

# NEWSBEAT



FEBRUARY 2016

NEWSLETTER FOR THE PRESBYTERY OF PORT PHILLIP EAST



A lost art... ? Find out what Jan Cahill is doing by bouncing over to page 5.



Who is this award-winning heroine? Full story on page 11.



## There's no-one quite like grandma when it comes to caring

**PORT Phillip East Grandmothers Against the Detention of Refugee Children have been dynamic activists in recent weeks.**

They joined about 200 women (and a small but vocal group of men) on the steps of St Paul's Cathedral to protest against the detention of refugee children.

Margaret Oulton, of Hampton Uniting Church, explains: "As usual we were dressed in purple, most in purple hats as it was a very hot day. After a meeting to rally the troops and singing practice, we set off down Swanston Street singing and chanting. We made an amazing noise! We stopped and sang at Federation Square, the Bourke Street Mall and the children's tree sculpture at the corner of Elizabeth and Collins Streets.

"There we heard some short but stirring speeches and laid flowers around the base of the sculpture. These had messages written to the Prime Minister which



Grandmas unite for justice at demo by Bentleigh Station

### Well-deserved gongs for food truckers



CONGRATULATIONS to Chris Marsh and Judy Symons on their 2016 Holt Australia Day Award for their extensive work for The Cranbourne Food Truck.

were later collected to be sent to him in Canberra. Finally each person had the opportunity to light a small candle to remember the children."

Three days later some of the Grandmothers returned to stand outside St Paul's and hand out leaflets to the shoppers passing by. The next morning the Goldstein Grandmothers distributed leaflets at Bentleigh Railway Station, along with similar efforts at the Sandringham and Middle Brighton stations and the Middle Brighton Baths. There were quite a few members of different Uniting Churches involved in these demonstrations.

The Grandmothers Groups have been formed based on electoral boundaries so that each can keep in touch with their local politicians. The next planned demonstration is a bus trip to Canberra on 15-17 March.

If you are interested in finding out more about the campaign, please speak to Margaret Oulton or Judith Hampton via the church council secretary on 9598 6247.



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



# Winning the toss for Pancake Day fundraising

Below: Students from Haileybury Primary enjoy some delicious pancakes.

PANCAKE enthusiasts from across the country will soon heat up their frying pans to raise money for people suffering from homelessness, domestic violence, family crisis, addictions or financial hardship.

UnitingCare Pancake Day - on Tuesday, February 9 - is the annual fundraising event that encourages locals to flip for a good cause. This year all the money raised from Pancake Day events will support UnitingCare – one of the largest providers of community

services in Australia, assisting more than two million people every year. Members of the community are encouraged to get involved by hosting their own fundraising event, and to register your group with the organisers.

Since 2002, millions of pancakes have been flipped and sold to raise much-needed funds for UnitingCare agencies.

Last year about \$80,000 was raised to support UnitingCare programs aimed at preventing homelessness.

Agencies have seen an increased demand on their services with an estimated 2.5 million Australians living below the poverty line. Many Australians are forced to live on just under \$18 a day after paying for



accommodation; with 10% of Australians admitting they can't afford to buy enough food.

This year organisers hope to raise more than \$100,000 for UnitingCare services. Everyone is encouraged to participate and for more information or to register visit [www.pancakeday.com.au](http://www.pancakeday.com.au) or call 9251 5252.

Below: Rev Ikani Vaitohi and a Lions Club volunteer 'Beating the rush!' Photo by Ken Flavell.



## Chaplaincy vacancy

The Uniting Church in Australia Synod of Victoria & Tasmania has a current vacancy. [Prison Chaplain Hopkins Correctional Centre and Langi Kal Kal Prison.](#) [Commission For Mission. Ararat and Trawalla. Stipend.](#)

Closing date: 7<sup>th</sup> February 2016

For a position description and to apply visit <https://unitingcaresynod.mhr.com.au/jobdetail.asp?jobid=6586>



It's that time already – the Parish of Balkara

### Traditional Pancake Tea

5.30 – 7.30 pm

Shrove Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February, 2016

at the Uniting Church Hall

152-154 Drummond Street Oakleigh

Admission is \$7.50 per adult, \$4.00 per school child under 12 and \$20.00 a family (2 adults/up to 4 children)

This includes pancakes with savoury or sweet toppings plus tea, coffee, cordial and a fun community time together

### ALL WELCOME

Pancake Day proceeds will support UnitingCare's *lifeAssist* "Realise a Dream" fund which gives disadvantaged people a hand up to allow them to do something that they cannot otherwise afford. *lifeAssist* seeks to provide a better life for all from the cradle to the older person.



