NEWSBEAT



NEWSLETTER FOR THE PRESBYTERY OF PORT PHILLIP EAST



Would you like to step out on a Celtic pilgrimage? Trek down to page 2 to find out how.

Share in a Fijian journey of joy and unity with members of Southern Mornington Peninsula UC. Double feature pages 10 & 11



Arts project connects Christianity with community

AN exciting new project in the arts is about to be unveiled at Koornang Uniting Church.

After months of work and creative efforts the time has arrived to open the Anthony Breslin Murrumbeena Community Arts Project, *writes Marg Edwards*.

This is the culmination of many months of community engagement between Anthony Breslin, Koornang Uniting Church and other community groups that have come together to see Anthony's dream come true!

The extensive art work is incorporated into the Koornang Community Garden at the back of the Koornang Uniting Church property.

The official opening of this project will take place

on SUNDAY 25TH OCTOBER, 2015, between 12 noon and 2pm.

We would love everyone to come and join us for lunch



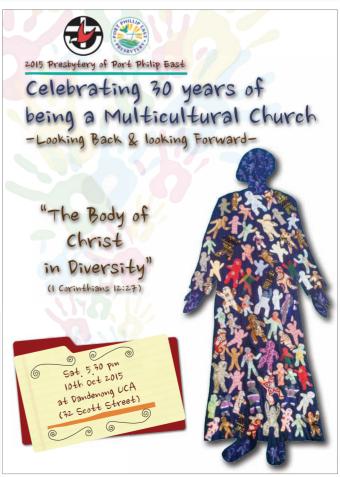
and to celebrate. We will also be showcasing the work of other church groups within the Koornang community. Our address is 117 Murrumbeena Road, 3163. Please RSVP to koornanguca@bigpond.com for

catering purposes.

COLOUR and
life comes
to Koornang
UCA with
these amazing
art installations
in their
Community
Garden









Delving deeper into the heart of Assembly

PORT Phillip East Presbytery was well-represented at the recent Assembly in WA and three of our many participants share their reflections...

"Kaylea Fern, Wendy Snook and myself were the representatives of the Presbytery while Greg Crowe, Kelly Skilton, Apwee Ting and Ji Zhang were present in other capacities.

I found Assembly very encouraging and an event which is far more than a meeting, it is a part of the life of the church which delves into the heart of who we are as the Uniting Church. I particularly appreciated

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the engagement with the United Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress and our overseas partner churches. While a struggle I thought that the discussion on marriage equality allowed for a fair exposure of the diversity of views and that the decisions

to consult further and sharpen our theological and biblical understanding on this matter were the correct decisions. I was disappointed that decisions on lay leadership were unable to be achieved. I was inspired by the final address of Andrew Dutney, the retiring president and his call to appreciate what the Spirit is doing in our midst and to recognize and be open to the vitality and growth that is present, especially amongst our diaspora congregations (CALD)." by Paul Chalson

"Aunty Denise Champion (Rev Deacon, Chair of UAICC,SA) began her Assembly bible study...."I am going back in my memory now" my father would say. "Where are you going?" my mother would reply.

Aunty Denise linked the importance of memory with the



story of the two on their way to Emmaus. Memory, she said, is fundamental in her culture with connection to community, to land, to story, song and dance. Her father's memory was more than sentimental remembering of fonder days. When one feels disconnected, she said,

it is important to go back into our story to a place when we were connected.

Prayer: We give thanks for memories that remind us of where we are connected; that sustain us through the times of our disconnection: For the songs and stories that unite us, for the people and communities that sustain us, and for the shared experiences of splendour and tragedy, of joy and sadness that shape and transform us. We are thankful

Many of you may not know that Alison Campbell-Rate, music director at Koornang Uniting Church, not only wrote the music "Hearts On Fire" that was used at Assembly but the whole conference was named after the song!

for the spaces and the places that challenge us, that nurture us, that remind us and connect us to our story, our history, and that create space for sharing and transform our living. In faith, hope and love we pray. Amen. Extract from an Assembly reflection devotion written by Rev Greg Crowe



"Reflecting back on Assembly, I am filled with a great sense of blessing. I felt blessed to be a part of this diverse church as we move

forward in the 21st century.

There were many moments which struck me as deeply meaningful, but I will outline just a few:

Seeing our President, Stuart

McMillan, discussing our church with a Congress member in his indigenous language. The next three years could be a great time of regeneration and celebration of the relationship between Congress and the UCA.

Witnessing our church trying to discern the way forward on the Theology of Marriage. There was diversity of opinion, but I felt each person was trying to be faithful to God in what they shared. The philosophy of Eldership and Membership in UCA appears to be in a state of confusion. We did not get close on consensus on this after much discussion. I would love to see our presbytery do more work around this issue, and come up with some ideas for moving forward locally, keeping in mind the multicultural and Indigenous understandings of 'Eldership'.

