

# NEWSBEAT



MAY 2016

NEWSLETTER FOR THE PRESBYTERY OF PORT PHILLIP EAST



You're never too old to be useful. Wesley Mission calls out for help on page 6.

Moving moments at Mulgrave. Scroll to page 2 for the full story and pictures.



## Investing in leadership for our young people



Photo by Rev Paul Chalson, Camp Rev this year

**THESE** are the new leaders for Somers Camp - pictured being trained for the important roles they will be taking on in just a few short weeks.

Twenty-six youth leaders headed for Merricks Camp for the last weekend of April to plan some of the exciting activities which will entertain and educate the younger campers and 'slushies,' as well as ensure safety standards are met for the hundreds who attend Somers Camp each June.

Theo Beeby is one of this year's newcomers to leadership at the camp and says of the training weekend: "This was all about getting new leaders prepared for what goes on behind the scenes at Somers. It was really friendly and informal, with a really open and accepting atmosphere.

"We were assigned mentors who will be our 'go to' buddies if we aren't sure about something specific. It was great spending time with the senior leaders and bonding with everyone there." Theo decided to continue into leadership at Somers Camp after progressing from camper to 'slushie', because he really enjoys spending time with similar young people who he can relax with and share thoughts and ideas.

Registrations for Somers Camp are still open, so if you



know young people in years 3-9 who enjoy healthy, wholesome fun, with a Christian message, go to <http://www.somerscamp.com.au/register/> to register.

Young people in year 10 can apply to be slushies – getting to work all week but also learning 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](mailto: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 those requiring financial assistance approach their own churches initially. Thank you for your understanding. For more information, contact: [info@somerscamp.com.au](mailto:info@somerscamp.com.au)

To speak to a person, then Camp Mum, Rev Claire Dawe is only a phone call away on 0410 827 597.

Postal address: PO Box 860, Mt Eliza, Vic, 3930.

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



# Mutual prayers uphold at Mulgrave

**SUNDAY May 1st** marked an emotional milestone at a packed combined service at the Mulgrave UC, writes Rev John Mann. This service marked the end of a 31 year sharing of the Wanda Street premises together and the beginning of a different partnership between the two Mulgrave congregations, as the MUCIC (Mulgrave Uniting Church Indonesian Congregation) prepares itself to move to its new home at the corner of Burke and Malvern Roads, Gardiner, formerly the site of the St. Andrew's Gardiner congregation.

The service, led by Rev Dr Howard Wallace and Rev Ajub Yahya, was highlighted by joyous singing, warm fellowship and a few tears. As I cast my eye around it was very obvious that this worship space is well past being adequate for such a large congregation.



Howard preached on the healing of the man at the pool of Bethesda, leaving the congregation with Jesus's question "do you want to get well?" As both congregations may have some fear and trepidation about these significant changes, it was very moving to see each congregation lay hands in prayer for the respective leaders of each other's congregation.

*"God of the past and God of the future:  
 You are the strength and the protector of your people.  
 We place in your hands the (other) congregation,  
 who are about to leave us/whom are about to leave  
 Bless them and keep them O God,  
 Hold them in the palm of your hand,  
 Watch over them and guide them  
 Through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen."*



The Service of Mutual Blessing was symbolised by the presenting of a new

Christ Candle to the Indonesian congregation by the Wanda St congregation. Representatives from the former St. Andrew's congregation were also present which in itself symbolises the extraordinary amount of goodwill offered by all parties in this relocation. MUCIC who seem now to have the task of re-thinking their congregation's name have planned their first 'official' service at Gardiner for May 15th at 10am.



