

NEWSBEAT



APRIL 2016

NEWSLETTER FOR THE PRESBYTERY OF PORT PHILLIP EAST



Book your children in now for more wholesome fun at Somers Camp. Head to page 4 for the easy way to register.

Pancake power. Four ministers work for social justice through community action. Flip to page 9 for more info.



Out of the ashes... comes hope

NOBLE Park UC has suffered a series of criminal damage incidents, including a \$1.2 million arson attack, in recent months - but messages of hope and demonstrations of support have kept their spirits buoyant.

Congregation member, Jenny Strahan, described the catalogue of incidents to *Newsbeat* this week, although the motive for the attacks still remain a mystery.

"We've had large glass doors smashed, multiple breaks-in with some thefts and, of course, worst of all the fire. We just can't understand it. It would be nice



to know why we've been targeted to be honest so we can try and make some sense of it, if that's possible."

One incident that has helped see them through the dark times was when a young man in his 20s

came to the Presbytery Office (based in the church complex) expressing his distress about the attacks on the church.

"He said he'd lived in the local community most of



his life," says Rev John Mann, "and, even though he wasn't much of a churchgoer, had found it quite distressing to see and hear about the fire and attacks." The young man, called David, then handed over \$200 as a contribution to something that would help with the replacement of lost items.

"We were really touched by that," adds Jenny, "as it came at a time when it was much-needed and appreciated as a renewal of hope. We would also like to thank all the other congregations and people who have sent e-mails and messages of support and sympathy. It's been a very difficult time, but pulling together as a community is helping us through it." CCTV cameras have now been installed around Noble Park UCA and it is anticipated that the insurance should cover repairs and replacements.

Uniting Church comes out in force in solidarity for those in detention



THOUSANDS turned out for the Palm Sunday Walk for Justice for Refugees. It was fantastic to see so many Uniting Church signs in the crowd. These included folk from the Port Phillip East Presbytery. Turn to page 2 for full story in pictures.

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



Uniting for justice

Palm Sunday march well-represented by UCA and Port Phillip East



ABOUT 15,000 people walked from the State Library of Victoria to Alexandra Gardens, calling on the federal government to adopt more compassionate and humane refugee policies.

Protestors carried placards and chanted "let them stay" and "free, free the refugees" as they marched. Many Uniting Church members attended, with the UCA logo on prominent display. Assembly President Stuart McMillan, pictured top right, was one of the speakers who addressed the crowd along with a panel of interfaith speakers, from the Jewish Christian Muslim Association and Islamic Council Victoria. Mr McMillan said: "The Australian government continues to act like a colonial power, with no regards to its neighbours. We have no credibility internationally because of our inhumane policies," Mr McMillan said. "Manus and Nauru must close; offshore detention must cease. Australia needs to step up and take some leadership develop some regional frameworks. Children should not be held in detention anywhere and those who face deportation to Nauru must be able to stay." Among the crowd were Rev Hoon You, top left, minister at SouthPort UC and former Assembly President and Moderator Rev Alistair Macrae in discussion with Moderator Dan Wootton.



by
Rev Cameron McAdam

Thought-provoking Stations of the Cross displayed at The Village Church in Mount Eliza



Stations of the Cross began many centuries ago when pilgrims going to Jerusalem would retrace the final journey of Jesus.

Not all had the ability to travel to Jerusalem and so a practice developed, 'Stations of the Cross', where by with the help of artists, pilgrims could make this journey in their church or cathedral. This Easter The Village Church invites people

into a quiet time of contemplation to consider the very human journey that Jesus takes to the cross; a journey that includes temptation, betrayal by a

friend, conviction in an unjust system, physical pain, mockery, broken family relationships, public humiliation, and perhaps the greatest human fear...death. This journey with Jesus invites us into a deeper space where we can ask the meaningful and life giving questions about God, death, life, love and hope. These stations are the work of



artist Scott Erikson, an artist in residence at Imago Dei Community in Portland, Oregon. Scott says, "If Easter is about the power of God, then the Friday before is about the weakness of humanity." He says, "I don't think our deepest question is 'Is there a God?' I think our deepest question is 'Is there a God that's with us in all this?'"

