

# NEWSBEAT



DECEMBER 2017

NEWSLETTER FOR THE PRESBYTERY OF PORT PHILLIP EAST



Han's focus is on bringing KCM and local community together. Find out more at his welcome on page 7.

*Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.*  
Luke 2:14



Massive boost to one of our UCA schools. Turn to page 6 to see the future.

## Christ in the community



FOR more than 15 years Mount Waverley Chadstone InterChurch Council has held a community service campaign with IGA in the local shopping centre, *writes Ros Faichney*. This year, 114 boxes and more than \$1,400 was collected!

Each day between 9am and 5pm, stalwart volunteers from member churches of the MWCICC staff shopping trollies outside IGA. Here they hand leaflets to shoppers explaining the purpose of the campaign – to collect non-perishable food items - and invite shoppers to contribute to the collection of food or to donate money.

This food and cash is then made available to the charities nominated by the participating churches to provide assistance to the needy in our community. Charities include Uniting Lentara, Anglicare, St Vinnies, Asylum Seeker Centres. There are four Uniting Churches

active in this programme. St John's UC is the main collection and distribution centre for the items.



## Cultivating a new future

PORT Phillip East Presbytery is taking a bold and innovative step to meet the challenges faced by our church in the years to come.

Chair of the Presbytery, Rev Andrew Boyle, explains: "We have engaged the Rev. Phil McCredden of *Ecclesia Leadership*, to facilitate a cultural change process in our Presbytery.

"While the Presbytery is facing challenges over the next 12 months, as we implement the recommendations of the Synod's Major Strategic Review, we would be unwise to ignore the cultural changes which have overtaken the church and our need to adapt to these changes while responding to new developments.

"The church as we have known it is rapidly disappearing and the Presbytery is struggling to fulfil its essential role of oversight of the ministers and congregations within its bounds. "We have tried to undertake such a process ourselves but this has proven impossible given the demands on Presbytery leadership, congregations and ministers. We are struggling

to cope with responding to the many and varied demands which face us. This is also a process which will require significant skill and experience and sustained attention to guide this process of change. Hence we have engaged Phil McCredden, an experienced external consultant, to work with us."

The title of this project is **Cultivating a New Future** and its purpose will be twofold. To create and implement a strategy to:

- Develop a cultural change process for the Presbytery that responds to the challenges presented by the post-Christendom mission context.
- Respond to changes brought about by the Synod's major strategic review (MSR)

There will be five objectives:

1. Assess the health of congregations.
2. Review the effectiveness of ministers and local leaders.
3. Develop ways for the Presbytery to support local churches in response to the first two objectives.
4. Identify ways in which both clergy and lay people may be more engaged in the Presbytery.



*Moving forward... with Rev Phil McCredden, above.*

Cont. on page 2

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



Cont. from front page

- 5. Review the financial, personnel and property resources available to the Presbytery.

The project will run for 15-18 months and will involve four stages:

- Discovering
- Reflecting
- Planning
- Implementing

Visit [www.ecclesia.com.au](http://www.ecclesia.com.au) for more information



During this time we will be engaging with congregations, their leadership and ministers to ensure that the process will benefit all congregations within the Presbytery's bounds and strengthen the Presbytery's role. We trust that you will find the opportunities for input, reflection and engagement stimulating and life-giving. Enquiries can be directed to the convenor of the Steering Group, Rev. Cameron McAdam at [Cameron McAdam cameronmcadam@hotmail.com](mailto:CameronMcAdam@hotmail.com) or on 0425 774 780.

## Music marks Mental Health Week

On 11 October, Uniting Prahran community service agency (formerly Prahran Mission) and Armadale Uniting Church celebrated Mental Health Week with an evening of music and comedy. There were a number of entertaining items, with the refreshments being provided by Armadale UC.

Pictured is a photo of Rev Fiona Winn discussing an art project created by Ruth.

### Seasonal singalong service

Heatherton-Dingley UC is holding a Carols by Candlelight service on Sunday, 17th December at 7.30pm followed by supper. Music will be provided by a band. Address is cnr Kingston and Old Dandenong Roads, Heatherton All welcome.



