

# NEWSBEAT



JUNE 2017

NEWSLETTER FOR THE PRESBYTERY OF PORT PHILLIP EAST



Paul injects fun into his fond farewell at Springvale UC. See some of his Release of Ties pictures on page 5.

Box-ing clever. Sixty years of service that lifted wingmen to new spiritual heights. Fly to page 3 for the fascinating story.

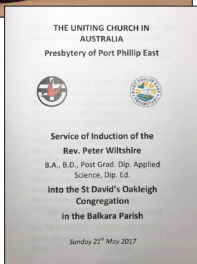


## How youth leaders build strong community connections

### A Wiltshire homecoming



AT his induction into St David's, Oakleigh Congregation on Sunday May 21, the Rev Peter Wiltshire said he felt he had come home. Peter had spent two years in the congregation as the long term supply minister. He thanked them not only for their warmth and love but also the part they played in deepening his faith. Having spent 19 years in a chaplaincy role at Wesley College, he said he was not going to miss the ringing of bells. Peter paid a heartfelt tribute to his wife, Julie, who is both 'his rock and the wind beneath his wings.' Pastor Kelly Skilton, a member of the JNC preached on Acts 17. **Words Ian Firth. Photos Rev Kevin Kim.**



A FEW years ago, a young adult, Jake Doleschal, joined the Village Church in Mt Eliza and asked me what the church's school engagement strategy looked like.

Jake and I then met a number of times with the leadership at Mt Eliza Secondary College and Jake, now the church's Youth Engagement Worker (in partnership with Fusion Mornington Peninsula) ran a number of programs in the school with at-risk and disengaging young people.

At the beginning of 2017, the school informed the Village Church that they had received two years of unexpected chaplaincy funding and asked whether the Village Church could be their provider and help them find a chaplain. The church spoke with both the synod and education department, to see what was possible, and eventually applied to become a chaplaincy provider.

Together with the school, the church then set about looking for an appropriate person, and on Sunday, May 21 Jess Lowe was commissioned by the Village Church as their new chaplain, placed at Mt Eliza Secondary College.

The children of the church laid hands on Jess as the church offered prayers and a blessing. Jess now works with the school social worker and other support workers as part of the well-being team; offering guidance and support to students and the school community.

**by Rev Cameron McAdam**



If you would like to submit a news item for the Presbytery's monthly Newsbeat newsletter please send all articles and images to [newsbeat@ucapcep.org](mailto:newsbeat@ucapcep.org)



# Happy birthday! Somers is 60!



SOMERS Camp registrations are now live so follow the website link to get your campers registered asap. The camp will run 3-7 July. <https://www.somerscamp.com.au>  
 The cost for camp is \$240 per camper (reduced from last year). We take campers from years 3 to 9 and slushies from year 10. If your church or community can support Somers with a donation, please contact me, Camp Mum Rev Claire Dawe on 0410 827597 or [clairedawe@hotmail.com](mailto:clairedawe@hotmail.com). Thank you to those who have already sent donations. The postal address for camp is: PO Box 860 Mt Eliza Vic 3930. We are grateful for the support of the presbytery both financially and prayerfully. Without this support, we could not offer places to children who would ordinarily be unable to attend.



*"I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth"*  
**3 John 1:4**

If music be the food of love... let's eat

**Journeys through Song** offers an eclectic mix of music, poetry, languages and cultures - all to support refugees and asylum seekers. PROGRAM DETAILS: 6pm to 6.45pm: Pre-concert soiree (Church Hall) \*Listen to the beautiful sounds of "Potted Palms" string quartet, while you relax with conversation over a red, white or sparkling wine or soft drink with

Bayside Refugee Advocacy and Support Association  
 Presents  
**JOURNEYS THROUGH SONG**  
 A Fundraising Concert Featuring:  
 Spoken Word Poetry, Opera, Jazz, Contemporary Song and World Music with artwork from detained refugees

**JUN 17<sup>th</sup>**  
 6pm Pre-concert soiree  
 7pm Concert  
 \*See over for details

ST LEONARD'S UNITING CHURCH, 2 WOLSELEY GVE, BRIGHTON

TICKETS: \$35  
 \$30 (Group 10+)  
 \$25 (Concession)  
 Early bird offer: \$5 off per ticket before May 20<sup>th</sup>

BOOKINGS: <https://www.trybooking.com/PVCL>  
 ENQUIRIES: [grjones2020@gmail.com](mailto:grjones2020@gmail.com)  
 100% of all ticket sale proceeds go to the Human Rights Law Centre for the support of refugees and people seeking asylum

delicious savouries provided by the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre (ASRC) Catering Service. (Drinks and Food for purchase)

**7.00pm to 9.00pm: Concert (Church building)**

- Welcome and Guest Speaker from Human Rights Law Centre
- Abe Nouk Spoken Word poet
- Lydia Sherren & Alison Jones Opera Classics and other favourites
- Fiona Scarlett: Jazz Classics
- Saharnaz Kia & Arya Cyrus: Dark Traditional Rock (in English and Farsi)

Raffle tickets and Silent Auction bidding will be on offer.