The financial sustainability of our Assembly was reported on, and I was disappointed to see Synods were giving far less than in the past, making our national work less stable into the future. The work of the interrelated councils of our church need to be adequately supported financially. It is my hope that we work together to look beyond the local and see the national viability of our denomination when budgeting. I was deeply moved by the presentation by the Chief Commissioner of the Royal Commission into Institutional Child Sexual Abuse. The pain of what has been is an important reminder that UCA must work hard to prevent cases happening to children in our care in future. I now understand more fully the need for all people in leadership in the Uniting Church to undertake the training for Safe Church accreditation."

by Kaylea Fearn, St. Leonard's Brighton

For more discussions and resolutions from the Assembly visit http://assembly2015.uca.org.au/category/media/media-releases/

Join pilgrims on a journey - the Celtic way

COULD you use some time-out from your fast and busy life to slow down and reconnect with God in a different way? Do you enjoy walking and sharing with others in community? Then the Beechworth Celtic Pilgrimage could be for you.

Beechworth has a rich history of Celtic influence and culture, which is celebrated each November in the Celtic Festival weekend. Since 2001, Beechworth Uniting Church has run an annual Celtic Pilgrimage, providing an opportunity for participants from all faith traditions to consider major themes of Celtic Spirituality, on a contemplative walk over five days immediately following the festival. The route follows the Rail Trail through north-east of Victoria, from Bright to



Beechworth. This year, the Pilgrims will be on the road together from Sunday 8th to Friday

Above: Last year's Pilgrims leave Wandiligong. Below: a lone walker in dappled shade

13th **November**. Each year there is an overall theme, which forms a guide for the pilgrims in their reflections during their walk.

The Mission Development Committee of the Presbytery of Port Phillip East presents a



ONE DAY SEMINAR with Rev. Dr John G. Flett

DECLINE:

THE ABIDING STORY OF OUR TIME Saturday 17th October, 10am-4pm

John Flett's observation is that the Uniting Church is an anxious church. Do you find this is so? John, writing in Crosslight in July, observes that we "appear to be tied in knots and lacking in grace. ... mired in an anxiety which declares the message to be false"

Come and explore what have been the causes of decline in the church over the past decades and how we don't have to be defined by this narrative, rather be shaped by "creativity, ... excitement, the discovery of the pearl of great price?"

Port Phillip East Presbytery Offices

1 Allan Street, Noble Park- close to Noble Park Railway StationCatered lunch will be provided;

Cost \$20; \$15 for 2nd or more enrolments from the one congregation.

Enquiries to Christine: 0427 375 760

Bookings and dietary requirements to pm-me@ucappep.org

John is Coordinator of Studies – Missiology at the Uniting Church's recently established Pilgrim Theological College.

Originally from New Zealand, John studied at the University of Auckland before pursuing doctoral studies at Princeton Seminary, in the USA, under the supervision of Darrell Guder. Since 2010 he has been pursuing further research at the Kirchliche Hochschule Wuppertal/Bethel, Germany. He has taught in the USA, South Korea, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Germany. Dr Flett is the author of The Witness of God: The Trinity, Missio Dei, Karl Barth and the Nature of Christian Community (Eerdmans 2010), widely recognised as an important contribution to the field of missiology. John is ordained within the Presbyterian Church of the USA,

Themes have included:

- 1. The Basics: general Celtic spirituality
- 2. Celtic Saints
- 3. Music and spirituality
- 4. Sacred sites (highlighting common ground between Celtic and Australian indigenous spiritualities, the general sacredness of the earth/land, and sacred sites.) The focus for 2015 will be on 'Celtic Christianity living, following, travelling'. The emphasis is on the individuals' pilgrimage, and



walkers are encouraged to let the Spirit lead wherever she will; and share parts of that inner journey with each other during evening group reflection times. It's not too late to register! If you'd like to join us this year, or for more information or registration details, contact Don Pope, phone: (03) 5728 2835, or email: beechworthcelticpilgrimage@gmail.com.

Photos by Eva Ady.



Act for Peace announces that Christmas Bowl kits are planned to be mailed in the week beginning 12th October. Church



Future learning

THE Uniting Church's Assembly Formation, Education and Discipleship agency (FED) is running a thoughtprovoking and innovative Colloquium on "Forming Disciples in Mission"

This event will be held on Wednesday.

