

NEWSBEAT



JUNE 2016

NEWSLETTER FOR THE PRESBYTERY OF PORT PHILLIP EAST



The Hills are alive with the sound of welcome. See our photo feature on page 3.

Recognise this proud grandpa? Journey to page 5 for the story and pictures.



Let's work together to cross cultural bridges

WONDERING how we can all grow together as Christians and build our church communities - whatever our cultural heritage?

Then head to this month's important Presbytery-wide event to share and merge thoughts and ideas in this space, and perhaps understand why some congregations are expanding while others are struggling to find new blood.

The Cross Cultural Network will be hosting a Cross Cultural Morning Tea/Fellowship time for people to discuss cross cultural issues of

interest to CALD/Anglo ministers and lay people across the Presbytery. They particularly invite congregations who are culturally specific as well as those who have a variety of cultures within the worshipping community.

Date: Wednesday 22nd June 10.00 am – 12.00 noon

Venue: Koornang Uniting Church

117 Murrumbeena Road, Murrumbeena

Rev Hoon You says: "The network consists of ministers and lay people of CALD (Culturally and Linguistically Diverse) background, or working in CALD areas, or who have a strong interest in such matters. They appreciate the opportunity to share their experiences and learn about the work of different cultures within the Presbytery and beyond.

"We are also pleased to welcome some new members this year, replacing others who have moved from the Presbytery. Please do come along to share with us, no matter what your background."



Caring for creation

THE Uniting Church World Environment Day Resource 2016 is now available on the UnitingJustice website:

www.untingjustice.org.au/environment/information-and-action-resources

Rev Dr Paul Chalson says: "This is a great resource put together by a team of people from across Australia.

"I am particularly excited by the compilation of theological reflections from a number of folk of various cultures including Eseta Waqabaca-Meneilly,

Sealin Garlett, Sef Carrol, Apwee Ting and Ji Zhang. The resource also includes commentary on lectionary passages and resources for worship services and action."

World Environment Day is June 5, which is a Sunday this year, and this is a great resource to help reflect upon

the themes and reflect upon what it means to be a church which cares for creation.



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



Knitting together a community

FRANKSTON celebrated another successful Beanie Challenge for their annual May Fete season - hitting the local press once again.

This time they showcased their new minister, Rev David Fotheringham, who gamely donned one of the knitted creations to



Unable to keep a cap on the fun are winners, from left, Jill Cayzer, Ley McIntosh, Patty Scully and Mary Brice, Judge Edna Runciman, centre, and new minister David Fotheringham, back, were delighted with the entrants. Picture: MARK DADSWELL

Hats off to best of the Beanie Challenge

FRANKSTON Uniting Church members and supporters have spun some excellent yarns, with the profit in the results. The church received about 150 entries, including scarfs, for its Great Frankston Beanie Challenge. Church members sold the beanies at their recent fete, with those not snapped up by eager buyers passed on to the needy. Mary Brice won overall best in show for her grey child's beanie - putting her win down to patience and attention to detail. Other category winners included Ley McIntosh (most creative) and Jill Cayzer (best adult and baby beanies). Ms McIntosh's eye-catching design featured a fox on the scarf. She said the fox was designed to appeal to children. Ms Cayzer's pink baby beanie including a pompom was a hit with the judges. The Reverend David Fotheringham said money raised from the beanies that were sold would be used to help the community. Judge Edna Runciman said she looked for variety and the quality of knitting.

garner more support for the competition and the annual festivities. The May Fete brings in visitors for miles around and connects High Street Uniting Church with the community, who frequently comment on the goodwill and welcoming spirit emanating from the church and the army of congregational helpers who come out on the day.

ACT FOR PEACE
CONFRONTING INJUSTICE TOGETHER
THROUGH THE **actalliance**

A rationale for helping refugees

THERE'S still time to sign up for Act for Peace's Ration Challenge meal fundraiser.

