NEWSBEAT



NEWSLETTER FOR THE PRESBYTERY OF PORT PHILLIP EAST



Where was this spirit-stirring setting created this month? Full story on the back page



Where art meets the church. Two creative stories on pages 4 and 6.

The Singing
Pastor
reaches Trinity
on page 3.



Backpack backing

CORNISH college has been selected as 'School of the Year' in the 'Backpack Bed for Homeless' Australia Day 2017 awards.

Chaplain, Jarrod Davies, coordinates the school community's efforts in raising money to buy Backpack Beds for the homeless along with the Winter Sleep Out. Jarrod and Senior Students have worked with other local schools to encourage hold a 'winter sleep out' and raise funds, too. He also educates students about the complex issues involved in homelessness and to consider possible solutions.

In giving us the award, Backpack Bed for Homeless said: "The Backpack Bed for Homeless Australia Day Hero honour is a yearly announcement for those who have shown an outstanding passion towards both our cause and to homelessness. Cornish College has gone beyond helping and you continue to be an inspiration to us all. In addition to being a great example, your actions have contributed to saving homeless lives with dignity."



Birthday honours for this

UCA school success story

THERE was a moment when Cornish College faced the desperate prospect of closing its doors for the last time.

Yet, parent-power and a willingness from the Uniting Church to support independence wrested victory from the jaws of defeat. This month Cornish College celebrated a landmark five years since that daring and courageous decision. A special Foundation Day assembly was held for students and a gala

evening gathering was held for parents, staff, alumni and friends. For those who weren't aware, Cornish was once a campus of St Leonard's College, but financial issues in 2012 led to an announcement that the Cornish Campus would have to fold. A committed group of Cornish parents then formed a committee to champion the ongoing survival of their beloved school. Recognising the commitment of the students and parents to the

the Cornish campus community and the St Leonard's College Council. Cornish College was instated as an independent UCA school and the school has since grown from strength to strength. Rhiannon Mathews, Communications Coordinator for Cornish College, says: "We were thrilled to celebrate five years of Cornish College recently.

Cont. on page 2



oldest, youngest and 700th students cut the cake. Left: Principal Vicki Steer is all smiles

as she shares her joy and pride at Cornish' special day. Below: cupcake heaven.

campus, the Uniting Church involved itself in brokering a deal between



Cont. from front page

We marked this milestone at our Foundation Day Assembly, with our oldest, youngest and

the 700th student cutting a huge cake, kindly donated by Ferguson Plarre at Patterson Lakes.



"Everyone enjoyed Cornish College cupcakes on the Village Green and our Early Learning Centre students gave us five claps, plus one to help us grow!

"It was a fantastic day for all involved."

Cornish College grows stronger year

CORNISH College's student numbers have On year more than tripled since it opened its doors five years ago with 220 students. In the first school week for 2017, the College welcomed a record number of ELC to Year 12 students, with 701 students.

Despite its fast growth, Cornish College is still a medium size co-educational school where students are known and learning is personalised and engaging. Located on 100 acres of natural parkland, students enjoy learning, playing and exploring the extensive grounds.

Principal Vicki Steer said Foundation Day was a chance for everyone who has been involved in the College's growth to celebrate: "Our school thrives today because of our community's belief in our educational philosophy of preparing students for life. We recognise the importance of academic rigour, creativity and developing strong foundation skills for learning," she says. Cornish College's motto is Make a Difference and at its core is the development of independence, compassion and personal excellence for students to make a

positive contribution within their local community and globally."

With extensive private bus services, Cornish College students come from a wide range of regions, including Beaumaris, Mentone, Parkdale, Mordialloc, Chelsea, Aspendale, Patterson Lakes, Dingley, Sandhurst, Frankston, Frankston South and Mount Eliza.



Don your runners for Palm Sunday

MANY UCA people will join thousands of others again on Palm Sunday this year to Walk for Justice for Refugees.

The Melbourne event starts on Sunday 9 April from 1:30pm at the State Library of Victoria with

WALK for

JUSTICE

Bring Them Here
2017 FOR

REFUGEES

music and then the walk begins at 2pm. You'll find a group there with the Synod banner. Please feel free to bring along your own placards with refugee support messages.

