

NEWSBEAT



OCTOBER 2016

NEWSLETTER FOR THE PRESBYTERY OF PORT PHILLIP EAST



Baby love...
Women's Day at St. Davids produced a 'nappy' ending. Turn to page 4 for more news in pictures.

Life's rich tapestry.
Ilma's work lives on at St. Mark's as she moves on to pastures new. See page 6 for the full story.



Queen's Representative is given a royal welcome at Clayton

COOK Islanders were thrilled to be able to meet and mingle with their very own Queen's Representative recently - and they gathered at Port Phillip East Presbytery's Cook Islands Uniting Church.

The Cook Islands community of Melbourne turned out in force at the Clayton church on Tuesday, September 20 to welcome these special guests - the equivalent of our Governor General, *writes Faye Sanderson.*

The Cook Islands Queen's Representative, Tom Marsters, and his wife, Tuaine, pictured right, were making the *first* visit to Australia by a Queen's Representative.



They received a traditional welcome with a warri (one man version of a New Zealand Haka) and, naturally, a lovely kai kai of islands food. The QR had come to Sydney as part of a fundraising



Above: Tom and Tuaine Marsters grace the stage wearing garlands and with tivaevaes in the background - traditional and unique Cook Islands quilts.

effort to build a hostel on the main island of Rarotonga for the people of the outer island of Palmerston to call home when they visit the main island. This is the last outer island to build a hostel.

Mr Marsters also visited Cook Islands communities in Brisbane, Townsville and Cairns before his last stop in Melbourne. There are about 10,000 people in the Cook Islands, another 30,000 in Australia and about 50,000 in NZ – where he has made an official visit in the past. Over the two days in Melbourne \$15,500 was donated including moneys generated at a fundraising concert. There was also a Q&A session at the Clayton church where all things, except political, were open for discussion.

Although being the QR, the couple are very approachable and mixed with the people. Not a security detail in sight although, when he arrived at Tullamarine, he was hustled out the VIP entrance; against his pleas to be with his people. Others attending the welcome, hosted by Chair of the Cook Islands Community, were Ms Nga Hosking, local councillor with City of Monash and media from SBS. Apparently word did get to our Governor General, Sir Peter Cosgrove, that the QR was in the country but he was unavailable to meet with him. The SBS website report, however, said 'the QR rocks Clayton!'

Refugee rescue at Mornington

St Mark's, Mornington has been able to respond to an urgent request for a wheelchair from Dandenong's Refugee and Asylum Seeker Centre this week.

The wheelchair was for Mahmood, who accompanied David Spittler on a visit to St Mark's for Refugee Sunday, featured in last month's Newsbeat.

Mahmood had a recurrence of a back injury he sustained during a car trip from Adelaide, and as he is within three months of completing his course at



Chisholm, and on limited financial support, he was looking for a wheelchair for around three months. On Tuesday St Mark's was able to supply a surplus wheelchair for Mahmood.

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



Induction of minister who will 'walk on water'..?

REV Wendy Snook was inducted as the minister in the **St Andrew's Berwick Congregation**, and hooked her new congregation with an entertaining story.

The service on the afternoon of September 18, was presided over by the Rev Dr Tony Floyd, Chairperson of the Presbytery. The Rev James Douglas preached. James had chaired the Joint Nominating Committee and in his sermon James shared some of the experiences of the Committee in its 18 month journey. In her remarks following her induction Wendy shared the story of the congregation



WENDY is pictured with Rev Tony Floyd, Presbytery Chair and Annette Blaise from St. Andrew's, Berwick



that had called its first female minister. It was the custom for the elders to take their new minister fishing as a 'get to know you' event. So their new minister was asked and she agreed to go fishing. And so,

on the following Saturday, they arrived at the lake with all their gear – rods, bait, buckets, sinkers all the things you need to fish were put into the boat and out they went. They arrived at a good fishing spot and start setting up. Then the minister suddenly realises she's left her rod behind. So she gets out of the boat and walks across the water, picks up her rod and starts to walk back to boat. The elders look at one another and one says "Isn't that just like a woman, leaving her rod behind!" Wendy told the Congregation that sometimes she will metaphorically 'walk on water' and sometimes she'll forget things.