These stations are a cross-section of elements, ideas, and objects from Jesus' journey of being with us. Please visit, take time, read the scripture messages and look deeply and carefully at the images.



UCA Funds is running a post-budget (Federal and State) event to analyse funding and policy changes as well as trends for the not-for-profit sector.

What will be discussed?

- * Budget changes that impact the not-for-profit sector, including community services, health, disability, education, aged care and environment.
- * Proposed changes to public policy for funding, policy trends and innovation.
- * The economic outlook and how this affects the not-for-profit sector's challenge to maintain financial sustainability.

Who should attend? This session will benefit any not-for-profit or faith-based organisation board member, chief executive, treasurer, investment partner, finance manager or key influencer.

A complimentary breakfast will be provided for all attendees.

WHEN: Tuesday, 17 May 2016 from 7:30 AM to 9:00 AM

WHERE: Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club - 489 Glenferrie Road, Kooyong, VIC, 3144

Call (03) 9251 5458 or e-mail Stephanie.Duthie@ucafunds.com.au on details of how to book.



Registrations for Somers Camp are now open! If you have or know of young people in years 3-9, go to <http://www.somerscamp.com.au/> for more information or to <http://www.somerscamp.com.au/register/> to register.

Young people in year 10 can apply to be slushies – you get to work all week but you also learn some valuable leadership skills for the following year when we encourage you to apply to be a leader. To register, go to <http://www.somerscamp.com.au/register/slushie-registration/> Over the years, churches and individuals have offered to sponsor a camper or make a donation to help subsidise places. If you would like more information, please email info@somerscamp.com.au or check out the website at <http://www.somerscamp.com.au/donations/>

As there are only a limited number of subsidised places, we ask that those requiring financial assistance approach their own churches initially. Thank you for your understanding.

For more information, contact: info@somerscamp.com.au BUT if you are someone who likes to speak to a person, then Camp Mum is only a phone call away on 0410 827 597. Postal address: PO Box 860, Mt Eliza, Vic, 3930.



Money made from yesterday's news

TABLOID or broadsheet, these newspapermen have no problem accepting either. Des Poulton, Dick Matthews and Ted Martin are part of the St Mark's Paper Tie Up team who collect and bundle newspapers to be sold for recycling.

The men are part of a larger team that over the past 20 years or so has raised more than \$50,000 for charity by joining the recycling chain that also lessens the amount of waste going to landfill.

Going back just one year, the Tie Up team started 2015 with \$369 and saw that amount jump to \$2890 to be distributed at year's end to 10 different charities.

That amount was 16 per cent up on the previous year, following successful negotiations with the recycling company which agreed to a price increase.

"The new arrangement eliminates the need to manually load papers onto a truck and is commercially much more attractive in a declining market," team member Rod Davies said.

Picture: Gary Sissons

Spotlight on gang

THESE church stalwarts, above, from St Mark's Uniting Church, Mornington made the front page of 'The Mornington News' two weeks ago, writes Rev John Haig. Since 1990 this group has raised more than \$50,000 for local and international charities. Their contribution of \$300 in February seeded a gift of \$1,300 to the Western Papua New Guinea Famine Appeal from St Mark's.

is rich in action and reflection at Ormond Uniting

During March at Ormond Uniting Church there have been numerous opportunities for study, worship and fellowship in the lead up to and celebration of Easter.

Lenten Studies focused on viewing and discussing Richard Rohr's: "The Change That Changes Everything". All Age Activities on Palm Sunday celebrated Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. We waved palms and processed into church. We shared a time of worship, followed by activities in the hall and then returned to the church to prepare it for Good Friday by stripping away the colour and shrouding furniture in black. Finally, we shared lunch (and more conversation!). All in a spirit of fellowship and sharing across the generations of our community. Maundy Thursday Worship took place in Booran Road Hall with furniture and lighting to give a sense of what Jesus final meal with his disciples might have resembled. About 20 shared Holy Communion, followed by the Service of Tenebrae featuring bible readings of the night before the Crucifixion. Good Friday service was a time of quiet contemplation and sharing of the story. Easter Day candlelighting, a baptism and sharing Holy Communion. *Remember.. the season of Easter continues until mid-May as symbolised in the candles in windows. Celebrate the Risen Christ!*



Women of Cuba deliver a message of inclusion in WDP service



Twenty four representatives from Stonnington East Churches participated in the 2016 World Day of Prayer Service at St Roch's Catholic Church, Glen Iris.