Homecoming service at High Street

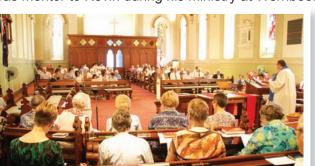
Levi McGrath has been outstanding as the Musical Director for the Voices of Frankston Choir, writes Rev David Fotheringham. On Sunday, March 12, he will be telling the story of his faith taking him to work with former child soldiers in northern Uganda, with street kids in Ethiopia, and other places combining his passions for music, faith and social justice. He will be calling us to see the big picture in word and in song. All welcome!



The Singing Pastor hits the right notes at Trimity

EARLY last month, after a lengthy spell with supply ministers, Trinity finally welcomed their new minister. The Rev Kevin Kim was inducted as the minister of the Trinity Congregation at Brighton by the Rev Fiona Morrison, Deputy Presbytery Chairperson.

In his remarks following his induction Kevin described himself as 'the singing pastor' and that it was his intention to make the Congregation, a singing congregation. Kevin is an accomplished singer which he had demonstrated with a solo earlier in the service. Kevin comes to our Presbytery from the Port Phillip West Presbytery so it was fitting that the sermon was preached by the Rev Mark Dunn, formerly the minister at St John's Essendon and current Army Chaplain. Mark was mentor to Kevin during his ministry at Werribee.





The Brighton (Trinity) Congregation was established in 1853 and is one of the oldest churches in our Presbytery. by lan Firth

Developing thriving families within a church community - an exploration



IF your church could nurture thriving families in your local area, would that expand your outreach and ministry? Then why not join Mark Scandrette for an evening to create thriving families of

belonging and becoming.

Date: Tuesday 14 March, 6:30pm to 9pm Location: North Ringwood Uniting Church, 14 Dickson Cres, Ringwood North

Details: https://ucavt.goregister.com.au/ thrivingfamilies 2017

In the book Belonging and Becoming, Mark and Lisa Scandrette cast a compelling vision of what the family can be. They offer wisdom from the joys and struggles of their own life, and practical guidance for creating a healthy and deeply rooted family culture. Now more than ever, we need a new vision for church community engaged with the wider local community that is creative, intentional, soulful, and globally aware.

For families:

- explore the 7 themes and 3 tools to create a thriving family culture
- what are the deepest values your family needs to thrive?

For church leaders:

address the felt needs in your local community how could your local or regional church nurture thriving families in your local community? Mark Scandrette is an author, teacher, activist and coach for leaders and teams who want to create a better world from the inside out. His multidisciplinary studies in applied psychology, family health and theology have shaped his approach to learning and transformation.

Details on other Mark Scandrette events in Melbourne during March:https://ucavt.goregister. com.au/thrivingfamilies2017/info/moremark/







Old lin

Christ

GROWING OLD IN CHRIST

A series of readings and conversations from Scripture and from our own experiences, drawing on insights from the book of essays of the same name with Editors including Stanley Hauerwas and Carole Stoneking

Presented by Shirley Coxhell and Tim Angus

Tuesday 14 February

Growing Old in Scripture

Tuesday 14 March Over the Hill?

How do we value people?

Tuesday 9 May

Dying a Good Death

With a nod to proposed euthanasia legislation

Tuesday 13 June

Remembered by God!

Funerals; the Communion of Saints; Visiting

4:30pm (for afternoon tea) till 6:00pm in the Parish Centre **Hampton Uniting Church, 17 Service Street**

A gold coin donation would be appreciated Enquiries: Tim Angus 0400 383 628

Preliminary reading material is available Email: dayspringcontact@hotmail.com

Strathdon art show pulls in some big names



ART lovers, architecture enthusiasts and aspiring artists will all find inspiration at this year's Uniting AgeWell Strathdon

Community Art Exhibition, writes John Le. Celebrating its 14th year, the Forest Hill Exhibition contributes to Melbourne's love affair with artsand culture.

Show celebrates 14th anniversary in 2017

ouns, DipClinHypnosis, MA Ed ber ASH. r, she is the Australian

ninsula branch of

Featuring multi-award winning artist Jo Reitze

as guest judge and internationally renowned artists Pamela Irving, left,

- whose work feature in some of Melbourne's most iconic public spaces
- and It HaoPheh, below, as guest artists, the Exhibition promises to inspire and challenge our view of the world.

In addition to exhibiting his work, It Hao Pheh will be passing on his vast knowledge about art during a free demonstration on Saturday, March 25 from 2pm. Recognised for his ability to produce a visual representation

of the world with architecturally inspired, water coloured artworks, It Hao says the beauty of art is its ability to tell a story and evolve over time.