*You are invited* to celebrate the life of the Labyrinth at Brighleigh with

## *"Lightly on the Earth"*

A book of reflections by Christine MacDowall  
 with photos by Jeannette Cossio  
 and friends of the Labyrinth

### **Book Launch**

*with entertainment and afternoon tea*

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2016**  
**2 pm-4 pm**



**at Springvale Uniting Church**  
 cnr. Albert & Balmoral Avenues,  
 Springvale

*RSVP for catering purposes 0427 375 760 or 03 9546 6892 or christine@macdowall.com.au*  
 Copies of the book will be available with donations to the Royal Flying Doctor Service

# All change at Frankston...



**Rev David Fotheringham's induction will be at HSUC at 7.30pm on Thursday, May 5**

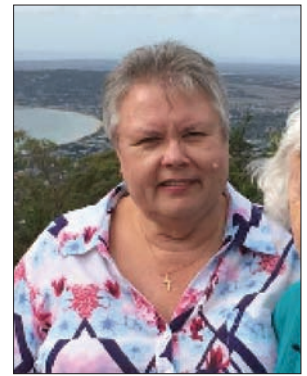
**THERE'S a sea change going on down at High Street Uniting Church, Frankston with key people either coming in or moving on.**

More than six months after Rev Dr Robert Johnson's retirement the congregation accepted the JNC's proposal for a new Minister of the Word in the shape of Rev David Fotheringham, pictured left. David had previous placements at Horsham and Ashburton.

Children's Ministry leader, Barb Conner, top right, retires on May 22 and to complete the trio of change, Rev Jay Robinson will become the new Minister of the Word at Koornang UC, Murrumbreena on September 1 after nine years at HSUC and as Chaplain at Monash University's Frankston campus.

"It's always sad to leave a placement," says Jay, "and as a first placement High Street has been just spectacular. I couldn't have been better placed.

"I'm excited by the prospect of leading a ministry team at Koornang, though, and working with the congregation there."



## Golden memories marked for Helen



**Sandringham Uniting Church saw the Rev Christine MacDowall present Helen Jackson with a certificate recently, marking 50 years since Helen's ordination as a deaconess in Bentleigh Presbyterian Church.**

Family and friends were present at the April 10th service to celebrate Helen's landmark anniversary. The photos show Helen as a new Deaconess and at the service being presented with her award.



**2016 MAY FETE**  
 Saturday May 7th  
 8.30am to 1pm



**High Street Uniting Church  
 16 High St  
 Frankston**

**With all the usual goodies...**

Books, Plants, Jacket Potatoes, Cakes & Slices, Face Painting, Devonshire Teas, Handcrafts & Cards, Trash & Treasure, Espresso Coffee, Sausage Sizzle and the Frankston Beanie Challenge

Proceeds from the Fete support the church's community activities such as Operation Larder, Community work in India, Chaplaincy, Voices of Frankston, local Community Breakfast & Kids Hope

Website: [www.frankstonuniting.org.au](http://www.frankstonuniting.org.au)



## Leading the way to social impact

**CONNECTIONS** UnitingCare was awarded 'Best Newcomer to Social Impact Measurement' by the Social Impact Measurement Network Australia (SIMNA) for their work in the development of the Connections Outcomes Framework (COF).

The Best Newcomer category recognises organisations who have introduced social impact measurement within the past two years.

Often referred to as outcomes measurement, social impact measurement assesses the impact of, or the difference made by a particular program or intervention.

"The development of the COF has enabled our organisation to quantify how we are meeting our strategic objective of making lives better", said Kathryn Mackay, Connections' Senior Project Leader, and Service Evaluation & Development.

"The COF involves tracking client progress across a range of outcome areas, with the results quantified and aggregated to provide evidence of program effectiveness

which can be used for strategic and operational planning and to support funding acquisition," said Ms. Mackay. The COF has been implemented across seven Connections' programs, incorporating over 130 clients. It has attracted considerable interest from the Child and Family Services sector and it will systematically be rolled out across all Connections' programs.

"We look forward to the ongoing evolution of the COF and cementing its position as a leader in the area of outcomes measurement," said Ms Mackay.

Connections UnitingCare was amongst nine organisations announced as finalists in the 2016 SIMNA Awards. Applications received for the SIMNA Awards were from different sectors, however eight out of the nine finalists, were from non-profit organisations.

Congratulations to everyone involved in this great achievement!

