

# NEWSBEAT



JANUARY 2018

NEWSLETTER FOR THE PRESBYTERY OF PORT PHILLIP EAST



How the scriptures shaped some rock n roll classics. Reflections on Faith plays with ideas on page 5.



Board goes 50/50 at our church investment body. Turn to page 4 for full story.

## Storm predictions couldn't strike out singers

ONCE again St David's Uniting Church, Oakleigh raised considerable funds, as well as donating two carloads of goods, to the St Aidan's Anglican Church in Noble Park where they are passed on to refugees in the Dandenong area and other local benevolent societies.

The Parish also participated in the Carols in the Park on the first Friday in December – now in its 12<sup>th</sup> year. This was an initiative of the Parish of Balkara and the Combined Churches of Oakleigh working together to bring the real meaning of the season to the wider community. Unfortunately two days prior, in scorching heat, the Committee members were scurrying around to set up an inside venue due to the dire warnings of extreme weather on the day – we had drop-outs as the Education Department put out an edict that all non-essential events be cancelled (wasn't

aware that Christmas was non-essential.)

During its existence, the event has only been indoors twice and on both occasions the event could actually have been held in the Park as it has never rained during 4pm to midnight on the first Friday in December – God is Good (all the time). The most important thing was that the Combined Churches in Oakleigh still had the chance to share the Good News of the birth of

**Severe weather warning couldn't halt Carols in the Park**

by  
**Faye Sanderson**

Christ and what that means to all in the community. Christmas Day may be over for this year... but St David's is gearing up for our annual Stationery Appeal for Mission Liaison Group (MLG/Second life Pacifika) between December 25<sup>th</sup> and the arrival of Easter eggs and hot cross buns. And it is not long before Pancake Day will be upon us, see below. The Parish has held a Pancake Day since the first one organised by UnitingCare - now Uniting - and they have gone from strength to strength.

## MURRUMBEENA STREET PARTY

THURSDAY . JANUARY 25TH

STARTS AT 5:00PM



food . facepainting . bbq . coffee

**EVERYONE IS INVITED - SPREAD THE WORD**

Bring some food to share to join in the street party with an early dinner. There will coffees available from the local Sir Hamlet. BYO drinks (non-alcoholic).

**AT 117 MURRUMBEENA ROAD**

MURRUMBEENA UNITING CHURCH CARPARK  
CONTACT JAY . 0410 465 836



The Parish of Balkara is again hosting its annual **Traditional Pancake Tea**

5.30 – 7.00 pm

**Shrove Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February, 2018**

**Venue is Cook Islands Church Hall  
14-16 Burton Ave Clayton**

Admission is \$10.00 per adult, \$5.00 per school child under 12 and \$30.00 a family (2 adults/up to 4 children)

This includes pancakes with savoury or sweet toppings plus tea, coffee, cordial and a fun community time together

**ALL WELCOME**

Pancake Day proceeds will support Uniting's *lifeAssist* "Realise a Dream" fund which gives disadvantaged people a hand up to allow them to do something that they cannot otherwise afford. *lifeAssist* seeks to provide a better life for all from the cradle to the older person.



Uniting Church in Australia  
**PARISH OF BALKARA**

**Uniting  
lifeAssist**

Inquiries to Faye  
Event Coordinator  
8558 1608  
Pat 9579 2908  
or  
Peta 0408 920 032

Access at Clayton is easy with two ramps into the complex. Additional car parking is available in the Council car park at the rear – enter off Cooke Street near the Pool

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





# Festive round-up...

THE inaugural Christmas Eve combined service of the Mt Waverley/Chadstone Cluster was a wonderful, multicultural evening to celebrate the ever-coming birth of the Christ Child, writes Rev Julie Ross.

It was held at the High Street Road Uniting Church with a large congregation from St John's, St Mark's, St Luke's, and the Melbourne Fijian UC joining together with HSRUC and all contributing to the worship, the music and the celebration of our growing unity – a very blessed time for us all.