Proud member of UnitingCare  
Inquiries to Faye  
Event Coordinator  
8558 1608  
0418 579 057  
or  
Peta 0408 920 032



UCA PARISH  
OF BALKARA

And to tempt you, here are some pictures from last year's event



# Young snappers encouraged to show their love



## The Language of Love Festival

**Theme:** Love...in all its forms;  
Family, friendship, caring, etc

**Entries:** Prints or digital images

**Open to:** Primary & Secondary Students

**Entry:** Free...4 Images per division per entrant

**Prizes:** Awarded for each division

**Judge:** Internationally qualified photographic judge

**Closing:** Date is 2nd April 2016

**Enquiries and Entry forms:**  
Phone 9579 3438  
email: [sutton@iimetro.com.au](mailto:sutton@iimetro.com.au)

**Exhibition:**  
Saturday 30th April 2016  
Bentleigh Uniting Church



**BUDDING** young photographers are being urged to take part in an exciting competition at the **Language of Love Festival**.

The Photographic Competition for Young People will be held as part of this special festival at Bentleigh Uniting Church, *writes Pam Sutton*.

Entry is free and prizes will be awarded. Although the Festival and Exhibition is not until 30<sup>th</sup> April, we seek to promote our event now to allow budding photographers time to prepare their entries for the deadline of April 2nd. See left for more details.

### Enjoy a Better Life at Home for Longer

LifeAssist is inviting interested parties to a free lunch and an interesting forum to exchange ideas and views about the services available to older people beyond council support. The event will also offer knowledge to navigate the aged care system and how to break down the barriers surrounding living at home longer.

**When: Tuesday 15 March**

**Time: 11am to 1pm**

**Where: Building 4, Brandon Office Park 530-540 Springvale Road, Glen Waverley.**

Admission free but bookings required: 9239 2500.

 lifeAssist

Learn more at [www.lifeassist.org.au/events](http://www.lifeassist.org.au/events)



# SkillsFest 2016

- Free workshops
- Skills for life, practical, creative, sustainable, fun
- All ages & abilities

Program & bookings:  
[www.spuc.org.au/skillsfest](http://www.spuc.org.au/skillsfest)  
SkillsFestPortMelb  
Ph 9690 1188

**“Live Local, Share Local”**

**Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> February**  
**1.30 - 5.00 pm**  
**Port Melbourne Uniting Church**  
**144 Bridge St**

South Port Uniting Church | Sustainable Living Festival | inner south COMMUNITY HEALTH | ship | CITY OF PORT PHILLIP

## Building urban skills for the next generation

**ONCE** again the forward-thinking **Sustainable Living Festival** comes to **Port Melbourne UCA** this month.

SkillsFest is a community event, on february 27, to share skills for living more sustainably in the inner city.

Join in an afternoon of free workshops and take home a new skill that is practical, creative, sustainable and fun.

Workshop bookings are on-line or you can turn up on the day.

Workshops include sustainable gardening, transport, cooking, healthy eating, music-making, visual arts etc. Check out all the details and times at [www.spuc.org.au/skillsfest](http://www.spuc.org.au/skillsfest) for more information and bookings

**SkillsFest 2016, Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> February, 1.30 - 5.00 pm**  
**Port Melbourne Uniting Church, 144 Bridge St**

# Spinning a new yarn for hope

**CHELSEA Parish is taking part in the local yarn art trail again this year - and it's now extended into Frankston via a local school and the Arts Centre.**

Says Rev Claire Dawe: "The yarn art trail is a community project in the Chelsea area which involves schools, nursing homes, guides and the Uniting Church. Last year, the three churches in Chelsea Parish produced installations of yarn art with the theme 'a message of hope'.