### Podcast proposal

THE ABC National AM Program Podcast reported on Peninsula Voice's ICE forum this week. If you would like to hear the discussion and interviews with local parents struggling with their child's addiction please e-mail or call Peter Orton who will happily send the link to the ABC interviews (it runs for about 3 minutes.) Mobile: 0407 887 864 email: peter.orton@abmcombustion.



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](http://bit.ly/contactzone)

For inquiries contact Ann Byrne

Phone: 9251 5404

Fax: (03) 9251 5241

E-mail: [Ann.Byrne@victas.uca.org.au](mailto:Ann.Byrne@victas.uca.org.au)

**THE small country church at Scrub Hill, between Creswick and Daylesford, was closed recently, and the building sold.**

In the church there has been a wall-mounted wooden cross donated by one of the families closely involved with the life of the congregation some years ago. It is approximately 2m high and 1.5m wide, finished as simple rough timber, pictured right.

The new owners do not want the cross, but they would be more than happy to donate it to any congregation who would like to express an interest.

If you know of anyone to whom this would be of interest please contact David Stickland on 04 0941 2422.

## Historic cross seeks new home



## An amazing 'Indian Experience'



**ANOTHER intrepid band of travellers went to North India recently with the Uniting Journeys responsible travel program.**

The group, made up of PPEP folk and beyond, visited the Mother & Child Mobile Health Clinics Project - supported by High St UC, St Kilda Parish Mission and many other churches in Victoria - as part of this amazing two-week tour. A full report in pictures will appear in the next issue of Newsbeat. The tour will run again next April so put a date in your diary now and watch this space...

### Quote

“If I was asked under what sky the human mind has most fully developed some of its choicest gifts, has pondered on the greatest problems of life, and has found solutions, I should point to India.”

**Max Mueller  
of the month...**

# BECOMING AN INTERCULTURAL CHURCH



*Friday, 13th May:*  
**7.30 pm - 9.00 pm**  
*Saturday, 14th May:*  
**9.00 am - 4.00 pm**

**VENUE:**  
Koornang Uniting Church  
117 Murrumbeena Road,  
Murrumbeena

Cost: \$70  
Early bird: \$60  
Group booking (3 or more  
from congregation, agency or CTM):  
\$50 by early bird date

**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 emphasis  
was on training missional leaders for the  
Australasian context.

Dr Dewerse 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 Anandarajan on 03 9251 5486 or  
Devanandan.Anandarajan@victas.  
uca.org.au.

**COME AND JOIN US!**

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

# Can you be amazing for a child in foster care?

**VICTORIA** has an urgent need for foster carers and Wesley Mission Victoria encourages you to invite a vulnerable young person into your home.

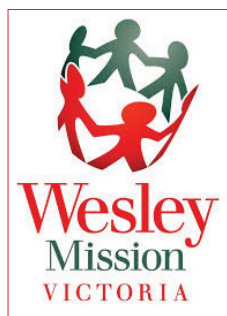
While many people think about becoming foster carers, it appears far fewer people act on that thought.

Wesley carer Jenny Holden says she didn't expect to become a foster carer. When she and husband Arthur retired, they felt they had so much to give, but thought that they'd be too old.

"Turns out we weren't!" says Jenny, who recently celebrated her 70th birthday.

"We've discovered that if you love kids, and you want to help, then you're never too old."

Since then Jenny and Arthur have enjoyed seeing the simple changes in the many young people who have stayed with them. She says it can be challenging, but the rewards far outweigh any tough times.



As a key local foster care agency, Wesley provides around-the-clock support and training to carers in the southern and eastern suburbs of Melbourne. Wesley is seeking more foster carers because Victoria experiences a shortfall of more than 300 carers every year. As Jenny and Arthur prove,

anyone can have the potential to be a foster carer – married, single, same-sex relationship, young and old. Some carers work full-time and take on weekend emergency care, while others are stay-at-home-parents or retired with longer-term placements.

