

NEWSBEAT



NOVEMBER 2016

NEWSLETTER FOR THE PRESBYTERY OF PORT PHILLIP EAST



Noble Park rises like a phoenix from the ashes. Turn to page 3 for their resurrectional journey.



International flavour for annual feast of culture, food and festivities. See full story in pictures on page 4.

Trail of success at Cornish College



CORNISH College has scooped a prestigious award for its Indigenous Plant Trail.

The trail was selected for the regional prize in the Victoria Schools Garden Awards as it is so well used and engages and educates students about indigenous people and their culture.

It was created by Year 1 students at the UCA school in 2014 as part of Make a Difference Week. It consists of 16 plants and weaves around the school's beautiful property.

Year 1 teacher Mrs Sam Millar helped to create

the trail and entered it into the Victoria Schools Garden Awards. She says: "With our emphasis on sustainability, we used existing plants rather than new ones and no pathways were built to create the trail. Our Year 1 classes visit sections of the trail most weeks as part of Dhumba-dha biik - a weekly program where students form strong connections to their land." The College is set on 100 acres of natural parkland and outdoor education is an integral part of student education. Teaching staff across year groups regularly use the landscape as an outdoor classroom and the Early Learning Centre, Prep and Year 1 students have weekly or fortnightly programs where they explore and investigate the environment and often walk along different parts of the trail.

Sam adds: "I focus on at least one plant every week as part of the Year 1 'Dhumba-dha biik' or 'Talk Country' program, which connects students with the land." Some of the other uses for the trail include:

- The Pigface is used to soothe insect bites and the Coastal Banksia is a popular tree to climb.
- The Year 6 students have used the trail to create original pieces of poetry.
- The Year 7 students use it for an aboriginal plant hunt activity where they are given a plant's specific indigenous use and the students have to locate and identify the correct plant.
- The Year 11 Biology students used the plant trail



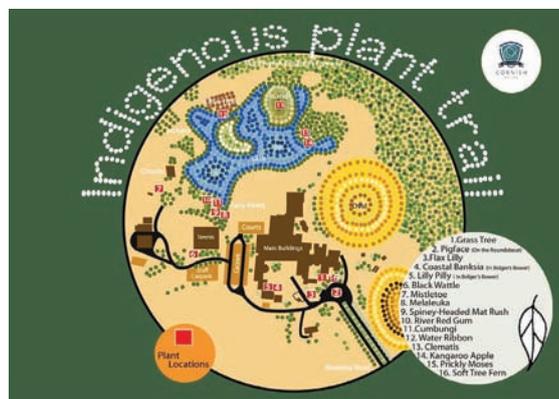
Bodhi and Nikita are pictured with Flax Lilly, part of the Indigenous Plant Trail that has won a Victorian School Gardens Regional Award

as an immersion point for a major assessment task based around the types of plants that could be useful if humans need to colonise a new planet. Campbell Sensei, Cornish' Japanese Teacher, continues: "The trail is used on our international exchange days with our sister school students from Japan to introduce them to indigenous

Australians and their way of life."

The special features of the trail include its simplicity and ease of use. The students composed the signs and their use of simple language means they can be easily read. The hand drawn pictures that appear on the signs make them very special indeed. The map, pictured, was created by Cornish' Visual Arts teacher) and is in keeping with the indigenous theme.

The Indigenous Plant Trail progresses to the next stage of the competition - the Most Engaging Student Garden For Teaching category. The winner will be announced at the end of November.



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



Dog lovers' delight

A special thanksgiving service for what dogs do for us will be held on Sunday, 20th November at 10am.

It will be held at the Heatherton-Dingley Uniting Church, cnr. Kingston and Old Dandenong Roads, Heatherton. The guest speaker will be from Guide Dogs, Victoria and the offering for the day will be donated to them.

All dog lovers, dog owners and their dogs (on a leash please) are invited to attend the service.

Morning tea for people and dogs after the service.



Everyone welcome.
For details call Margaret Howse 0402 315337.

Look who's come back to us...

ONE of the presbytery's favourite daughters has returned to the fold.

