

# NEWSBEAT



AUGUST 2015

NEWSLETTER FOR THE PRESBYTERY OF PORT PHILLIP EAST



Could you have coped on these rations? See how Claire got on on page 6.

We'll meet again... bidding au revoir to the Johnsons was a jubilant and poignant occasion. Read all about it on page 3



## Korean exchange will keep history alive

**MANY of you will remember a joint-presbytery visit to Korea last year to strengthen historical links between Busan and Melbourne presbyteries. So it is a cause for celebration to learn that this momentous act of intercultural Christian unity is being reciprocated in September.**

A delegation of 15 representative of the Busan Presbytery will fly to Melbourne on September 3 and spend four days touring, worshipping and dining in the three host presbyteries - Port Phillip East, Port Phillip West and Yarra Yarra.

The aim is for these representatives of the Presbyterian Church of Korea (PCK) to meet with and experience something of the life and ministry of the Uniting Church in Australia, which is a further step in exploring the possibilities of an ongoing relationship between the three Busan PCK presbyteries and the three Melbourne UCA presbyteries.

PPEP Chairperson, Rev Dr Paul Chalson, was one of the delegates on the Korean trip in 2014 and he says: "It is important to remember that these exchanges have come out of an existing relationship which has its origins in the missionary endeavours of a

number of people from Melbourne which contributed to the foundations of health care, education and a vital church in Busan.

"It's also worth noting that the Uniting Church in Melbourne has many active Korean members including a number of congregations which worship in Korean. Through these exchanges it is hoped that we will enrich each other in all cultural understanding, theology and ministry practice."



Other members of the organising team are: Roland Geilen PPWP, Robert Renton, PPWP, Eun Deok (David) Kim, PPWP, Hoon You, PPEP, Dongwon (Paul) Goh, PPEP, Lauleti Tuinauvai, Yarra Yarra, and Robin Yang, Yarra Yarra. Details of the proposed trip are at the top of page 2 and it is hoped people with connections with the Korean church will be able to attend a suitable event.

## Assembly attendees give thanks for peace and pray for harmony in Korea

THE President, Treasurer and Assistant Secretary of the Presbyterian Church of Korea Assembly (PCK) attended the recent Assembly meeting in Perth before heading across to the Korean Church of Melbourne. Here they took part in a special service to mark the 70th anniversary of the end of war hostilities on the Korean Peninsula and to pray for peace and reconciliation between North and South Korea. They were also accompanied at a special service at KCM Malvern by the a marvelous 49 voice choir from Soongsil Christian University in Seoul who were doing a special tour of Australia and New Zealand.



*If you would like to submit a news item for the Presbytery's monthly Newsbeat newsletter please send all articles and images to [newsbeat@ucappep.org](mailto:newsbeat@ucappep.org)*





Proposed itinerary for the Korean visit...

Date	Day	8AM	9AM	10AM	11AM	12PM	1PM	2PM	3PM	4PM	5PM	6PM	7PM	8PM	
3-Sep	Thursday	12:45pm ARRIVAL (Melbourne Airport) Qantas Domestic Flight from Sydney					Arrive at Accommodation			Meet and greet			Dinner (Korean Central Church Kew)		
4-Sep	Friday	CTM (Melb Uni), then Wesley Mission				Lunch (Wesley Mission)		Narana (Geelong)					Dinner (WEST)		
5-Sep	Saturday	Botanical Gardens, War Memorial?, Museum?				Lunch (Yarra Yarra)		Cemetery (Mackenzie Grave Site) Visit, then Deepdene Church					Dinner (Deepdene)		
6-Sep	Sunday	Each Presbytery to pickup and host (Korean group split into three) for events, meals and transportation.				Lunch (Presbyteries)			Future discussion and planning session (at KCM)			Dinner (EAST - KCM)			
7-Sep	Monday	Trip to Ballarat (Sovereign Hill)							4:45pm DEPARTURE (Melbourne Airport)						

