au/uploads/BreakingTheAgeBarriers.pdf>>
- Interviews with leaders of Intergenerational Ministry Leaders (Audio) <<http://www.intergenerationalfaith.com/interviews.html>>

Announcements

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.

A celtic oral tradition from the first millennium



You are the peace of all things calm
You are the place to hide from harm
You are the light that shines in dark
You are the heart's eternal spark
You are the door that's open wide
You are the guest who waits inside
You are the stranger at the door
You are the calling of the poor
You are my Lord and with me still
You are my love, keep me from ill
You are the light, the truth, the way
You are my Saviour this very day.



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.

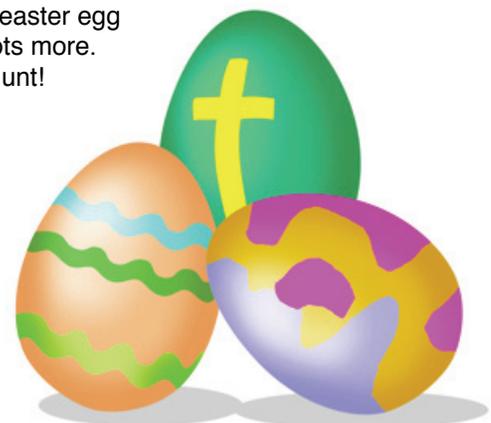
Some other changes are our times 9am to 12.30pm and we will be providing morning tea only.

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



Reflections on Faith

We were off to the Zoo.

At Elizabeth Street we boarded a North Coburg Tram for a trip to Stop 19, then a walk through Royal Park to the Zoo. On board a variety of passengers.

At the Market shoppers alighted. Up the steps staggered a chap, carrying a large plastic bag of possessions, obviously drunk. I helped him to a seat, afraid that he might fall, as the tram accelerated. As he sat down, he dribbled onto my cream trousers. Nothing I could do, hoping the wet spot would dry on the walk through the Park. The local dry cleaner would do the rest. So we journeyed on till we reached the University. As the students started to get off, a young man, from another culture, passed me, and as he did, bent over and placed a wad of tissues over the damp spot on my knee, and got off the tram, before I could thank him for his thoughtfulness.

Not so long ago I was in hospital. Late one evening I was exercising, walking down the corridors. Around a bend I came upon a distressing scene. Family

and friends, inside and outside a room, where a loved one had just died. Distraught people, tears, a scene of desolation. Here I was, a Minister, but a stranger to them - outside my area of support as pastor and friend. My robes were a hospital gown and slippers. What could I say, or do? Nothing. Except to excuse myself, turn around, and make my way back to my own room.

Sometimes it happens that a moment for a response to a kindness, or say a word of comfort, passes, or is inappropriate. But faith has the avenue of prayer, a constant, which bears fruit at other times, in other places. In that way we followed that lovely student up the driveway to the University with thankful prayer, and blessings for his studies and future vocation. Nor did we forget to think of the chap on the tram, praying for a

safe journey to his destination, and help for his sad situation. Likewise in the hospital, as I knelt beside my bed, I prayed for all around the corner; strangers to me, needing a source of comfort in their sadness and loss. In time, a positive working through their grief as they remembered someone special.

Somehow in those situations, prayer is for me a lifting up and a sharing, with a higher power. And I feel better. Prayer is on call, as a valuable response at all times, for all needs. Faith's strengthener. The Psalmist reminds us of such support in these words, "When my heart is overwhelmed lead me to the rock that is higher than I." There is inspiration in the words of Alfred Lord Tennyson: "*More things are wrought by prayer*

Than this world dreamed of."

by Bill Pugh

Labyrinth opens at Palotti College Retreat Centre

A LABOUR of love by the wife of the late Rev Dr Robin Pryor has finally been completed.

Bronwyn Pryor (who managed Palotti with Robin for some years) led the dedication of the labyrinth on Sunday March 15, after a bit of a battle with some of the local flora and fauna.

A week before the launch she said: "When I went there yesterday, it was evident that a wombat has been the first to claim the site. His fresh scat was on a rock near his hole in an outer path, but he hadn't done any damage to plantings. A few rabbit holes were also visible, but no plants suffered.

"Mary Anne Dooley and I are pictured in the centre of the labyrinth, giving thanks to God for its beauty and growth. Blessings and love to all who have helped make this memorable objective become a reality. Thanks be to God."

To visit the labyrinth and college call 5966 2585 or go to www.palotticollege.com.au



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.