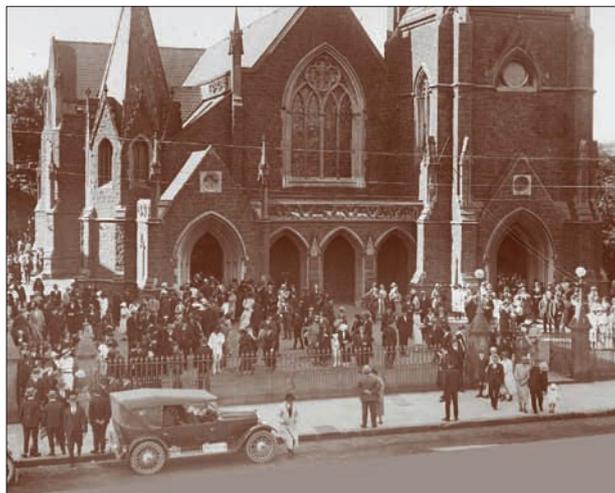
On Sunday, October 9, St Mark's Mornington, welcomed Hannah Dungan as a half-time Children's & Families Ministry Co-ordinator.

Hannah previously ministered in our Presbytery at Koornang but over the past three years has been at Kippax Uniting Church in Canberra. There she served as the Congregational Development Minister working with 'UnitingCare Kippax' families and the Kippax congregation.



Rev John Haig says: "We are excited about the possibilities of reaching out to the 70 families who attend our playgroups each week as Hannah brings her expertise and enthusiasm to our congregation."

Welcome home... Rev John Haig is pictured introducing Hannah to the congregation at Mornington



Thanksgiving service

We invite you to join us in worship, as we celebrate 123 years of Wesley Mission Victoria, and look to the future of the new Uniting Church community services agency.

Sunday 13 November 2016 at 2.00pm

Wesley Church
148 Lonsdale Street
Melbourne

Church service will be followed by afternoon tea. All welcome.

Enquiries:

T 03 9662 2355

E reception@wesley.org.au



wesley.org.au

Cover photograph Jim Weatherill Photography

Funds raised will be used for Community Outreach programs, including Operation Larder & Voices of Frankston

Food Fair

Friday 18 November

5.30pm to 8pm

High Street Uniting Church
16-18 High Street, Frankston

JOIN US for a festival of international food, cakes, a coffee cart, and other delicious fare. There are gourmet hampers to be won, fancy goods stalls, live entertainment and more!

ALL WELCOME

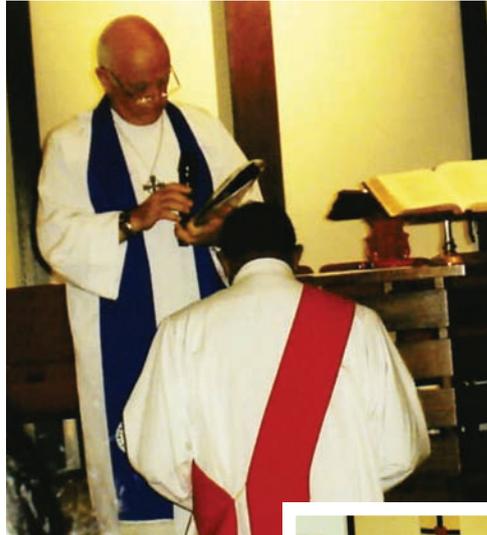
Welcome news for Noble Park

THE Induction of the Rev (Deacon) Rajitha Perera was some welcome good news for the Noble Park Congregation, writes Ian Firth.

The Congregation has endured a string of burglaries and vandalism, culminating with the fire earlier this year.

So it was with much joy that the congregation gathered on Thursday evening, October 13 for the Induction of Rajitha.

The augmented choir presented a dramatic version of *Here I am Lord* which added greatly to the sense of occasion. The Rev Liz McMillan, Presbytery Minister-Pastoral Care preached and both she and I, as Presbytery Secretary, commented that, with the Presbytery Office being located at Noble Park, the Presbytery staff have shared the pain and anger of the Congregation with the breaks-in and the fire. It was good to be able to be with the Congregation to celebrate some welcome good news. With a new minister and the completion of the repairs to the building, the future is much brighter for this resilient and faithful Congregation



Rev (Deacon) Dr Rajitha Perera was introduced to the St Columba's Uniting Church congregation last month.

Rev Dr Tony Floyd, Chair of the Presbytery, conducted the service of induction on October 13 and St Columba's choir was joined by the Sri Lankan Conchord choir in a wonderful rendition of *Here I am Lord*.

Rev Rajitha's family were also in attendance, including his daughters and grandchildren. After induction Rev Rajitha was congratulated and welcomed by fellow ministers from around the Presbytery, and also by Father Brian Collins and his ministry team from Resurrection Catholic Church, Keysborough, and St Anthony's Catholic Church, Noble Park, and Father Gerald Loos, parish priest of St Aiden's Anglican Church, Noble Park. Local City of Dandenong councillor Mrs Roz Blades also attended the service and congratulated Rev Rajitha. The service was followed by supper and a chance to mingle with the guests.

by Jenny Strahan



ARMCHAIR TRAVELS EVENING - THE KIMBERLEY & TRANS SIBERIAN RAILWAY



Join photographers Rev Alan Mathews and Rev John Haig on two inspirational journeys - one through the stunning Western Australian landscape and the other across mysterious Russia and China.