"A lot of my earlier work captures the political and socio-economic times we live in," he said. "However, since converting to Christianity, I now draw my inspiration from God's creations. I believe we are all given specific skills and talents and it is our responsibility to use them and share them with the world."This year's Exhibition will also feature a young artist category, open to artists between the ages of 17and 21. The exhibition will kick off with an Opening Night Cocktail Party on Thursday, March 23, with canapes and drinks. All artwork is available for purchase with net profit going to Strathdon Community's seniors lifestyle program.

For more information visit strathdonartshow.org.au.



BRONWYN Pryor, friends and family are holding a series of Labyrinth Reflection Days - 'Dadirri' - at St Andrews Beach, Mornington Peninsula throughout 2017. All are welcome.

The first is on March 18: Reported personal experiences of the supernatural actions of God.

Location: 60 Bass Meadows Blvd, St Andrews Beach 3941, Melway map 251 J5, 10am to 4pm.

Lunch: Please bring food to share; Morn/Aft tea provided.

Cost: \$10 [pension \$5]

Booking: please register by the previous Thursday evening if possible:

Tel. 5988 5257; email robron@pryor.org.au; [website http://dadirri.pryor.org.au]

Accommodation available o/n at 'mates rates' View at www.stayz.com.au/accommodation/bayspeninsulas/st-andrews-beach/68361

Prayer Calendar is now here

THE popular Port Phillip East Prayer Calendar (2017 version) - which calls us to uphold and support all members across the presbytery

in prayer - is now on the ucappep.org

for his diligence and care to compile this resource. Click on: http://www.

website. Our thanks to Rev Ian Cayzer ucappep.org/prayer-calendar-2016/



PENINSULA VOICE

Register Here.

UNITING Church people are really good at helping others, as individuals, as congregations and as agencies, but

many of us find it really hard to talk about our faith.

That might have been OK in a time when nearly everyone in our society shared basically the same belief but we are living in a very different world now – today we are in a missionary situation, struggling against a dominant secular worldview.

If at one time it was considered impolite to talk about faith or politics, that time has gone. I find people are really interested in the faith that motivates other people, as long as they can hear about it in a non-

threatening situation and style. So how can we help Uniting Church people find confidence is sharing their faith in ways that don't come across as other-worldly or pushy? Here are comments from two of our ministers about how they help their people to share their faith.

Kim Cain from St Leonard's, Brighton

Beach writes: I agree, 'faith sharing' is about what we are best worst at in the Uniting Church. Part of the problem, I guess, is 'language' - meaning, that people are pretty uncomfortable with religious language and so have a problem with articulating what their spiritual lives mean. Anyway, there is a couple of things we have tried here, in what amounts to old fashioned 'testimony', though we don't use that word. Firstly, in our 'New Wave' service and 'WorshipOne' (a combined servcie with a more 'alternative' liturgy), I often have short discussion time (5 minutes) - having introduced a theme, I ask people to turn to their neighbour, or form a little group, and talk about it. I always give them one question to get them started.

This question is focused on getting people to share their thoughts, ideas or events connected to their faith. Interestingly people really do chat away during these times and generally find it very by Robert Johnson PM, Mission and Education (Supply)

interesting. So, not rocket science, but it is getting people comfortable with talking/sharing faith and tapping into their experience and wisdom.

In the last 18 months we took this one step further: in our WorshipOne services I would arrange for two or three people to get up and share their own faith experience, again around a specific topic or question... such as, 'someone who became a teacher of the faith for me', or a 'time when my faith made an impact on how I dealt with a situation/experience...', another one was, 'how God and I got started'. Let me tell you the

depth and dignity of the sharing has been inspirational. Risky, vulnerable and honest words and experiences, supported by very deep thought and reflection.

On another occasion, I asked people to get into small groups with their neighbours, each group was given an 8 x 10 photograph of one of the symbols

in the church (some, not so familiar or visible). They were asked where the symbol was located, and how it spoke to them today; then a short time for public feedback.

Needless to say, the sharing has been profound and often times very deep. It is a rare privilege to hear the stories, wisdom and love experienced and learnt. And the whole congregation is moved. Like I said, it is testimony, but we don't use the word.

In all the cases where individuals get up to speak, I do it with at least two or three others and always with preparation, including a conversation with me, prior to. It is risky business, so the assurance is appreciated.. Now, the issue, is how to enable people to speak into their own conversations away from church...there must be a way!

