

NEWSBEAT



JULY 2016

NEWSLETTER FOR THE PRESBYTERY OF PORT PHILLIP EAST



Q & A at The Village Church. See our coverage on page 5.

Blanket of love... Students try out hardship for empathy. Turn to page 6 for the story and pictures.



What's possible when a congregation unites to meet community need

We have just received notification that the Federal government has pledged the last of the money needed to build our home 'Cloverleaf' for eight people with intellectual disabilities, writes Jan Hall.

Members of the Visioning Group of Southern Mornington Peninsula UC saw a small story in the local paper 3.5 years ago. It was about a small group called Community Lifestyle Accommodation (CLA) who were all retirement

Without a minister and after the merging of three local churches few believed we could raise \$2.5m to realise this dream.

age but were still caring for their adult sons and daughters who had intellectual disabilities.

These 'children' were in their 40s and 50s and some were profoundly disabled. Waiting lists for accommodation were virtually non-existent. It appeared the only way to get a bed for your child was to leave them at respite or hospital and not come back. The parents were really concerned that if they got sick or died, their 'children' would be dumped in any bed that was available. This could be 300km from their relatives and friends.

CLA wanted to build a home that was part of community. A home where the parents would feel confident that their loved ones would be safe from physical and sexual abuse. A home where people cared. The Visioning Group felt that we should be working with these people. The vision was enthusiastically welcomed by the congregation, accepting we had a suitable block of land next door to the church and we could gift its use for the purpose of broader community. This need touched many hearts. Next was Presbytery and Synod. We learnt to fill in forms - lots of them! Synod said that they would back us if we got the finance. *Cont. on page 2*



Celebrating six decades at Dandenong North

ALL are invited to the 60th Anniversary of Worship at Dandenong North Uniting Church (Previously Lyndale) at the corner of Birch and Holly Avenues, Dandenong North, 3175.

On SUNDAY 31ST JULY, 2016 AT 2.30pm there will be a THANKSGIVING SERVICE with sermon by Rev Ineke Gyles. Followed by High Tea. Come and renew friendships and join in a time of fellowship in thanks for God's blessings through the years.

RSVP by 24.07.2016 for catering purposes. Email: samaswaby@bigpond.com or PH: 03 9707 0631.



If you would like to submit a news item for the Presbytery's monthly Newsbeat newsletter please send all articles and images to newsbeat@ucaprep.org



Cont. from front page

Privately I'm sure they thought we wouldn't be successful.

Two people from SMPUC together with two from CLA lobbied every politician in our area. We lobbied people from DHHS, whose opinion would carry a lot of weight. We formed an alliance with the CEO's of Melba, a service provider, and

“All of us had moments of doubt about getting the finance. But we never doubted that we were doing the right thing.”

Housing Choices Australia, a builder of social housing. Both organizations were well thought of by DHHS. Every chance to speak at Rotary

and Lions clubs were taken. We needed to have these groups on side. Small donations came from them that helped us with printing. The two local CWAs helped us with local markets, where we used the opportunity to spread the word. Letters of support to Government from these groups showed that the community was 'on side'.

Our local Community Bank pledged \$250,000 and the parents pledged \$30,000 each. Together with a 'State of the Art' design, this convinced the State Government to pledge \$1 million on condition that Federal Government matched it. In June this year, three years and four months after meeting our CLA partners, Federal Government matched the pledge.

All of us during this journey had moments of doubt about getting the finance. But we never doubted we were doing the right thing. This was 'God's work in action'. It was not about 'increasing church membership' but engaging with community need and offering the gifts we have in land, expertise, energy and supportive community. Our area will be the last to get the NDIS rollout. But when NDIS comes it will bring new opportunities for financing. The journey will not be so hard. We have experienced people to help congregations on their journey. Does your church have extra land? Are you up for the challenge?

from little acorns...



Across the oceans

UNITINGWORLD links us, the people of the Uniting Church, with our partner churches around the world.