**On Sunday, November 13, 5pm-6.30pm (with interval)
Followed by a Bring a Plate Shared Supper
at High Street Uniting Church, 16-18 High St, Frankston.
Tickets: only \$10**

from <https://www.stickytickets.com.au/44323>
or bronwen.alan@bigpond.com - 0488 130747
johnh.stmarks@gmail.com - 0412 233298
helen.beeby@gmail.com - 9783 3400

Plus raffle and door prizes
All proceeds to the Mother & Child Health Clinics
Project in North India

When cultures and congregations celebrate, magic happens



Photos by Rev Hoon You
(all photos from the evening available by e-mailing newsbeat.ucappep.org)

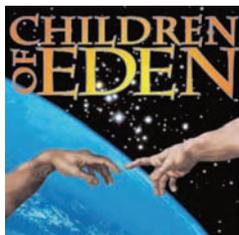
THE International Dinner held at Monash Uniting Church recently was yet another feast of fellowship, food and cultural festivities.

This annual crowd-pleaser brings people together from the many different countries who are members of the Uniting Church in our presbytery and beyond.



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

People of God on the way together

The next meeting of the CROSS CULTURAL NETWORK will be held on Tuesday, December 6th at 10.45am for an 11am start. The meeting will be held at Monash UC, 1939 Princes Highway, Clayton North. Notes of the CCN meeting held on 4th October will be sent out together with agenda items for discussion closer to the meeting, but please put the date in your diary now! Thank you.

Connections is at the forefront of policy change



Presbytery-based agency, **Connections UnitingCare**, has scooped a prestigious role in a pilot program to prevent violence against women. The Workplace Equality and Respect project was launched by Fiona Richardson, Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence and Minister for Women. The project will see *Our Watch* - a body set up to elicit change in culture, behaviours and attitudes that lead to violence against women and children - to develop workplace guidelines to prevent violence against women.

Connections UnitingCare is the only not-for-profit organisation selected to take part. The other organisations are La Trobe University, North Melbourne Football Club and Carlton Football Club.

Trish Chapman, acting CEO of Connections UnitingCare, said the organisation is excited to participate in the pilot. "Core to the philosophy of our programs is that we believe we have an absolute commitment to prevent violence against women, and consequently, children," she says. "We think, as a community service organisation with a strong reputation in the community, that we can use our status and our influence to enter into public conversations about preventing violence against women and support a workplace where we have conversations about gender equality."

Under the pilot, each participating organisation will assess its own performance and come up with a series of actions and benchmarks to help it improve.

How sticky fingers develop sticky faith



IF you're involved in Children & Family Ministry you might enjoy some of these activities:

The first is to remember the many servicemen and women for Remembrance Sunday (November 11 is Remembrance Day):

<http://www.messychurch.org.uk/resource/messy-remembrance>

The second is one of a number of Advent resources to lead up to Christmas Day.

<http://www.faithinhomes.org.uk/find/advent/1>

Click on either of the links and you can explore more ideas to engage our littlies in the life of the church.

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@ucapppep.org stating your name, phone number and address and the words Agency Tour Newsbeat in the Subject line.

A COMMUNITY EVENT HELD SINCE 1993

HILLTOP MARKET

SATURDAY
12 NOVEMBER 2016
9am - 2pm

CAKES
CRAFT
PLANTS
BOOKS
JEWELLERY
WHITE ELEPHANT
GOURMET FOODS
CHRISTMAS GIFTS
SAUSAGES/BURGERS
JUMPING CASTLE
FRAMES & PAINTINGS

LOTS OF FUN!

High Street Road Uniting Church
Mount Waverley
482 High St Road Mt Waverley - Cnr Stewart St
Melway 61 G12

Market 2016 \ Flyer2016



Family justice

SANDRINGHAM Social Justice group's dessert and coffee evening was something of a family reunion in October.

Jasmine Dawson spoke on Australian Refugee Policy: A Legal Limbo. As a youngster, Jasmine attended Sunday School at Sandringham and her proud grandmother, Vera

Dennison, is a long standing member of the Sandringham UC congregation. Jasmine is currently undertaking a PhD at the University of Melbourne and her thesis explores sexual orientation-based refugee status determination in Australia and the UK. Jasmine is pictured above left with Vera and Rev Christine MacDowall.