by Ian Firth



Presbytery of Port Phillip East

Ministers' Gathering 2016 *"Were not our hearts burning within us ..." (Luke 24: 32)*

New Dates & Times: Tuesday October 11th 5pm—Thursday 13th 2pm

New Location: Holy Cross Centre—207 Serpells Road, Templestowe

Including:

Time to reflect on ministry; deepen collegiality; share experiences of ministry

Julie McDonald Ministering with conflict and bad behaviour

Geoff Thompson Living our ministry identity

and...

a very special evening not to be missed with guest speaker **Michael McGirr**

Please bring:

- Linen or sleeping bag & towel
- A symbol of being on a journey
- Comfortable walking shoes
- Wet weather gear, and..
- Whatever else you need to make this time meaningful and restful.

Cost: \$299 Accommodation and all Meals

Contact the PPEP office on 9558 4710 or secretary@ucappep.org for registration forms and for further details

Artwork: Rich Wells

Implementing the Victorian Child Safe Standards

October 19 & October 21

South/East venue

Wed 19 October, 10am-3pm

Donvale Presbyterian Church,
5 McGowans Rd, Donvale.

Victorian law requires organisations, including churches, that engage with children, to meet the Victorian Child Safe Standards by January 1st, 2017. The Getting Ready! one-day workshops will enable you and your congregation to:

- Grow in your understanding of the Child Safe Standards and Principles
- Develop your process for implementation of the Child Safe Standards
- Increase your awareness of the available support and resources

Getting Ready! is a FREE (if pre-registered) ecumenical event suitable for church leadership teams, ministry teams and individual leaders in ministry with children and families. Ideally, participants will attend with others from their church team. Contact Chris Barnett, CTM, 29 College Cres, Parkville, VIC, 3052 tel: 9340 8806, e-mail Chris.Barnett@ctm.uca.edu.au



LOVELY 'knitters' from Mt. Martha Uniting Church are pictured with some of the beautiful quilts they have made for Mission Without Borders. These, along with jumpers, hats, socks and scarves are distributed to needy families in Eastern Europe. In the past few years they have knitted approximately 250 blankets. Well done ladies.

Breath of fresh fayre

A Home Produce and Craft Market will be held at the Heatherton-Dingley Uniting Church, cnr. Kingston and Old Dandenong Roads, Heatherton.

This market is designed to give people who do beautiful craft work or produce bottled fruit, jams or relishes, or who propagate their own plants, an outlet for their handiwork. There will be no stalls selling second-hand goods or commercially produced items, as this market is being run as an encouragement to locals to allow their work to be appreciated and sold.

Morning tea will be available and a sausage sizzle will be held. It will be a great time to share with others, admire and purchase some lovely home-made goodies not found in our big commercial shopping centres.

Parking is available on the grounds surrounding the church – the one often referred to as "the little white church on the corner."

For further info contact Margaret on 9551 9494 or Chris on 9551 6349 or duguidct@optusnet.com.au.

The Victorian Chapter of the **Australian Church Library Association**

is meeting on **Saturday, 22nd October, 2016**
from 10.00am to 3.00pm.

at **South Croydon Anglican Church**
199 Bayswater Rd., Bayswater North
(Melway 50 G10)

The program will include

- looking at the library;
- a session featuring books on the subject of parenting;
- a demonstration of a computer program which can be used to catalogue a library and to record borrowing;
- a discussion on how we might celebrate Christmas in our libraries;
- a swap table - bring along books, videos, cassettes, CDs and other resources that you no longer need;
- and more!!

Please bring a plate of food to share for lunch

For more information please ring Rachel -
phone: 9850 4828 or email: alanrachelh1@bigpond.com

HOME PRODUCE AND CRAFT MARKET

Saturday, 8th October, 2015 10.00 a.m. – 2.00 p.m.
Heatherton Dingley Uniting Church
Cnr. Kingston and Old Dandenong Roads, Heatherton

Variety of stalls including cakes, jams, relishes, pickles, soaps, jewellery and lots more,
plus sausage sizzle and morning tea

Great place for gift ideas, start your Christmas shopping early.