We hear about these partnerships particularly when there is a disaster, e.g. the cyclone in Vanuatu, and we give generously to help the recovery efforts.

However, how much do we know about the everyday ongoing workings of these partner relationships?

COME TO LEARN MORE when the Rev. Paul Bartlett, Major Gifts Officer for UnitingWorld speaks at the worship service at Pakenham Uniting Church (Melway 317, D8) at 10am on Sunday, July 31st. Morning tea will follow, after which Paul will tell us more stories.

Then we will enjoy lunch. For catering purposes – or for further information - please reply to Margaret McKay before Wednesday July 27 on 5940 1334.



Cloverleaf was a major group effort

WE had a big day at SMPUC on Friday 10 June when Greg Hunt MP announced the Federal Government funding grant of \$1m for the Cloverleaf project.

This meant that the State Government will now match that funding as promised at the end of December 2015 by Minister Foley.

Daniel Mulino, MLC for Eastern Victoria / Parliamentary Secretary for Treasurer and Finance in the State Government, pictured top, attended and made a speech. Local State Member Martin Dixon also attended together with his advisor Russell Joseph who has been instrumental in developing funding models for projects like Cloverleaf. Rye and District Community Bendigo Bank Senior Manager Gary Sanford, pictured above, confirmed that the Community Bank will provide \$250,000 (\$50,000pa for 5 years) and explained the importance of the bank's role in supporting community initiatives like Cloverleaf.

by Peter Hunter

Art reaches the heart of universal message of love

IN what sometimes feels like a fractured and discordant world come projects that remind us that there is still hope for a harmonious future.

One such project is the new mural in the Officer Pakenham Mission Area.

In partnership with Beacons Hills College, OPMA has commissioned the mural to be created and displayed



at the front of the Pakenham Uniting Church building in Main Street. "Donations from Toorak Uniting, Heatherston/ Dingley

Uniting and Beacons Hills College have enabled this project to go ahead and we are most grateful for their generosity," says Julie Waters.

The designer and creator of this work is Melbourne artist Rob Matheson, who is the resident artist at Beacons Hills College. Members of the church, students from Beacons Hills College and local community groups have enjoyed masking and painting under Rob's

gracious and skilled guidance.

The mural depicts five world religion symbols, an eagle representing the local indigenous community, cords of many colors representing the diversity of our community and the dove of peace. The inscription reads: **"OUR COMMUNITY: A FABRIC OF DIFFERING THREADS: WOVEN TOGETHER IN HARMONY"**

All are welcome to come along and join in the celebration at the dedication of the mural at Pakenham Uniting Church, 47 James Street Pakenham, on

Sunday 17th July, 2016 at the service commencing at 10am. There will be a cuppa following the service.



Olympic theme adds up to heaps of fun at annual camp pleaser

THIS wonderful winter church camp has been going on all this week and we plan to produce a special Newsbeat supplement for the Presbytery when they've touched down after the fun and frolics.

In the meantime here are a couple of shots from the week: the top one is a calm, peaceful view of the camp while campers, slushies and leaders are engaged in some other antics.

The lower photo shows three camp leaders preparing for the early-

morning aerobics classes that rouse the sleepy campers in the mornings.

Camp Rev Paul Chalson writes: I'm still alive though my shoulder hurts from yesterday's chameleon capture; a giant and very rough game or "chasings" where the campers seek to run down the leaders who have all dressed up in outfits reflecting the camp theme. Camp is going well and the leaders are putting in a massive job. There's around 150 of us all up and so far it's all been going excellently."

port philip east presbytery childrens camp
SOMERS CAMP



CHURCHES across Port Phillip East are supporting Act for Peace by having a meal or fundraising in another way.