November 18. 3.00-9.30pm at the Korean Church of Melbourne. Glendearg Ave, Malvern, Victoria. Invitations are open for the submission of papers to be discussed and there are also subsidies of \$200 available to assist presenters on low incomes. This colloquium is co-hosted by Assembly Formation. Education and Discipleship (FED) and the Assembly Mission and Evangelism Network. The cost is \$25 which includes dinner. The keynote speaker will be Dr Deidre Palmer. Deidre has a long background in education and mission and is the current Moderator

of the Presbytery

and Synod of SA

and the President-

Elect of the Uniting Church in Australia.

You can find

out more and

register online at

https://assembly.

news/item/1741-

uca.org.au/fed/

colloquiumregistration



The Colloquium is an opportunity for the sharing of research, innovation and reflection around the connections between formation, discipleship and mission in relation to the Uniting Church. The purposes of the Colloquium are to encourage critical thinking, foster dialogue, and provide encouragement and inspiration both in terms of thinking and practice within Australia.

The Assembly Formation, Education and Discipleship Working Group seeks to help the church be intentional and effective in forming and educating life-long disciples for the sake of the mission of God. The Assembly Mission and Evangelism network seeks to encourage, stimulate and celebrate mission, with a particular interest in 'local' mission and evangelism. We hope that the Colloquium will provide an interdisciplinary space for conversation.

The program will include a plenary presentation on the theme followed by three rounds of concurrent presentations (50 minutes each – presentation plus discussion.)

Proposals for papers are sought from those engaged in practice and research, including tertiary students, ministers, researchers, lay leaders, other church workers.

Proposals

Proposals should be no more than 250 words. They should be submitted by Friday 31 July to

Colloquium c/- Mr Craig Mitchell PO Box 1585 Mount Barker SA 5251

Presenters will be notified by Friday 21 August.

The Assembly is providing five subsidies of up to \$200 each to assist presenters who are students or on limited income to travel to the event. If you wish to seek such a subsidy, please indicate when you submit your proposal giving indication of your reasons for applying. Subsidy recipients will be notified by 21 August.

Online registration for attendance will be open from 24 August 2015. There will be a small fee for attendance to cover venue and catering costs.

For more information, contact Anna Catliffe annac@nat.uca.org.au Craig Mitchell craigm@nat.uca.org.au National Director – Formation, Education & Discipleship

Hosted by







THE visit by the three Korean Presbyteries of Busan was a great success recently, with links strengthened and historical ties revisited

The group participated in a variety of activities over the four days including visits to churches and places with a historical connection with the mission to Busan, the CTM, Wesley Church, Wesley Mission and Narana

Creations and shared in worship in congregations in



Korean trip is a triumph

each of the three presbyteries on Sunday morning. A particular highlight was for the group to meet with the ancestors of the original missionaries who went out to South Korea decades, and even centuries, ago. The trip was rounded off with a delicious meal at one of Melbourne's wonderful oriental restaurants. The Uniting Church presbyteries of Port Phillip East, Port Phillip West and Yarra Yarra hosted the visit by representatives of these three Presbyterian Church of Korea (PCK) presbyteries following a visit to Korea in November 2014 by guests from Port Phillip East and West Presbyteries to attend a celebration of 130 years of mission to Korea.

Melbourne is a place of significant importance to the

church in Busan as many Melbourne missionaries went to this area and founded educational and health institutes as well as churches.. The visitors arrived on Thursday the 3rd of September and were greeted by the moderator, representatives of the three Uniting Church presbyteries

and the Synod's Intercultural Unit at a welcoming reception at the Synod office.

Pictured:
church
dignitaries and
folk from Korea
and VicTas
join together
in developing
Christian
relationships
across nations





World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women (WFMUCW) Helen Kim Memorial Scholarship

Young women, ages 18 to 30, with leadership potential and an active interest in women's/girl's issues and church work are invited to apply for a Helen Kim Memorial Scholarship to represent the South Pacific Area of the WFMUCW. Area Presidents will choose the names of four applicants to forward to the World President.

Two young women from each of the nine World Areas will be chosen as Helen Kim Memorial Scholars for 2016-2021. They will attend 2 days of training prior to attending and participating in the 13^{th} World Assembly to be held in Houston, Texas from 29^{th} August -3^{rd} September 2016. Travelling costs and accommodation will be paid in full.

More information is available at: wfmucw.org/about/helen-kim-memorial-scholarship

Application forms are available from David Wang and must be returned to him by 20th October - david.wang@victas.uca.org.au





A new, monthly daytime group for those wanting to explore faith and modern life through discussion of books, poems and writings

7 SEPTEMBER 2015

In the Eye of the Storm

Presented by Val Jemmeson

In his autobiography *In the Eye of the Storm*, renowned physicist and Nobel Prize winner Sir John Houghton discusses his Christian faith and why he believes in God.