St Andrew's Chelsea featured the story of Noah, pictured right. This year, St Andrew's will feature the story of Jonah.

"The aim of the project, as always, is to use only recycled materials," adds Claire. "So, if anyone has



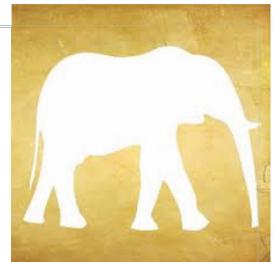
yarn (it doesn't matter how much or how little or how tangled) would you please contact 0410 827597. Also, if anyone is inspired to have a go themselves, we are more than happy to share what we've learnt along

the way and would love to learn from other people's experiences."

## Gone but not forgotten

**FOUNDATION stones from churches past have been given new life at Hampton UCA.**

A memorial walk beside the Service Street church's vestry has been created by the installation of three foundation stones from previous congregations: two from the Highett complex and one from the Hampton Presbyterian church. A special thank you to Margaret Wilkins, the organiser of this trip down memory lane.



## To market, to market...

St David's Uniting Church in Oakleigh is holding

another traditional Indoor Market Day in March:

**Where: 152 Drummond Street, Oakleigh**

**When: Saturday, March 5th, 9am- 1.30 pm.**

**Includes: Handcrafts, Books, Jewellery, Devonshire Tea, White Elephant. etc.**

All are welcome so put the date in your calendar and come along and have a look and a cream tea.

Stalls still available. All enquiries on 0417-387-088.

FEBRUARY  
17<sup>TH</sup>

Theme:  
In Diversity, Unity



Keynote Speaker:  
Rev. Dr. John Flett



## INTERCULTURAL REFERENCE FORUM 2016

130 Little Collins Street, Melbourne 3000  
Time: 10.30 am - 3.00 pm

*This is the first Intercultural Reference Forum for 2016. Rev. Dr. John Flett will be speaking on the theme of the Intercultural Unit for 2016 - 'In Diversity, Unity'. At the Forum we will be electing the officials of the Intercultural Reference Forum for 2016 and 2017. Your attendance is important!*

RSVP Dev Anandarajan by Monday, 8th February 2016  
Tel: 03 92515486 or 0414721015 **Lunch will be provided!**

## Frankston and Southern Peninsula churches join forces once more for a day of family fun



**With the theme Star Wars being the film of the moment the inflatable bouncy castle at the Family Festival at Dromana Welcome Centre once again attracted a happy crowd, writes Rev Chris Meneilly.**

The bouncy castle drew a lot of attention from passing beachgoers and traffic and the Frankston UCA band were greatly appreciated providing easy-listening music and song.

The added support from Rev. Jay Robinson and the Frankston crew with face-painting, balloons and mixing around was very positive visitors. Alan Gregory's woodwork involved adults and children working together with many happy visitors taking home something they 'made'.

Jan Cahill's calligraphy on personalised bookmarks was ever-popular with many requests for extras 'for my little cousin whose birthday is next week...' Inside the hall, refreshments were provided while a bookstall made a focal point for a great deal of conversation.

The afternoon weather was very pleasant and many beach-goers found their walk home stopover with sausage sizzle and kids activities, pleasant music and welcoming support team from SMPUC (Dromana-Rosebud) a great way to cap off a nice day at the beach.

While the activities are all free, including sausages, donation jars were around for SMPUC's fundraising project for the development of a residential facility for disabled adults and their aging carers. Many thanks again to all who assisted this day, members from SMPUC and the Frankston UCA. It is marvellous to have inter-congregation collaboration in outreach and congregational mission.

Some people asked 'what's the aim?' Simple - provide a safe, friendly, family-oriented activity day - for free! What a great way for church and community to connect.



**THE Second Transform Conference, explores the theme The Bible, Faith and Human Sexuality.** Featuring Professor Bill Loader as key presenter, along with other great speakers and interesting activities. It will be held over the weekend of February 19-21, 2016 at Pallotti College, 80 McNamaras Rd, Wesburn, VIC, 3799.