Koornang is having a service focussing on refugees followed by a meal on July 3. Trinity, Brighton and St Leonard's, Brighton Beach, part of the Brighton Covenant Churches, are organising a meal at St Andrew's Anglican Church on July 10. Also Cheltenham-Mentone is distributing small bags of rice with the giving envelopes and seeking donations within two weeks.

Editor's note: Great to see how creative everyone is being and we ask for stories from these events for Newsbeat, if possible.



Brooke is given a second chance to shine through Connections

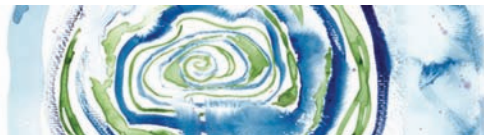
“EVERYTHING for me has always been about dancing. I can't think of anything else I've ever wanted - I've always wanted to dance, it's just what I've done and what I know. Every time I'm dancing or on stage performing, I don't really need to think about anything. It's just such a different world. Nothing worries me while I'm dancing.”

From a young age Brooke displayed a natural talent for dancing. Her parents worked tirelessly to put their daughter through classes to help her achieve her dream of being a professional performer. But it wasn't always easy. And when Brooke's father

became unable to work, times got tough.

Brooke's dance classes were in jeopardy and the family relied on financial support from her grandparents to see them through. Brooke's parents even put their home on the market, downsizing to a smaller house just to be able to afford her lessons. However it still wasn't enough to ease the financial pressure on the family. Unsure of where to turn for help, Brooke's mother found our South Eastern Chances scholarship program; a program that provides funding to ease the financial pressure on young people to support them in reaching their goals. The support Brooke and her family received from the program allowed her to continue with her lessons, which led to her being accepted into an elite dance school where she now teaches and helps mentor other young dancers like her, whilst also completing her studies and a fitness traineeship.

There is no denying Brooke's drive and dedication to dancing, but without our support she may never have had the opportunity to reach her full potential. Sadly, there are many young people facing an uncertain future as financial hardship prevents them from following their dreams. By supporting our South Eastern Chances scholarship program you will be providing young people like Brooke with more than an opportunity to succeed, you will also be giving them hope, support and encouragement to follow their dreams.



Workshops Bethel Centre 2016

The Bethel Centre warmly invite ministers, lay ministers, church council members and staff of the Uniting Church Vic/Tas to attend our workshops. Each half day workshop has been designed to raise awareness and support congregations to foster an inclusive community and safe place of worship. These will be held at the Bethel Centre, 59 Doncaster Road, North Balwyn, Vic 3104 from 9.30am – 1pm and will be presented by Julie McDonald and Ann-Marie Hughes. The cost is \$10 per person and morning tea will be provided.

6th July	Bullying and Boundaries
15th September	Congregational Dynamics
26th October	The Process of Forgiveness

To reserve a place or for further information, please call 9859 8700 or email ann-marie@bethelcentre.com.au Reservation deadline is one week prior to the event.

Who says politics and religion shouldn't

mix? AS the hustings gathered pace the electorate of Dunkley and the Mt Eliza community were invited to attend an election forum held by The Village Church in Mt Eliza.

Six of the 11 lower house candidates accepted the invitation for June 16, including the three main parties, although the Liberal candidate, Chris Crewther withdrew 10 minutes before the start.

The audience heard each candidate explain why they had gone into politics, the values that underpin the decisions they make, and what each candidate thought a flourishing society might look like. A number of broad questions were then asked by facilitator Cameron McCullough from MPNews, before a Q & A with the audience.