### Action stations for Advent reflections

Advent reflection stations will be open at Chelsea Uniting Church inside the hall from 11am-7pm on December 13. Allow 20-30 minutes to move around the stations and a cuppa and biscuit is available throughout the day. All stations are intergenerational with different options to engage. Just turn up. More info from Claire 0410 827597. The Journey of Hope to Christmas morning is an external trail of reflective readings and prayers which end with the stable scene in the front church window. Open at all times until early January at the front of the church. Don't forget a visit to the book swap/street library under the church eves whilst you're there!

**Mt Waverley Chadstone InterChurch Council invites you to**

**6th Community Carols in the Village**

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2017**  
**Hamilton Place, Mt Waverley**  
**Come One, Come All!**  
**Community Singing from 6.30pm to 8pm**  
**plus a Children's Activity Tent**

Supported by Monash Council and Mt Waverley Traders

[www.mtwaverleychadstonechurches.org.au](http://www.mtwaverleychadstonechurches.org.au)

# Cape Paterson proves a winner for the Village Church



CAMPS are in the blood of the Village Church, Mount Eliza and there is a long tradition of church getaways. However, after a break in that history, and with an influx of younger families into congregational life in the last few years, the Village Church has reinstated the tradition. In the last

by Rev  
Cameron  
McAdam



three years the congregation organised a church bush camp, but after two attempts with low attendance, this year we settled on the stunning camp ground at Cape Paterson, near Wonthaggi, where a variety of accommodation could be accessed. About 70 campers attended on the weekend of November 17-19,



taking tents, caravans, campers, and staying in cabins and houses in the community. The weather was beautiful, with time spent together on the beach, playing old fashioned games, gathering for a roast on the Saturday night, and outdoor church on Sunday morning, in the sunshine.

The youngest camper was 3, the oldest in his 90s.

Camping is a brilliant way to build community and grow relationships - this was a truly intergenerational experience. There was resounding agreement to book again for next year and we can only hope the sun shines in the same way!



## Putting the fun into fundraising

Dandenong Regional Uniting Church is holding two exciting musical and singing events next weekend, *writes Trevor Barton:*

- On Saturday, 9th December, we are hosting a **BENEFIT CONCERT** for the Lumad students of Mindanao (Philippines). Please see poster pictured right. There will be refreshments from 5pm and traditional music and singing from about 6.30pm to 8.30pm.
- Then on Sunday, 10th December at 7.30 pm, we will be holding our Christmas Carols Service in the Church (with some candles!). This will include items by the Trinity Congregation Choir, the Fijian Choir (with their beautiful unaccompanied harmony) and the Cook Island Choir (also unaccompanied, but a different type of islander singing, wonderfully full and very forceful). There may also be items by our Hindi Fellowship and the Oromo (Ethiopian) Christian Church Choir. Come and join in with the singing of your favourite carols and celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

YAPAK CULTURAL GROUP AND FILOZART INC.  
IN COLLABORATION WITH  
THE PENCIL CASE PROJECT  
PRESENTS

# YAPAK NG PANAHON

(footprints in time)

SONGS & MUSIC INSPIRED BY PEOPLE'S ASPIRATIONS TO LIVE FREE

**Sagwan Tabang para sa Kabataang LUMAD**  
(Paddle to help Lumad Youth)  
a benefit cultural concert for the Lumad Students in Mindanao

Partners and Sponsors:

For inquiries please call  
Marlou 04567 92117  
Mario 0425 261 545  
Christie 0419 569 656  
Email: marlou@pencilcaseproject.com

December 9, 2017, from 5pm onwards  
Venue: Dandenong Regional Uniting Church  
32 Scott Street, Dandenong VIC, 3175

Tickets: \$25.00 pp / \$50.00 per family  
All proceeds will be for the benefit of the  
Lumad Students in Mindanao

## From Sudan to Springvale - perseverance through 'the redeeming power of Christ'

Photos by Rev Jay Robinson

**PAUL Aleu Dau was inducted at Springvale Uniting last month - after an incredible journey from war-torn South Sudan into Ethiopia before reaching the shores of Australia 14 years ago. Paul completed his ministry training in 2014 and has had to wait quite a while for a placement, writes Ian Firth.**

So it was a joyous occasion when he was inducted as minister of the Springvale Congregation on the afternoon of Sunday, November 5. Rev James Douglas was guest preacher on the day and Rev Andrew Boyle, Presbytery Chair, presided.