Quote

“Anyone who thinks sitting in church can make you a Christian must also think that sitting in a garage can make you a car.”

Garrison Keillor



of the month

 **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	Maheshini Perera mheshini@optusnet.com.au 03 9801 4349
Roshi Fernando angelar.email@gmail.com 0430 885 100	Roshanee Rebera roshanee.perera@gmail.com 0409 599 722

www.conchord.net

Christmas is a time for giving

PLANNING for the Christmas Bowl Appeal is well underway. Kits, envelopes and large corflute posters are being delivered to churches. Do look out for them and be sure to make use of these resources. Many more resources are available on the Act for Peace website.

Many churches in Port Phillip East Presbytery get involved in activities, such as Christmas Carols events or public cash collections for Christmas Bowl. If you are having a special event, you are invited to get in touch with Jeff Wild at the Melbourne office of Act for Peace on 9650 6811. Share the stories and photos (with any necessary



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.



permissions) from your event, and inspire others. In the spirit of Christmas giving, you may wish to purchase Gifts for Peace for your family or friends. There are 15 different types and more information is on the website at: www.actforpeace.org.au/Get-Involved/Gifts-for-Peace. Just a reminder: The Victorian launch of Christmas Bowl, and the Frank Byatt Memorial Lecture is on Saturday, 13th Nov, at St John's Essendon, and starting at 3.30pm.

Deep thanks from Act for Peace and our partners for your support.



O, heavenly
Father,
We thank
thee for
food and



remember the hungry. We
thank thee for health and
remember the sick. We
thank thee for friends and
remember the friendless. We
thank thee for freedom and
remember the enslaved. May
these remembrances stir us
to service, that thy gifts to us
may be used for others.

Amen

Last words

AT the end of Presbytery meetings anyone can have their say on things they'd like to promote. Here are some from the last PiC:

- Rev Phillip Liebelt offered to lead biblical story telling sessions on Luke's Gospel. Call Phillip on 0400 631264.
- Di Paterson, the Presbytery rep to Lay Preachers' C'tee asked congregations to consider using budding lay preachers for services. Di can be contacted on 0400 961 052.
- Rev Ian Cayzer gave a plug to the Presbytery Prayer Calendar on the PPEP website.

In case you missed it

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 will be facilitated by the Presbytery of Port Phillip East. To register please contact Deb Penaluna:
Email: debra.penaluna@victas.uca.org.au
Phone: 03 9251 52169.30am

Reflections on Faith

We used to know how to do Church.

Most of us grew up with the post-war model of Church: one congregation, one set of buildings, one minister, centred around worship on Sunday mornings, along with Sunday School, youth group, women's groups etc. It was self-sustaining and even reached out into our communities and in mission around the world.

That post-war model of Church just isn't working – even in Port Phillip East, the region with the strongest churches in the Synod. Liz McMillan and the PRC have pointed out to us how many formerly strong congregations are seeking a part-time minister. I have reviewed the financial returns of congregations and would estimate that fewer than 10 congregations can support a full-time minister from their offerings. Another 6-8 are struggling to do so, and probably won't be able to do so in the next few years. Another 6-8 have large property or investment income so can maintain full-time ministry, but have few members to maintain the life of their congregation.

As the Mission Development Committee and Presbytery leaders have talked about this, we see much evidence of exhaustion and lack of hope among the members, leaders and ministers of our congregations, as they seek to maintain the structures, the buildings and finances of an outmoded model of Church. Looking for part-time ministry to do what is clearly failing is not the answer.

We don't know the answer or answers. We have some ideas that excite us and so we would like to engage the Presbytery, its ministers, leaders and members in looking for ways to be followers of Jesus in congregations or other faith communities through whom God can make a difference in our lives and in our communities.

How can we be healthy congregations or faith communities? The model of the 60s congregation is not the only model of a successful Church. We now live in a more secular society, which distrusts organisations, especially religious institutions and yet where people long for meaning, community and spirituality.

If we look further back into the history of our Church, we see other models. The Methodist model was the far flung circuit, where small lay-led faith communities were visited by the circuit-riding minister, to offer resourcing, communion, some encouragement and leadership.