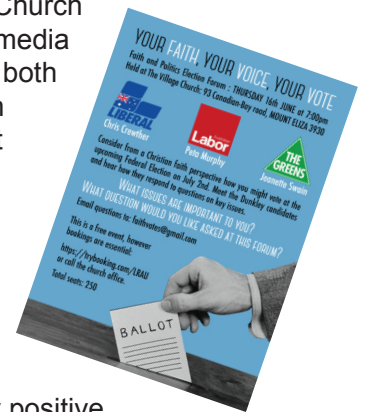
The minister of The Village Church, Rev Cameron McAdam, introduced the night by stating: "This is a place of peace and prayer and the church has an expectation this will be respected." He added: "This is an opportunity for those present to get to know the candidates, and not a time for debate." The audience was discouraged from clapping and told questions must be broad and directed to all candidates. The night included a wide range of

questions with no agenda, although the church did have an opportunity to highlight issues of importance such as refugees and foreign aid. Uniting Justice's election booklet, 'A Flourishing Society' was also

made available and enthusiastically received. The night finished with an informal time to meet the candidates over supper and the mood in the room was incredibly warm and positive, which was surprising considering the forum focussed on politics. It was good that the church could be at the heart of such a respectful presentation of ideas



and policies and influence our political discourse. Of significance for The Village Church was the very diverse social media commentary that took place both prior and following the forum on local Facebook pages. At times people were critical of the churches involvement in politics, but others appreciated it had been organised and that the candidates were present in the local area. After the night, social media was very positive about the way the night was run and spoke favourably of a church at the centre of the community.



Working together... pictured, top to bottom: Deputy Principal Nicola Forrest, Jarrod and Kelly Davies with Principal Vicki Steer; Rev Dr Robert Johnson steers the commissioning service with Rev Fee Morrison, Deputy Chair of Port Phillip East Presbytery; the school band entertain.



JARROD Davies, Chaplain at Cornish College, was officially commissioned at a well-attended service recently. Chair of the Cornish College Council, Rev Dr Robert Johnson, and Rev Fee Morrison officiated.



Students at the school showed their support in the audience, listening to the school band and presenting a gift to Jarrod to thank him for his service to the school.

Cold hands but warm hearts at Cornish

SIXTY Cornish College students and 11 staff swapped their warm beds for cardboard boxes when they took part in the Winter Sleep Out.

The event on Friday, June 10 has already helped to raise \$12,000 with more money set to come in. The funds will be used to buy more than 125 Backpack Beds for homeless people through the charity *Swags for Homeless*. The Backpack Beds are proven to provide life-saving shelter for people who are homeless and sleeping on the streets.

Sleep out raises more than \$12,000 in homelessness relief

Students also made 560 cheese and vegemite sandwiches on the night for the EatUp program, which feeds local children

in our community who go hungry.

Cornish College Chaplain, Jarrod Davies, organised the event and



said: "It's fantastic to see so many of our students and staff committed to helping others. Sleeping out on a cold, wet winter evening is no mean feat but everyone showed huge community spirit and wanted to live our motto and 'make a difference' for more than 125 people sleeping on our streets".



Pictured above: Keeping warm are Year 8 students Kirsten and Hannah. Far left: Sheltering in cardboard boxes are Year 7 students Flynn and Hugh.

Q&A AND PIZZA WITH JOOLS

SUNDAY 17TH JULY 2016
HIGH STREET UNITING CHURCH
16-18 HIGH STREET FRANKSTON
5PM

Bring \$5 for pizza and your questions about faith, church and life and let's see where the conversation takes us.

For more information contact Jay Robinson on 0410 465 836

New face at Frankston



The new minister at High Street Uniting Church - Rev David Fotheringham - is pictured above at his moving and entertaining induction service; crowded with presbytery folk and congregations; past and present. Welcome to Frankston, David.

Reflections on Faith

There are three things I am passionate about as I commence ministry at Endeavour Hills Uniting Church.

The first is discipleship. Jesus makes the building of his followers as central to the mission of the church (Matthew 28:19). I once heard a quote, "If you build a church you may create disciples but if you build disciples you will create a church." One of my key priorities at Endeavour Hills is to build and reproduce committed and passionate followers of Jesus Christ.

The second thing I am passionate about is creating authentic community within a culturally diverse world. The kind of community that I desire to belong to and one that is truly a Christian community, is one that not just welcomes and offers hospitality to people but genuinely desires to know them and their story (John 10:27). For to know someone is to love someone and to love someone is to know someone.