There will be a 15 minute interval included in the concert, with drinks on sale and winners of the raffle and silent auction announced.

Complimentary Tea and Coffee will be available in the Church Hall after the performance for the opportunity of more conversations.

For more information contact Greg Jones - mobile 0458 001 736 or email [grjones2020@gmail.com](mailto:grjones2020@gmail.com)

## Hilltop happening

HIGH Street Road Uniting Church, Mount Waverley will be celebrating 130 years of worshipping on the hilltop on Sunday 18th June, 2017 followed by a light lunch. All welcome.

This will also be the launch of Cliff Harding's book: "High Street Road Uniting Church A Collection of Documents and Images from 1887 to 2017."

Further information from the Church Office 9887 8239, email, [hsruc@iinet.net.au](mailto:hsruc@iinet.net.au)

# Six decades of sterling service from Steve

REVEREND Steve Box, AM, was presented with a Uniting Church certificate at Seaford Uniting Church to celebrate his 60 years in ministry recently.

As part of the presentation an e-mail from Reverend Steve Terrell was read aloud by Craig Osborne, thanking Steve Box for being his Air Force chaplain in 1979 and his suggestion of a possible entry to ministry at the time... and the rest is history. Steve Box began his own ministry in Tongala and Wycheproof followed by a move to Highton on the outskirts of Geelong and

while there was also a part time Air Force chaplain.

Steve then joined the Air Force as a full-time Chaplain for 20 years and was based at various locations including Sale, Darwin, Wagga Wagga, Malaysia, Laverton and finishing in Melbourne as an Air Commander. During his time in Melbourne, Steve was awarded an Order of Australia for his work with servicemen and families.

On retiring from the Air Force Steve moved to Ballarat and was minister of the Skipton Street church for seven years prior to his retirement from ministry.

This was followed by a move to Seaford to live, and he travelled the world periodically for two years with his wife Gwenda.

Steve was then approached by Karingal Uniting Church for assistance with ministry for three months but ended up serving as minister for six years!

Over the years since living in the Seaford area he has always supported the Seaford congregation. Steve has served both his country and church for many years, and continues to do so. What a hero.



Marking the occasion:  
Above: Craig Osborne reading Reverend Steve Terrell's email  
Right: Steve being presented with his certificate by Reverend Brian Niblock and Bev Boys



AT our home there is a locked in pattern - except for holidays. Washing of towels on Monday, sheets on Wednesdays. House cleaning and shopping once a week, dishes every day! Church on Sundays. We have personal responsibilities and some shared jobs. That's the plan. Sometimes, something unexpected happens which causes a change in routine. A funeral, a tap leaks, we run out of milk or can we pick up the grandies from school? We have our ordered existence disrupted!

## Reflections on Faith

Long ago the Psalmist gave us the wisdom of experience and to begin with God as the Master Builder. "If the Lord does not build the house, the work of the builders is useless."

When our ordered existence is threatened by the tests and irritations of daily life, the words of Paul remind us that "love is patient and kind."

*Reflection:* read the wisdom of Psalm 127 and pray for our homes, communities and our governments to begin and end each day with the Lord. **by Bill Pugh**

THE annual JIM convention is always both an inspiring and challenging day. This year, the speakers were Jo Camileri, Emeritus Professor at La Trobe, Monica Jyotsna Melanchthon Professor of Old Testament studies at Pilgrim Theological College, and Anam Javed, Secretary of the Islamic Council of Victoria. Each spoke about the changing political landscape across the world, with the rise of the far right and what a faithful path forward might look like for us in the church. There were workshops designed to equip us with further skills and knowledge, and a

## Building bridges instead of walls

chance to hear what other faith communities are doing in the social justice arena. We came away encouraged to continuing

by  
**Rev Claire Dawe**



banging on the doors of politicians, writing our letters and praying without ceasing for the whole of creation. During the worship, the 100 or so delegates built a lego bridge instead of a wall to symbolise our desire to connect with people and issues, rather than fence ourselves into our comfort zones. A good although

exhausting day!