Click on www.actforpeace.org.au/churches for information. The event is best related to Refugee Week, the third week of June. However, churches can conduct it at another time. Contact Jeff Wild, pictured, on 9650 6811 for information.



Quote

"Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak.

Courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen."

Sir Winston Churchill



of the month...

Creating inspiration

Engage Worship is a useful worship ideas site from the UK.

It contains creative worship ideas for every week relating to the Bible readings of the Revised Common Lectionary.

<http://engageworship.org> has a number of other ideas for worship free to registered users and registration is free. The site is also advertising a book on Outdoor Worship. Visit:

<http://engageworship.org/area52>



Urgent call out

Are you up for a challenge? Do you want to work with an awesome group of inspiring young adults? Do you have a sense of humour? Can you tell one end of a balance sheet from the other?

If this is you, then Somers Camp needs a treasurer.

We have been blessed by Jarrod Lawson for the last few years - he's done a great job of setting up processes and systems for payments, tracking and ensuring we don't spend what we don't have. But Jarrod's job means he can't put in the hours anymore. If you are able to help out the camp in this way, we would love to have a chat with you.

You will need good computer skills, be available on the

port philipp east presbytery childrens camp



Monday of camp for registration payments and queries, and be able to attend most of the monthly business meetings on the 2nd

Wed held in the Mornington Peninsula area.

Please phone Camp Mum (Rev Claire Dawe) on 0410 827 597 for a chat.

Please note: according to the UCA guidelines on Safe Church, current working with children check is an absolute requirement.

Robin is warmly welcomed at Endeavour Hills



A PACKED Endeavour Hills UC celebrated the induction of the Rev Robin Yang recently.

The preacher Ms Belinda Clear, Chair of the JNC, gave a wonderful sermon on 'faith as an adventure'.

The service, on Friday night May 27th, was well attended by members of Presbytery, members of Robin's former church "Korean Church of Melbourne" and



representatives of neighbouring UC congregations.

Rev Dr Tony Floyd as our new Chair of Presbytery conducted this welcome induction.

The enthusiastic congregation were well treated to an anthem by the Endeavour Hills choir and a musical item of a cello and clarinet duo by Robin's family.

**Photos
by
Ashley
Williams**



*Pictured right, from top:
New PPEP
Chair, Rev Dr
Tony Floyd,
conducts his
first induction,
Robin
addresses the
congregation,
Endeavour*



*Hills choir shares music and song and
Belinda Clear delights listeners with her
address on 'faith as an adventure.'*

IMMORAL DETENTION

The fundamental flaws in our asylum policies

**St John's Uniting Church, Elsternwick
Annual Social Justice Lunch**

Sunday 7th August
12 noon for 12:30pm

St John's Uniting Church
567 Glen Huntly Road,
Elsternwick - Mel. 67 13
includes a silent auction
BYO wine; soft drink supplied

Cost: \$25
RSVP: 31st July
Phone: 9530 0684
janeoldfield@netspace.net.au

Speaker: Daniel Webb
Director of Legal Advocacy
Human Rights Law Centre

St John's supports asylum seekers and social justice

Position Description:

Property Manager, St Andrew's UC, Gardiner.

The Presbytery of Port Phillip East and St Andrew's UC

is seeking a person motivated by Christian Values and Ethics and with an understanding of UCA philosophy and operation, to manage a suite of buildings and the grounds at St Andrew's UC, Gardiner. The current St Andrew's congregation is closing and the Mulgrave Uniting Church Indonesian Congregation will assume 'beneficial use' of this property following a transition period, during which arrangements for the sharing of the property with the Korean Church of Melbourne will be finalised.

St Andrew's UC is a heritage building located on the corner of Burke Rd and Malvern Rd, Gardiner. The property consists of a suite of buildings including the bluestone church, a manse and pre-school (currently leased), a hall with adjacent car park, and Wesley hall containing the church offices two meeting rooms and a kitchen. The grounds contain a Memorial Garden and garden beds and a lawn area facing Burke Rd.