**Transform 2016 explores important gender issues**

Registrations are open until Friday February 12 - so don't delay!! Visit <http://www.trybooking.com/Booking/BookingEventSummary.aspx?eid=112063> for details and tickets.



your Lenten journey – it's filled with ideas on what it means to rely on God and put faith into action. A whole range of other resources are available to enjoy at [www.lentevent.com](http://www.lentevent.com) including worship ideas for congregations, kid's activities, printable placemats for a Zimbabwean dinner and more. We hope you'll join UnitingWorld this Lent as we work with people and communities across Asia, Africa and the Pacific.

UnitingWorld's Lent Event is 40 days to live more simply, reflect on our faith and support people struggling to free themselves from poverty. Download the Lent Event App from your App store and get the NEW Guide to Living Lent to inspire your Lenten journey – it's filled with ideas on what it means to rely on God and put faith into action. A whole range of other resources are available to enjoy at [www.lentevent.com](http://www.lentevent.com) including worship ideas for congregations, kid's activities, printable placemats for a Zimbabwean dinner and more. We hope you'll join UnitingWorld this Lent as we work with people and communities across Asia, Africa and the Pacific.

**Experience India – April 7th-21st, 2016**

Join us for a journey that combines sight-seeing with support for the Mother & Child Health Clinics program in North India.

As part of Uniting Journeys 'responsible travel' initiative, this 14-day trip will take in majestic New Delhi, golden Amritsar, historic Shimla and spiritual Dharamsala.

Cost \$4,500 – includes flights, accommodation, transport and most meals - plus a fundraised donation of at least \$500 to the project.

This time we'd like some men/women to join us who can help BUILD a LOW WALL in front of the Field Office to stop the cows eating the grass & flowers...

For an itinerary contact Helen Beeby on 0434 412104 or [helen.beeby@gmail.com](mailto:helen.beeby@gmail.com)



O God, we pray for all those in our world who are suffering from injustice: For those who are discriminated against because of their race, colour or religion; For those imprisoned for working for the relief of oppression; For those who are hounded for speaking the inconvenient truth; For those tempted to violence as a cry against overwhelming hardship; For those deprived of reasonable health and education; For those suffering from hunger and famine; For those too weak to help themselves and who have no one else to help them; For the unemployed who cry out for work but do not find it. Forgive us, Lord, if we unwittingly share in the conditions or in a system that perpetuates injustice. Show us how to serve your children and make your love practical by washing their feet. **Amen**

by Mother Teresa

# Reflections on Faith

**'Generous humanity' by Bill Pugh retired Melbourne minister**

**CHARLIE** our town electrician, single, also had a shop which sold electrical appliances.

He was a member of our Church. A kindly and generous man. Pensioners and widows were charged according to their means. Some jobs were free. He served on many committees and gave to fundraising appeals. Charlie loved to go to Melbourne to big race

meetings. He came back in time for Church on Sunday nights. Sometimes there was a larger collection than usual, much larger. With a twinkle in his eye our treasurer remarked: "Must have been a winner or two at the races yesterday."

What, as Christians, are we to say about difficult questions? Certainly not be judgmental.

Problem gambling destroys families, homes and lives. A Salvo who wandered around pubs on pay nights with his collection tin was once asked: "Gambling is wrong, but what would you do if a Tatts winner offered you a thousand dollars from his winnings?"

"Put it to good use," he said. "Better for us to have it than the devil!"

*Reflection: When difficult questions trouble us, the Prayer of Serenity is often helpful: God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.*

## Do you have recollections of tougher times?

Bill Pugh is researching what Christmas was like for families in the Depression and the Second World War years. He's looking for recipes, gifts etc. how we celebrated in difficult times.

He says: "I was born at the end of the Depression and lived during WW2. I have many experiences, but would love some help. People are welcome to contact me by phone, or email, on 95985841 or wlpugh@bigpond.com

## Young at heart

**I am a Seenager (a Senior teenager) I have everything that I wanted as a teenager, only many years later:**

- I don't have to go to school or work.
  - I get an allowance every month.
  - I have my own pad.
  - I don't have a curfew.
  - I have a driver's license and car.
  - I have ID that gets me into bars.
  - The people I hang around with are not scared of getting pregnant.
  - I don't have acne.
- Life is great.