### Musical musings

St Andrew's Uniting Church in Berwick will be raising the rafters in song this Sunday, June 4. For they are holding a Hymn Fest concert as part of their 160th anniversary celebrations. Church music director Matthew Clark said

the event was being eagerly anticipated: "We



are very excited to be holding an inaugural 'Hymn Fest' concert at our beautiful heritage-listed, 160-year-old church in Berwick.

"We are inviting as many people as possible to come along for a good afternoon of singing and music."

The event will feature hymns, both old and new, gospel songs and entertainment from a local band. Some of the hymns that will be featured include O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing; Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer and Shine Jesus Shine.

"The audience will also hear our beautiful 1950s George Fincham and Sons pipe organ that was originally at Scots Presbyterian Church in Dandenong, and was relocated in 1984," Mr Clarke said.

A \$5 donation at the door, which includes the cost of afternoon tea, will go toward the church's youth outreach work. All welcome.



**St. Andrew's Berwick Uniting Church**  
160th church anniversary celebration

# Hymn Fest

**Sunday 4th June 2.00pm**

**St. Andrew's Uniting Church**  
105 High Street, Berwick

*Come for a fun filled musical afternoon and sing your favourite hymns both old and new with performances and accompaniment by choir, pipe organ and band!*

Featuring



**\$5** per head fundraiser includes afternoon tea

@StAndrewsBerwickUnitingChurch

ENQUIRIES  
0437 397 369

[berwick.unitingchurch.org.au](http://berwick.unitingchurch.org.au)

### Wise words



Courtesy of Hutton Hyde Service Station, S. Africa

# How disruptive can we be as a church?

YOU will find it fascinating to watch a video on Disruptive Technologies from Tony Seba\* who spends his life studying such issues.

## From Springvale, church of many nations, to Church of All Nations, Carlton



SPRINGVALE UC, a congregation of many national backgrounds, gathered on May 28, to celebrate Paul Creasey's eight years of ministry among them and to farewell him to become minister of Church of All Nations, Carlton. It was a service full of fun, life and colour. Paul spoke to the young people and played them one of his songs on his mandolin. In place of a sermon he showed a video on his reflections at Springvale and his move. Robert Johnson led the "Cutting of the Ties" section of the



service and then all moved to the Hall for a feast.

## Achieving more together

UNITING is the new community services and advocacy arm of the Uniting Church in Victoria and Tasmania.

**Uniting**

Bringing together 21 UnitingCare agencies, Wesley Mission Victoria, UCVT Early Childhood Services and Share, Uniting will build upon their history of care to strengthen church and community partnerships, says inaugural CEO, Paul Linossier.

"The rich heritage of presbytery and congregational initiative and collaboration with the founding agencies to provide programs in local communities will continue under Uniting. It is vital that we continue to meet the needs of those who are vulnerable in our community in mission together," says Paul.

Uniting would like to hear from you - please share questions or feedback at [www.surveymonkey.com/r/UnitingVicTas](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/UnitingVicTas)

by Rev Dr Robert Johnson  
PM, Mission and Education (Supply)



He uses examples such as the rapid change from horses to cars at the beginning of the twentieth century and the far more rapid replacement of film photography by digital cameras more recently.

He predicts that by 2030:

internal combustion engine cars will be replaced by electric vehicles; oil, gas, coal and nuclear power will be replaced by electricity supplied from solar power; and stored in the remarkable new batteries being produced - and yet to be produced; we will be travelling in driverless vehicles and we will not own cars, but call and use them when we need them.

These disruptions will drastically affect many businesses and the way we live our lives.

However, I got to thinking also about how changes in society also can disrupt old patterns. The introduction of the printing press allowed Bibles to be printed and read by all, not controlled by the Church. The introduction of television in Australia in 1956 killed off many evening

services. Sunday morning sport emptied most

Sunday Schools, and the change from women

being at home to being in the workforce

changed the pattern of the week, squeezing out a leisurely Sunday morning at Church for most families.



How do we adapt to disruption? Pretend it is not happening? Give up? I think there are better ways, but we are only beginning to work them out. I think of comments shared with me by South Sudanese Christians who explained that after the North bombed all their churches, they worshipped under trees, as they couldn't bomb all the trees, or of Chinese Christians who after the Revolution when churches were closed, explained that the elders went house to house reading the Bible and praying with people. They adapted. There are today large and rapid changes in our society – how will the Christian Church, and especially the Uniting Church adapt, while keeping the heart of the Good News handed on to us?

Can our pattern of neighbourhood gatherings for formal worship and a cuppa on Sunday mornings survive? I don't know, but I don't want to put my head in the sand, nor give up.