2 NOVEMBER 2015

A life given to prayer, and prayer given to life

Presented by Tim Angus

Sarah's experience of prayer in *The Anchoress*, a novel by Robyn Cadwallader.

6 OCTOBER 2015

Metaphors of the spirit

Presented by Malcolm Adams

Exploring David Tacey's **Beyond Literal Belief**

COMING UP IN 2016...

At one with nature and its creatures

Presented by Kath Linforth

From **Dolphin's Leap, Hind's Feet**, by Hedley Beare

Please join us on the first Monday of the month, 4:30 till 6:00 pm in the Parish Centre, Hampton Uniting Church, 17 Service Street

A gold coin donation would be appreciated Enquiries: Tim Angus 0400 383 628

Preliminary reading material is available Email: dayspringcontact@hotmail.com

Quote

"Forgiving is love's toughest work, and love's biggest risk. If you twist it into something it was never meant to be, it can make you a doormat or an insufferable manipulator. Forgiving seems almost unnatural. Our sense of fairness tells us people should pay for the wrong they do. But forgiving is love's power to break nature's rule."

Lewis B. Smedes

of the month...

Theatre buffs sought for Superstar soiree

MLOC is putting on the musical Jesus Christ Superstar on Sunday 14 November at 5 pm in the Phoenix Theatre, Elwood.

Seats are available for this and with 15 or more attending tickets can be obtained at a reduced price. If you are interested in going please contact Joan Gouldsmith on 9598 6247 as soon as possible. Jesus Christ Superstar is a 1970s rock opera with music by Andrew Lloyd Webber and lyrics by Tim Rice. The story is loosely based on the Gospels' accounts of the last week of Jesus's life, beginning with the preparation for the arrival of Jesus and his disciples in Jerusalem and ending with the crucifixion.

It highlights political and interpersonal struggles between Judas Iscariot and Jesus that are not in the Bible narratives.

Messy Faith, Sticky Church - Faith, Families and Teenagers

Tuesday, October 6, 9.30am-3pm, CTM How can we more effectively connect with teenagers? How can we more genuinely partner with families? How can we more authentically engage with teenagers in intergenerational community? Many leaders and their faith communities are asking these questions, and more, as they seek to be more intentional in their ministry engagement with young people. As more and more churches embrace the philosophy and practice of intergenerational ministry, whilst at the same time acknowledging the importance of generational ministry, fresh challenges need to be addressed. Featuring Judyth Roberts (National Messy Church Consultant) and Brad Griffiths (Fuller Youth Institute), Messy Faith, Sticky Church will encourage, energise and equip you to meet these challenges!

For further details contact Chris Barnett, Children & Families Centre for Theology and Ministry, 29 College Cres, Parkville 3052, tel (03) 9340 8806 or visit www.ctm.uca.edu.au

In times of weakness

Lord God, you are my strength.

Hold my hand in my

weakness and teach my heart to soar. With you, there's nothing to fear, nothing to worry about.

Hold me tight in your embrace, so that I can be stronger than the challenges in my life.

Amen

praver

Reflections on Faith

DURING the Vietnam War there were many American casualties and there was a process of triage.

When the wounded came in they were attended to by a medical team who checked their condition and evaluated the likelihood of their survival.

If their prospects were very good they could be set aside for attention when others whose needs were more urgent

Triage:
by Alex @
St John's UC,
Elsternwick

were attended to. They were given a green card.
The next group who would require surgery or stitching of gaping wounds were allotted a blue card.

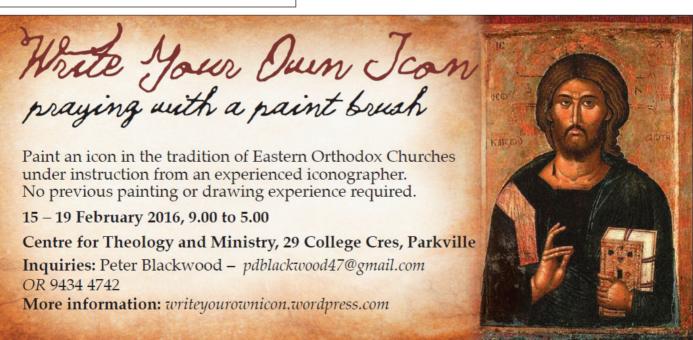
The third group were considered to be beyond help and they were given a red card. These men would be set aside and given painkillers and allowed to slip away.

On one occasion after the team had made their decisions, a nurse was given the responsibility to deal out the cards that had been decided upon. This she did with due diligence, but there was one young man who was to receive a red card and she found it very hard to place that card on his chest.