In his remarks, following the induction, Paul acknowledged the 11 places where he has exercised ministry, as either field placements or supply ministries.

He started his journey to Australia in 1987 when he fled embattled Sudan for the safety of Ethiopia. He arrived in Melbourne in May 2003 and, in 2004, commenced a Period of Discernment, the first step on the road to ordained ministry.

The Springvale Congregation has a proud record of working with the South Sudanese community. It helped train the first South Sudanese minister in the Synod.

Now, with Paul's induction, the Congregation has called the second to be its minister.

Paul is married to Ajah Atem Riak and they have six children, daughters Susan and Sarah and four boys, John Emmanuel, Isaiah and David. In a speech about Paul's journey, these words were expressed: "Paul's faith in God has been shaped by a constant struggle to make sense of life's meaning: what it all means, what to hope for when overwhelming feelings of personal loss and dispossession occasioned by war were all too real to ignore, and in situations where

hope has been diminished and the very foundation of life has been seriously shaken, seeking answers in theological thoughts appeared like an ideal path. Paul's faith has been strengthened by the hope and the freedom revealed in Jesus Christ. Isaiah said, those who were in the darkness have seen a great light (Isa. 9:2). The great light this text refers to is the redeeming power of Christ. He never lost faith despite all the hardships he endured. It is this story of hope grounded and revealed to us in the Gospel that he wishes to share with the people of God at the Springvale Uniting Church and beyond."

Read the full speech and Paul's incredible story through civil war to salvation at <http://www.ucappeg.org/newsbeat/media-releases/>



**IN *Sharing the Darkness*, Sheila Cassidy, one time Nun, then Medical Director of St Luke's Hospice in Plymouth, wrote movingly of an experience on Christmas Day in the Hospice.**

David, who suffered from a malignant cancer in his mouth, had tried desperately to maintain his independence, as an out-patient. On Christmas Day he was forced to come in for treatment. A single man, he was accompanied by a community nurse. David handed Dr Cassidy a bottle of champagne with a scribbled note attached, "I appreciate all you are doing for me." Sheila wondered about Christmas dinner and asked whether he could manage a little liquid turkey. She was almost reduced to tears when he replied, "Thank you, but a little watery porridge will be fine." On Christmas Eve, in our city there will be homeless, sleeping under a bridge, outside a church or railway station. Anywhere there is shelter. In the morning they will awaken, pack up their meagre possessions and walk the streets, hungry, hoping to be invited to have a meal, prepared by mission, church, street kitchen, or charity. There will be people on board ships, or on tour, who cannot face being home at Christmas, having Christmas dinner with strangers. There will be service men and women overseas, away from families, sharing Christmas dinner with each other, with loved

ones present in spirit, and in their prayers. Everywhere, Christmas Dinner will be happening, joining families near and far in the spirit of giving and sharing. Sadly, many will eat and drink too much, and miss the



## Reflections on Faith

reason for celebration. A long time ago a hassled innkeeper found room in a stable for a refugee family. The wife was pregnant. During the night a child, a son was born. Maybe, the innkeeper did not know of the birth till the morning. But the stable inmates, God's special creatures, were there. Angels kept watch. The little family was safe. Later that day, as Sheila cooked and ate Christmas dinner with the various members of her family, she could not put out of her mind the man whose mouth was full, "not of Christmas food, but of a foul necrotic tumour".

In the home, in spite of his disfigured face, David was accepted, loved and cherished, as he had never felt before. A little watery porridge was Christmas dinner for David, as he joined his new family, sharing Christmas in the caring atmosphere of St Luke's Hospice.

How grateful should we be, as we enjoy the smells, sight and delicious taste of Christmas dinner around the table with our families! We should be mindful of those who have, not the means, nor the ability, to appreciate the delights and treats of Christmas dinner, as we do. We should especially be thankful for God's special gift of the one born in that stable, whose life has made Christmas a joyous celebration of songs and carols, of giving and receiving, ever since.

**Christmas Dinner  
by Bill Pugh,  
retired  
Melbourne  
minister**



## Casual School Charter Bus Drivers

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Driver Bus Lines is a proud family business and an equal opportunity employer with over 86 years' experience in passenger transport. Would you like to be part of a strong, committed team working together to provide quality service to our school and corporate clients? If you have excellent presentation, pride in your work and enjoy meeting people, we would like to hear from you.