The role of the Property Manager will be to oversee the care and maintenance of the grounds and property, including the following duties:

all Hall bookings for both UC groups and external associations;

maintain and file the annual licence agreements and insurance certificates for external groups using the church property as required;

- the allocation of keys to the various aspects of the property and the maintenance of a Key Register;
- supervision of the 'Environment Project' (Solar Panels) liaising with Going Solar and energy companies;
- manage the Caretaker's duties and responsibilities;
- general maintenance of the site as required, liaising with the required trades and maintenance persons (including the clock winder and organ tuner);

- supervise the servicing of all equipment (data projector, photocopier, sound system etc.) as required;
- supervision of garden maintenance including management of watering system as required and lawn mowing contract;
- oversee the maintenance of the Memorial Garden, allocate resting places in the Garden as required and maintain the Reservation List for places in the Garden;
- resolve issues relating to the use of the car park, liaising with the Stonington Parking Alliance;
- liaising with the Gardiner Pre-School, the 10th Malvern Scout Group, and the Real Estate agent managing the lease of the manse.

Ideally the successful applicant would have some knowledge and experience in property management. This position will be part-time (.25) and the remuneration will be based on an EFT of \$42,000 pa.

For further information regarding this position please contact

Applications for the position of Property Manager St Andrew's Gardiner should be addressed to:

Presbytery Minister Administration Rev John Mann, pm-admin@ucappeg.org or PO Box 696, Noble Park, 3174

Enquiries to the Presbytery Office 9558 4710. Closing Date for Applications: 30th June 2016



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

We're making progress...

INDIA has a magical pulling-power like nowhere else on earth (that I've visited, at any rate.)

This was my fifth trip, and I was just as intoxicated with its colour, noise, aromas, culture and landscape as the very first time I'd set foot there in 2012. This is a lifelong love affair with the country, I realise.

India is just buzzing the whole time, and the people are so full of character. We took in responsibly-minded excursions, such as the Sulabh International Toilet Museum, and stayed at several gorgeous boutique family-run hotels. Five days visiting the Mother & Child Mobile Health Clinics project in the Punjab was incredibly enriching, and the group strengthened existing relationships with the Indian community and bonded together in the process.

Dr Alma Ram runs the Jagrati Bhalai Kendra Society - translation 'conscience and goodness' - which runs the project. Currently, they cover 30 villages across the Punjab in community health, such as ante/post-natal care, contraception, nutrition, sanitation & hygiene, HIV/Aids, widows, gender equality and female empowerment. How far they reach is quite astounding.

Alma, joined by Bishop Pradeep 'Bunu' Samantaroy from the Church of North India, treated us to a presentation outlining the project work and the needs of the Dalit people, and sharing progress since it was launched two years ago (thanks to local UCA backing.) The ratio of girl-child births and subsequent survival has increased, highlighting changes in gender equality and health and hygiene issues. Hurrah!

We handed over the bagfuls of knitted baby clothes they had requested - donated by a number of Uniting Church congregations and friends - and they were thrilled!

We went to a village on the first day where all the grandmothers, women and girls from the village had gathered for a nutrition seminar.

We then heard one of the JBK staff teaching them all about nutrition and health with the help of hand-made charts on the wall. It was saddening to learn they had little knowledge in this area, and that baby girls were often given tea in place of milk, compared to boys. The group also visited an HIV positive woman bringing up two boys on her own, as her husband had died after transferring the HIV. He had become depressed as he was out of work and had turned to drugs. Fortunately the children were not affected, but we heard of the terrible difficulties this woman faced in obtaining medication and treatment, three bus-rides away, and also the stigma surrounding the diagnosis. There was a quiet dignity about the woman, which we all noted. The JBK staff for this program are also HIV positive, so they fully understand the needs of those they serve - one contracted it during medical intervention in childbirth. These women are a vital support network for sufferers.

Next stop was a baby 'competition'

Cont. on page 6

Helen Beeby shares some stories and reflections from the recent *Experience India* tour



Clockwise from top: Baby competition; Dr Alma teaching in a village home; Bunu - a proud grandpa; gorgeous grandmas in our group; brainstorming for the future.