The well-attended service was written by the women of Cuba with the theme Jesus said to them "Receive children. Receive me."

The invited speaker, the Very Rev Professor Ian B Waters, Parish Priest at St Roch's, spoke about the two scripture readings from Isaiah Chapter 11 and Mark Chapter 10 and related them to the Cuba of yesterday and today.

Isaiah was looking forward to a new king who would rule with God given qualities. As Christians we see Jesus as this King who called the disciples to teach the world to live as he had taught them. Sadly the arrival of Christians in Cuba from 1492 brought little to be proud of. In the reading from St Mark's Gospel, Jesus blessed the children in a world where children would normally be turned away. Jesus was emphasising that everyone is important and valued. Unfortunately Cuban women live in a patriarchal society and although they are a vital

part of the technical and professional work force are not recognised for key positions in a number of fields.

Father Waters said that 'If Christopher Colombus and those he had with him when he landed in Cuba in 1492 had set out to implement the vision of Jesus, rather than see Cuba primarily as a source of produce



for Spain, what a different place it would be today.' He concluded by saying 'If I ever get to Cuba, what will I find? Will I find anything of what Isaiah and Jesus planned and envisioned?'

Attention All Uniting Church Congregations

Nominations for the 2016 Ecumenical Award are now due.

If your Congregation is involved in Ecumenical Events with other Churches in your area, you are invited to apply for the 2016 Ecumenical Award.

At each Synod the Ecumenical Relations Committee makes an award of \$500 to a Uniting Church Congregation involved in the planning, organisation and implementation of an ecumenical event with other church partners. The Nominations are judged by members of the Committee and the Moderator who will present the award at the June Synod meeting. Previous awards have been granted for events like Christmas Pageants, Easter Events, Ecumenical Choral Groups, Special Liturgies and Worship Services involving Churches from different traditions who are sharing and cooperating together.

Nomination Form and the Criteria for this year's award are available on the PPEP website Notices page. Nominations should be forwarded to: Rev Margaret Blair (03) 5962 4429, mblair@alphalink.com.au by the end of April, 2016.

Exposure to autism services

lifeAssist is proud to be a gold sponsor of the Melbourne Autism Expo.

The Melbourne Autism Expo 2016 (MAE 2016) is for anyone who is touched by Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). It provides an opportunity for children, families and adults to access useful, practical (and sometimes unusual!) information, products and services related to ASD.

When? 10am - 5pm Saturday April 30, 2016


Where? Karralyka Centre, Mines Road, Ringwood East VIC 3135

Cost? Tickets can be purchased online before the event, or on the day.

Discounted early bird tickets are available online until March 31. Children under the age of 16 enter for free. Concession tickets available.

Visit <http://www.lifeassist.org.au/>





Psychological First Aid/Personal Support

VCC EM training is a comprehensive training package designed to equip members of faith communities to support affected residents through their participation in VCC EM deployments.

The training course is a 2 stage process involving

- Self paced learning and completion of the workbook. This material *must* be completed prior to attending the training day.
- Face to face training day. This day utilizes multi learning opportunities including teaching, discussion, personal reflection and role playing / scenarios to enable the trainee to assimilate the information and understand the context, roles, responsibilities and processes involved.

WHERE: Mt Eliza Uniting Church,
93 Canadian Bay Rd
Mt Eliza

WHEN: Saturday 16th April (9.00am – 5.00pm)

COST: \$80 waged or \$40 concession/Refresher training
(Covers all catering, training materials and registration costs. Please inform us of any dietary requirements)


REGISTRATION:
REGISTER ONLINE AT: WWW.VCCEM.ORG.AU/TRAINING OR
BY PHONING 9650 4511

Completion of the workbook and attendance at the training are essential prerequisites for application for registration with VCC Emergencies Ministry. Successful registration will require the completion of safety checks and referee reports and will occur after the training has been completed.