The Presbyterian Church started in Australia in similar ways – the first Presbyterian Church in Australia at Ebenezer on the Hawkesbury River was started and led by a small group of elders for the first couple of decades. In other countries such as China or Russia where the Church was persecuted, it survived and flourished in homes, as it did in the early Christian Church. Small congregations can be strong and healthy, but not if they are pretending to be something that they are not or if they are weighed down with irrelevant structures or buildings. How can we encourage healthy, strong, small congregations, whose life together echoes something of the inclusive love of Jesus? How can we help their members to be renewed in the warmth and enthusiasm of their faith and train leaders to build those healthy congregations? How can we show them how to explore mission that grows out of their faith, their life together and their context?

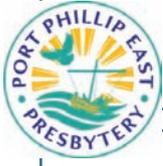
We see some signs of hope; growing edges around our Presbytery. We are suggesting we start with a series of Workshops around our Presbytery. We will present our current situation, invite some stories of hope and suggest some possible ways forward.

The second step is to invite congregations to hold a series of Lenten studies in 2017 based on the booklet "Healthy Congregations". There are lots more ideas; but we suggest we start with these, and see where God leads us.

Healthy congregations

by Rev Dr Robert Johnson





Dates for your diary

- 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 2016/17:

- **Wednesday, 23 November at Cook Island Congregation at Clayton 2017**
- **Wednesday, 22 February at Hampton**
- **Saturday, 17 June at Noble Park**
- **Wednesday, 26 July at Noble Park**
- **Wednesday, 27 September at Hampton Park**
- **Wednesday, 22 November at Mt Eliza**

Challenges create meaningful discussion at St John's PRESBYTERY members gathered at St John's Congregation in Mt Waverley for the September PiC meeting and the Mt Waverley folk were generous with both their hospitality and for the supper provided.

The Rev Dr Paul Chalson presented the devotions during which he showed a video of the recent Somers Camp, a Presbytery event. He also showed the completed video greeting to the Busan East Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church of Korea.

This PiC meeting was structured differently in that the business side was kept to a minimum in order to allow more time for discussion in table groups.

The first topic for discussion involved several case studies, prepared by the Rev Liz McMillan, Presbytery Minister, Pastoral Care. These challenged people to think differently about ministry now that many congregations can no longer afford full time ministers. And with the expectation of the Synod Placements Committee that a minister, wanting a full time placement may have to accept two .5 placements in different congregations, it is clear

that the church is moving into forms of ministry that require careful consideration and not a small amount of negotiation.

Following this discussion the Rev Dr Robert Johnson, Supply Presbytery Minister, Mission and Education addressed the meeting on the changed circumstances the church finds itself in this first part of the 21st century. Following supper, table groups were asked to discuss some the recent findings from the Presbytery Survey. While there was no definitive outcome from this it is important that the time and nature of PiC meetings continues to be considered.

by Ian Firth

Room wanted

Dear Newsbeat
I am a student at the University of South Australia, and an active member of Parafield Gardens Uniting Church in South Australia. I have been directed to your presbytery by the elders of my church. I have to complete a work placement as part of my studies in Melbourne's South East, and was wondering if there are any churches that would help me find a Uniting Church family to accept a temporary boarder, for 1-2 months? I am open to suggestions and any direction will be of help. My phone number is 0458 274069, my church number is 08 8285 7104.
Kind regards and God Bless!
Alec Dawson



CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVES ON TREATY, SOVEREIGNTY AND CONSTITUTIONAL RECOGNITION
AN ECUMENICAL FORUM

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:
Stuart McMillan, President, Uniting Church in Australia
Ken Sumner, Ngarrindjeri man and Victorian State Director, Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress

PANELISTS INCLUDE:
Brooke Prentis, Waka Waka woman, member of The Salvation Army National Indigenous Reference Group and Aboriginal spokesperson for Common Grace.
Vicki Clark, Mutthi Mutthi / Wemba Wemba woman, previous co-ordinator Aboriginal Catholic Ministry Melbourne.
Glenn Loughrey, Wiradjuri man, priest-in-charge of St Oswald's Anglican Church in Melbourne;
Adam Frogley, Taunggerong/Woi-Wurrung man from the Yarra Valley region of Victoria. Adam will give a grass roots perspective.

MC:
Alistair Macrae, Minister, Wesley Uniting Church

Come and hear the wisdom and perspectives from indigenous leaders and Church leaders from within our Churches.
Open to anyone to attend – please bring your questions for the Q&A!

RSVP ESSENTIAL: <http://bit.ly/VCCtreaty> or by phoning 9251 5266

WEDNESDAY 9TH NOVEMBER 7PM-9PM (6.45PM REGISTRATIONS)
WESLEY UNITING CHURCH, 148 LONSDALE STREET, MELBOURNE

Hosted by
Victorian Council of Churches | Social Questions Commission

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.