St David's shows its support for mothers and mums-to-be

IT was great to have so many women at our

**Women's Event
at St David's
Parkdale Uniting
Church, writes
Amelia.**

We decided to pack some nappy bags and washing baskets as part of the Babes Project campaign. They are a fantastic

organisation. Everyone had a great time meeting new people and having some time out with other women. We were able to pack 18 baskets and nappy bags!



Christmas giving launch

Frank Byatt Memorial Lecture: The Christmas Bowl: what it was and what it is

Rev. Dr D'Arcy Wood,
noted liturgist and ecumenist
St John's Uniting Church,
Buckley St, ESSENDON
Sunday 13th November
3.30pm Afternoon tea
4.00pm Lecture
Enquiries: Jeff Wild 9650 6811

Donations for the Christmas Bowl
Appeal gratefully accepted.



THE Rev Dr D'Arcy Wood will present the second Frank Byatt Memorial Lecture at St John's, Essendon on Sunday 13th November.

This occasion will be the major feature of the Victorian launch of the Christmas Bowl Appeal by the Victorian Council of Churches.

Those attending are asked to bring a bowl, representing their congregation, to be part of the 'Blessing of the Bowls'. Enquiries to Jeff Wild at 9650 6811 or jwild@actforpeace.org.au.



Jay ignites new sparks at Koornang UC

by
David Robinson

The congregation of Koornang Uniting Church, Murrumbena, were absolutely delighted to welcome Rev Jay Robinson, her family and Presbytery reps to the Induction service of Jay to the Koornang congregation.

The church was full on the evening of Friday, September 2, 2016. It was wonderful to share this momentous occasion with so many, all who enjoyed the singing and wonderful band music led by Alison Campbell Rate.

Rev Cameron McAdam spoke on Mark 8:27-30, with Jay delivering a response that aligns aptly with our congregation's missional verse, 'To make Christ known by preaching the gospel in word and deed'.

The evening revealed a spark that is set to ignite our congregation, a community that is thirsty and eager to

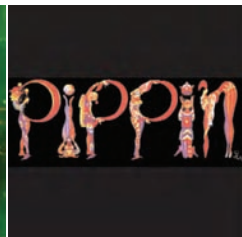
learn and spread the knowledge of Christ within the local community and further afield.



Pictured: Rev Tony Floyd, Chair of PPEP, presides

More than GODSPELL songs of Stephen Schwartz

First the Old ... then the New



with the bad ... and the good

A collection of songs from these shows by Stephen Schwartz performed by Diamond Valley Singers with Ian Lowe, keyboard

Friday Nov 11, 7:30

Glen Waverley Uniting Church, Kingsway Glen Waverley
\$20 or \$15 (concession) at the door
includes tea, coffee, biscuits at interval. Park in the multi-level car park nearby
Enquiries: president@dvsingers.org

Half of the proceeds from the above event will go to support young people going to NCYC in January 2017



**Monash Uniting Church
Presents**



**International Dinner
15th October, 2016**

**Don't miss a fun night of great
Food, Culture and Entertainment.**

1939 Princes Hwy, Clayton North, VIC, 3168

St Mark's, Mornington bid a fond farewell to one of its long-time members who is moving into assisted living closer to family in Burwood.

Mrs Ilma Shears has been an active participant in all facets of church life over so many years. During the ministry of Rev Ian Johnson, she coordinated the group of ladies who made the tapestry hanging in the church as well as being a dedicated Pastoral Partner. She is renowned for her role as a mannequin in the annual Ladies' Fashion Parade. Rev John Haig and Council Secretary

Sue Davies are pictured on Sunday, September 11, presenting her with a framed photograph of the congregation to take to her new home.



Colourful tapestry is Ilma's lasting legacy at St Mark's



Reflections on Faith

by Bill Pugh
Retired Melbourne minister



Quote



*"Don't watch the clock;
do what it does. Keep
going."*

Sam Levenson
of the month



Are you a young person between the ages of 16 and 25 years old?
Would you like to spend 4 days at a great convention with other 16 to 25s?

Then NCYC is for you!

The Presbytery of Port Phillip East is offering some funding to help young people attend Yuora NCYC 2017 and cover the registration costs for this event.