FURTHER INFORMATION: PLEASE CALL THE VCCEM STATE OFFICE ON (03) 9650 4511 OR EMAIL EMERGENCIES@VCC.ORG.AU

This training is essential for all in the faith community intending to respond to emergencies and disasters in Victoria. The Victorian State and Local Governments are continually increasing the requirements for people to enter disaster areas. The VCC is authorized by Government to coordinate and integrate faith communities' response when disaster occurs.

Compassion in Times of Crisis



BECOMING AN INTERCULTURAL CHURCH



Friday, 13th May:
7.30 pm - 9.00 pm

Saturday, 14th May:
9.00 am - 4.00 pm

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:
Dr Rosemary Dewese 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 emphasis was on training missional leaders for the Australasian context.

Dr Dewese holds bachelor's degrees in arts and music, is a trained schoolteacher, and completed a Master's degree at the 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 Anandaranjan on 03 9251 5486 or Devanandan.Anandaranjan@victas.org.au

COME AND JOIN US!

REGISTRATIONS CLOSE: FRIDAY, 29TH APRIL
EARLY BIRD REGISTRATIONS CLOSE: FRIDAY, 1ST APRIL
GROUP BOOKINGS CLOSE: FRIDAY, 1ST APRIL



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

Applications closing date is Tuesday 31st May

WHAT'S THE REAL STORY WITH ICE



Free Public Forum
All Welcome

There has been a significant increase in public concern regarding the use of crystal methamphetamine, also known as Ice. This Public 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.

Public Forum
27th April 2016
6.30pm – 9pm

Venue:
Peninsula City Church,
252 Frankston Flinders Road,
Frankston.
(Melways Ref 102 G12)

Forum Speakers



Stephen Fontana
Assistant Victorian Police Commissioner
Overview of the prevalence of ice and substance abuse in the state



Dr. Stephen Bright
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

> REGISTER

Please register for event online at Eventbrite

Frankston City Council
Andrew (03) 9784 1851

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Uniting Church in Australia
SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA



Intercultural Unit
COMMISSION FOR MISSION

Ministry in the Contact Zone and the Third Space

A Post Colonial Theology Conference

Leader: Professor Musa Dube

26—28 July 2016

Korean Church of Malvern
23-27 Glendearg Grove
MALVERN VIC 3144

Professor Musa W. Dube is a Humboldtian awardee (2011) and biblical scholar at the University of Botswana. She has served in several institutions, including World Council Churches (Geneva), Scripps College (California), Union Theological College (New York) and University of Bamberg (Germany).

Her research areas of interest include: gender, postcolonial, translation and HIV/AIDS studies and she is the author of numerous articles published in journals, books, encyclopaedias and magazines.

Professor Dube is also a much sought after speaker and trainer around the world

Registration fees:
Whole conference—
Early Bird by 31 May: \$240
Post Early Bird: \$280
Per day: \$110

Register online:
bit.ly/contactzone

For inquiries contact Ann Byrne
Phone: 9251 5404
Fax: (03) 9251 5241
E-mail: Ann.Byrne@victas.uca.org.au

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Accomplished keynote speakers present on parenting challenges in the 21st century and across the lifespan to promote thought, discussion and action.



IMPACTS OF THE 21st
CENTURY ON CHILDHOOD &
PARENTING

Dr Daniel Davidson
Producer & Writer (Hullington Post)

Tuesday 8 March
7:30pm

FAMILIES COPING -
EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES FOR
YOU AND YOUR CHILD

Associate Prof Dr Erica Frydenberg
Psychologist & Research Fellow

Tuesday 15 March
7:30pm

POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT
ACROSS THE LIFESPAN

Dr Judy Chigren Melbourne Graduate
School of Education

Tuesday 19 April
7:30pm

TICKETS \$10 PER PERSON PER SEMINAR
WWW.TRYBOOKING.COM - SEARCH "TRINITY"

Enquiries to 0419 872 532

Trinity Uniting Church, 15 - 17 Black Street, Brighton

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Rachel Kohn



Frank Yamma



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April 29 - May 1 2016

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www.unitingqueenscliff.org.au
contemplation creativity compassion

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unitingqueenscliff@iinet.net.au

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artists and
presenters



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Festival

@

Bentleigh

April 30, 2016

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activities like Patting the Ponies
it's about love in all its forms

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Our symbol - two people in a heartfelt
conversation

**'The Roads of Easter'
by Bill Pugh,
retired minister**

Taking the roads of Easter with Jesus can be a life challenging journey of change, and renewal.

