NEWSBEAT



JULY 2017

NEWSLETTER FOR THE PRESBYTERY OF PORT PHILLIP EAST



It's been a MAD week at Cornish College. Pictures have been planted on page



UCA's ruby anniversary is recognised across the Presbytery. See how we marked it throughout this issue.



Forty years earns some bragging rights

Yes, Rev Sharon Hollis has a busy life - just sit down with a cuppa and scroll through her Facebook page!

On Sunday June 18 she visited Pakenham Uniting Church as part of her week-long sharing of celebrations of the Uniting Church's 40th

Sharon's Message reflected the scripture reading from Romans 5: 1 - 8 where she spoke on boasting (how appropriate for where the Uniting Church has come from over these last 40 vears, and its imminent structure-change from July 1) ... but also addressed when not to boast. The Pakenham UC congregation was joined

by a number of visitors including Russell Broadbent, MP (Federal Member for McMillan) and Cardinia Shire Council's Mayor, Cr Brett Owen. Sharon's

Rev Sharon Hollis and Riak Kiir. Community Development Worker

comment on her visit to Pakenham UC was "a joyful, multicultural church deeply engaged with their community". She quickly came to this view by participating in the service led by Rev Ann Simons, hearing the Choir in full voice, watching the band (drawn from the Bread 'n Jam young people's group), listening to the Bible reading presented by one of the South Sudanese young men and then the short talks presented after the service before a sharing lunch. Glenda George, the Cultural Diversity Facilitator at Cardinia Shire Council provided examples of how the work of Pakenham UC's Community Development Worker.



Rev Sharon sprung taking pics for her Facebook page!

Riak Kiir, was benefiting both the South Sudanese living in the area and the Council planners and decisionmakers. Other talks included the work of the Homework Club and the peer support program where senior students are tutoring the younger children. But how lovely it was when Joyce from Zambia danced and sang in thanks of her love of the Lord

Facebook page. by Glynis Ramsay





Port Phillip East Presbytery's vision & purpose: Encouraging, resourcing and giving pastoral oversight to communities of faith and ministers entrusted to our pastoral care.

which can be

seen on Sharon's

Northern Peninsula Churches gather to celebrate

IT'S fair to say that if you're a member of the Uniting Church you'd have to be hiding under a rock to miss that we've just celebrated 40 years since the church was inaugurated.

While most congregations would have held celebrations as part of the neighbouring Sunday services the ministers of Mount Eliza, Mornington and Mount Martha Uniting Churches decided that it would be great for the three congregations to hold a special combined service on the night of the actual anniversary date. Invitations sent to other Uniting Church congregations on the Mornington Peninsula with Frankston responding with interest. An invitation was also sent to past Moderator of the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania. Rev Sue Withers to preach on the occasion. Rev Withers readily agreed to join us.

The evening saw a full St Mark's Church, Mornington as folk from across the four congregations gathered in excited anticipation. A song and a prayer from the inauguration service were included as were two songs drawn from the rich collection of accumulated music from the Uniting Church's National Christian Youth Conventions. Reflections on being part of the

church were heard from people who had long been part of the Uniting Church, who had immigrated to Australia and who had recently joined the Uniting Church because of our stance on social issues. Hannah Dungan engaged and amazed us in a Godly Play wondering based on the Uniting Church logo and Sue Withers helped us laugh a little at who we have been

and to reflect on who we are, reminding us that a celebration such as this should never be focused on self-congratulatory nostalgia. Rather we

are to hear the call to faithfully step in service beyond the margins and the readiness to be surprised by the God who is always with us.





Chuckle corner

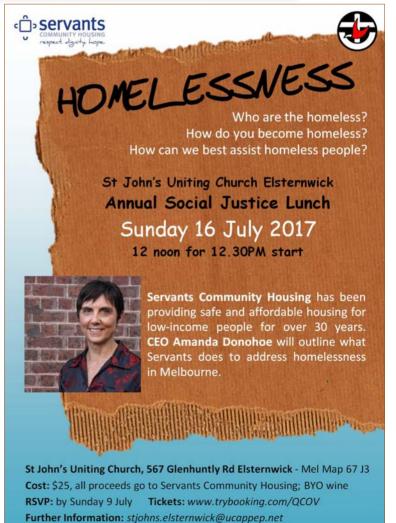
"Give a person a fish and you feed them for a day. Teach a person to use the internet and they won't bother you for weeks, months or maybe even years."

Borrowed from Hampton UC's NUCH newsletter.



by Rev

From top: Rev Sue Withers: a full house. **Rev Paul** Chalson: Hannah Dungan.