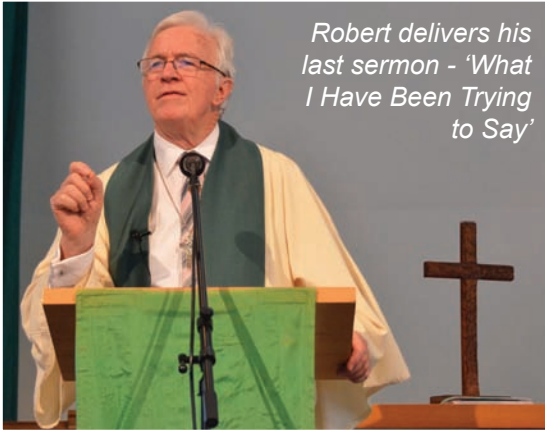
REV Dr Robert Johnson is truly an elder statesman of the Uniting Church... this was clearly the message coming from all the speakers at his combined Release of Ties and retirement service on the last Sunday in July.

The congregation, the Moderator, General Secretary, family and well-wishers joined together at High Street Uniting Church to give him and his wife, Chris, the kind of send-off befitting of the many years of service and devotion they have both given to the church.

Combining traditional and modern hymns and music with heart-rending speeches from friends and colleagues going back five decades, the service was rounded off with two uplifting and somewhat 'funky' songs from the new Voices of Frankston Choir - which now rehearses and operates from the church every Wednesday.

Of course, what party would be complete without a veritable feast of dishes brought in by an army of fabulous bakers and cooks

Robert and Chris' last hurrah at High Street



Robert delivers his last sermon - 'What I Have Been Trying to Say'

from High Street and beyond. Not to mention an amazing cake depicting what we hope Robert will have much more time for in his retirement - his beloved golf. Thank you, Robert and Chris, and all the best for the next stage of your life journey and hopefully a more relaxed pace of life.



Picture this... Robert Johnson's Cutting of Ties service and retirement event on Sunday, July 26 at High Street UC, Frankston

Photos by Alan Mathews





# How do they do it, year after year?

**HELLO Newsbeat Readers... It's Rob here from Somers Camp.**

This year was a great success for the camp and we want to open with a thank you to all the churches who promoted the camp, subsidized children, prayed for us or just supported our camp in whatever way. The camp's theme this year was 'Somers goes to Hollywood' and our focus was stories, movies and writing the story of our own lives. Our Bible message was the Prodigal Son where we explored the motivations of three characters in the story and their actions - the father, the older brother and the lost son himself. It was well received by the campers, many of them really thinking about the idea of God's grace and justice as well as the consequences of our actions. Great conversations were had throughout camp. The rest of the time we were playing games and activities. Some of the favourites at

camp this year were capturing leaders dressed as movie stars hiding in the bush, exploring the Coolart Wetlands with a special story trail, and our special secondary age activity for this year 'Bubble Soccer.' A lot of thanks has to be given to the leadership team for running such a wonderful camp which brought many smiles and happy memories to all the campers. Our After Somers Party, see right, is being held at St Andrew's Uniting Church Chelsea on Sunday, August 2, 3-5.30pm and all are very welcome.

If your church would like to have more contact with Somers or a visit in the lead up to next year's camp. Please send an email to [core@somerscamp.com.au](mailto:core@somerscamp.com.au)



*How much fun can so many young people have at Somers Camp?*

*Heaps....*

*So says Allan Gregory, right, who is hanging up his hat as Camp Dad after... well too many years to contemplate*



Somers camp is a rip-roaring success once again and UCA kids just love it!



## Camp's finished but now what????

**Want to carry on those Somers' games, meet up with the leaders, and get together with your new camp friends? Come along to the After Somers Party with your WHOLE family:**

**Sunday 2 August, 3-5.30pm  
After Somers Party  
at St Andrew's Uniting Church  
Sherwood Avenue Chelsea**

**Details from Camp Mum 0410 827 597**

**Don't forget to book your place at next year's Somers Camp. Details of registration will be available from 1 February 2016 at [www.somerscamp.com.au](http://www.somerscamp.com.au)**

**Need prayer support during the year? We have a new Somers Camp prayer group at [www.somerscamp.com.au/prayer](http://www.somerscamp.com.au/prayer) where you can leave your prayer requests anonymously or with your details, up to you. A small group of Somers supporters will then pray for you. Confidentiality will be honoured.**



## Cranbourne food truck is pumped to be getting new tyres

**THIS is your chance to support vital mission outreach work for the hungry and homeless as Cranbourne Lions Concert Band is supporting Cranbourne Food Truck to help raise money for six new truck tyres.**

TC Cheapest Tyres is a major sponsor for the event and 100% of the profits from the concert - details pictured below - will go to The Cranbourne Food Truck.