Reflections on Faith

There is the Palm Sunday road on which Jesus and his friends travelled on the way to Jerusalem for the Passover. Word of his teaching and miracles had spread. Symbolically, he chose to ride on a donkey, the vehicle of a king coming with a message of peace.

Crowds flocked to welcome the procession. Waved palm branches, scattered them across the way, and shouted their greetings in symbolic words, "Hosanna, blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" But danger lurked in the cheering throng. There were those ready to arrest him, but not then because of his popularity.

After his arrest in the Garden, denial by his friends, tried, and condemned to death, in spite of his innocence, there is the road to Golgotha, the hill of skulls, where criminals were put to death. A well-worn track. Jesus, lashed and bruised, unable to carry the heavy wooden cross, stumbles. Simon of Cyrene is compelled by soldiers to carry it for him. The crowd, somewhere his friends, anonymous, look on. His distraught mother and a beloved disciple close by. There are the roads of Easter, after the discovery of the empty tomb. The Road to Emmaus. Two friends walking along, discussing the events of the day and the reported sightings, are joined by a traveller. Walking with him they were strangely affected by his presence. As it is towards evening they invite him to dine with them and, over supper, they recognise him.



There is the Road to Damascus. Saul, a fierce opponent of the early Christians, is travelling down the road with letters of authority to arrest his followers, and stamp out his message once and for all, has

an experience which changes his life forever. He becomes Paul the apostle. Significant are the Roman roads, masterpieces of engineering skill which reached out to the whole of the Roman Empire. Along these travelled the apostles to spread the Good News. From there across the seas, over deserts, later by air to many lands. In travelling these roads, some early Christians were martyred for their faith, such was their conviction. And many more down the centuries were persecuted and died for their faith.

The story of the world community, called the church, attests to the power of the Easter story.

All the roads of Easter story form into one great highway. A Highway of Hope for us and for the world. How important is this message, where crosses mark

makeshift memorials, for those senselessly killed at Easter, and for war ravished communities, where death is a daily occurrence, innocents are murdered, families destroyed, and where there is little hope of any future. At Easter God comprehends and confronts the suffering and sorrows, griefs and tragedies of the human condition, and all evil in the world, head on. In troubled times the roads of Easter bring us back to the Highway of Hope and remind us God is not defeated.

Bill is pictured relaxing over a cuppa coming up with ideas for his next reflection.

Dates for your diary for the young and young at heart

Key Children & Families Ministry dates for 2016

Apr 30	Stories of Childhood (pre-school focus)
May 21	Greensborough Boost (NEW)
May 20, 21	Orange Conference
Jul 23	Faith at Home Conference
Aug 6	OAC Creative Ministries Seminar
Aug 13	Generate (New Intergenerational Ministry event)
Aug 21-23	Exclusion & Embrace: Disability, Justice and Spirituality
Sep 9	Child, Gender & Spirituality Symposium
Sep 10	Make it Messy! Conference
Sep 24	Torque
Oct 26	CPN AGM & Dinner
Nov 8-10	Child Theology Futures Conference

For more information or to subscribe to the monthly e-mailshot of all resources and fun things in children's and youth ministry contact Chris Barnett, Children & Families Centre for Theology and Ministry, 29 College Cres Parkville 3052 t (03) 9340 8806 | f (03) 9340 8805 e Chris.Barnett@ctm.uca.edu.au, www.ctm.uca.edu.au

Quote

"The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now."

Chinese Proverb

of the month...

Social justice meets pancake batter at Mount Waverley

THE High Street Road Uniting Church has reconvened its Social Justice and Mission Committee under the leadership of Allan Easton. The group also has members from St John's and St Luke's Uniting Churches.

The first combined activity of this group has been to organise UnitingCare Pancake Day on Shrove Tuesday, February 9. UnitingCare provided the aprons, balloons and flyers and the members did all the other preparations. The pancakes were cooked and sold at the ANZ Corner in the Mt Waverley Village. The proceeds were \$232 for UnitingCare. The event was successful as so many of the local people were happy to participate and enjoy the pancakes. We hope to do this

activity again in 2017, implementing all the lessons we learned.