She knew it was wrong but she gave him a blue card thus giving him an opportunity to receive treatment that might save his life. Only she and he knew of the change.

As it happened his treatment was successful and he recovered. Some weeks later she was approached by a visiting senior officer. She felt she was going to be in deep trouble, but to her surprise the officer thanked her for her compassion and revealed himself as the father of the young soldier. She had given him a reprieve.

I am relieved to know that God doesn't have a triage system. God doesn't give up on us. God doesn't hand us a red card but offers us hope for recovery and to be able to be God's people in the world sharing this message.



Upcoming Tours...

CAMBODIAN TEACHERS SUPPORT PROGRAM

Departing 3 January, 2016

Join a diverse group of adults investigating how best to resource Cambodian teachers and help provide education in marginalised villages in Cambodia.

Supported by the Ivanhoe Grammar school community, this 21-day tour to Cambodia and Laos offers educators and parents involved in planning school tours a wonderful opportunity to visit major tourist sites; engage in community skill sharing projects; support local businesses with accommodation and purchasing choices; and investigate the potential of an Australian community project to support poorlyresourced teachers in Cambodia.

Tour leader Robyn Angus may be contacted at robyn. angus64@gmail.com



www.responsibletravel.org.au



Sharing lunch near Siem Reap, Cambodia

A CULTURAL TOUR OF THE **MIDDLE EAST**

Departing April, 2016

AN enriching journey to arouse wonder,

challenge perceptions, and stir your soul.

This carefully researched 21-day journey takes in Iran ancient towns, magnificent mosques and trading routes

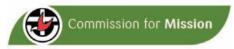


Exploring the Freedom that date back more than Monument inTehran 2,500 years; Jordan – a land of antiquity and the

origins of faiths; Palestine and Israel – the spiritual home of the world's three monotheistic faiths, Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

The old cities of Jerusalem, Nazareth, Bethlehem, the Sea of Galilee, and the Jordan River are just a few of the many places you will visit in the company of knowledgeable local guides.

Tour leaders Barbara Jackson and Sally Masters can be contacted at barbarajackson308@gmail.com or masters_sally@hotmail.com.



UNEARTH INCREDIBLE INDIA

Departing 9 April, 2016

India is a country of beauty, history, spirituality... and social challenges.

Join us for a journey into the sub continent that combines sight-seeing with support for a Mother & Baby Health Clinics program in the Puniab.

As part of Uniting Journeys 'responsible travel' initiative, this 12-day trip will take in majestic New Delhi, golden Amritsar, historic Shimla and spiritual Dharamsala. It also includes the chance to visit and share in the work of Mobile Community Health Clinics to rural villages, which are changing the lives of thousands of disadvantaged women and children.

As well as visiting some heritage building gems you'll also take in other 'responsible travel' excursions to explore and discuss the diverse facets of Indian culture and society.

This unique trip offers the delights of Indian architecture, cuisine and culture plus the opportunity to witness and support lifechanging health work as it happens. Tour leader helen. beeby@gmail.com

New Delhi

Catching the train in

Call Jim Wakelam on 0403 264124. Or e-mail Uniting Journeys at info@unitingjourneys.com.au

Bookings may also be made directly with Jetaway Travel at info@jetawaytravel.com.au

Telling colourful stories in yarn

THE three churches of the Chelsea Parish and Cornish College are taking part in the community yarn art trail for the month of October, writes Rev Claire Dawe.

Made possible with a grant from the Kirk Robson Memorial Fund for creative arts ministry, participants have been working hard on their own interpretations of the yarn art trail. Local schools reproduce different children's books in yarn art and Cornish decided upon Elmer. A giant knitted patchwork elephant will make an appearance during October.

Chelsea Parish has taken Noah's Ark, with the symbol of the rainbow, and interpreted the message of hope in a distinctly local way at each of the three churches. Edithvale has represented the message of hope theme in the wetlands that run through the area. Chelsea has produced a giant Noah's Ark where people can have their photos taken as Noah. Carrum is telling the story of creation using the tree as a centrepiece. The work has been carried out by all ages – playgroup, youth group, craft group, adult fellowship and everyone in between - all abilities across parish and community. The grant paid for local yarn artist and parish member Elizabeth Alexandrou to work with people to design and create the works of art. The parish is also offering a free workshop so that the yarn craft skills can be kept alive in the area.



This has been an incredibly exciting and creative project and has involved community members outside of the

church, too. We have recycled wood, wire and even some shade cloth that was dumped outside the Chelsea church and the yarn was donated.

One of the exercise classes at Chelsea got involved by donating yarn and knitted fabric. Our message of hope has been extended into creation Bible studies, Hard to Swallow discussion group on climate change, several messy family fun afternoons on Noah's ark, creation stories and the environment, and a season of creation through September for our services.