We're making progress...

Cont. from page 5

which encourages mothers to obtain birth certificates for their child (not always pursued) and weigh and measure them regularly for optimum health. Those who maintain *all* the requirements receive a prize, and everyone gets a certificate for taking part. We were astonished at how long they would all sit on floor mats, children included, waiting patiently throughout the proceedings. We can learn as much from them as vice versa! Most gratifying, was the final day of 'brainstorming' with the staff and volunteers at the JBK Field Office about the direction of the program and making it more self-sustaining going into the future. One area is for them to set up social enterprise businesses to generate income. Another is to seek sponsorship for JBK workers from donors and supporters here in Australia and the UK; for just a \$20 per month pledge-giving donation the JBK staff member corresponds with the group or individual sponsor about their work, lives and hopes for the future. Thus improving their English and connecting supporters directly with the work and program. If you, or a group you're in, would be interested in this kind of support and interaction please e-mail frankstonuc@gmail.com

After saying farewell to our friends in Amritsar the tour wrapped up in the foothills of the Himalayas in spiritual Dharamsala and then 'eye-popping' Shimla, before heading back to Delhi for more responsible travel excursions and sight-seeing. Breathtaking and humbling. We really did Experience India once again on this Uniting Journeys tour.



Uniting AgeWell thanks its army of volunteers

MORE than 600 dedicated volunteers were recognised and celebrated through a series of luncheons, barbeques, dancing and high teas across Uniting AgeWell during National Volunteers Week.

From assisting with leisure and lifestyle activities to transporting residents, helping in the garden or even administration, volunteers play an integral role at Uniting AgeWell, making a positive difference to the lives of the people it supports. Like 94-year-old Geelong resident Irene Herviou, who celebrates 25



years of volunteering with the Uniting AgeWell Kalkee Community this year.

Irene has given her time and skills to a number of programs, including pastoral care and assisting in the Kalkee Op Shop. Or John Pittman, who received a Volunteer Recognition Award from Launceston City

Council on Tuesday, May 10. "I really enjoy helping others and knowing the difference I can make in the residents' lives through simple activities such as organising footy tipping, Melbourne Cup sweeps, bingos and lawn bowls," John said.

"The residents also really appreciate assistance with everyday tasks such as helping them out with their smartphones, changing their watch batteries and holding simple conversations."

To become a volunteer and make a difference to the lives of Uniting AgeWell seniors, visit www.unitingagewell.org

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 (School of Nursing, Midwifery and Paramedicine; Midwifery students CCE) or

Contact me, Ariane Crowe, ariane.crowe@myacu.edu.au

Reflections on Faith

FAITH can move mountains, but some are harder and higher than others.

Take the experience of cancer. Diagnosis a shock; confronting. A mountain to climb. A challenge, as you undertake treatment.

There are many there with you, in the days and weeks, old and young... too young.



Some come with family, a friend, some alone. Gradually you are greeted with, a smile, a friendly face, learn a name. A few are silent, not coping perhaps. You do not intrude. Already you are taking a step up the slope, supported by caring staff, who greet you each time, and with the latest treatments. Making light of those strange looking machines, so necessary for their work.

Sadly, some you have begun to know so well, don't make it. That is a reality. You feel you have lost a friend whose courage you have so admired along the way.

Sympathy, becomes compassion, for those who have been there for them, daily, and have lost someone deeply loved.

Is faith a cotton wool which can protect us from the risks of human life? No. But it is the way forward, and, in the people you have met, you have witnessed a kind of courage and a measure of hope, which are the stuff of real faith.

Saul of Tarsus had an encounter on the road to Damascus. Life-changing. As Paul, the Apostle, he faced mountains to climb on his journeys, rough seas, and fierce opposition. A physical ailment which he called his "thorn in the flesh" dogged him, which was never removed, in spite of his prayers. Even this he used to effect.