Donations of vouchers and goods are also encouraged as they will be used in a silent auction on the night.

The concert will feature many well-known American charts as well as a variety of vocalists and instrumentalists. Bring your family and friends, pack some supper and be prepared to have a fantastic evening! Don't forget to bring some non-perishable cans of food to donate to the cause too!

Support Worker for the truck Chris Marsh can answer any questions on 0401 285 635 or email [thefoodtruck00@gmail.com](mailto:thefoodtruck00@gmail.com)

The support act is Journey Bound - see website [www.journeyboundmusic.com](http://www.journeyboundmusic.com) and Facebook page for more info.

The concert will be held at the Balla Balla centre, Sladen St Cranbourne. At 7pm Saturday, 29th August.

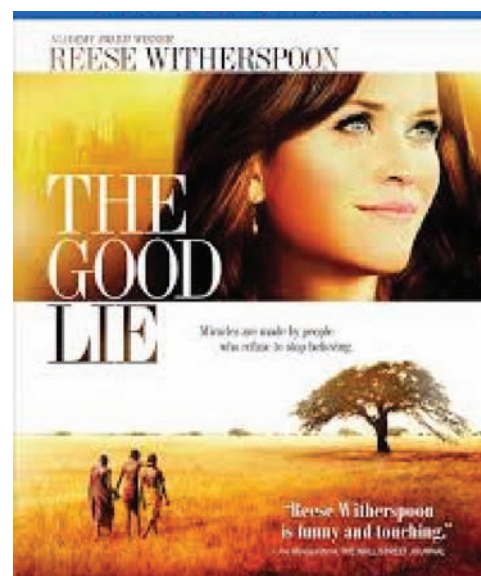
### Clothes prop

HoMie is a pop-up clothes store that will occupy Melbourne Central for the next three months. Each time a transaction is made, HoMie will donate an item of high-quality clothing of the same value to a person experiencing homelessness. Visit Homeless of Melbourne Facebook page for details.



## A moving picture on Sudanese refugee crisis

SUDANESE refugees will be in focus at St John's Elsternwick on Friday September 11th as they are hosting an evening showing by the Bayside Refugee & Support Association (BRASA) of the film **The Good Lie**. Starring Reese Witherspoon, this film is about Sudanese refugees, and it is planned that a couple of speakers who are familiar with the problems they face will also speak. Supper will follow. Rev Phillip Liebelt says: "Some of our Social Justice people have been to a BRASA event, and given our priority in this area, it is hoped that we can build an ongoing relationship with them."



**CRANBOURNE LIONS CONCERT BAND**  
Featuring guest vocalists and instrumental soloists  
performing music from the United States of America



**Born in the USA**  
**Live @** \$15 ADULT, \$12 CONCESSION,  
\$50 FAMILY OF 4  
WWW.TRYBOOKING.COM/138863  
**BYO SUPPER (CABARET STYLE)**



**Balla Balla Community Centre**  
Berwick - Cranbourne Road (next to Cranbourne Library)

**7pm Saturday 29th August**  
**ALL PROFITS IN AID OF CRANBOURNE**  
**REGIONAL UNITING CHURCH FOOD TRUCK**

Proudly sponsored by  
 **TC CHEAPEST TYRES**

Donations of non-perishable  
food appreciated

[www.cranbournelionsconcertband.org.au](http://www.cranbournelionsconcertband.org.au)

**AN amazing pictorial journey around Ireland dazzled a 75-strong audience recently.**

Guests from Village UC, Mt Eliza and St Mark's, Mornington plus others from further afield came together at High Street Uniting Church, Frankston for this photographic pilgrimage by Alan Mathews.