* Rev (Deacon) Mat Harry will share next month.

Invitation to the first UCA national worship conference in 30 years

"TRANSFORMING WORSHIP" is a national gathering for preachers, worship leaders, musicians, artists, poets, and others interested in exploring the deep



place of worship in shaping and changing our lives and our world. On 27-30 July 2017, Adelaide will host the first national worship conference for the Uniting Church in 30 years as part of our 40th anniversary. It explores ways in which God forms us in faith and transforms us for discipleship and mission.

ministry matters

Discovering the Divine Image - Blake Prize comes to Toorak

KINROSS Arts Centre in Toorak, Melbourne is hosting the 64th Blake Prize Tour in April/May 2017 and the Uniting Church is heavily involved.

UCA Funds Management and the CTM are sponsoring certain events and Toorak UCA will play host to a special symposium.

Key dates for the Blake Exhibition in Melbourne for 2017 are:

April 7th - May 26th - Touring Exhibition at Kinross Arts & Spirituality Centre - entry by donation. Sponsored by UCA Funds Management April 7th - 64th Blake Exhibition Opening 5pm -7pm at Kinross Arts Centre - free event

April 27th 2pm - 5pm - UCA Funds Special Event with Tim Costello & Artists at Toorak Uniting Church - free event

May 11th - 13th Australia and "The Divine Image." Symposium at Toorak Uniting Church - paid event. Sponsored by Centre for Theology and Ministry

(May 11th Concert; May 12th Guest Speakers and Panel Session; May 13th Arts Workshops in response to Blake artworks)

May 25th - Closing Event - free event.

During the Symposium a panel of speakers will talk about images of the body in the 64th Blake Exhibition and the idea of the body as housing the spirit.

Tickets and details at https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/64th-blake-prize-exhibition-melbourne-premiere-tickets-31052829850





Looking for study funding for next year? Apply now...



Uniting AgeWell will hold a series of FREE community information sessions to help you understand this emotional time and plan ahead.

If you were too sick to make decisions about your medical treatment, would people know what you want? Advance Care Planning makes things easier for the people you care about. Come and learn how you can plan ahead.

Tuesday 14 March 2pm - 4pm

Uniting AgeWell Noble Park Community 1312 Heatherton Road, Noble Park Light refreshments provided

Presenters

Advance Care Planning Nurse and Educator

Cathy Beaton Chaplain, Uniting AgeWell Noble Park Community

For more information or to book a seat, contact the Uniting AgeWell Noble Park Community on T: 9554 0700.



unitingagewell.org







Matthew Julius (Victoria), far left, and Bradley Case (QLD) were delighted to be awarded a \$1500 Joan Stott UCAF Bursary to support their studies in 2017.

Matthew is currently pursuing full-time graduate study in theology at Pilgrim Theological College and Bradley is studying with the Australian College of Ministries to complete a Bachelor of Ministry.

Since their establishment in 2009. 11 Joan Bursaries have been awarded. of Joan Stott, pictured below, to the Uniting the Uniting Church Adult



JOAN STOTT UCAF BURSARY

Are you:

- committed to or already studying for leadership or theology within the ethos of the Uniting Church
- under 35 years of age

Could you use funds to:

- pay fees to your "Place of Study"
- pay for additional courses or resources

Apply now for a Joan Stott Uniting Church Adult Fellowship (UCAF) Bursary for study in 2018

Contact:

David Wang for more information and an application form E:

david.wang@victas.uca.org.au

Applications closing date is Wednesday 31st Mav

Uniting AgeWell

Musical musings

AS music is such an important and stimulating element of most worship services we thought it would be a good idea to run a regular column about any musical ideas from within our congregations. We know there are some really talented musical folk out there... so send in any suggestions that worked well in your sacred spaces to newsbeat@ucappep.org and we'll share it across PPEP. Here's one from Rev Paul Chalson: "The music team at Newlife UCA (Robina Queensland) has released a song which draws upon the words of John Wesley from his Covenant Prayer used in many Uniting Churches around Australia early in the year. I thought I'd share because others may be interested and it's a lovely song https:// www.youtube.com/watch?v=F3 TjhpK5OY&feature=share "

UNDERSTANDING AND **ANSWERING ISLAM**

What are the foundational differences between Christianity and Islam? Which is the real Word Of God? The Bible or the Qur'an? Do you know what it costs a Muslim to consider Christ?