Pictured above right: three of the four ministers, Rev Scott Finlay, Rev Julie Ross and Rev Bill Perry (Rev James Douglas not in the photo) and left, Jim Aylmer collects cash.



In case you missed it...

THE National Young Adult Leaders Conference gathers young adults from many diverse cultures to be inspired, coached, encouraged and developed as leaders and disciples in a highly relational community. In 2016, NYALC will be held at the Gold Coast on 8-13 July.

At NYALC 2016 young adults participate in daily worship and Bible studies. They are encouraged to listen and learn from the faith and cultures of one another through small groups and intentional conversations. The young adults will visit a local ministry and mission projects and reflect on the contextual theology and leadership approaches of these ministries. NYALC has an amazing team of mentors including President Stuart McMillan and the Chair of the UAICC, Rev. Dennis Corowa. Participants have their eyes opened to the richness of the Uniting Church, and most of all they are encouraged in their Christian faith. They also have a lot of fun!

For more details and applications: <https://assembly.uca.org.au/news/item/1806-mentoring-our-young-leaders>



Synod of Victoria and Tasmania

LAY PREACHERS' CONFERENCE

2016

Friday, April 15, Saturday, April 16

Centre for Theology and Ministry— 29 College Crescent Parkville

OPENING WORSHIP 7 pm April 15 – led by Rev. Joan Fisher, Rev. Margaret Blair, Preacher and installation of new President by Moderator Dan Wootton

SPEAKERS

Rev. Joan Fisher – Retired UCA minister and recent Ecumenical Accompaniment program in Palestine and Israel participant considering 'The Holy Land – ancient stones & living stones.'

Avril Hannah Jones - Currently minister at Williamstown UCA, Avril will speak on 'Using your passions in worship'.

Cheryl Lawrie - Accredited Youth Worker with Synod of Victoria and Tasmania

Jill Ruzbacky – Social Justice Officer with Synod Justice and International Mission unit.

Friday April 15,

7:00 pm **Conference opening worship**

8:15 pm **Session 1** Rev. Joan Fisher



Saturday, April 16

9:00 am **Registration**

9:30 am **Morning worship & welcome**

9:45 am **Session 2** Avril Hannah-Jones

11:00 am **Morning tea**

11:30 am **Session 3** Cheryl Lawrie

12:45 pm **Lunch**

1:15 pm **Session 4** Jill Ruzbacky

2:30 pm **Break**

3:00 pm **Annual General Meeting**

4:00 pm **Closing**

Cost \$28, to be paid in cash or cheque on the day; includes lunch and refreshments

Venue The Centre for Theology and Ministry is in College Crescent, Parkville, across from the gate to the Melbourne Cemetery.

Parking There is metered street parking nearby

Closing date: April 7. Contact lpasecretary@victas.uca.org.au to register.



Fete accomplished

WE just loved these photos from the Monash Uniting Church fete held this month.

This is a rich and vibrant multi-cultural church community under the new leadership of Rev Ray McCluskey, who we featured last month at his induction. Ray has only recently been ordained too, so this is an exciting chapter in his life and the life of Monash UCA. So we thought it would be good to show that one of his first events - the church fete - was a rip-roaring success where young and old came together to share with the congregation and the local community. Well done, Monash!



The ANZAC spirit lives on

For all those interested in praying and working for peace in the world please reserve this date:

ANZAC DAY 25 APRIL 2016

11.00 AM, ST PAUL'S

CATHEDRAL, MELBOURNE

Truly, We Will Remember Them

The Cathedral together with Pax Christi and the Anzac Centenary Peace Coalition, invite you to a service of lament for all soldiers who suffered and died in World War I, especially in the Battle of the Somme in 1916.

A New Conversation About Ageing

from Uniting AgeWell discusses the experience of ageing within a theological framework and contains prayers, Bible reflections, and discussion questions.



"Congregations tell us the four studies engage with the real challenges of ageing," says Rev John Clarke. For more information and copies contact John Clarke at:

directorofmission@unitingagewell.org

Floral tribute adds to the welcome from Sandringham

REV Christine MacDowall was warmly welcomed into her new placement by her own congregation and some well-wishing neighbours.