Belinda bows out after three lovely

REV Joan Wright went to Pakenham UC as Presbytery representative to conduct the Release of Pastoral

years

Ties for the effervescent Belinda Clear. Belinda has been Pakenham UC's Family Pastor for nearly three years. To go to Pakenham, Belinda deferred her theology studies and it is



now time for her to return to study to complete her Master of Arts (Theology).

Joan and Belinda sharing a magic moment

Belinda brought her love of "bringing God to children" to her work, and she engaged with many children over the years at the Main Street Playgroup, the Homework Club,

during Sunday services and at the Bread 'n Jam group for older children. She worked alongside families from many countries including South Sudan, Fiji, Samoa and on her departure, the congregation gifted her a gorgeous pendant to help her remember her time with them.



Left to right: Rev Ann Simons, Belinda Clear, Rev Joan Wright on Sunday, June 11.

Lord, hear our prayers



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

website. Why not weave weekly details into your worship service or pew sheets? Our thanks to Rev Ian Cayzer for compiling this resource. Click on: http://www.ucappep.org/ prayer-calendar-2016/



Dealing with demente

The Church in Society Committee of St John's UC is presenting a workshop

"Dementia and Pastoral Care" at St John's, 37 Virginia St, Mt Waverley from 1.00 to 3.00pm on Friday July 21st. Joan Waters, pictured with her late husband Rev Reynolds Waters, who was pivotal in the development of this resource material will be introducing the workshop. The Uniting AgeWell and the Centre for Theology and Ministry (CTM) developed the educational resource after Joan had asked how Uniting AgeWell was equipping congregations for ministry with older people especially those with dementia. Participants will learn about issues and concerns for pastoral care related to dementia, some effective strategies for pastoral care and pastoral visiting and how to source further information.

Tea and coffee will be available. Please advise of your intention to attend. A gold coin donation in aid of Dementia Research would be appreciated. For more information, please ring St John's UC Office 9888 2295 or Kathy 9807 8449.

RE:GENERATIONS 2017 Exploring intergenerational ministry and mission

Murrumbeena 25 August

Frankston 26 August

If an intergenerational approach is the key to effective ministry with people of all ages, what does it look like in practice? How can it be implemented by local congregations? What can stay the same and what needs to be changed?

Re:Generations - Exploring intergenerational ministry and mission is a unique opportunity to engage with these questions and more.

Facilitated by Chris Barnett from the Centre for Theology & Ministry, the day will include three engaging, participatory and practical core sessions.

Come for the whole day or simply select the session/s that are of most interest to you.

10:30am Intergenerational ministry - worship,

mission and more

12:30pm Messy mission - learning from Messy

Church as an intergenerational model

2:30pm Here to Stay - a framework for nurturing lifelong discipleship

Each session will run for 90 minutes and there will be time to browse resources and connect with others inbetween sessions. Register for any one session and participate in as many of the others as you like for FREE.

Choose the day that works best for you and come along with others from your team!







Wise words

EVER REALISE THAT HUMANS CUT DOWN BIRDS' HOUSES TO MAKE BIRD HOUSES?

Quote

"The fishermen know that the sea is dangerous and the storm terrible, but they have never found these dangers sufficient reason for remaining ashore."

Vincent Van Gogh of the month

40

ENVIRONMENT Education Victoria has honoured Deputy Principal, Ms Nicola Forrest, with an Excellence Award for her leadership and embedding sustainable education into the Cornish College curriculum.

Sustainability has been at the core of the Cornish College curriculum in the five years since the school opened in 2012, and Nicola Forrest, pictured below, has a passion for education that provides the necessary skills for a global world. On accepting the award, Nicola said: "It is a privilege to have the responsibility of educating young people to be the next generation of positive change-makers. It is an absolute priority to educate for a sustainable future. I am so lucky to be part of the Cornish College community who really embrace this vision for a better world."

Ms Vicki Steer, Principal, added "I'm delighted that Ms Forrest's efforts to promote sustainable education have been recognised by Environment Education Victoria. The Excellence Award is well deserved and recognises our Deputy Principal's tremendous leadership in embedding and driving forward environmental education in our curriculum." Some examples of environmental initiatives that have benefitted from Nicola Forrest's leadership are:

• Victoria's Interdependent Ecology Program
In 2016 a new inquiry based on interdependent ecology
was incorporated. Following a submission made by Nicola
Forrest, Cornish College became one of 12 Primezone
Partner Schools. The funding helped a Year 9 class

establish an Aquaponics system as part of their unit of inquiry into Victoria's Interdependent Ecology.