The final thing I am passionate about is seeing ministry as an adventure. In our scripture reading from Mark 4:35-41, Jesus is asleep in a boat with the disciples in the middle of the storm. The disciples are terrified and wake Jesus up in a panic. In response Jesus rebukes the wind and waves simply saying two words, "Be still."
The church is on an adventure to the "other side"

An extract from Rev Robin Yang's induction response at Endeavour Hills UC

and it is dangerous and dark yet Christ is with us. Scripture doesn't promise to take away those dangers. Instead we take courage and hold faith in the one that calmed the storm. So no matter how high the waves, or fierce the wind or how much the boat may rock, we follow and trust the one who is master over the wind and waves. That is why we cross to the other side because it is there that the adventure awaits.



WIN AN IPAD MINI

Create a notice on linkAssist before 11 July, 2016 and go into the draw to win one of two iPad minis.*

Create your notice in three simple steps:



A HERD of elephants stampeded through the Box Hill Town Hall during the afternoon session on the Major Strategic Review as speaker after speaker referred to a variety of ‘elephants in the room’.

It started with a claim that congregational financial losses were the unstated elephant in the room. The next speaker claimed there must be two elephants in the room: financial sustainability and the need for profound cultural change within the Church. Not too much clamour yet. Only two large beasts, but then there was a call for joy and exultation.



It didn't stir the elephants but it did remind the members that Christians are allowed to be excited. “Good theology. Good vision. Can we just find the joy?” was the plea. The elephant of cultural change was invited to participate a bit longer when another speaker suggested that the Church had withdrawn from the world and was no longer companioning people in their daily reality.

The speaker said that cultural change was an imperative, as the Church needed to move away from insularity and addiction to property and become a church that was more precarious. One of the Church's CALD members raised concerns about mixed signals coming from different directions. While the Church promotes renewal, expressing freedom and creativity, its adherence to structure and order seem to stifle this. As people raised the need to make tough discussions, including reducing both synod and presbytery resourcing to live within our means, another ‘elephant’ emerged from the shadows. Synod members were reminded that change is painful and the threat of loss of placement or employment was another elephant in the room. The fourth elephant appeared (the room was very crowded). Evangelism, the Gospel, was our final elephant. We were reminded by this speaker that we needed spiritual sustainability as there were anxious people in the room. People were encouraged to see the vagueness of the MSR proposals was not trickery. Instead it was freedom; an invitation to a conversation. The speaker said we can all bring gifts to the table ...assuming the elephants don't trample them!





TASMANIA FLOOD CRISIS APPEAL
Devastation and tragic loss of life caused by flooding in Tasmania.



DONATIONS: Call 1800 668 426 or visit www.shareappeal.org.au

The flooding being experienced is considered to be the worst in 50 years and has devastated communities throughout the State. A national disaster has been declared.

The damage bill is still being calculated and farmers have been particularly affected with stock losses expected to run into the thousands.

You can support the people and communities affected by donating to Share's Tasmania flood crisis appeal and by holding the affected communities in prayer.

The Presbytery of Tasmania has generously provided \$20,000 to begin the appeal.

Tax deductible donations will support UnitingCare

Tasmania's work on the ground providing direct relief to victims, many of whom have lost everything.

The relief efforts of local congregations, which will be determined once we become aware of the particular needs, can also be supported. *Please note that donations for this work are not tax deductible.*

The Uniting Church has long been committed to assisting those in need, especially during times of crisis. As well as praying for these communities and for those assisting on the ground, please consider contributing what you can.