After admiring a selection of beautiful shots from his journey with Bronwen and friends around Ireland, guests enjoyed a shared supper in the hall. Door ticket and raffle

ticket sales for the evening tallied up to a record-breaking \$790.50. While the Community Sunday cake sale at the church that morning totalled a fabulous \$254.50. Thus making a grand total of \$1,085! A fantastic effort...

Proceeds from both these fundraisers will go to the Mother & Baby Health Clinics Project in North India which is so well supported by folk at HSUC and across the Presbytery.

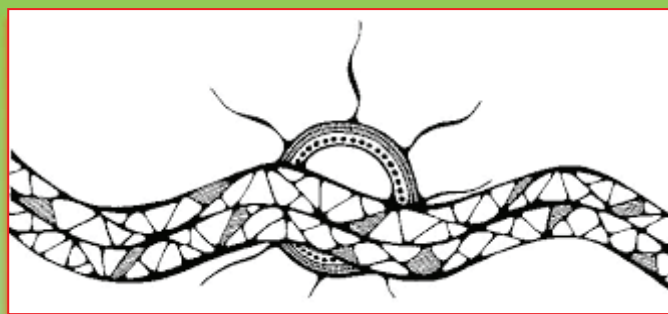


## Estate items on offer

CAN you find a home for some clerical items from a deceased estate. All free of charge. They are:

Alb - centre back 150cm. in. sleeve seam 48cm, chest 112cm + 326cm girdle with tassels. Crossover neck. Made in Belgium, size 4, 'Original creation' wash by hand and hang to dry, no ironing.  
Stoles - blue with UCA badges & red with dove & cross.  
Wooden cabinet has silver chalice and paten, tray with handle for eight glasses, bread and wine containers, napkin, communion booklets and Good News N.T.

The Parish Office was given them by the owner's relatives. Held at house near Mt. Waverley station. Please contact Moss on 03 9807 9104.



## Place and Identity

### Be part of the current conversation

Learn how different worldviews of place can influence our identity, and that of Aboriginal people. We will use the interactive Land Game to help us deepen our understanding so we can listen well as part of the conversation.

**When:** Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> August 2015

**Time:** 4-6pm, stay for soup and damper by the fire.

**Where:** Ormond Anglican Church, 436 North Road Ormond

Donations for soup appreciated

Children welcome to join in with their parents/carer, those under 8 years of age will have a video and supervision.

See us on Facebook

<http://www.tear.org.au/dhumba/>

For contact [lumsden\\_jen@yahoo.com.au](mailto:lumsden_jen@yahoo.com.au). Or [kerry.lindupp@gmail.com](mailto:kerry.lindupp@gmail.com)



## Quote

*"Start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible."*

**Francis of Assisi  
of the month...**

# Fast food?

Living on refugee rations proves to be a challenging experience for Chelsea Parish minister

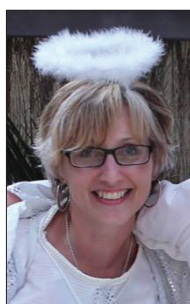


**I've been asked to share my reflections following the ration challenge: In one word 'horrid'!**

The idea was to identify with Burmese refugees by eating the same rations for one week only whilst raising money to support them with seeds and tools so they can grow their own fresh food to supplement the rations. Sponsors were very generous so I was able to hand over \$1600 to Act for Peace. First of all, I am glad I did it. It gave me a tiny insight into one of the challenges faced by refugees. Would I do it again? No! I was sick after the first day of the challenge and so had to swap bread for rice to ensure I ate something. Who would have thought rice could turn my stomach. I ate little and plainly and by the end of the week, I was totally focused on what and when I would eat and I was exhausted. I slept far more than usual and could hardly concentrate on my work. And yet I am fit and healthy. I wasn't silly going into the challenge. I cut various foods from my diet in the lead up to the week,

so I was incredibly frustrated I couldn't finish it. However, the parish was very supportive as were friends and they still sponsored me! It was the teasing and encouragement that got me through, not the tin of tuna or the split peas.