Some of the yarn art was recycled from last year's installation 'Jesus was a refugee' and there are plans to recycle again next year. The yarn art from 2014 has been on display in the art gallery at Mount Waverley and 2015's will hopefully go on 'tour' in November.

Poker face

THE Social
Justice Group
at Hampton
is targeting
problem
gambling at
the moment,
particularly
poker
machines,
with a letter
and postcard
campaign.
Postcards are

Postcards are available from the church, and all you have to do is fill in your name and address and pop it in the post. Alternatively, we can mail

The Victorian Chapter

of the

Australian Church Library Association

is meeting on Saturday, 10th October, 2015 from 10.00am to 3.00pm. In Warragul

Firstly, at Warragul Community Church, cnr. King and Wells Sts. Warragul, and after lunch at Warragul Salvation Army, 120 Burke St. Warragul

The program will include

- looking at the libraries at both churches;
- a speaker, Rosemary Abbey, who has worked voluntarily in a library in a Christian school in India for a few months each year for many years;
- a sharing time please bring a book (or books) you would like to tell others about;
- our Biennial General Meeting;
- a swap table bring along books, videos, cassettes, CDs and other resources that you no longer need;

Please bring a plate of food to share for lunch

For more information please ring Rachel - phone: 9850 4828 or email: alanrachelh1@bigpond.com

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

The Australian Church Library Association is an interdenominational organisation that seeks to promote the Christian faith through the establishment and development of church libraries. It was formed in Adelaide about twenty-five years ago, and has members in most states. The Victorian Chapter was launched twenty years ago, in July 1995. Two meetings are held each year. The second meeting for 2015 will be held on Saturday, 10th October, at two churches in Warragul.

A quarterly newsletter, entitled *Off the Shelf*, is distributed to members, and contains useful articles on running a church library, details of activities being held in the various states, and reviews of new materials.

We regard any collection of books and other resources at a church, no matter how small, as a church library, and the person in charge as a church librarian, regardless of qualifications, and all are most welcome to join our organisation.

Further information can be obtained from the website www.acla.asn.au, or from Rachel Hardie, email: alanrachelh1@bigpond.com or phone (03) 9850 4828.

it for you. If you would like to know more, Judith Hampton, Helen Donnell or Tim Angus would be happy to assist. Contact them at http://www.hamptonunitingchurch.wix.com/hampton-uca

The campaign is being organised by the Justice and International Mission (JIM) Unit of the Synod, in conjunction with similar groups from Anglicare, the Baptist Union and the Salvation Army.



Photos by Stuart Morton, SMPUC, and Bruce Lohry, Bundoora UCA



Story by Ros Morton

Cultures, communities and Christianity find harmony

JUST over a year ago an invitation to visit Fiji was issued at the Southern Peninsula Uniting Church to share, learn and work with the community of Nawaka and Nawejikuma on the main island of Fiji and to include a short holiday.

With ministerial and historical connections to these places, the Rev's Chris and Eseta Meneilly suggested that we assist the local people to renovate their church building, share craft skills with the Nawaka women's group, and do some classroom work in the primary school.Included would be a tour of Suva. the capital city of Fiji, and a final few days to relax at a resort on the Coral Coast. Overall an opportunity to experience and broaden our understanding of a culture so very different to our own. A group of 32 interested people promptly registered. Chris and Eseta led some orientation sessions and with their first hand knowledge of Fiji, its beauty, history and spirituality, its social challenges and deep diversity, prepared the group for a rich experience. Teaching us some simple words and greetings, some clues on Fijian courtesy and respect, and with a more detailed itinerary, the whole venture was becoming an exciting reality The restoration of the church building presented a number of problems as Rev Chris, in a preparatory visit discovered the concrete floor required complete renewal. The work team had to quickly adjust its thinking and the outcome was that all 56 window frames, with 350 glass louvre panes were removed,

repaired, cleaned and reinstated,

as were 34 old church pews. The local men worked diligently alongside our group, sharing skills and learning how to use new tools. Their enthusiasm contributed to a mutual learning and sharing of skills. Prior to our visit the ladies sat on the floor to do their sewing on a hand operated sewing machine. A donation of four electric sewing machines gave new challenges for the ladies, learning to apply the correct pressure to the foot pedal. They learnt to sew patchwork, to crochet and embroider, culminating in the making of bags, table mats, dresses and pillowcases. Four ladies learnt to cut patterns from butcher's paper and sewed a dress for themselves. Other members of the village catered for us each day with delicious morning and afternoon teas and lunches.