To donate, please complete the form below and return to PO Box 24154, Melbourne VIC 3001, call **1800 668 426** or visit **www.shareappeal.org.au**

YES! I will help! Here is my gift to the Tasmania Flood Crisis Appeal:



Donation Amount: \$

UnitingCare Tasmania (tax-deductible) Local UCA Congregations (non tax-deductible)

Both *please indicate amounts: UnitingCare \$ UCA congregations \$

My details:
(Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss/Dr/Rev) First Name Surname

Address

Suburb State P/Code

Phone Email

Payment details: I enclose my cheque/money order (made payable to Share - Tasmania Flood Crisis Appeal) OR

Please debit my: Mastercard Visa Amex

Card Number Expiry Date /

Name on card Signature

Share - Tasmania Flood Crisis Appeal | PO Box 24154, Melbourne VIC 3001 | Phone: 1800 668 426 Fax: (03) 9251 5491

Quote

“Do more than belong: participate. Do more than care: help. Do more than believe: practice. Do more than be fair: be kind. Do more than forgive: forget. Do more than dream: work.”

William Arthur Ward
Author, Educator, Speaker

of the month...

Share with refugees at festival of fun

Lentara UnitingCare, Amnesty International and Moreland City Council are partnering to celebrate Refugee Week with a fun festival by refugees, for refugees and all Australians who support them. For further information, visit their event page: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1586663274997874/>



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.

Should charity begin at home?



“Why should we send money overseas to look after others while some of our own homeless, indigenous people and elderly aren’t adequately cared for?” Great question. “Charity begins at home” and there are still far too many people in Australia who live in poverty. A reflection by Cath Taylor from UnitingWorld can be found here: <http://unitingworld.org.au/blogs/we-should-look-after-our-own-first/>



ALTERNATIVES TO VIOLENCE PROJECT (VIC)

Inc
RN A0036095X
ABN 963 1213 7471

AVP is an organisation of volunteers offering experiential workshops that empower individuals to liberate themselves and others from the burden of violence

C/45 Drummond Street, Chadstone 3148

BASIC WORKSHOP – August 13/14, 2016

We invite you to participate in our next community workshop ‘**Creating Peaceful Pathways**’ to be held over the weekend of **Saturday, August 13 from 9am – 5pm and from Sunday August 14, 2016, from 9am to 5pm.**

Our hope is to continue to build on the series of inter-community workshops and to ensure that our workshops are relevant to, and respectful of, the range of communities in Victoria.

This Basic Level Workshop will be held at:
The Augustine Centre, 2 Minona Road, Hawthorn
Cost: \$100.00 waged; \$50.00 (or negotiable) unwaged.

- Please note that:
- Participants must commit to attending all workshop sessions.
 - Wear comfortable clothes as workshops involve a number of physical activities.
 - Please alert us to any special food needs or other needs you may have.

For further information phone:
Bev (9569 8684);

REGISTRATION FORM

Name:.....
Address.....
Telephone..... email.....

Please tick:

- I wish to take part in the AVP Basic workshop **August 13/14, 2016**
 - I enclose full payment of \$100, \$50*
 - I enclose a deposit of \$10 and will pay the balance at the workshop.*
 - I would like to know more before I decide; please contact me.
 - I would like to be kept informed about future workshops.
- Please make cheques payable to “AVP (Vic)” (Sorry, no credit card facilities) and send to 45 Drummond Street, Chadstone, 3148

Save the date

The 30th Annual WJ Craig Lecture and Presentation of Anti-Poverty Awards

The Annual WJ Craig Lecture aims to stimulate and encourage debate on important social issues.

hard copy.

The Anti-Poverty Awards recognise young people and schools who are actively working towards tackling inequality and injustice locally or internationally.

» Do you know a young person who is working towards addressing disadvantage and poverty?

» Do you know a school involving and educating its students about poverty-related issues?

Applications open in August.

When: Friday 21 October 2016

**Where: Deakin Edge, Federation Square,
1 Batman Ave, Melbourne 3000**

Time: 3:00pm – 5:00pm

RSVP: Christine Williams on 03 8792 8999 or
rsvp@connections.org.au by
Friday 14 October 2016.