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We have casual driving roles available now which could suit people currently working part time / casual positions elsewhere or semi-retired.

**To become a valued member of our team you will need:**

- A current HR or MR Licence (any heavy vehicle driving experience in trucks, buses or coaches will be highly regarded).
- Drivers Accreditation Certificate. We recommend you already hold a DC or be in the process of obtaining accreditation.
- Working With Children Check
- Superior customer service skills
- Ability to work some morning and afternoon school run hours and an excellent driving record



**Applications should be submitted via email to:  
[HumanResources@DriverGroup.com.au](mailto:HumanResources@DriverGroup.com.au)**

**Driver**  
Bus Lines

# Major boost for senior students at ever-expanding Uniting Church school

VCE STUDIES at Cornish College received a significant boost recently with the announcement of funding to build a new Senior Studies Centre, set to open in 2019.

The purpose-built Centre will embrace its environment, sitting in a natural setting of 100 acres and overlooking the school's wetlands. The announcement was made by the Minister for Education, The Hon. James Merlino MP, with \$2,000,000 provided by the Victorian Government from the Capital Funding Program for Non-Government Schools. This will be matched by Cornish College to provide around \$4,000,000 funding overall.

Principal Ms Vicki Steer explained some of the benefits: "The new Centre will provide spaces for formal and small group teaching.

We recognise that learning is not confined to classrooms, though, and the large, open plan areas will support incidental learning too.

"Importantly, the space will provide opportunities for independent study, collaboration, coaching and mentoring, informal interactions and relaxation, to support students' rounded development into successful young people." The building, has been designed by McGlashan Everist Architects, experts in tertiary institutions and

contemporary activity-based work settings. It will have the capacity to benefit around 200 senior students.

College Board Chair, Reverend Dr Robert Johnson, is delighted by the announcement, adding: "Approval to build the new Senior Studies Centre is another major milestone for Cornish College and demonstrates our commitment to support teaching and learning of the established VCE program within the Senior School. The College has come a long way in a relatively short time thanks to a vibrant and committed community of supportive parents and staff who make a difference in the lives of our students. We also thank the State Government as this funding enables construction that would not otherwise be possible."

*Lord Jesus Christ, you call us to this very day from diffidence to confidence, from deficiency to adequacy, from dithering to doing. Bathe us in your buoyant Spirit and energise us with your strong and exuberant selflessness. For your love's sake. Amen*

From Brief Prayers for Busy People, by Rev Bruce Prewer. Copies from [www.booktopia.com.au](http://www.booktopia.com.au)

## Quote

*"Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it."*

**William Arthur Ward**  
**of the month**



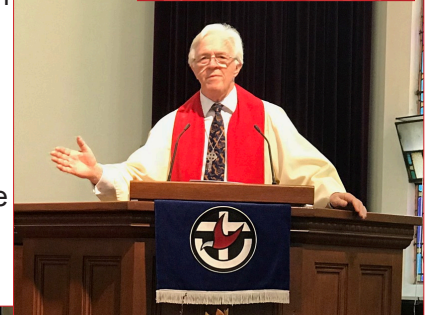
*Above: Vicki Steer, Principal, with the Minister for Education and Member for Mordialloc, James Merlino MP, as well as Year 9 leaders. The Year 9 students will be some of the first to benefit from the new Centre as they complete VCE there. Below, designs for the new building with McGlashan Everist representative.*



# Song for Jesus at his well-attended welcome



**THERE** was a large congregation present on the afternoon of **Sunday 12 November** for the induction of **Rev Han Song** at the **Korean Church of Melbourne, KCM**. Han comes to the Congregation from the USA where he has been Outreach Pastor at the Young Nak Celebration Church in Los Angeles. He has also served as Senior Pastor at the Young Nak Presbyterian Church in Portland Oregon. He emigrated to the US with his parents in 1978 and in 1993 he took his own family to China where they stayed for 10 years. He is married to Grace and they have three daughters, Irene, Rebecca and Laura. Irene has remained in the US. Han says his passion is to see people coming to have a vital and intimate relationship with Jesus and grow in him.



He'd also like to see KCM, in Glendearg Grove, Malvern reaching out not only to the Korean Australian community but to the local community, as well as to the ends of the earth.