**by  
Rev Claire Dawe**



Act for Peace were great with their daily communications and I would encourage others to have a go. You can even register now for 2016 at <http://www.actforpeace.org.au>. At a time when international aid is being cut and those seeking asylum are being turned away from the safety of our shores, I feel my effort was a drop in the ocean. However, over \$400k was raised through this year's ration challenge and 1500 took part. That means 1500 people making a nuisance of themselves in the wider community spreading the word of what it means to live on these rations and raising awareness of the plight of those denied a voice.

## On the flip side....

I am very glad to be able to share this good news with you. Since we have just passed the end of the financial year for 2014-15, we have the results of some recent fundraising by Act for Peace. The Ration Challenge fundraiser for refugees has concluded very successfully. With over 1500 people registered to live on the rations of a refugee from Myanmar for a week, we raised \$433,000. Thus we more than doubled our target. On behalf of our partners in Thailand, India, Sri Lanka, Jordan, Syria, Iraq, Ethiopia, and Gaza we thank all of those who have supported this campaign. Act for Peace has received over \$2.1m for Christmas Bowl for this year. In Victoria the total grew just in line with inflation. We need to engage more churches and individuals if this is to grow beyond that, to compensate for the decrease in the value of the Australian currency. Our two emergency appeals, for Vanuatu and Nepal, have had very generous responses. We have received \$190 000 for Nepal and \$490 000 for Vanuatu. However, the needs in both countries will be great for years. This is a great tribute to what can be achieved when so many people work together. Thank you to each and every one of you for your support.



## What is life?

Life is an opportunity, benefit from it.  
Life is beauty, admire it.  
Life is bliss, taste it.  
Life is a dream, realise it.  
Wrapped around with love.

Life is a challenge, meet it.  
Life is a duty, complete it.  
Life is a game, play it.  
Life is a promise, fulfil it.  
Wrapped around with love.

Life is sorrow, overcome it.  
Life is a song, sing it.  
Life is a struggle, accept it.  
Life is a tragedy, confront it.  
Wrapped around with love.

Life is an adventure, dare it.  
Life is luck, make it.  
Life is too precious, do not destroy it.  
Life is life, fight for it.  
Wrapped around with love.

*A poem from the  
Carmelite Nuns, County  
Wicklow, Ireland*

By Jeff Wild,  
Act for Peace



## The other side of the story

# Reflections on Faith

**IN his exit appointment a young single minister was appointed to the Alpine parish.**

No one wanted to go there. Too far from the action.

Four services a Sunday, central Church, three preaching places. Early on, he reckoned he had his best sermon ready – expository, evangelical, “full of the sincere meat of the word”. Armed with his masterpiece he drove several miles to his first service, 8 am. A cold frosty morning, freezing, no one in the street, one car outside the church. He opened the old door. It was warm inside, an old heater blew out intermittent hot air. The old elder, smiling, shook his hand and welcomed him.

“Good morning Minister, meet our organist”, a lovely lady seated at the organ. The young man was stunned. All his evangelical exuberance ready, only two people to hear it. What a waste of a good sermon. He looked at the old elder and said, “Maybe we’ll just have a reading, hymn, and a few prayers today – not the full service. Only a few here, three in fact.”

The old elder paused, looked around for a few moments, and said, “Bob, only three? Why the Church is full, crowded inside and out with the church above, the saints, who sing and praise with us, each Sunday. And He is here!” Quaint? A true story, but real. REFLECTION: We are called to outreach and mission. Also we have a local flock to feed. We

by  
**Bill Pugh**

are required to be faithful. Let the cricket, football and the shows worry about

‘bums on seats’. Each Sunday we are in the box seats, front row. Allow the Spirit to guide as we journey, having a little bit of the religious virtue of patience. Two or three in church? There is something special about that number. God requires of us not success but faithfulness.

**The Centre for Theology and Ministry offered a one-day exploration**

**of the theology, history and life of the Uniting Church in Australia to commemorate the church’s 38th birthday on Monday 22 June.**

Participants visited Wesley Church in Lonsdale Street, followed by St Michael’s and Scots’ Presbyterian in Collins Street. They heard from key speakers involved in the journey of three churches that led to Union in 1977 and reflections from three younger leaders at the time of Union.