The school visits presented an interesting challenge for us all, as the Fiji Government education department altered the term plan to include exams at the very time of our visit. The school staff were welcoming and creatively accommodated our contributing with English conversation, games and lessons. Each class rewarded us with beautiful harmonic four-part singing. The sewing activity at the Village proved to be the most successful of all the group endeavours. One evening, discussion gave opportunity to listen to what

Cont. on page 10



Pictured: the school run and seamstresses unite...





Revs Chris and Eseta Meneilly at the book presentation at Nawaka Primary School bought from \$350 donated by Rosebud care home staff



Pictured left and below: A farewell feast; the 500strong children's choir and the stunning Dilkusha Methodist Church



the Nawaka ladies were getting from the activity and hear what their goals for the future might be.

It was encouraging to hear them identify improving their expertise and creating things they might be able to sell at the market. They also named the wish to make their own dresses and their children's school uniforms, thus saving them money.

We also donated 20 suitcases of pre-loved clothes from our Op shop and 18 communion trays and glasses which were very well-received.

We expect to stay in touch and to hear what the Nawaka folk are achieving as time goes by.

The Meneilly's have quite a history of their time living and working in this area.

Time in Suva coincided with the Methodist Church Choral Festival and Conference. We experienced lengthy traditional Fijian ceremonies and the music of resounding choirs for which Fiji is well known. Try to imagine a 500 voice choir, male and female voices from 6 years of age upwards. Our group was warmly welcomed at the Centenary Church for worship on our last Sunday. We were by now beginning to understand some Fijian words and got a sense of what was happening during the service. It was wonderful to sing hymns in Fijian to familiar tunes.

After our our last day in the capital we headed to a resort near Sigatoka on the South Coast for the holiday part. There we were able to reflect on the whole experience. From 12 pages of responses the following is gleaned: Recognising that even though our lifestyles are different we are basically the same; striving to better our lives, the joy in friendship and sharing, and the human desire to give and receive love.

We saw God in the faces of all the people, happy faces, faces concentrating, laughing faces, frustrated faces, faces showing gratitude.

Seeing God in the willingness of everyone involved to listen, share skills, tell life stories and experiences and in the hospitality shown.

In our willingness to share and enjoy each other with no judgement being made. We were bound in our faith through our prayers and the teachings of Jesus. God was in us around us. God was there.





Voices for Justice Prayer Vigil

Monday 12 October, 7pm start

Venue: St Andrew's Uniting Church, Sherwood Avenue, Chelsea

More information: Rev Claire 0410 827 597.

Ecumenical prayer service organised by local inter-church social justice group.

New resource for Early Word

IN response to feedback from a number of ministers and lay preachers, a new Lectionary-based resource is being prepared for the Sundays in October.

Designed to assist those with responsibility for the Early Word/Children's Talk component of regular worship services, the resource will include ideas written by Uniting Church members specifically for the Uniting Church context. Should there be a positive response to this initiative, the intention is to provide another resource for the November/ December period. If you would like to receive a copy of this resource as soon as it is available, please e-mail chris.barnett@ctm.uca.edu.au

Offering assistance

COME along to a Seniors Festival Special Forum courtesy of LifeAssist.

Learn answers to questions about a range of government funded services for seniors and carers; how to access them; self-funded service options; what options are available to assist people to live a better life at home for longer. The presentation outlines services available for seniors and carers and two short videos featuring real-life lifeAssist clients. Over a light lunch, members of staff will be on hand to answer any questions or discuss areas of concern on a one-to-one basis. Our aim is to provide as much information as

possible in a relaxed environment, without any obligation.

11am-1pm, Tuesday October 13

FREE, with a light lunch provided Ground Floor, Building 5, Brandon Office Park, 530-540 Springvale Rd Glen Waverley. BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL.

To book: Phone: 1300 277 478 or (03) 9239-2500

or email: info@lifeassist.org.au

For details visit http://www.lifeassist.org.au/

lifeassist-seniors-festival-open-day

Showing pet's our gratitude

SEAFORD Uniting Church in Railway Parade, Seaford is having a **Blessing of the Animals** service on Sunday, October 11, 2015 starting 9.30am. All welcome.



In case you missed it....



Friday, 16th October: 7.30 pm - 9.00 pm Saturday, 17th October: 9.00 am - 4.00 pm

VENUE:

Koornang Uniting Church 117 Murrumbeena Road, Murrumbeena

\$85.00 (including lunch)

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

Dr Rosemary Dewerse is the Mission Educator at St John's College in Auckland

She is a Kiwi wife and mother. She has worked at the Adelaide College of Divinity and Flinders University as Director of Mission and coordinator of the postgraduate pathway where the emphasit was on training missional leaders for the Australasian context.

arts and music, is a trained schoolteac and completed a Master's degree at th London School of Theology and a PhD at Auckland University.