Says Shirley Martin: "On 20th March we gathered together for the induction service. Friends and colleagues from Presbytery, parishioners from Springvale Uniting Church and Koornang Uniting Church, joined with the folk at Sandringham in the service."

The service was led by Rev Fiona Morrison and Rev Philip Liebelt preached the sermon.

Christine responded by showing her bucket and spade as her new

"equipment" and promised to dig for treasure. At the afternoon tea that followed Helen Jackson and Shirley Martin welcomed Christine with flowers from the congregation.





THE Gift
THAT KEEPS ON GIVING

Acts of Kindness

GIFT CATALOGUE

FEATURING GIFTS RANGING FROM \$10 FOR A HOT MEAL TO LARGE GIFTS THAT HAVE THE POWER TO BRING LASTING CHANGE.

You can view the range of gifts online or call us if you would like a catalogue posted to you. Then simply choose your gift and order through the website, the order form on your catalogue, or by phone. Next choose your personalised e-card, or request a paper card to send. Then Share will do the rest.



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FEED THE BODY, FEED THE SOUL

Give a homeless person a hot meal.



\$70

LIGHTEN THE LOAD

Backpack filled with essential supplies for a child fleeing domestic violence.



\$500

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Help a single parent family with rent.

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IN MEMORIAM • EASTER • CHRISTMAS • BON VOYAGE • THANK YOU • THINKING OF YOU • JUST BECAUSE...

There are many reasons to give a loved one a gift and now, through Share's Acts of Kindness, there are many ways to help restore life, joy and hope to people in need.

Free Call 1800 668 426 www.sharegifts.org.au



As the fundraising arm of UnitingCare, Share is proud to fund work that makes a real difference in the lives of many when they need it the most. This year, celebrate life's joyous and memorable moments – weddings, birthdays, anniversaries, graduations – and give a gift that brings happiness, dignity and hope back into reach.



Online assistance

linkAssist is being officially launched throughout Victoria after successful live trials in the Barwon Region.

As the only known online noticeboard designed and built for the disability community, linkAssist has been receiving accolades from across the community.

In preparation to launch linkAssist state-wide, lifeAssist clients have the opportunity to create notices of their own now. It is available across all of Victoria, is free and easy



to use. Your personal details will never be shared by linkAssist. linkAssist

protects the identity of users. When you respond to a notice, your email is sent via linkAssist. to prevent unknown people getting your email address.

You don't need an account to browse notices.

Notices are sorted by categories.

There are six notice categories to pick from:

- 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

Visit: www.linkassist.net.au to get started.

NCYC call out

Yurora National Christian Youth Convention 2017 is now under way. 2017's NCYC has dynamic worship experiences and huge community gatherings. They are great places to meet, greet and hang out with other young Christians. They are for young people between 16 and 25 and their leaders. For more details on this exciting event visit www.yurora.com

Night raiders keep labyrinth builders on their toes

THE bush labyrinth constructed at Pallotti College Retreat Centre at Millgrove near Warburton, in memory of Rev Robin Pryor, is holding its ground, but needs a bit more practical help to ward

off the night raiders, writes Bronwyn Pryor.

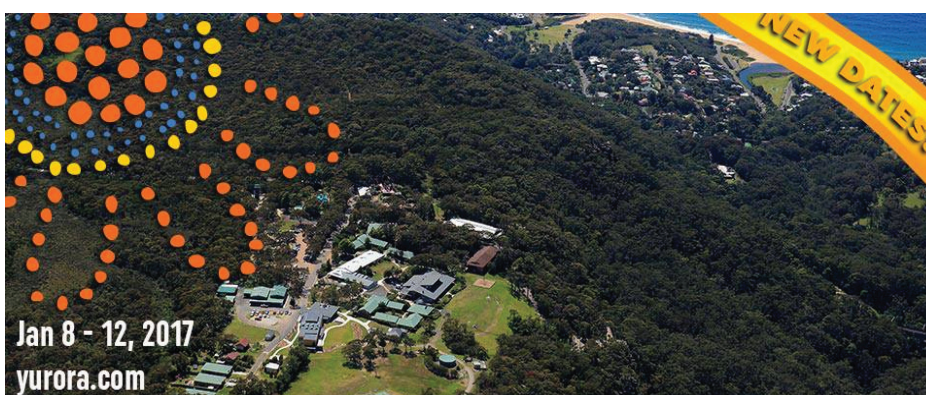
A resident wombat and rabbits have been enjoying the labyrinth, as well as the retreatants, and the small ground cover plantings of blue Brachyscombe and Native Blue Grass separating the paths have not fared well.