Wesley CEO Paul Linossier says every child deserves the best possible start in life and encourages Victorians to open their hearts and their homes to children and young people who can't live with their own families.

"We're spreading the message that you don't need to be a superhero to be a foster carer. Wesley's own

*Shared wonders: Foster carers Jenny and Arthur Holden are pictured enjoying a day at the zoo with the children who live with them.*

carers constantly tell us that it's the small, ordinary things that make a huge difference to a life of a child or young person in need, like reading a bedtime story or giving lots of encouragement on daily milestones," Mr Linossier said. If you've ever thought about foster care, don't put it off any longer. Wesley's foster care team would love to hear from you on (03) 9794 3000 or read more about Wesley's foster carers at their website on [wesley.org.au](http://wesley.org.au)

## ARE YOU OR IS SOMEONE YOU KNOW HAVING A BABY?

### STUDENT MIDWIFE SEEKING PREGNANT WOMEN TO TAKE PART IN A CONTINUITY OF CARE EXPERIENCE.

As part of my practical integration studies at Australian Catholic University as a Midwife, I am required to observe and take part in a woman's individual pregnancy experience.

I am seeking permission from women in the early stages up to 35 weeks pregnant who will allow me to journey with them as a student midwife.

For more information

Go to ACU midwifery students CCE webpage – [acu.edu.au](http://acu.edu.au) (School of Nursing, Midwifery and Paramedicine; Midwifery students CCE)

or

Contact me, Ariane Crowe, [ariane.crowe@myacu.edu](mailto:ariane.crowe@myacu.edu).

# Reflections on Faith

**IN 1957 appointed to Rev W A Alston - after Ken Melville, a Melbourne footballer.**

A hard act to follow as I only played for Surrey Hills, in the Eastern Suburbs Churches Association. Newly married we moved into an elder's home in Eyre Street while he was overseas. We had no car. Walked to Church twice a Sunday. Read the lessons and preached occasionally.

It was a high-powered congregation, which included my old Headmaster Colin Gilray! Other names were Sinclairs, Cluiness-Ross, the Ewings, Patons and De Kretzers, Andersons, Metzlings, Briscoes, Provans and Coltmans, Darvalls and the young Heads!

We looked after the PFA. Sometimes the lights went out at home. PFA! We went to a PFA camp. The preacher at the Dromana Church was totally against alcohol. The kids walked back to camp singing "Free beer for all the workers" and other drinking songs. The main elder was Mr Fouvy, a nice but serious

**'Memories of a student assistant' by Bill Pugh, retired minister**

character. In the choir were the Wardlaws. John married the daughter of the Alstons. Harry became a professor at Ormond

College. Bill Alston's communion services were a highlight. He was a fine pastor, visitor, and mentor. Nothing was a trouble. I preached occasionally. If it was OK a lovely old man, who was as deaf as a post called out "Very good!". He had a hearing aid on a long arm plugged at his side. We had no transport, I visited on foot, sometimes on a bicycle and on one occasion my brother lent me his MG!

A special year at Frank Paton, which shaped my churchmanship. I shall always be grateful for that all too short year, and to the benefactor who paid our rent. And to Bill Alston, Saint of the Church. Thank you Deepdene!



## New life breathes into Gardiner

**THE St. Andrew's Celtic Presbyterian/ Presbyterian/Uniting Church congregation held its final service of worship on 10th April.**

The packed church which is a large historic blue-stone building was full of members, former members, community group representatives, including 10th Malvern scouts in uniform, and representatives from the Korean Church of Melbourne, Mulgrave Indonesian Congregation and Presbytery. Almost all living former ministers of the congregation were present too.

Rev Tony Duncan led the congregation in a deeply meaningful and beautiful worship service which celebrated its long history from originating as a blue stone church sited in Carlton, to being transported brick-by-brick and re-built as the church that we know today.