*As seen in Hampton UCs newsletter, NUCH*



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 April 19,26 and May 3 **Venue:** St Leonard's Uniting Church, 2 Wolseley Grove, Brighton

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

**Run by:** St Leonard's UCA

[www.capmoney.org](http://www.capmoney.org)

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

Christians Against Debt is a not-for-profit charity offering financial, legal, income and debt counselling through 30 CAP Debt Centres across the Australia. The innovative charity also offers financial education through the CAP Money course. For details of CAP's services, or to support the charity, visit [www.cap.org.au](http://www.cap.org.au)

DD Star 200, 2017/18 2022/23 2023/24 2024/25. www.capmoney.org.au 170 4014 0205  
ABN: 92 104 471 536 Australian Credit Licence: 634004

**Join the  
walk for  
freedom**

**Date for your diary:  
Palm Sunday Walk for  
Justice for Refugees  
Sunday, March 20, 2016,  
2PM  
@ State Library of  
Victoria, Melbourne**



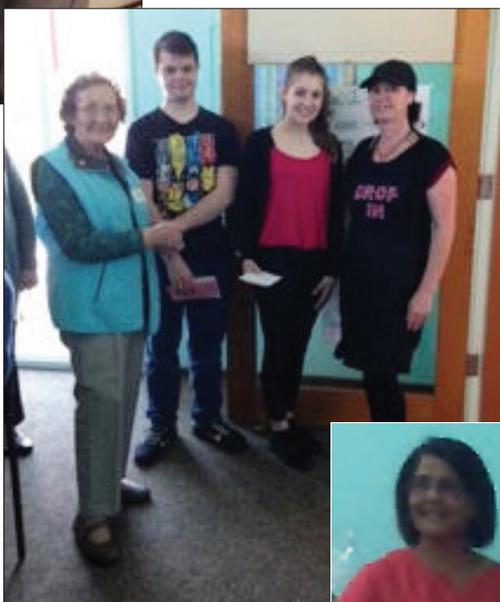
*Pictured with Rae, from the top:  
Rae congratulating Michelle who was awarded a certificate from NDIS for her volunteer work at Drop-In. Thankyou to the students from Lakeside, Ben and Chantelle and volunteer chef Cristina Rev Ann Simons presenting Rae Webster with a certificate to thank her for 25 years as co-ordinator of Drop-In at Pakenham*

## Rae of sunshine at OPMA

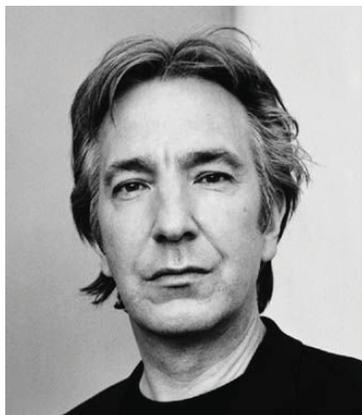
Many thank you's were expressed at the Friday Drop-In of Pakenham Uniting Church in December, writes Rev Ann Scott. The Drop-In - based in the Officer Pakenham Mission Area - has been operating for 25 years and every Friday morning locals gather to enjoy a cuppa, sandwich and a chat. Recently students from Lakeside College joined the Friday team as part of their Community Development Program. Ben and Chantelle, students at Lakeside, were involved at the church previously when they participated as peer tutors in the Homework Club. Other helpers include clients from the neighbouring Outlook Centre and their carers. Michelle, pictured top left, was the proud recipient of a certificate presented to her by NDIS for her volunteer work at the Pakenham Uniting Church Drop-In. Michelle very proudly brought

her certificate in to share with her friends at the Drop-In. Michelle has been volunteering for the past three years.