So 500 new Brachyscombes are growing to replace those lost, and a cyclone wire fence is being built to replace the protective low electric fence used till now.

If anyone felt they would like to make a small donation towards the costs it would be very much appreciated.

Half the labyrinth is shaded by a huge oak, which dropped many thousands of acorns onto the labyrinth.

My gratitude goes to walkers who picked these up and stopped them from taking root. The labyrinth also commemorates the Ecumenical venture between the Catholic Pallottine team and the Uniting Church. Robin and Bronwyn Pryor were given hospitality for 6 years, to lead retreats for the Uniting Church, in exchange for practical help to run the Centre. Labyrinth Prayer retreat - Bronwyn will lead a weekend Retreat there, October, 7-9, 2016, on 'Labyrinth Prayer'. Contact Pallotti College for more information. Tel 5966 2585





Dates for your diary

- St Andrew's Gardiner Congregation final service - Sunday, 10th April 2016 at 2.30pm

What happened at Presbytery in Council?

On a balmy evening at Carrum UC in February, the new Chair of the Presbytery Rev Dr Robert Johnson warmly welcomed members of Presbytery to the first meeting for the year including quite a number of new members.

As a part of our worship for the evening, Robert installed the new Secretary of Presbytery Mr Ian Firth as well as our ongoing Treasurer Mr Chris Begg and newly elected members of Presbytery Committees. All those who continue to serve the Presbytery in committee or other work of Presbytery were re-dedicated also. For the business part of the evening the reports of Presbytery Committees were received. The opportunity for people to contribute to the tasks of our committees was spoken about reminding everyone that their commitment to Presbytery can be considerably enhanced by participation in committees and task groups. Indeed we were all reminded that a person does not need to be a member of Presbytery in order to assist the Presbytery through its committees.

Chris Barnett from the Synod's Centre of Theology and Ministry addressed the Presbytery on his role particularly in young people's ministry and promoted a wide range of available resources.

Names of nominations to Synod 2016 were read and endorsed by Presbytery. Further nominations were later closed so no new names are now being accepted.

60 Second speeches, a high-light of many Presbytery meetings were received. These speeches, given by a number of our Presbytery members are a rich source of news and information of the life-giving mission and ministry that occurs in so many congregations and other places within our Presbytery.

On a sadder note, the Chairperson invited our Presbytery Minister – Administration Rev John Mann, to tell the Presbytery about the fire at Noble Park. John outlined the events and showed photos of some of the damage. The Presbytery offered its prayers to the people of the congregation of Noble Park.

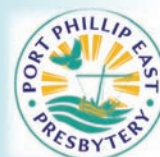
Because of the fire, alternate venues are needed for the May and July meetings.

Congregations who can help should contact the presbytery secretary at secretary@ucappeg.org



Presbytery in Council meeting dates for 2016:

- **Saturday, 21 May no longer at Noble Park due to the fire. TBA**
- **Saturday, 16 July TBA**
- **Wednesday, 28 September at St John's Mt Waverley**
- **Wednesday, 23 November at Cook Island Congregation at Clayton**



Father, thank you that you sent your Son to bring me life.
Life in the fullness,
Life for eternity.



Thank you that I share in Christ's resurrection life
That Christ is alive in me
And His Spirit dwells deeply in my being.

Right now I receive your healing
I receive the same power that raised Christ from the grave
I receive Your life
I receive Your strength.

Thank you that all things are possible for those who believe
Thank you that you are with me right now
May I continue to receive from you
This hour and every hour.

Amen.

A modern prayer for healing and strength from www.lords-prayer-words.com

"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble."
(Psalm 46:1, NIV)

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 and 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.