After an introduction at Wesley, we heard from Rev Professor Emeritus Norman Young who outlined seven features of Methodism, the impact of the Wesleys,

## Pathways to Union & Beyond WITNESS LIVING HISTORY

and the context of and approach to Union. At St Michael’s the speaker was the Rev Graham McAnalley, who was Ministerial Secretary Congregational Union and first General Secretary of the Victorian Synod. He introduced us to Congregationalism, its Puritan roots, its beliefs, the Congregational Union’s concerns going into Union, and the legacy that that the Congregation Union brings to the Uniting Church in Australia. The final speaker was Rev Professor Chris Mostert, who presented the perspective of Presbyterian beliefs and



movement to Union.

The second part of the day involved talks by, and discussion with, three ministers who started their ministries around time of Union. The first two - Rev Dr Coralie Ling and Rev Ron Townsend – were ordained prior to Union while Rev Dr Jenny Byrne gained her first knowledge of the Uniting Church when a teenager.

I found the day worthwhile for several reasons. First, as a former Methodist, I found out more about the three denominations that comprised Union. Second, it fleshed out the nature of Union process as seen through the eye of the speakers and audience participants. Third, I learned through the talks and ensuing discussion about the people who make up the Uniting Church – an all too rare occurrence when we stick to our own congregation.

Finally, I visited two churches I had never entered (and must revisit) and one I had not been to since an Irving Benson ‘Pleasant Sunday Afternoon’.

By Geoff at St John’s Elsternwick.



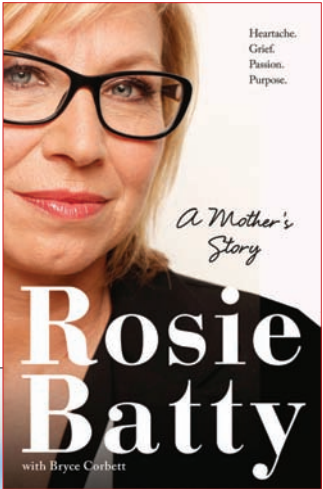
GOD Bless you every day of your life.

The nicest place to be is in someone’s thoughts,  
The safest place to be is in someone’s prayers,  
and the very best place to be is... in the hands of God.

**Amen**



**AUSTRALIAN of the Year and campaigner against the scourge of domestic violence, Rosie Batty, has written a book about her story entitled A Mothers Story.** A coup for our presbytery is that the Peninsula Voice, Farrell's and Mornington Peninsula Library service are hosting a signing event for Rosie's autobiography, on 8th October, at the Peninsula Community Theatre Mornington. Peter Orton, of St Mark's UC, Mornington and co-ordinator for Peninsula Voice, says: "We are delighted that ABC presenter Jon Faine has confirmed he will conduct the interview with Rosie Batty on the night. "I can also confirm that Jon will be interviewing publisher, Harper Collins publicist Jane Finemore on his morning program to promote the event in the weeks leading up to the 8th October."



4th August 2015 6.30pm - 9pm Peninsula Community Theatre, Wilsons Road, Mornington

*There has been a significant increase in public concern regarding the use of crystal methamphetamine, also known as Ice. This forum will dispel some of the common myths and will counter the hysteria that has emerged in the media. Our forum will provide empirical evidence regarding the drug and provide individuals and the community with tangible steps we can each take to move the incidence of addiction in a different direction.*

Forum Speakers



**Stephen Fontana**  
Victorian Police Assistant Commissioner  
*Provide an overview of the prevalence of Ice and substance abuse in the state*



**Stephen Bright**  
Peninsula Health Alcohol & Other Drugs Manager  
*State the key drivers & behaviours for Ice and other drug use  
What are the myths of Ice  
Local resources and support services available*



**Julie Rae**  
Australian Drug Foundation, Head of Information & Research  
*Steps we individually, and as a community can take to effect meaningful long term change*



**Jason Clarke**  
Director of Minds at Work  
*Master of Ceremonies and conversation facilitator*

Please register for event online at [www.trybooking.com/IGLF](http://www.trybooking.com/IGLF) or [www.trybooking.com/144955](http://www.trybooking.com/144955)  
Contact the Mornington Community Information & Support Centre Ph. 5975 1644  
Email enquiries to [manager@mcisc.org.au](mailto:manager@mcisc.org.au)

PRESENTED BY: PENINSULA VOICE Inc. In conjunction with our sponsoring bodies



> **REGISTER**



Finding a voice for burning issues on the Peninsula

Churches in Mornington, Mount Eliza and Mount Martha are working with other local leaders and agencies to bring together events on critical issues affecting our communities. The group is called Peninsula Voice One of these, pictured left, is on the perils of the drug ICE that is damaging so many lives in our region and across the state and Australia. Please support the event by attendance, posting it on Facebook, and/ or telling others.