• Sensory Garden Grant
Nicola Forrest's successful
application for a \$500 Sensory
Garden Grant as part of the 2016
Victorian Schools Gardens Awards,
was based on an aim to build
a labyrinth for everyone in the
community to enjoy. A design is
now in progress incorporating many
indigenous plants.

Make a Difference Experience Thailand and Laos

In 2016 Nicola Forrest led the Make a Difference Experience (MADE).

MADE is where all Year 9 students visit Thailand and Laos. Exploring commonalities and differences, the students develop a global outlook as they move beyond stereotypical views and grow to appreciate their own and different cultures.

Do you know someone seeking a scholarship?

To celebrate the

40th birthday of the Uniting Church of Australia and Pilgrim Theological College, an Anniversary Scholarship has been established to cover 75% of the University of Divinity fees in 2017. Applications close Friday, 14 July. http://

pilgrim.edu.au/

uploads/2017/05/

Scholarship-DL-

Brochure-SEM-2.

wp-content/

Anniversary-

pdf



Community partnerships deliver dignity



On July 2nd, the Rev Dr Seforosa Carroll, above, who is the Manager, Church Partnerships, Pacific for the Assembly preached at the Mulgrave Uniting Church. In particular she spoke about the

Nanuku Squatter Settlement Project in Fiji. This project is one that the Mulgrave folk have supported for some time. It helps families displaced due to farming and land leases not being extended. They have come to the outskirts of the Capital, Suva, seeking jobs, education and basic healthcare. Money from people across the Assembly gives them help and dignity. Also, the nearby congregation of Monash joined Mulgrave for the

Communion Service and Lunch as they look to get to know each other better. Who knows what the future may hold.

by Ian Cayzer (Supply Minister)



Johnson

Pilgrims in our forties

ON the shortest day of the year, June 22, the Uniting Church in Australia celebrated 40 years of life. We were at St Mark's Uniting Church, Mornington, where the Mornington Peninsula churches came together to celebrate.

PHILLIP

We sang – hymns and songs from NCYC; we heard from a range of people, young and old, about what drew them into the Uniting Church and we listened to an inspiring sermon from Sue Withers, a former Moderator.*

It is good to look back and celebrate that three denominations came together in 1977 to form the Uniting Church, but the key emphasis then was that we were doing this to follow Jesus who was leading his pilgrim people to join together to strengthen our worship, witness and service.

Much has changed in our culture and for the Church since then. We are smaller, but we still have over a million adherents, 100,000 people

gathering for worship in the Uniting Church each Sunday in over 2,000 congregations. Our vast network of community service agencies operates out of 1,600 locations, involves 30,000 volunteers and has 40,000 employees.

So where do the pilgrim people go now that we are in our 40s? Just as we were innovators in the 70s, we need to be innovative now discerning the leading of the Spirit into fresh paths. Clearly none of us know what

will happen in the next

ministry matters

by Rev Dr Robert

PM, Mission and

Education (Supply)

40 years, but here are some of the things we might pay attention to. We will need a diversity of times and ways to gather for worship and fellowship – to go to the people, not expect the people to come to us, doing what we have always done.

Visit Hannah Dungan and her team of grandparents at Mornington, connecting with families in playgroups and Messy Church (or at Murrumbeena,

> Chelsea or Brighton Beach for similar programs).

Ask Jake Doleschal about his work with disaffected young people in the Peninsula schools. Visit Mat Harry and his team at Hampton Park connecting with, serving and discipling the community in creative ways, or see what happens with Voices of Frankston

any Wednesday morning.

I hear many thoughtful voices advising us not to get caught in the middle. The middle-sized, one minister, neighbourhood congregation is getting squeezed. We will probably see some regional congregations offering a range of worship for different ages and cultures and a multitude of small strong congregations, some meeting in church buildings, others in homes or maybe pubs. They won't have a minister exclusively for them, but ministers will still have their uses - they will resource and oversee a number of faith communities. (Remember circuit riding ministers?)

We need to rediscover how to birth new faith communities – it will probably be by small groups of lay people going into a new housing area or a regenerating area rather than sending a minister and buying land. (Actually almost all our congregations began that way originally!) Could God be calling you to be part of a team like that? We could learn much from our migrant and refugee congregations how to start faith communities.

What are your hopes for how the Uniting Church can worship witness and serve in the next forty years? It would be great to have those discussions and be open to the surprises of the Spirit.