In December we said good bye to Rae Webster who has prepared rosters and encouraged volunteers and visitors at the Drop-In for 25 years. Rae decided it was time to 'pass the baton' and in the new year her role will be filled by Doreen Stitt. Other activities at OPMA include: Beehive Craft Group,



**RIP: February 21, 1946 - January 14, 2016**



*"Actors are agents of change. A film, a piece of theater, a piece of music, or a book can make a difference. It can change the world."*

-Alan Rickman



Tuesdays from 10am until 11.30am. Bible Study, Tuesdays from 10am until 11.30am. Friendship Group, 1st Wednesday of each month from 1.30pm until 3pm. Come along for a guest speaker, afternoon tea and company. All at Pakenham UCA.

## Future learning

**Generations (formerly MTC) Conference**  
**Saturday February 27 at 2 Vision Drive, East Burwood, 3151**  
 MTC has turned new page! From 2016 MTC will become known as Generations Conference - expanding its horizons to include training and encouragement for youth leaders, daring to imagine what could happen if we can reach across the generations to impact whole church communities in the future. Suitable for anyone involved in children & families ministry, youth ministry and/ or general ministry with an interest in younger generations, the

### Quote

*"Kid - if you need booze or drugs to live your life to the fullest, then you're doing it wrong."*

**Robin Williams**

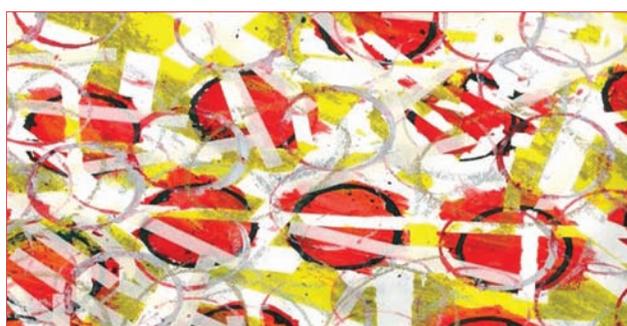
**of the month...**

Generations Conference brings together world class presenters and practitioners for a day of inspiration, equipping and encouragement for all those who minister to younger generations and their families. More information: <http://mtcconference.com/>

**Multi-faith Conference**  
**August 21-23, 2016**  
**Jasper Hotel, Melbourne**

**AN IMPORTANT Multi-faith Conference planned for August this year has attracted two internationally renowned keynote speakers.**

Prof Hans Reinders and Rev Bill Gaventa, who are in Australia for the IASSID Congress being held from August 15-19 in Melbourne, will add their voice to a special conference being coordinated by the UCA. Organiser Andy Calder, says: "Multi-faith Conferences such as this one bring people together who wish to explore the understandings and experiences of disability and spirituality. These are rare occurrences in Australasia. The Conference will include keynote presentations, concurrent sessions and an Art Exhibition. This Conference has the endorsement of a number of entities including the Jewish Christian Muslim Association, Spiritual Care Australia and the Faith Communities Council of Victoria.



"We are now also seeking Abstracts from people who wish to make a presentation, drawing on the themes of exclusion and embrace."

In addition to spoken presentations and workshops, there will also be stories, poetry and song. The closing date for Abstracts is 10 April, 2016

Registrations are now open with Early Bird prices set till 17 June 2016. It is recommended people take advantage of the early registration as numbers are capped at 160. Further details from Ann Byrne at [ann.byrne@victas.uca.org.au](mailto:ann.byrne@victas.uca.org.au) 03 9251 5404.



### Facebook friends

We invite people to Share their Facebook pages and postings with the Port Phillip East

Presbytery page. Just search for Port Phillip East Presbytery on Facebook... or click on <https://www.facebook.com/ucappep.org/>



**LIDO**  
cinemas

## FUNDRAISING FILM NIGHT

**Thursday 4 February, 9pm All tickets \$25**



Travis and Gabby first meet as neighbours in a small coastal town and wind up in a relationship that is tested by life's most defining events...

Based on the best-selling novel by Nicholas Sparks.

STARRING:  
 Alexandra Daddario,  
 Teresa Palmer, Maggie  
 Grace, Tom Welling

DIRECTED BY: Ross Katz

CyclePower transforms the lives of people with disability, here and overseas.

In 2016, CyclePower returns to Cambodia and Vietnam to continue the work they started in 2012 with women with disability.