If this funding would help you go to NCYC 2017 please contact the Mission & Outreach Task Group (Jay Robinson is the contact)

If you want to go to NCYC 2017 please fill in the form below and return it to Jay Robinson (jay@robinsonfamily.id.au or 13 Macoma Street Frankston 3199) by Monday 19th September.

Once your form is in Jay will contact you with more details.

Transport options are currently being sorted out, so more details to come on that!

YES, I WANT TO GO TO NCYC!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Congregation/School/Agency: _____

I would like some financial assistance to go to NCYC: Yes/No



WITH THE SAINTS

By Bill Pugh

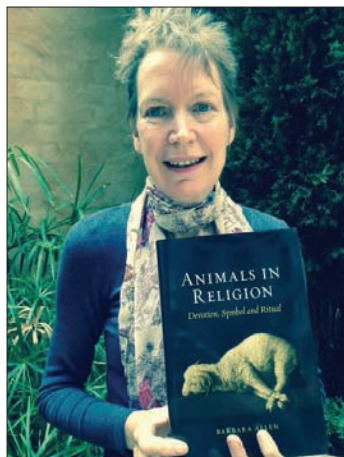
A few months ago, I had the privilege of baptising a dear little Nauruan baby. I named him Benedict. He was born a diabetic and breathed heavily through a tube. He was dearly loved by his family, especially his little brothers. At the age of 10 months, Benedict died. It was my privilege to take his funeral service at a Frankston Chapel. Sadness was real, but we were uplifted by wonderful singing of hymns in the Nauruan language including "Jesus loves me". A moving eulogy was given in poetic form by one of his nurses. We journeyed to the Bunurong

Memorial Park for the burial. His tiny coffin was decorated with St Kilda football colours, the family team. His brothers carried it to the grave, where it was gently lowered. This special part of the cemetery was called The Avenue of Rainbows. The graves of many babies and little children surrounded us. It rained all throughout the service. But as we were leaving the clouds on the horizon opened, and a rainbow spread across the sky. We left assured that little Benedict had been born to a new life, and he was with the saints.

Reflection:

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses ... let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith..." (Hebrews 12:1-2)

www.victas.uca.org.au/givingisliving | September 2016 | Image by Lily Rosen via Freemages.com



Barbara's book takes flight

THIS book, *Animals in Religion*, took about five years to write.

I set out to explore the role of animals in different religions, knowing

they were present in Christianity in many different ways, from the story of their creation in Genesis, companions for Adam in the Garden of Eden, Christ known as 'The Lamb of God',

to the concept of animals around the throne of God in the Book of Revelation. Of course there is also the role of animals and saints; from St Francis, St Jerome, St Anthony of Egypt, and others. I was curious to learn of their role and place in other religions. The book also

highlights the role and importance of animals in all faiths, and at the core of all religions is a respect for the creatures who share the earth with us. I am also concerned about the decline of many species; my hope would be that an acknowledgement and a perhaps renewed appreciation of the varied animals of the world will mean all faiths come together to make this a better place for all.

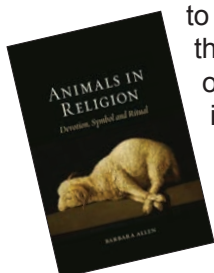
Animals in Religion, written by Barbara Allen, Spirituality and Creation Project Worker, UCA VicTas. published by Reaktion Books, available at Readings, and online www.bookdepository.com

Parkdale celebrates love for dads

FATHER'S Day at St David's, Parkdale Uniting Church produced some wonderful reflections this year.

The children in the church all had to write something

about their dad's or things they were grateful for. They then made a family tree for display in front of the church, utilising the reading from Ephesians 3:14-15: "I kneel before the Father from whom every family in heaven and earth derives its name" as the main theme for Father's Day.



Walking together in the *Paths of Peace*

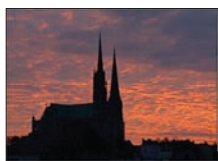
Christianity & Islam

Similarities & Differences Themes within Christianity and Islam

Rev Dr John Dupuche is a senior lecturer at Catholic Theological College where he is the co-ordinator of the Graduate Certificate in Guiding Meditation within the Department of Pastoral and General Studies. He is also an Honorary Fellow at Australian Catholic University in the Inter-religious Dialogue Network of the Faculty of Theology and Philosophy.