Church Council Chair, Heather Cameron described a new but small settlement in 1920's Gardiner of eight residences and in which the rebuilt church commenced worshipping on the corner of two country lanes near a small railway station that served 12 train journeys a day. Tony invited the congregation to stand to identify themselves as past participants of the many church programs held at this church in their lifetimes such as significant events as baptisms, weddings, Sunday School, scouts, cricket club, kindergarten participants. etc. It all brought back many happy memories and some sad ones as well.

Speaking on behalf of the Presbytery Rev John Mann reminded everyone of the vision in recent years for the St. Andrew's Congregation sharing with the Korean Church of Melbourne in becoming a "Church for all Nations" with programs and worship that would truly reflect the Uniting Church's multi-cultural and cross-cultural identity. Sadly that hadn't come to fruition until the desperate need of the Mulgrave UC Indonesian Congregation to find larger premises for its growing congregation became a Presbytery priority. A Project Consultative Group (PCG) was formed under the auspices of the Presbytery to relocate the Indonesian speaking congregation to the Gardiner site while respecting and maintaining the mission work of the Korean Church which itself has built up significantly at Gardiner for some years. Wonderful music and singing solo and choir contributions to the service were made by members of each of the three congregations. Symbolically the keys of the Church and the Communion Table Bible were made by the leaders of the St. Andrew's congregation to the Indonesian Congregation. Despite the formal closing of the St. Andrew's congregation, the Gardiner Church complex will be more active than ever in continuing to proclaim the Gospel as a Uniting Church for many more years to come.





## Dates for your diary

- Induction of Rev David Fotheringham - Thursday, May 5, 7.30pm at High Street UC, Frankston.
- Code of Ethics Sessions - Noble Park 14 July, Hampton 28 July, Frankston 11 August and Stonnington 25 August. All sessions start at 2pm.

## Tony follows Robert Johnson for Presbytery Chair stint

**Rev Dr Antony [Tony] Floyd lives with his wife Shirley in Berwick, where they are members of the St Andrew's UCA.**

Tony trained in an ecumenical context in Melbourne, Australia and in Chicago, USA and was ordained at the last Methodist Annual Conference before Church Union in October 1976. He concluded full-time ministry at the end of March 2015 after 8 years as National director Multicultural and Cross-cultural Ministry with the national Assembly.

Shirley is a retired midwife and counsellor who still works casually in Child and Maternal Health in their local government area of Casey. They have a son and daughter (deceased), adult grandson and partner in Perth with their first great-granddaughter, an adult granddaughter in Launceston and infant grandson in Victoria. A two-time migrant to this country, Tony's extended family includes first and second-generation Caucasian migrants from England, Wales and Ireland in the UK, Poland in Europe, as well as China, Ghana in Africa and Indigenous Australians, one of whom was best man at his wedding and a former brother-in-law. Ministry has been mostly with congregations in Victoria, USA (including graduate study and ministry



in an international cross-cultural environment in Chicago) and Tasmania. In rural areas, new suburbs, cross-cultural team ministry (Indonesian and English speaking), and a regional city. But also 2 years as a member of the Mission Planning team in the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania, and 8 years as the National Director for Multicultural and Cross-cultural Ministry in the national Assembly of the UCA. Tony was also Chair of Bourke and Westernport Presbyteries, and inaugural Chair of the Board of Mission and Resourcing (6 years). Since retirement he has spent time in Supply ministry in the Synod/Presbytery of SA – cross-cultural ministry, and in Pilgrim Presbytery of the Northern Synod with the Indonesian speaking congregations in Darwin.

## Presbytery in Council meeting dates for 2016:

- **Saturday, 21 May at 9.30am at Cook Islands Congregation, Burton Ave, Clayton**
- **Saturday, 16 July at 9.30am at Koornang Congregation, Murrumbeena Rd Murrumbeena**
- **Wednesday, 28 September at St John's Mt Waverley**



### A morning prayer

Dear Lord, help me remember what a difference it makes when I make time with You a priority in my morning. Awaken me in body and spirit each day with a desire to meet with You and to hear You speak words of affirmation, assurance and wisdom over my heart as I prepare to go into my day. In Jesus' Name. *Amen.*

by Traci Miles

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.