Refreshments provided.

Join the conversation leading up to the Lecture and Anti-Poverty Awards by using #wjcraiglecture #antipovertyawards Awards



Messy Church has been around for some time now and some people have dismissed it as the latest fad in ministry or just another kids' programme.

I can understand that...but there are a number of congregations around our presbytery who are having a go and having some successes in connecting with families in an intergenerational worship context.

If you'd like to know more, speak to Chris Barnett at CTM, check out the Messy Church website, and just go and have a look at what's happening in our local churches.

I gather a small group of Messy Church people from different denominations from Parkdale down the Mornington Peninsula. If you'd like to come along to one of these gatherings just to find out more, give me a ring. They are very informal and friendly. Other gatherings are held around the synod so phone Chris for more info. Or Claire Dawe, 0410 827 597

Why start a Messy Church? (taken from the Messy Church website)

Some good reasons:

1. We want to make disciples.
2. The people in our area who don't belong to church would like coming to a Messy Church.
3. We want to share the love of God in Jesus in a way that's as accessible as possible to families.
4. We believe that the best way for people of all ages to come closer to God is by journeying together.
5. We want to share Jesus more than we want to share our particular denominational traditions.
6. We want to model who Jesus is to those around us.
7. We believe God is in Messy Church and we want to follow where he leads.
8. We think Jesus is the person to give people in our community life in all its fullness.
9. And many more. (In fact, many more good than bad).

Some not so good reasons

1. It's the latest thing so it must be good.
2. The church up the road is running a Messy Church so we need to or we'll get left out.
3. The minister says we need one.
4. We need younger people in our church to do the jobs we used to do when we were young.
5. We want to revamp our Sunday congregation.
6. We want to get together for a sociable time with knitting and painting.
7. It sounds fun.
8. We're bored with sermons and want to change.
9. I have a stationery fetish.

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



Turning a new page

A MORNINGTON bookshop played host to an interesting literary launch last week.

Scores of people crowded into Farrel's Bookshop on Main Street for the event. Spokesman for Peninsula Voice (backers of the event), Peter Orton, explains: "These photos are images from a fascinating conversation we had with renowned social researcher Hugh Mackay last Friday. Hugh's new book 'Beyond Belief' discusses why so few go to church when two thirds acknowledge themselves as Christian. We had a fabulous conversation with about 180 guests attending."

Read the book and then use a Powerpoint presentation which has been produced as a resource during worship services, as information for what is happening in and around the church.



Disability dialogue

An outstanding array of presenters and elective sessions has been assembled to meet the interests of people with disabilities, families, faith communities, and service providers.

A multi-faith panel will address responses to a hypothetical case study. Other topics include practical examples of inclusion, NDIS issues re spirituality, theological interpretations of disability, and personal stories of exclusion and embrace. Some examples are:

For faith communities Bill Gaventa is an international expert in how agencies and congregations can respond to and support people's expression of their spirituality and connections to community life.

For service providers and practitioners Dr Lorna Hallahan, Flinders University, will make a presentation about the place of spirituality within the NDIS, and Daniel Leighton, CEO of Inclusion Melbourne, who is also Chair of NDIS's Service Provider's Research Committee will make a response.

Save up to \$75 per registration!! The Early Bird registration date has been extended to 8 July

for the multi-faith Conference Exclusion and Embrace: Disability, Justice and Spirituality.

<http://exclusionandembrace.melbourne/>
<https://www.facebook.com/>

See full list of accepted Abstracts at <http://exclusionandembrace.melbourne/program/>



Illusion, Delusion, Confusion? God in Western Culture

FOR A LONG TIME religious belief has been quarantined to the domain of the private in a way that would have been inconceivable to earlier generations. The separation of church and state has become the separation of religion and society. This separation is connected to the fact that more people are boldly declaring themselves to be atheists.