I would love to start a conversation about the changes that have happened, are happening and might happen soon, and how the Uniting Church can thrive in the midst of these disruptive times. You could talk in your congregations, write something for Newsbeat or start an email or Facebook conversation.

I would love to hear from you!

\*Tony Seba is a Lecturer in Entrepreneurship, Disruption and Clean Energy at Stanford University. Watch him speak on <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=Kxryv2XrnqM>

# St Andrew's brings the past back to life in historic service

REV Wendy Snook welcomed 140 current and past members to a celebration and thanksgiving for 160 years of the church having Worship services in Berwick, *writes Matthew Clark*. She especially welcomed descendants of the early pioneer people of the church. Pioneers who courageously kept the church going through some challenging and difficult times. Wendy spoke of the first people to live in this area, the Bunurong people who were friendly toward the settlers and showed them how to find food when they were starving. Difficulties arose when the settlers' sheep became easier food to catch than the kangaroos.

She told how the Rev. Alexander Duff from Northern Ireland conducted the first Presbyterian church service in 1857 in a wattle and daub hut owned by Mr Abraham Gardiner on the present site of 'Braeside' in Clyde Road. It was a time when the rough dirt roads were made wide for the bullock drays that carted the red gum logs from this area to Melbourne, to be made into blocks for the roads and pylons for the wharves.

A small wooden church building was erected when in 1861 when Rev. Duff was granted land for the purposes of the Presbyterian Church. The cost of the wooden building was £340.

Rev. Wendy Snook invited the children at the celebration to look around the historic church building and to play 'I Spy' with the things that they could see. The letter 'P' produced several responses – pews, pipe organ, pink and plaques. Attention was then drawn to the two plaques on the walls of the church.

The name 'St Andrew's' was officially adopted on the 80th anniversary of the church in 1937.



## New blood at Monash Uniting



*MONASH Uniting Church members from Ghana led the singing during worship on Sunday. The previous week, six new members were received, from Ghana, Burma, Malaysia Indonesia and Australia.*



In 1977, the congregation voted to join with the Methodists and Congregationalists to be part of the Uniting Church in Australia.

Today, we are grateful to the effort, perseverance, courage and faith of these early pioneers who established the church in Berwick.

Rev. Wendy Snook thanked everyone for joining in the celebration and thanked all who had assisted in preparing for the day. A luncheon followed which was a time of shared memories and renewed past acquaintances.

A fuller history of Berwick UCA is available on the [ucappp.org](http://ucappp.org) website under Resources.

*Above: descendants of the early pioneers.*

*Left, L-R: Beryl Exell and Merle Fechner cutting the cake alongside Rev Wendy Snook.*



ARE you looking to grow your own leadership skills? Are you passionate about mission and growing the Uniting Church? Would you like to connect with other UCA leaders?

Uniting Leaders 2017 (UL17) will provide an opportunity for you to do all of the above at a three-day conference in Adelaide.

Geared towards all lay and ordained leaders in the life of the Uniting Church in Australia, the conference aims to resource, equip and grow leaders to grow the church. It is also the second President's National Ministers Conference for 2017. Held at Hope Valley Uniting Church from **Tuesday 22 to Thursday 24 August**, UL17 will feature worship, keynote addresses and workshops with guest speakers, and opportunities for peer learning, networking and connecting with others in church leadership.

The keynote speakers will be Nancy Beach and Mark Conner, who will draw on their unique ministry experiences in the United States and Australia. Topics addressed by Nancy, Mark and other leaders at the conference will include re-imagining the church, signs of healthy leaders and church culture, developing leaders, leading in complex environments, creating a church for the unchurched, and navigating transition.

All Uniting Church leaders are encouraged to gather a leadership group, invite an emerging leader from your church community, or follow an individual call to attend. If you have already registered, please consider inviting any other established or emerging leaders in your community or network.

The full conference cost is \$165 or \$99 for students. A discount is available for groups – buy five tickets, get one free. Prices include lunch, in addition to morning and afternoon tea. More information, promotional materials and resources are available at [unitingleaders.org.au](http://unitingleaders.org.au) or call 8236 4249.