*By the way, there is a great short video from six of our former Moderators sharing what gives them hope for the UCA in the next 40 years - click on https://www.facebook.com/ucavictasvideos/1579673 832065487/#



...with hearts on Fire

WORLD FEDERATION OF METHODIST & UNITING CHURCH



SOUTH PACIFIC AREA SEMINAR Theme: "Chosen People Called to Proclaim...with hearts on Fire"

Date: 2nd - 6th July, 2018 Venue: Shangri-La's Fijian Resort Hotel, Sigatoka, Yanuca Island, Coral Coast, Fiji

Join 500 women from seven South Pacific nations at this wonderful event featuring bible studies, guest speaker, unit reports, cultural entertainment and a guided tour around the Nadroga areas together with a Fijian traditional welcome, white beaches and swaying coconut palms. Registration fee is due by 31 July

Cost: Approx (AUD) \$800 (includes seminar fee, all meals, travel from Nadi International airport and accommodation)

Registration form, fees and information: David Wang, Ph. 9251 5255 or E: david.wang@victas.uca.org.au

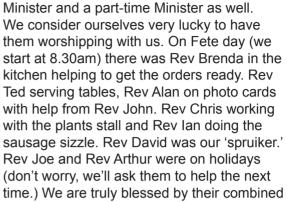


HIGH Street Uniting Church in Frankston holds two fairs every year a May Fete - our

Reflections on Faith

'daytime' fair - and our 'nighttime' fair held on a Friday evening in early November which we call our 'Food fair.'

Words Marlene Thresher. Photos Rod **Carruthers** Monies raised from the two fairs go to mission outreach and support for our local community. I'd like to tell you about our congregation's helpers and why they are such a success. We have seven retired Ministers as members of our church (aren't we lucky?) We have a full time



help and never fall short of one of them stepping in for a funeral or preaching a sermon. One young lady who came for a 'Devonshire Tea' was heard to say when she was told: "that was a Minister who took your order." And another who served tea and scones: "that was another Minister." "If church is like this, I think I'll attend." Hallelujah!

I am honoured to belong to such a vibrant, friendly, welcoming

church and congratulate all who put in the effort to make our Fete a success. More than \$7,100 was raised.

AgeWell's research coup

UNITING AgeWell is excited to be part of a multimillion dollar research project led by Deakin University into how new technologies can assist older people living at home or in residential aged

The Federal Government this week announced almost \$3 million in funding for the Australian Research Council (ARC) Research Hub for Digital Enhanced Living. Uniting AgeWell is one of 22 organisations and the lead aged care industry partner involved in the project - including technology companies, the Black Dog Institute and other premier Australian and international universities.

Deakin University Pro Vice-Chancellor ICT Innovation and Translation Professor John Grundy said Uniting AgeWell was a perfect major partner for Deakin in this Hub venture and would provide key aged care domain expertise.

Uniting AgeWell CEO Andrew Kinnersly said: "This project will have a real impact on the way we deliver aged care. Innovative, intelligent care solutions will have huge benefits for the wellbeing of older people. both at home and in residential aged care." Uniting AgeWell provides senior services across Victoria and Tasmania to more than 7,000 people a



Keeping Children Safe

The Culture of Safety unit is delighted to announce the launch of a dedicated Keeping Children Safe website. We have created a step-



to help you implement the new Policy and its Policy Actions (CC1). Support is available from the Culture of Safety unit. Ring 1300 789 374 and leave a message or email cultureofsafetycontact@victas.uca.org.au.



Funerals - Planning, things to know

Uniting AgeWell is holding a FREE community information session about Funerals and what you need to know to plan ahead.

What do we REALLY need to know when so eone dies? This session covers everything from arranging a funeral, ceremonies, costs and preplanning so family members do not have to make rushed decisions during a difficult time of grief and loss.

Presented by Uniting AgeWell chaplains and local funeral providers, this session helps seniors and familiunderstand the process and be better prepared.

Funerals - Planning, things to know

Tuesday 11 July 2pm - 4pm

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

Bethel Funerals

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



unitingagewell.org



600 go MAD at Cornish

MORE than 600 students from Prep to Year 12 rolled up their sleeves and got hands-on during Make a Difference Week - or 'MAD Week' - when they planted



300 new heathland plants on the Cornish College campus.

The plants were purchased with funds from a successful bid for a \$1,000



Momentum Energy Junior Landcare Grant.

Tom Humphreys, Cornish College's Grounds Manager, and parent David Jupp, have coordinated the mass planting, with David kindly volunteering his knowledge and time.

The project aims to both educate and inspire students. Sessions start with David providing a presentation about the type of animals the new habitat will attract. After a short demonstration of the correct way to plant a tube sock, groups of approximately 200 students each day dug, planted, tree guarded and watered their plants.

Tom said: "This is a great start to building an understory below the established gums behind our oval, and will increase biodiversity and

attract a broader range of bird life."