**WEDNESDAY 5 OCTOBER
6:30 – 8:30 pm**

\$15 / \$12 in the Parish Centre,
Hampton UCA, 17 Service Street Hampton



Please join us for dinner at 6:30 pm.
Following dinner John will speak with us about
basic themes common to Christianity and Islam

RSVP would be appreciated to assist with catering:
Tim Angus 0400 383 628 or Ian Menzies 0403 727 080



ConChord Choir

Director: Rushan Hewawasam

together with



Victoria Welsh Male Choir

Director: Faleiry Koczkar OAM

present

A Spring Concert

• Broadway • Pop • Classical
• Sri Lankan and Welsh Melodies

4.00 pm Saturday 12 Nov 2016

Berwick Church of Christ
446 Centre Road
Berwick 3806

**Donation of \$20 per person
(Children under 10 free)**

Enquiries:

Rushan Hewawasam
rushandh@gmail.com
0432 020 784

Roshi Fernando
angelar.email@gmail.com
0430 885 100

Maheshini Perera
mheshini@optusnet.com.au
03 9801 4349

Roshanee Rebera
roshanee.perera@gmail.com
0409 599 722

www.conchord.net



Dates for your diary

- Induction - Raj Pereira at Noble Park UC, Joy Parade, on Sunday, 13 October at 7.30pm.
- Cross Cultural Network – International Dinner, Thursday, 15 October at Monash Uniting Church, 1939 Princes Hwy, Clayton North, VIC, 3168.
- Induction of Rev David Pargeter at St Kilda Parish Mission UC, 163 Chapel St, St Kilda on Sunday, 20 November at 2.30pm.

Presbytery in Council meeting dates for 2016:

- **Wednesday, 23 November at Cook Island Congregation at Clayton**

Annual Catch Up Day

THIS year the annual Code of Ethics 'catch up day' will be held on Thursday 17 November at the Centre for Theology and Ministry in Parkville.

Session One: Vines and Branches, an overview of the Code of Ethics

Session Two: (1.30pm) Gifts and Fees Training on this day will be facilitated by the Presbytery of Port Phillip East.

To register for the sessions on this day, please contact Deb Penaluna:

Email: debra.penaluna@victas.uca.org.au

Phone: 03 9251 52169.30am



Presbytery video message now available

CONTINUING on the success of reciprocal visits to Korea from Port Phillip East and West's presbytery representatives and from Busan Presbytery in South Korea to Melbourne, Rev Dr Paul Chalson has compiled an interesting video message to continue the friendship and extend this ongoing relationship.

The video is just over 3 minutes long and can be viewed and downloaded

@

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/y0clrq1a2gazyua/Greeting%20to%20Busan%20final.mp4?dl=0>



God of life,
lead us to
justice and peace

WE'VE passed the magic number - 100 Likes - on our PPEP Facebook page, which boosts our reach.

It would still help to have even more Likes though so please visit www.facebook.com/ucappep.org/ and, of course, click the Like button.

Do Share things that interest you on your own page too. It helps spread the word and connects the Uniting Church with more people in our communities.



Costings

\$90 per night.

\$180 including Friday tea to Sunday lunch

\$320 couples

\$12 linen extra

Registration

Register with Pallotti College office,

Tel 5966 2585

[Emergency phone during retreat]

For more information,

Bronwyn Pryor,

Mob 0412 301 450, tel 5988 5257

Retreat runs from after 6 pm tea

Friday, to lunch Sunday.

Some dietary restrictions catered for.

You are invited....



Labyrinth Prayer Retreat
Pallotti College Retreat Centre

Weekend 7-9 October 2016

Bronwyn Pryor,
Uniting Church Retreat Leader

Expressions of Interest are still being sought for tours of local UnitingCare agencies. If you and/or your congregation would be interested in seeing the vital community work of our agencies in action please call 1800 668 426 or send a message to newsbeat@ucappep.org stating your name, phone number and address and the words Agency Tour Newsbeat in the Subject line.

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.ucappep.org and www.facebook.com/ucappep.org for news, events and more....