In this series of five presentations **Bruce Barber** canvases the philosophical and theological legacy that has led people to think the way they do.

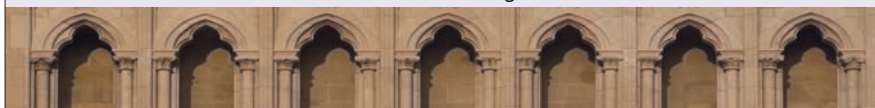
The sessions:

1. How did the idea of God first appear in Western Culture?
2. Up and down with the philosophers—a selective survey.

3. The legacy of the Medieval world.
4. The 18th century Enlightenment and the 'death' of God.
5. Where are we today?

Bruce Barber has taught theology at tertiary level for forty years first in Perth and subsequently at the United Faculty of Theology, Melbourne.

The sessions will be held at the South Port Uniting Church Parish Mission Centre, 329 Dorcas Street, South Melbourne from 11am to 1pm on Fridays 12th August, 19th August, 26th August, 2nd September and 9th September. A light lunch will be provided. If you wish to attend please contact Rev Ross Carter on 9690 1188 or 0407 351 545 or ross.carter@southportuniting.org.au by Friday 5th August.



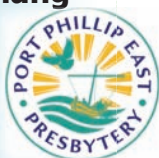


Dates for your diary

- Ordination - Nathaniel Atem at Springvale UC on 24 July at 3pm.
- Induction - Rev Wendy Snook at Berwick on 18 September at 3pm.
- Code of Ethics Sessions - Noble Park 14 July, Hampton 28 July, Frankston 11 August and Stonnington 25 August. All sessions start at 2pm.

Presbytery in Council meeting dates for 2016:

- **Saturday, 16 July at 9.30am at Koornang Congregation, Murrumbeena Road, Murrumbeena**
- **Wednesday, 28 September at St John's Mount Waverley**
- **Wednesday, 23 November at Cook Island Congregation at Clayton**



Decisions made at special meeting

A SPECIAL meeting was held on a cold and wet Wednesday night on June 22 at the Glen Waverley Church. The meeting was called primarily to deal with the BOMAR funding applications.

Four applications were received, one each from the Caulfield Indonesian Congregation, the Samoan Congregation at Keysborough and the Noble Park and Mornington Congregations.

The Caulfield Indonesian Congregation was seeking funding to pay for additional ministry. The Samoan Congregation wants funding to update substandard toilets and to repair the church roof. The Noble Park Congregation was seeking funding to help meet the cost of a security system that has had to be installed following several incidents of property damage over the past few months. Mornington Congregation are looking for funding to pay for a child and family worker.

The Presbytery adopted the process of having each Congregation make a short presentation which was followed by time for questions. The Presbytery members were asked, in table groups, to consider the applications, complete a criteria sheet for each one and rank them. The Mission Development Committee will now do more work based on

the Criteria sheets and bring a report to the July meeting of the Presbytery Standing Committee on 16 July. This meeting will decide whether the applications should be endorsed.

The only other item of business was for the meeting to consider and approve the Presbytery Delegations for 2016. The Delegations were approved.



Pastoral Care Worker

East Burwood location
Part time (2 - 2.5 days) fixed-term 12 months
Attractive salary packaging

Since 1893, Wesley Mission Victoria has empowered people experiencing disadvantage and vulnerability to improve their lives.

We're now welcoming applications for a Pastoral Care Worker that will deliver pastoral care services to clients, families and staff at our Wesley Neurological Support Services. Pastoral care offers a safe and confidential listening environment in which people can share something of their circumstances and life journey.

Applications that reflect experience required are encouraged to apply. For further information and to apply visit wesley.org.au

Applications close Friday 15 July 2016.



At the rising of your sun



Lord God, Creator of light,
at the rising of your sun each morning,
let the greatest of all lights - your love - rise, like the sun, within my heart.
Amen.

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....