*by Ian Firth*



Words by Ian Firth, photos by Rev Jay Robinson



## Somers Camp... the thankfulness tour

SOMERS Camp 2017 was a rip-roaring success, as ever, and the leaders have sent this picture through to show their gratitude to everyone who helped, volunteered, took part, donated, ferried children to and from, contributed food, time and prayers.... along with anything else not hitherto mentioned. We will run a photo feature in an issue of Newsbeat early next year to pave the way for more church camp antics and to find future followers of Christ at Somers Camp 2018.

# How a focus on the future can honour the past

At the October Presbytery meeting, Rev. Chris Meneilly and three members of the Southern Mornington Peninsula Uniting Church presented a Powerpoint review of activities currently powering along at this Church in Rosebud.

SMPUC was a five church parish until 2013 when, following the voluntary closure of the Flinders and Red Hill churches during the previous few years, the remaining congregations agreed to amalgamate.

Initially, there were some angry and sad feelings of loss. Since then the combined congregation at Rosebud has flourished, with most of the “lost” members returning to join in the energetic developments being driven by the congregation’s sense of mission.

Rosebud facilities are widely used by the public, such as Probus and dance groups, and we



Dromana is also used by Narcotics Anonymous and the Family Hands on Health program. With Shire grants etc we financially support three flourishing

Play Groups where Mums and Dads can enjoy quality time with their children whilst older members of the congregation play a supportive grandparent role.

The Op Shop is now 20 years old and continues to provide a great community connection. Funds raised support local organisations such as ‘Sailability’ and

‘Riding for the Disabled, SES Rescue boat, the C.F.A., and church missional activities.

Moving forward to the development of our most exciting mission project – Cloverleaf.

This project is the outcome of collaboration between SMPUC and Community Lifestyle

Accommodation, an organisation initiated by older parents of intellectually disabled adults planning for the future of their children. The congregation has also agreed to support the employment of a Community Support Worker to assist families as they struggle through the bureaucratic requirements of the National Disability Insurance Scheme, NDIS, and no doubt other issues.

After a lot of work to get funding, and battling with planning requirements (which changed at an inopportune moment requiring new designs) the first sods will be turned in December and completion of

the 12 bed facility is anticipated in December 2018. In summation, the uniting of the members of five congregations has resulted in renewed energy for mission. In spite of the aging demographic, the congregation has increased by 15% over the past three years and we now have a vibrant fellowship who not only provide a powerful support network for its aging and frail members but actively and enthusiastically support significant missional projects.



**When five churches came together to breathe new life into their mission**



provide a large area of space for the Adult *Hands on Health* program and rehearsal facilities for four choirs.

We also actively support a Playgroup providing funding and a paid co-ordinator.

The Dromana Church and its hall have been renamed The Dromana Welcome Centre, thus retaining this much loved facility which has been re-purposed to allow community outreach activities.

‘Soup and Chatter’ on Fridays welcomes everyone – congregation members, congregation ‘shut-ins’ and off-the-street drop-ins to enjoy fellowship over a bowl of home-made soup, slices and tea or coffee. A feature of this program, and at the Op Shop, is the involvement of volunteers from the wider community.

by  
**Jill Fearon**



**Chuckle corner**

**Hat trick of happiness at St Leonard's**

**ST Leonard's UC Brighton Beach celebrated 60 years since the opening of the current church, 40 years of the Uniting Church in Australia and 125 years since the laying of the foundation of the 'old church' last week.**



Although not quite matching in number the 1,000 people who attended the opening 60 years ago, there was a full church at the celebrations on Sunday 26th November, when about 200 people gathered to celebrate the three milestones. With elements from the first service in the church "All people that on earth do dwell, sing to the Lord with cheerful voice" as well as the more contemporary hymn, "Come people of the risen King; rejoice, rejoice; let everyone rejoice", worshippers gave thanks for the years gone by and looked to the future. Rev Kim Cain preached on "Spirited Living" and during the children's address Rev Judith Watkins linked everyone, from those who had been attending for 80 plus years to more recent arrivals, together with streamers. In



*Pictured anti-clockwise from middle left: Children's address – steamers linking congregational members;*