Always he could go on in the strength he owned to his Companion on the way. By stepping out in faith, whatever the mountain, we may be surprised by the support of those we meet. And blessed.

'The Experience of Cancer' by Bill Pugh, retired minister

Local dignitaries turn out for a cuppa with a cause

GEALC & the Ormond Uniting Church Hosts a Biggest Morning Tea

Glen Eira Adult Learning Centre and the Ormond Uniting Church held a Biggest Morning Tea to raise funds to help the fight against cancer on Thursday 19 May. 115 people attended including the Mayor of Glen Eira & MPs. A **BIG thank you** to everyone who showed their support. We raised **\$765** for a worthy cause!



Tim's Tri-for-Change

YOUNG people are taking ownership of their giving – and one Year 12 student at Wesley College has triggered an annual fundraiser for Share to follow in his grandfather's footsteps. Eighteen-year-old Tim Bliss is knee deep in economics, biology, maths and chemistry books at this UCA school, *writes Helen Beeby*. Yet that hasn't stopped him establishing a triathlon event, named Tri-for-Change, to raise money for *Share* (the Uniting Church's fundraising body) and their vital agency work. "My grandfather, George Gilbertson, was a big supporter of Share," says Tim, pictured right, "and after he passed away last year I decided I wanted to carry on the family



tradition, while at the same time giving something back to the local community."

Tim wanted to combine teamwork with community-spirit and established the Tri-for-Change concept with some of his school friends. The fundraiser involves a 20 minute swim in Wesley College's pool, 20 minutes cycling in their



gym and finally a 20-minute run around the school's grounds.

In year one, Tri-for-Change participants generated a healthy \$1,232.40, but in April, 2016 Tim raised everyone's game and galvanised more than 20 fellow students to boost Share coffers with a staggering \$3848.65. The funds will be used in *Share's* important work, such as providing emergency relief for families in crisis, educational support for disadvantaged children and help for the homeless.

"We had a couple of really good fundraisers in the event this year," adds Tim, "and we promoted the event in the daily bulletin, I spoke about it in Assembly and it went on the notice boards.

"About 30 minutes before the triathlon people gathered round to watch and take part, so there was a real buzz of anticipation. We had 12 individuals and a couple of teams. They came from different year levels and a mixture of male and female, so it was a real school-wide event. We also added a barbecue to raise a bit more money.

"I was really happy with the day and that people got behind the event. It was really worthwhile. I'm really pleased to continue my grandfather's support for *Share*."

His support doesn't end there, either. Tim plays the cello in a quartet at Wesley College, called the Wattle Quartet, and they are to play at a Share High Tea event in October, 2016.

"Tim's initiative is a magnificent example of Wesley's vision for student-led change in practice.

"I highly recommend the Wattle Quartet's performance, too", said Dr Helen Drennen AM, Principal of Wesley College.

Staff and students show their support for the Tri-for-Change triathlon at Wesley College recently.



Stretch your thinking at this year's Wisdom's feast

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE SUPPORT PROJECT IS A CLASS ACT

CONNECTIONS UnitingCare's School Attendance Support Project (SASP) is changing children's lives at the grassroots.

The scheme aims to increase school attendance, develop school connectedness and support community involvement. Last year, Sarah, a Family Services worker within the program, received a complex referral to support Michael*, a child in Grade 6 with severe anxiety issues. Michael had only attended school for 1.5 days at that time. Sarah developed strategies to manage Michael's anxiety, particularly around leaving his mother, and reinforced a team approach in his return to school. Sarah started driving Michael from home to school and parking outside the school gates. Michael progressed by leaving the car and walking around the school oval and eventually meeting with the principal and his teacher.

Within a month, Michael started attending school for one hour blocks; with Sarah providing support the entire time in the classroom. Together, Sarah and Michael discussed and monitored his anxiety levels and provided ongoing positive



encouragement when goals were achieved. Michael talked through and challenged his negative thoughts and providing him with a return to school plan.