She lived and worked in Central Asia developing leaders for the church there, and for a number of years was part of a Pasifika congregation in Christchurch.

She is the author of Breaking Calabashes Becoming an Intercultural Community, which offers four practices for creating communities that welcome and empower all people.

WHO IS IT FOR?

It is hoped that many Ministers and those in leadership in the Church in the Synod will take the opportunity to come and explore and learn how we could minister effectively and meaningfully in a multi-cultural Church that is seeking to be intercultural.

CONTACT & REGISTER: Dev Anandarajan on 03 9251 5486

Devanandan.Anandarajan@victas uca.org.au.

COME AND JOIN US!

The UCA is becoming increasingly multi-cultural.

Being an intercultural Church means a church with "mutually respectful diversity and full and equitable participation of our indigenous (first peoples), and second peoples (the Anglo Celtic ethnic majority and other ethnic minorities) in the total life, mission and the practices of the whole church".

At this conference, featured above, Dr. Rosemary Dewerse will help participants to explore and to build on their intercultural skills.

HOME PRODUCE AND CRAFT MARKET

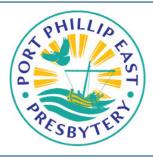
Saturday, 10th October, 2015 10.00 a.m. - 2.00 p.m.

Heatherton-Dingley Uniting Church Cnr. Kingston and Old Dandenong Roads, Heatherton

Variety of stalls plus sausage sizzle and morning tea

Great place for gift ideas, start your Christmas shopping early.





Dates for your diary

- Cross Cultural Celebration October 10, 5.30pm, Dandenong UC.
- Release of ties Rev Mata Makara, Cook Island Congregation, Clayton TBA
- Induction of Rev Ngatokorua Tairea at Cook Island Congregation Clayton. TBA
- John Flett at PPEP missiology seminar on October 17th at Noble Park.
- · Leadership Colloquium on November 18th at KCM Malvern

Mission

VICTORIA

Presbytery in Council: Wednesday, November 25 at 7.15pm at Pakenham.

WESLEY Mission Victoria has appointed Mr Paul Linossier to the role of Chief Executive Officer.

Mr Linossier joins Wesley from Our Watch, formerly the Foundation to Prevent Violence against Women and their Children, where he has been CEO since 2013

Ms Raelene Thompson, Acting Board Chairperson, said Mr Linossier will start on December 14. 2015.

"On behalf of the Board, I welcome Paul to Wesley," said Ms Thompson. "We are delighted

New chief at Wesley Mission

that Paul has accepted the role. It marks a new and exciting phase in Wesley's proud history of meeting emerging societal needs as we face the significant social justice challenges of the time."

"Under his leadership we are confident that Wesley will continue to be guided by our values of hope, compassion and justice, and build a community where all people can participate with dignity and hope," Ms Thompson said.

Opening up our communication channels

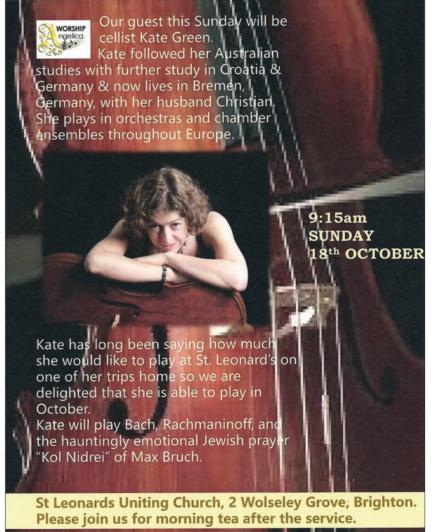
THERE are more and more congregations developing their own websites and Facebook pages - which is great to see and hear about.

The Presbytery Office and Communications team is keen to capitalise on these wonderful intiatives and invite people to Share their Facebook pages and postings with the Port Phillip East Presbytery page.

Also Invite your Friends on FB to Like your page - even the non-churchgoers, perhaps. To learn more about how to do these things on Facebook please e-mail Rev Jay Robinson - our Facebook expert - on jay@robinsonfamily.id.auOur webmaster, Jason Wakeley would also like to hear from churches that have a website presence so he can associate them with the PPEP website.We are also hoping to add a church locator (kind of like a store locator) feature on the PPEP website for visitors to be able to find all the churches in the presbytery.

What we need: your website, Facebook and church addresses (church name, street and number.) Please e-mail this information to newsbeat@ucappep.org





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.ucappep.org and www.facebook.com/ucappep.org for news, events and more....