Please help our CyclePower riders as they travel more than 500km from Siem Reap in Cambodia to Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon) in Vietnam, to remove the stigma associated with disability and empower the remote communities they visit.

Show your support and join us at the Premier of *The Choice*, presented by Uniting Journeys.

**When:** Thursday 4 February, 9pm

**Where:** Lido Cinema, 675 Glenferrie Road, Hawthorn (Glenferrie Railway Station is directly opposite. Free parking after 6pm is available behind the cinema)

**Tickets are \$25 All bookings online**

<http://www.trybooking.com/Booking/BookingEventSummary.aspx?eid=176230>

**Can't make it? Show your support and donate online!**

Any queries, call Hank on 0407 977 893

Presented by:



**UNITING  
JOURNEYS**

Travel for  
thinking  
people

# Online community noticeboard goes live



ST LEONARD', Brighton recommenced their children's program at their contemporary service last Sunday. If this photo from last year is anything to go by, it looks like an awful lot of fun!

**A new online community noticeboard specifically designed for people with disability, their carers and the community has been set up.**

It helps individuals, groups and businesses to link and assist each other, so people can browse and respond to notices, or create their own notice. It is free and you can remain anonymous.

linkAssist notice categories include:

ACCOMMODATION - Wanted and Available.

TRAVEL AND TRANSPORT - Wanted and Available.

TRAINING AND WORK - Wanted and Available.

COMMUNITY - Community Groups, Events and Peer-to-peer support.

BUY AND SELL - Items for sale, Items wanted.

DOES ANYONE KNOW? - Information or advice from other linkAssist users.

linkAssist was launched at Kardinia Park Geelong, and went live on Thursday December 3 - International Day of People with Disability. Visit [www.linkassist.net.au](http://www.linkassist.net.au)

## WORLD DAY OF PRAYER - CUBA

Theme: Jesus said to them "Receive Children. Receive Me."

The 2016 World Day of Prayer worship service, written by the women of Cuba, will be held on **Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2016** at a nominated church in your area.



The artist for this year's WDOP is Ruth Mariet Trueba Castro who says: *"Although I can explain in a rational way the drawing, based on the symbolic elements that I used: the palms, the windows, the hands and the colours of the Cuban flag, I wanted to complement the art of drawing with the art of words, which is the poetry."*

### On the threshold of childhood

We open the door to the childhood within us and Jesus enters  
As light transcends the stained glass windows  
It is made flesh on the games of laughter  
As child hugs the palms  
In the middle of the day.  
Our prayer is like a sparkling pupil  
Sweat from white, yellow, and black hands.  
Who receive Jesus, once again  
Along with all who are waiting  
On the threshold of childhood.

Locations for World Day of Prayer Services near you can be found by checking: [www.worlddayofprayeraustralia.org](http://www.worlddayofprayeraustralia.org) and click on Worship Services or call your church.

## Training the Godly way

**Godly Play Core Training  
March 10, 11 & 12  
Parkville**

Godly Play Core training provides full teacher accreditation in the Godly Play methodology. Core training offers a thorough over-view of the entire teaching method. Each of the language 'genres' is examined in detail. We explore the setting up of the sacred space and examine the theology and the spirituality of the child. This course offers time to hear, practice and present stories.

## Ideas to mark Lent and Easter at home

Looking for ideas to mark Lent and Easter at home? Then simply download some free activity sheets for younger and older children.

Find this and lots more at the website <http://www.faithinhomes.org.uk/7578>

## Champion for MS research recognised in Australia Day honours

**LONG** time member of lifeAssist's Board of Governance, Jillian Wells, scooped a well-deserved award in this years Australia Day honours.

Jill was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for services to medical research and community organisations.

The official list of honors recipients listed on the Governor General's website cited just some of Jill's work, including:

- \* Founder, Cure MS Committee, since 1997, fundraising for multiple sclerosis research.

- \* In 2010 Ms Wells transferred the activities of the committee to Monash University, and the University developed the Cure MS Fellowship in Neurological Diseases.

- \* Member, Board of Governance, Uniting Care LifeAssist, since 2009 and Chair, Participant and Quality Sub-Committee, current.