Since becoming involved with SASP:

- Michael initiated social catch ups with friends for the first time in two years.
- Michael participated in a sleep over at a friend's home and continues to develop positive peer friendships.
- Michael started wearing his school uniform.
- Michael attended his Grade 6 graduation and transitioned to secondary school.
- Michael attended Year 7 camp – his first camp ever.

Michael recently advised Sarah, "My long-term goal is to finish school and go to university and do social work like you because I would also like to help kids like myself when I grow up. Because I know how awful anxiety can feel. I would be good at helping kids like you do."

*Not his real name.

For information about the program, contact Connections UnitingCare Pakenham office on 03 5945 3900.



THE preparations for this year's Wisdom's Feast event are well in hand and there are some

fantastic opportunities to engage you and your network.

So, the team at the CTM would like to invite you to this year's Wisdom's Feast to be held at the Centre for Theology & Ministry, Parkville on July 19-21.

The exciting theme for **Wisdom's Feast 2016** is '**Let there be Light!**' Reading the Bible for Social and Cultural Transformation with the visual image being a lightning bolt! Participants will indeed walk away from the event having been greatly challenged and enlightened theologically, artistically and socially.

We are delighted our keynote speaker will be Musa Dube, pictured above, a post-colonial feminist biblical scholar from Botswana. Musa will be presenting four keynote lectures over the course of the three days and also give the Northey lecture on Tuesday evening, July 19.

Professor Dube is a world sought speaker and past consultant for the World Council of Churches. Her research interests include: HIV and Aids, Gender, Translation and Postcolonial studies in religious education. She is also a member of the Circle of Concerned African Women. Wisdom's Feast 2016 promises to be an extraordinary event for both ministers and lay leaders within the church.

Julian 'Jools' Hamilton, who is currently serving as the Methodist Chaplain in Trinity College, Dublin will be speaking on the theme and facilitating workshops. Presentations on the theme will also be given by Katharine Massam, Kerrie Handasyde, Apwee Ting, Chris Budden and Uniting World Staff.

Workshops will include a panel discussion on Domestic Violence within our own context, an exploration of how engagement with our partner churches teaches us about faith and discipleship and an elective exploring how preaching and teaching can bring about transformation in the church.

On Wednesday evening, July 20, the Centre for Theology and Ministry will be transformed in to an Arts Space inviting participants to engage with the theme in story, visual art and song.

Visit <https://ucavt.goregister.com.au/wisdomsfeast2016> for further information and register

for the three days, or even just for one day. And feel free to forward this invitation to your networks.

Picking up the pieces when the ICE storm hits our lives

FRANKSTON is battling to combat its troubled history with the help of churches, community leaders and families working together.

This was certainly in evidence at the 'What's the Real Story with Ice' forum presented by **Peninsula Voice** - an ecumenical group developed through Mornington Uniting Church - which attracted 300+ people to the Peninsula City Church at the end of April.

Local churches, Frankston Council, health professionals, civic leaders, police, community groups, Rotary and families displayed solidarity to show how the Frankston community can work together to reduce the harmful effects of this new drug on our streets.

Victoria Police Crime Command Inspector Rod Wilson listed Frankston among the worst substance abuse and crime areas in Australia. They showed a direct correlation between the rise in substance abuse and the rise in petty crime.

"The mood of the meeting was that this whole-of-community problem requires a whole-of-community response to move the continuum in the right direction away from harm,"



Peninsula Voice chairperson Peter Orton, of Mornington UCA, says. "If we didn't act on the root causes of substance abuse,

then growth in both substance abuse and crime would continue to rise. Support services and the police are finding it difficult to deal

with this demand on services and current efforts are akin to sticking a band-aid on a gaping wound."

Dunkley MP Bruce Billson spoke of the findings of the National Ice Taskforce report, while Curtin University professor Stephen Bright spoke of building a better Rat Park. Rat Park was groundbreaking research into drug addiction in the 70s that found building stronger relationships and engaged communities, means less misuse of alcohol, as well as legal and illegal substances.