Ms Vicki Steer, Principal, said "This project directly involves students in improving their 100-acre campus and understanding the difference they can make to their environment. It is great to see older and younger students working together in multi-age groups and further cementing friendships that span year groups."

MAD Week 2017

Cornish College reinvents its timetable during MAD Week as students, staff and parents work together on a range of projects that make a difference at the school and for the wider community. Just some of the other activities taking place next week are:

- Year 9 ambassadors led fundraising efforts for two pairs each, collecting new socks for people who are homeless, and a 'reverse supermarket', collecting food and hygiene items for vulnerable members of our community.
- Preps created planter boxes and visited local nursing homes to sing to residents.
- Primary students created a large-scale tree sculpture, and a heart from 5c coins for Love Ya Sister Foundation.
- The whole school took part in an annual Book Swap in aid of the Indigenous Literacy Foundation.
- Students from Years 4 -12 created a 4m high wooden cross with a stained glass effect and solar lighting for the Cornish campus.

Environment and Faith Workshop

Saturday 22nd July 2017

12 noon to 6pm

110 Albion Road, Box Hill

Bus route 733, Melway 47, F 11



If you are a person of faith, concerned about the environment, come and help us make a difference. Participate in practical sessions on:

- reducing your own impacts
- · engaging your community
- spreading the word about caring for the environment
 - advocating for change

RSVP to jmckay@franciscans.org.au by 20/7/17

Recommended donation: \$25/person, \$50/person solidarity price, \$15/person concession/student/ARRCC member - includes light lunch, afternoon tea and an ARRCC Climate Action Kit for either Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, or Judaism.



Greenfaith/ARRCC is the Victorian group of ARRCC, the Australian Religious Response to Climate Change

www.arrcc.org.au melbourne@arrcc.org.au from any people

in the photos is

vital as is a high

quality image, as websites require

improved resolution.

Please send words

newsbeat@ucappep.

and images to

org

IN our continued efforts to improve the presbytery website we are

Paging people



Steady achievers recognised

AT the June Presbytery in Council meeting there was a delightful announcement from the Chairperson acknowledging the exemplary commitment and length of service to the Presbytery

- Marj Elmer (Bentleigh), 40 years
- Audrey Nelson (Elsternwick) 40 years
- Dr Jeff Castles (South Port) 37 years
- Greg Watts (Dandenong) 30 years. Grateful thanks and praise for these heroes of the Port Phillip East Presbytery.

Presbytery in Council meeting dates for 2017:

- 23 August,
- 18 October.
- · 29 November.

All meetings start at 7.30 pm and are at Noble Park UCA. Jov Parade. If you are interested in being a Presbytery Rep or would like to know more about the role please contact Ian Firth on 03 9558 4710 or e-mail secretary@ucappep.org

Living Leadership PARKVILLE 24-28 IULY

UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA

Build capacity, insight and resilience in leadership through participation, by yourself or with other team* member in this five-day intensive learning opportunity that will be held over 24-28 July

Facilitiated by the experienced Centre for Theology and Ministry (CTM) team, this program offers CORE learnings and engages the skill, passion and diversity of the CTM team to deliver interactive and challenging sessions.

Full participation is expected in the entire intensive in order to most effectively develop depth and strength for the living leadership offered by you and the teams of which you

You'll ramp-up the self-reflective intensity through the coaching stream, practice theological reflection in various models, and stoke your passion for living leadership.

*What is a team?

In this context our understanding of a team is two o more people who are functioning together to achieve an outcome. Examples of teams expected to benefit from participating in this program include

- Local Ministry teams
- Presbytery teams
- Leaders across collaborative communities
- Sub Committees
- Agencies teams/councils



LIVING LEADERSHIP **EVENT TYPES**

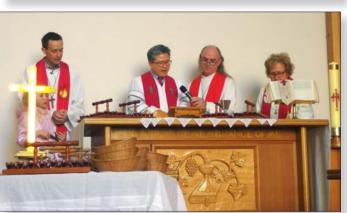
FOCUS – addressing key issues around church governance and leadership in an inter-conciliar cor FOCUS offerings are designed especially for those are part of Uniting Church congregational or regio leadership teams or councils.

Date: 24-28 July 2017

Golden moment at St John's as congregations join in celebration







Mount Waverley/Chadstone Cluster celebrated the UCA 40th Birthday all together at St John's Uniting Church with all four clergy presiding together, a combined choir of 26 and a choir from the Melbourne Fijian UC and St Mark's UC offering in feast of music. A day of wonderful fellowship!



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



The 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.