Over the years, Jill has helped raise \$3 million to fund research into Multiple Sclerosis, which has confined her to a wheelchair. Jill's fundraising activities came about when a group of other school mums started meeting regularly.

"The other mums did

most of the hard work, I was just the one with MS," Jill says.

"They would wheel me in, put me at the end of the table and I would direct."

In the words of UnitingCare lifeAssist Board Chairman, Michael Lanyon: "Congratulations to Jill from all at Uniting Care lifeAssist for this award. Many of us are aware of how much work Jill does for the community, and the hard work that she does. We are all very proud of this recognition for all of the time Jill spends dedicated to helping others. Well done and well deserved!"



by  
**Rachel Sharp**



### JOAN STOTT UCAF BURSARY

#### Are you:

- committed to or already studying for leadership or theology within the ethos of the Uniting Church
- under 35 years of age

#### Could you use funds to:

- pay fees to your "Place of Study"
- pay for additional courses or resources

**Apply now for a Joan Stott Uniting Church Adult Fellowship (UCAF) Bursary for study in 2017**

#### Contact:

**David Wang for more information and an application form E:**

[david.wang@victas.uca.org.au](mailto:david.wang@victas.uca.org.au)

**Applications closing date is Tuesday 31st May**





## Dates for your diary

- Induction of Rev Ray McClusky - Tuesday, February 2nd, 7.30pm at Monash UC, 1939 Princes Highway, Clayton North (cnr Koonawarra Street)
- Induction of Rev Greg Fry - Sunday, February 7th, 2pm at Cheltenham-Mentone UC, 313 Charman Road, Cheltenham.
- St Andrew's Gardiner Congregation closure 10th April 2016.

## Important notice: Synod VicTas 2016 nominations required soon

### Important discussions at the next Synod will be:

- Major Strategic Review findings and its impact.
- Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

At the beginning of June - from the 3<sup>rd</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania will gather, writes Ian Firth.

Synod commences on the evening of June 3 with the installation of the Rev Sharon Hollis as Moderator.

The business part of Synod runs from 9 am Saturday, June 4 until Wednesday, June 8. This year Synod is meeting at Box Hill Town Hall, Whitehorse Rd, Box Hill. This may be more convenient for people to attend. Parking arrangements have been made with a commercial car park. The cost will be borne by the Synod. As part of the necessary preparations, Presbyteries are now seeking nominations for people to attend.



We would be grateful if you would extend an invitation to members of your Council and congregation to consider nominating to attend Synod 2016.

Synod is an opportunity to participate in the broader life and work of the Church. While it is intense and demanding, it can also be invigorating and inspiring. All sorts of people, gifts, skills and talents are required.

One of the important discussions will involve the findings of the Major Strategic Review which is expected to have major implications for our Synod. Unfortunately the timeline is tight. Presbytery needs to forward nominations to the Synod office by no later than 1<sup>st</sup> April and so it would be good, if possible, to have any nomination forms returned to the Presbytery office by Weds. 17<sup>th</sup> February, in order for the nominations to be finalised at the Presbytery in Council meeting a week later on February 24.

If you want to find out more, ring Fiona Winn on 0403 66 27 86. She will be happy to answer questions, talk through the importance of attending and participating and share something of her experience of attending the last Synod meeting. Nomination forms are available on 9558 4710.

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.

### Presbytery in Council meeting dates for 2016:



- Wednesday, 24 February at Carrum
- Saturday, 21 May at Noble Park
- Saturday, 16 July at Noble Park
- Wednesday, 28 September at St John's Mt Waverley
- 23 November at Balkara (congregation yet to be determined)



CONNECTIONS Pakenham office has moved to:  
Level 2,  
50 Station Street,  
Pakenham, VIC 3810.

T 03 5945 3900

F 03 5945 3999

Programs include: Family Services, School Attendance Support Project and S.A.F.A (Support Against Family Abuse)

Visit the Presbytery website at [www.ucappeg.org](http://www.ucappeg.org) and [www.facebook.com/ucappeg.org](http://www.facebook.com/ucappeg.org) for news, events and more....

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