Australian Drug Foundation chief Julie Rae spoke about the River.

This is a metaphor of the stream of people who fall into substance abuse and are unable to get out. The story is predicated on looking upstream at why some people succumb to substance abuse, while others do not. Family Drug Support manager Michael Miller detailed how family support was the most effective mechanism for helping a substance abuse victim. He outlined targeted drug education sessions beginning May 9 in Frankston. Local mother Kerrie Knight gave a sobering account of her daughter, India's, five-year struggle with an ice addiction.



Having overdosed five times, her personal story was a powerful message that substance abuse does not discriminate, nor is it based on education, socio economic position or status.

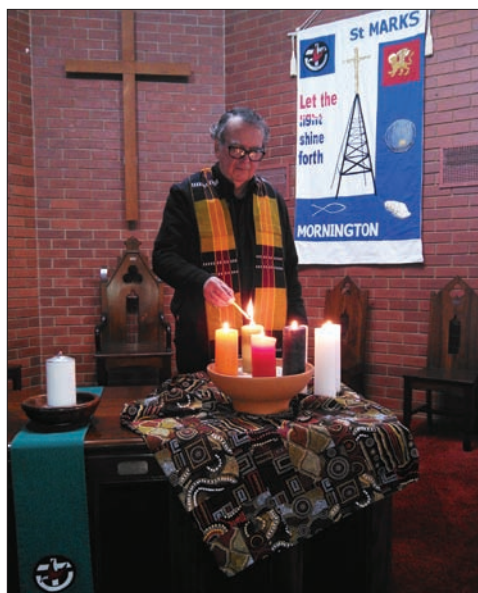
The account reverberated around the room: if it can happen to me it can happen to you.

"The overwhelming message was that substance abuse is a community health issue and requires a whole-of-community response,"

Mr Orton adds.

"Kerrie and India's story is very powerful but, unfortunately, not unique. Kerrie didn't choose to have an ice-addicted daughter. She has endured a tough challenge and, as a parent myself, I can't imagine how difficult the past five years has been for her and her family. What is particularly inspiring, though, is how Kerrie has responded. She has decided to do something about it. It is not dissimilar to the story of Rosie Batty taking up the fight for change on family violence. Substance abuse and addiction is an illness that requires long-term treatment for people to recover - it is not a moral failing."





The light of the world shines at St Mark's

Rev John Haig is pictured here lighting candles during worship at St Mark's, Mornington on Sunday, May 29 marking **Prayer for Reconciliation Sunday**.

It was agreed in November 2006 that the SA Synod/Presbytery establish Reconciliation Sunday in Reconciliation Week (May 27 to June 3) annually, to be celebrated across the Church, and to include this day in worship calendars.

St Mark's has also added a globe to their 'prayers for others' worship time to symbolise their unity with people around the world.



Women Doing Post Colonial Theology with Musa Dube'

Postcolonial Contexts: Moving, Living & Preaching Between Borders

**Venue: Centre for Ministry and Theology
29 College Crescent, Parkville VIC 3052
July 24th and 25th**

A conference where women leaders can spark each other in our theological perspectives and practice.

We will have the company of a brilliant leader of the Circle of African Women Theologians, Professor Musa Dube from Botswana University.

Professor Musa Dube is a New Testament scholar with a special interest in feminist and post colonial perspectives. She is concerned to bridge the gap between the academy and our on the ground faith communities.

For inquiries contact Dev Anandarajan m 0414721015, e Devanandan.Anandarajan@victas.uca.org.au or Ann Byrne (03) 9251 5404 e Ann.Byrne@victas.uca.org.au

Conference fees: \$140

Register online at: bit.ly/postcolwomen



Top-flight finance chief reinforces UCA Funds team

UCA Funds Management has announced Benjamin Pedley as its new Director Investments, in an appointment that sees him return to Australia following 17 years in senior financial management positions across Asia.