# Your chance to join Sri Lankan odyssey

**WE are hosting a journey to Sri Lanka with Uniting Journeys and we would like to invite you to come with us, writes Larry Marshall.**

This is much more than tourism – it is responsible travel. Uniting Journeys are competitively priced adventures in small groups, using accommodation options, transport services, suppliers of meals, entertainment, services and even shopping trips that are as ethically sound as our current research can recommend.

We will journey through the capital city of Colombo, to the cooler hill country of Kandy where the tea is grown, & the ancient city of Anuradhapura towards our destination of the northern town of Mannar. There we will meet with local and Australian community leaders from Bridging Lanka, and assist on various community projects including donkey rehabilitation, tourism infrastructure, English language teaching and computer education and so much more.

**'The Sri Lankan people are remarkably friendly, food and faith-oriented'**

When: October 14th to 29th, 2015

Cost : \$2,800 per person (approx.) – includes return airfares, all transport in country, most meals, tour guides and project work with grassroots communities. Trip co-ordinators and conversation partners are: Larry Marshall is a Sri Lankan Burgher, working with the Synod of the Uniting Church with a focus on Sri Lankan reconciliation.

Dr. Cynthia Mackenzie has been researching youth approaches to reconciliation and peacebuilding in Sri Lanka.

Says Dan Wootton, Moderator of the Uniting Church of Australia, Synod Victoria and Tasmania: "Sri Lanka is an extraordinary, beautiful and populous country and you couldn't ask for better hosts than Larry and Cynthia if you are contemplating a Uniting Journeys trip to Sri Lanka. Their knowledge and love of Sri Lankan culture is simply captivating. Speaking as someone who has had very little experience of travelling overseas, you couldn't

ask for better travelling companions. They ensured we were not 'diddled' by tuk tuk drivers (3 wheeled taxis) and even helped with food selection, including exquisite curries for breakfast – yes curries! I don't think I've ever enjoyed breakfast as much as I did over there.

For me travelling to Sri Lanka was a kind of letting go of the particularities of this time and place in which I live. The Sri Lankan people are remarkably friendly, food and faith-oriented and I can only hope that you might enjoy the experience as much as I did."



Travel for  
thinking  
people

**UNITING  
JOURNEYS**



## Care to change

**POSITIVE changes are starting to happen as a result of the MSR.**

At the June 24 2015 meeting, arising from recommendations of the Major Strategic Review, the Synod Standing Committee (SSC) resolved to move the overall governance of community services provided within the UnitingCare Victoria and Tasmania network from the Commission



for Mission Board to a new single governance body or 'agency board'. The new 'agency board' will be skills-based and responsible for overseeing delivery and support functions for Uniting Church community services in Victoria and Tasmania. This strategic decision is intended to build and enhance the care already provided by 25 UnitingCare agencies.

It will strengthen the governance environment of the network to better address the increasing complexity of delivering community services and client care. It provides significant opportunities to share best practice and expertise; to champion the capacity and skills of the network; and allow a more collaborative response to areas experiencing population growth and increasing service requirements.

A Project Control Group (PCG) will be formed to begin the process of refining the detail of the strategic direction and move to implement any changes. Further information is available on the Synod's website at [www.victas.uca.org.au/](http://www.victas.uca.org.au/) [unitingcareupdate](http://unitingcareupdate) or queries can be sent to [msr@victas.uca.org.au](mailto:msr@victas.uca.org.au) until the PCG is formed.