In Australia today, as in all Western countries, there are growing Muslim communities.

Increasingly many of us have Muslim neighbours and co-workers. Moreover, radical Islam is on the move around the globe in ways we were woken up to on 9/11, and are constantly reminded of in global news stories. It is our hope that you will join with RZIM and Arthur Jeffery Centre for the Study of Islam, Melbourne School of Theology in recognising and seeking to respond to these challenges biblically and thoughtfully.

We regularly gather some of the world's leading Christian scholars researching Islam, as well as some of the greatest contemporary apologists to Muslims. As always, these conferences will marry apologetic rigor with gospel passion. These events are designed for families, students, churches, small groups, and anyone interested in the questions raised by the interaction between Islam and Christianity.

Please join us in praying for a wonderful time of spiritual renewal and greater understanding of our Muslim friends. SPEAKERS INCLUDE:

Dr Andy Bannister, Dr Richard Shumack, Dr Bernie Power, Dr Peter Riddell, Rev. Dr. Mark Durie

MELBOURNE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY 5 BURWOOD HWY, WANTIRNA, VIC 3152 REGISTER AT +61 3 9881 7800 EVENT STARTS FRIDAY EVENING, 7TH APRIL, FROM 7:00PM - 9:00PM,

Quote

"Sometimes the questions are complicated and the answers are simple."

Dr. Seuss of the month

When a cartoonist talks to God

"Indoor" **GARAGE SALE**

& Clothing Clearance all clothing in hall – 50c each



SATURDAY 18th MARCH 2017

from - 9am - 1pm At Springvale Uniting Church Balmoral & Albert Ave, Springvale.

- Morning Tea/Lunch
- Household items * Op Shop bargains
- Home made cakes Gifts, Jewellery, Toys, and lots more

Dear God These circumstances will change. This situation shall pass. Amen





New chairs take their seats at Presbytery

by Ian Firth

PRIOR to the February meeting of Presbytery in Council (PiC) and at a service of worship, the Rev Andrew Boyle was installed as Chair and the Rev Cameron McAdam was installed as Deputy Chair.

In the absence of the Rev Dr Tony Floyd, the outgoing Chairperson, the Rev Dr Robert Johnson presided as the previous Chairperson.

Andrew, below left, is currently the minister at Ormond while Cam, far right, is the minister at Mt Eliza.

Presbytery office bearers and members of committees were commissioned at the same service. In his address to the PiC meeting Andrew said that, during his stint as Supply Minister- Mission and Education he became aware of a lack of a strategy in the Presbytery. While there are reasons for this it is an issue which needs to be addressed.

Under the leadership of Andrew and Cam the PiC meetings will have a different style. Each meeting will start with a bible study lead by a minister in the Presbytery. And that minister's congregation will be

invited to share its story of new mission opportunities and insights for ministry.

Robert Johnson, below right, presented a report on how the Presbytery



could share property sale proceeds and the Rev Liz McMillan, Presbytery Minister – Pastoral Care invited Presbytery members to consider volunteering to be part of Joint Nominating Committees and Life & Witness Consultations. Liz will be

running training prior to
Easter.

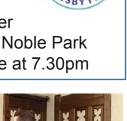
The meeting accepted the 2016 Presbytery Financial Statement and approved the 2017 Delegations.

Calling all potential university chaplains

Presbytery in Council meeting dates for 2017:

- 26 April,
- 21 June,
- 23 August,
- 18 October
- 29 November

Now always at Noble Park UC, Joy Parade at 7.30pm





WDP this Friday

World Day of Prayer, Friday,

March 3. Visit worlddayofprayeraustralia.org for a service near you.



APPLICATIONS are still sought for a half time chaplain at Monash University Peninsula Campus, as an outreach of High Street Uniting Church, Frankston.

This is continuing in a role that has been successfully operating over the last 9 years. Applicants should have appropriate qualifications and experience in Theology and Pastoral Care. For lay applicants, the position is equivalent to a level 3 Pastor position in the Uniting Church.

Details are available from the High Street Uniting Church office, phone 9783 3400 or email frankstonchaplaincy@gmail.com. Applications are invited by 27 March 2017, and should be sent to the Secretary of the Church Council, High Street Uniting Church, 16-18 High Street, Frankston, 3199. Or by email to frankstonchaplaincy@gmail.com

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.