ST KILDA Uniting Church celebrated its 140th anniversary as a worshipping congregation – Wesleyan, Methodist and Uniting last weekend. It was a wonderful, joyous occasion with a full church, writes Desleigh Kent. Rev. David Pargeter led the service with hymns to match the significant events over the 140 years. Many former members of the congregation also returned. Following the service, a book: *Campaigns, Causes and Commitments, the Continuing Story of the St Kilda Uniting Church in the Balacclava Community*, written by congregation member and historian Maureen Walker, was launched by Rev. Dr. Mark Lawrence, General Secretary of the Synod of Vic/Tas (also a member of the congregation.) The book chronicles the 140-year history of the church using a thematic approach. As the title suggests, it places the church within the community so the story is not just of a church building, but of the church within the community. It's a fascinating journey that looks back to where we have come from and challenges us as members of the UCA to look to the future. Book purchases from Maureen Walker, 9534 1966 [maureenawalker5@bigpond.com](mailto:maureenawalker5@bigpond.com) or Desleigh Kent 0413 158 855, [desleighk@ozemail.com.au](mailto:desleighk@ozemail.com.au). One book \$25, or two for \$40. plus p&p.

**This time called life was meant to Share. A new chapter in Share's story.**

Share was established to raise support and create awareness of the multifaceted welfare work of the Uniting Church in Victoria and Tasmania.

Our first appeal raised \$350,000, and the deep loyalty and generosity of our donors has seen more than \$50 million raised over our 37 year history. This is something to be extremely proud of!

**We are now entering an exciting new chapter of our life.** In July, Share will join Uniting, the single community services agency of the Church.

We will come together with existing UnitingCare fundraising teams to form a united and cohesive fundraising program, using the Uniting name and logo.

**We believe this is a bold step which will strengthen the Church's community service work for decades to come.**

Uniting's foundations are based on the Church and its Christian values. This will always remain at the heart of everything they do.

Our work is not yet done and with your help, we will strive to continue to inspire people, enliven communities and confront injustice.

For more information  
[www.shareappeal.org.au](http://www.shareappeal.org.au)

**share**  
restoring life, joy, hope

## Dynamic new approach at Presbytery in Council meetings



### Presbytery in Council meeting dates for 2017:

- 21 June,
- 23 August,
- 18 October,
- 29 November.



All meetings start 7.30 pm and are at Noble Park UCA, Joy Parade.

THE Presbytery in Council (PiC) meeting held at Noble Park on 26 April was a very energetic meeting. This was the first meeting held in the new way of doing things instigated by the new Chairperson, Rev Andrew Boyle. The “new way of doing things” has a congregation from the Presbytery doing a presentation about the life of their congregation. And so it fell to the Koornang Congregation to be the first congregation to do this. Several members of the Congregation spoke about the aspects of the Congregation’s life in which they were mostly involved. And we were even taught a song that was new to many. This was followed by a Bible Study on Acts 10, led by the Rev Jay Robinson, minister at Koornang. The Koornang people also provided and served an enjoyable supper.

Following supper, members of Presbytery were asked to engage in groups to review the draft strategic plan. The feedback will be reviewed by the Presbytery Standing Committee and a further report will be brought to a future PiC meeting.

The next PiC meeting is at Noble Park on 21 June. *by Ian Firth*

### Strategic plan gives shape and focus to Port Phillip East Presbytery direction

“Encouraging, resourcing and giving pastoral oversight to communities of faith and ministers entrusted to our pastoral care”

OVER the last two months Presbytery has been working on an exciting process of Strategic Planning.

About 20 Presbytery members were led in a day’s workshop by Rev Dr Jenny Byrnes, Executive Director of the Centre for Theology and Ministry, to begin our process on 30th March. Following this the Presbytery Standing Committee and then the full Presbytery have looked at the Goals and Strategies being developed, to review and sharpen them.

Currently the Standing Committee is working on Action Plans to help make these goals and strategies a reality, which will be presented to the Presbytery meeting in June.

We are still working on refining the wording, but the Key Purpose or Vision for the Presbytery is the one above, at the beginning of this article.

We are working on three goals; one focussing on the life of the Presbytery, one on our congregations and one on new possibilities for mission in our area.

- To become a welcoming, inclusive, effective community where all Presbytery members and communities of faith understand and share in the vision of the Presbytery.
- Fostering new possibilities for participation in the Mission of God
- Fostering vibrant, life-giving and well-resourced Christian communities.

We will circulate Goals, Strategies and Action Plans before the June Presbytery meeting for discussion there, but that will be only the beginning. We plan to review and revise the Strategic Plan twice a year, as we seek to make the plan a living reality



*Robert Johnson, Presbytery Minister, Mission and Education (supply)*



ARE you running a messy church?

Would you like to know more about messy church?

I am a regional co-ordinator for messy churches from Sorrento up to Parkdale.

We are a lively and supportive group of different denominations which meets every few months to share resources and ideas and encourage each other. If you have any questions or would like to chat, phone me on 0410 827 597.

Yours

Claire Dawe



*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.*