## Gongs for our folk

**AUTHOR, activist, psychologist and regular speaker at our presbytery churches, Steve Biddulph, was recognised with a Member of the General Division of the Order of Australia in the Queen's Birthday Honours list announced recently.**

Steve, a member of the Pilgrim Uniting Church, in Launceston, was recognised for his contributions to community health and as an author and educator. He has written eight books – including *Raising Boys*, *Raising Girls*, *Stories of Manhood* and *The Making*

*of Love* – and argues for a more affectionate and connected form of parenting. Mr Biddulph is also a patron of the Australian Children's Media Council, Family Life Victoria, the Sanctuary Australia Foundation and the St Francis Children's Society in the United Kingdom. He is a director of The Evandale Centre and a supporter of Children Out of Detention (Chilout). Mr Biddulph, who was voted Australian Father of the Year in 2000, has campaigned against Australia's treatment of refugee parents and children.

Recipients of the Medal of the Order of Australia in the General Division included Dr Valerie Margaret Tarrant (Beaumaris-Black Rock Uniting Church) for service to conservation and the environment and Mrs Joan Vogels (Pakenham Uniting Church) for service to youth through the Guiding movement.



## Apwee continues to serve after saying farewell

TRINITY Dandenong Uniting Church also said au revoir to their minister Rev Dr Apwee Ting at a recent release of ties service. Apwee will now take up his new post as new National Director for Multicultural and Cross Cultural Ministry at UnitingWorld.

Apwee is pictured, third left, with some of the Church Council members (L-R) Malcolm K, Graeme C, Heather J, Akeneta (Arkie) O, Grieg Watts, Trevor B & Elish G. Thank you Apwee for all you have done for the congregation and wider community - and good luck in your new role at UnitingWorld.







## Dates for your diary

- Presbytery in Council: Wednesday, September 23 at 7.15pm at Brighton St Leonards.
- Cross Cultural Celebration October 10, 6pm, Dandenong UC.
- Presbytery in Council: Wednesday, November 25 at 7.15pm at Pakenham.

## Assembly matters



Stuart McMillan of Darwin was installed as the 14th President of the Uniting Church in Australia (UCA) at the 2015 Assembly in Perth. Mr McMillan takes up the role after five years as Moderator of the UCA's Northern Synod in Darwin and more than 30 years working with Aboriginal people in northern Australia. He used Aboriginal words in his speech as an invitation to Church members from both First and Second Peoples to let the Holy Spirit rekindle the flame of God's love so that they can strive for a more just church and nation.

### Eight things we need to know about Stuart McMillan:

1. He is the third lay President following Sir Ronald Wilson and Dr Jill Tabart.
2. In 1982, accountant Mr McMillan and his behavioural scientist wife, Ros, moved from Sydney to Darwin because they wanted to "do something in their lives to make a difference in the world and to live up to their shared Christian faith".
3. He worked with Aboriginal bookkeepers who impressed him with their work.
4. He has been Moderator of the Northern Synod and his path to the Presidency has been particularly informed by the Aboriginal people of Northern Australia and Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress.
5. Mr McMillan undertook an intensive course of study in the Yolngu language in order to facilitate communication with Aboriginal peoples.
6. The McMillans helped set up a new congregation called the Humpty Doo Uniting Church, now the Living Water Uniting Church. Mr McMillan was recognised as a Pastor. Both have been Moderators of the Northern Synod.
7. Mr McMillan's leadership style will work for a more inclusive, intercultural church across generations to bring about reconciliation and renewal for the whole creation.
8. The new President says "We are challenged to be a community of Christ, to bring that unity of Christ into play across the many different cultures in God's church".



**hearts on fire** 14th Triennial Assembly  
Uniting Church in Australia

A number of ministers and representatives from Port Phillip East Presbytery attended the Assembly and a detailed report will appear in the next Newsbeat. For now here are some images from our chairperson, Paul Chalson's, album. Top: the Love Makes a Way crew, middle, Paul's very intercultural table and bottom meeting up with Bishop Pradeep Samantary, aka 'Bunu', Moderator of the Church of North India



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.ucappeg.org](http://www.ucappeg.org) and [www.facebook.com/ucappeg.org](https://www.facebook.com/ucappeg.org) for news, events and more....

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