*Peter Hunkin, Chair of Church Council, talking with Joan Waters about her time in the manse from 1971-1985; Chris Pfeiffer (in blue shirt) son of the late Rev Norman Pfeiffer who was Minister from 1951-1967 talking with Kate Dodds (nee Waters) and members of the congregation Barry Schofield and Simon Kingsford; the band playing for the singing.*

the Litany of Thanksgiving across time and place, there were three silences – in passing, in awareness and in promise. During the offering the children distributed small rough hewn crosses representing the Easter Cross which each year is left on Brighton beach on Easter morning



after a dawn service. Following the service, past and present members shared stories over lunch in the hall and watched video footage of the opening and other memorabilia. There was a birthday cake; cut by Barbara Bruce who has been a member



continuously for 87 years and whose father Lionel had been the Church Treasurer at the time of the building of the corner church, now used for groups and classes. A wonderful day when "the whole Church of God celebrated faith, lived now as well as then"

*by Rev Kim Cain and Wendy Adams*

**Magic moment Recognise this Christmas crew from Berwick St Andrew's? Journey Bound spreading joy...**

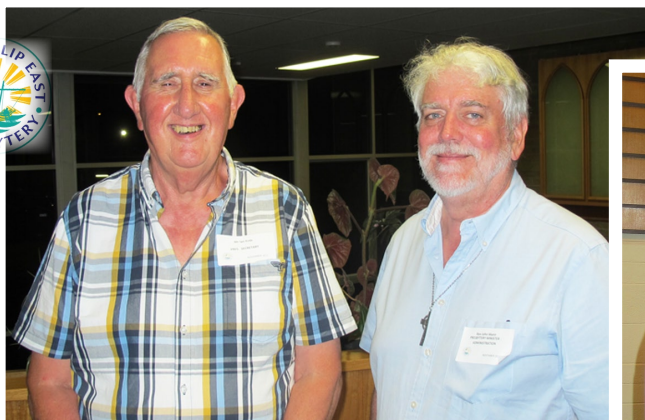


**Found on facebook** [www.facebook.com/ucappep.org](http://www.facebook.com/ucappep.org)



"Jo Austin and Rev Mat Harry celebrated with lots of others at the 100 years of Hampton Park High Tea recently. So great that Ken Reedy was awarded the Community Member Award, above. Well done to Joyce who received an award on behalf of her dad as well. We have a Church community full of giving people."

## Presbytery meeting recognises one of its finest



*Pictured: Above: office buddies Ian Firth, Secretary, with John and right: Chair Rev Andrew Boyle presents him with the certificate*

THE November Presbytery in Council meeting saw the presentation of a Certificate of Appreciation to Rev John Mann for his years of sterling service as the Presbytery Minister Admin. John has accepted a call to Burwood UCA in the Yarra Yarra Presbytery, and the last PiC meeting



officially Released his Ties to the Port Phillip East PMA role. "John has been an exceptional colleague - supportive, creative and reliable, yet self-effacing too. It's

been a real pleasure to work with him," writes Helen Beeby.

## Diary date for inductions

### ...and finally

Semisi Tauli'i was inducted at Mt Waverley (St John's) at the beginning of last month.

It was a busy few days for Semisi with his ordination being held on 4 November by the Yarra Yarra Presbytery. This was followed by his induction on 8 November into the placement at Mt Waverley (St John's).

Semisi started his journey to become a minister of the word in 2014. During his training he has deepened his understanding of the Gospel and of his sense of call. He completed Field Education placements at Ashburton and at Springvale.

The Port Phillip East Presbytery warmly welcomes Semisi into his first placement.

YOU ARE INVITED TO THE  
INDUCTION SERVICE FOR

REV DR JI ZHANG  
ASSEMBLY THEOLOGIAN IN RESIDENCE

&

REV DR APWEE TING

NATIONAL CONSULTANT  
ASSEMBLY RESOURCING UNIT



SUNDAY 10 DEC 4PM

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FOLLOWED BY REFRESHMENTS

RSVP BY 1 DECEMBER  
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**Uniting Church in Australia**  
ASSEMBLY

*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](mailto: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.*

**Visit the Presbytery website at [www.ucappep.org](http://www.ucappep.org) and [www.facebook.com/ucappep.org](http://www.facebook.com/ucappep.org) for news, events and more....**