With more than 20 years' experience in financial markets, Mr Pedley was previously Head of Investment Strategy, Asia, for HSBC Private Bank in Hong Kong. In this role, he helped manage more than \$90 billion in assets for clients.

The enormous growth of interest in ethical investment in Australia and UCA Funds Management's investment track record were major factors in Mr Pedley's decision to join the team.

"We are on the cusp of a significant generational shift," he says, "and today's investor wants to talk to fund managers with values that are more societally driven."

Mr Pedley is an experienced financial market commentator for CNBC, Bloomberg, Sky and BBC. During his time in Asia, he was also a guest presenter at global conferences. UCA Funds Management CEO Michael Walsh is delighted to welcome him to the team adding: "Benjamin's experience provides us with insights into ethical financial investment on a global scale. It is important that Australia isn't looked at in isolation when we consider ethical strategies."





Dates for your diary

- Wednesday, June 22 - Special PiC meeting for BOMAR grants, Glen Waverley UC. Call 9558 4710 for details.
- Code of Ethics Sessions - Noble Park 14 July, Hampton 28 July, Frankston 11 August and Stonnington 25 August. All sessions start at 2pm.



prayer

Hold my hand in weakness

Lord God, you are my strength. Hold my hand in my weakness and teach my heart to fly. With you, there's nothing to fear, nothing to worry about. Hold me tight in your embrace, so that I can be stronger than the challenges in my life. Amen.

Presbytery in Council meeting dates for 2016:

- **Saturday, 16 July at 9.30am at Koornang Congregation, Murrumbeena Rd Murrumbeena**
- **Wednesday, 28 September at St John's Mt Waverley**



Putting energy onto our agendas

THE Uniting to GREEN team, in partnership with Port Phillip East Presbytery announce a program to identify energy efficiency opportunities for the churches.

Aim: The aim of the program is to help congregations carry out an energy audit of their church property and identify opportunities for reducing both energy costs and consumption by reviewing their existing energy tariffs and by improving energy efficiency.

Outcome: Ideally the congregation will find ways to fund upgrading the energy efficiency of its operation from savings in gas and electricity tariffs. Based on previous church audits, actual outcomes will range from churches confirming that their current situation is good to finding ways to save up to \$1,000 per year.

Cook Islanders play host at recent Presbytery meeting

On Saturday 21 May, Presbytery in Council (PiC) gathered in the

Cook Islands church in Burton Avenue, Clayton, writes Ian Firth.



The gathering commenced with a worship service during which the Rev Dr Paul Chalson, the past, past chair of Presbytery installed the Rev Dr Tony Floyd as the new chairperson.

Paul officiated in the absence of the Rev Dr Robert Johnson. By the way there's no truth in the rumour that you need to be a Rev Dr in order to be chair of Presbytery. One of the features of Cook Islander worship is the absence of musical instruments. The human voice is all that's needed. So the service commenced with the singing of the hymn Holy, Holy, Holy in both Cook Island Maori and in English.

The Bible readings were also in Cook Island Maori but, to the relief of many, the Rev Jay Robinson preached in English.

The Chairperson then presided over a service of Holy Communion after which members of Presbytery moved across to the hall for the business part of the day. David Patterson, from UCA Funds Management, kicked off proceedings with a presentation on the works of UCA Funds and the products they offer.

NB: There will be a special PiC meeting on Wednesday 22 June at Glen Waverley UC to share in the stories behind requests for BOMAR Grants, and to affirm Delegations to various Presbytery Committees and Task Groups.

Methodology: Congregations are invited to form teams (3 to 4 people) to carry out an energy audit of their own church. Training and support will be provided.

Timetable:

- Wednesday, 3rd Aug, 7:30pm - A one hour introduction and explanation of program.
- Saturday, August 13th, 9am to 5pm - All day energy workshop
- Saturday, September, 10th 1pm to 4pm - Review session of each groups audit results

This means 4 weeks to carry out the audit.

Venue: The meetings and workshop will be held at Coatesville Uniting Church, cnr North Road & Mackie Road, East Bentleigh.

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.