## Christmas Adventure

THIS year, Ormond Uniting Church held an after school Christmas program for pre-school and primary aged children. Over two afternoons we had lots of interactive fun including songs, the telling of the Christmas story (including an informal drama), craft and making decorations. Our theme was 'giving' - remembering the gift of Jesus to us at Christmas and we explored how we might respond and decided to support the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre in Footscray with donations to their food bank. This was well supported by our congregation as well as McKinnon Kindergarten; there was not much floor space under the Christmas tree!



In one of their craft activities the

children 'designed' their own Christmas paper and used it to put around large boxes, pictured right, in which we loaded gifts for the ASRC. The boxes looked fantastic with many beautiful messages of goodwill. With just enough space in the car we arrived at the ASRC who were delighted with our gifts, over \$1,500 of non perishable food and \$700 gift vouchers. We know these will make a big difference to the lives of Asylum Seekers and Refugees living in Melbourne.

by Brenda Grootendorst

## Joy to the World



REGULARS from Sandringham UCA visited the residents of Mercy Place, Fernhill who have dementia to share worship.

This December service focussed on carols and the Christmas story. Gloria led a rousing song with all the farmyard animals around the manger and Helen sang a solo; Christine discovered Sharon

by Christine MacDowall,  
Minister Sandringham UCA

the Sheep had followed them in and wanted to tell how safe it felt to sleep in a fold with the good shepherd guarding the doorway. The ecumenical sharing of worship brings joy to residents, staff and congregation alike. Pictured from left to right: Peg, Jean, Helen, Christine, Ian, Gloria, Marie (Mercy Pastoral Care Associate) and Lynette.

We three kings...



HIGH Street UC, Frankston performed a fabulous rendition of The Really Good News of Christmas to a packed house, pictured above.

by Rev  
Chris Meneilly

# Heaven and earth finally come together at Cloverleaf

**IT'S begun. The building works on the Cloverleaf accommodation for the disabled has commenced.**

The long and detailed process has come to fruition with works expected to be completed by December 2018. With support from Synod Property personnel, in particular Ms Rina Neustrovski, and Uniting Housing backing the project, the complexities of such as NDIS, DHHS and a variety of involved departments, the building plans were redrawn to meet all compliance and construct a comfortable, functional residential facility. As a result of the complicated roll-out of NDIS, the need emerged for a support worker who could assist applicants and other people across the Peninsula. Southern Mornington Peninsula Uniting Church (SMPUC), in support of the CLA community group, applied for BOMAR funding



toward the salary of the support worker. We are very pleased to share the great news this has been approved and Support Worker, Ms. Katherine Trevorrow, has already begun work in this new role. SMPUC, in seeing this development as part of the mission objectives of the congregation, is further committing to the expansion of the work by some internal building alterations due to begin mid-late January. These works include an office-space for the support worker, office space for the minister and hospitality service facility with in-built kitchenette.



Toorak UCA has also contributed to the broader missional vision with a financial grant toward the support worker role. SMPUC is extremely thankful for the many hours of work put in by local church members, in particular Peter Hunter and Jan Hall, also Rina Neustrovski and her staff team of Synod, and the Port Phillip East Presbytery. This is a blessing to the community and enriching for the congregation.

## Four females share their story of faith



ISLAM . HARE KRSNA . CHRISTIANITY . JUDAISM

### WOMEN OF FAITH

SUNDAY . 21 JANUARY . 5:30PM

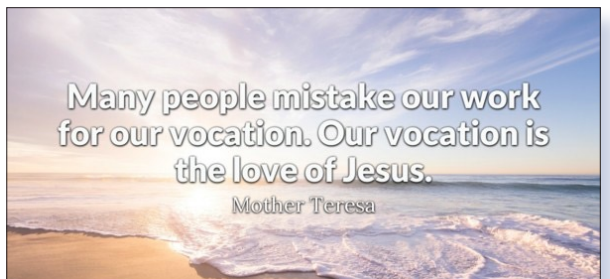
117 MURRUMBEENA ROAD  
MURRUMBEENA UNITING CHURCH

Come and hear the stories of four women and how their faith continues to shape their lives.



Following the Women of Faith event Murrumbeena UCA is going to run a Men of Faith event on April 15.

### Great quotes



# Pal shares his story of a fine day out at

# Toorak

**TOORAK Uniting Church supports the homework hub at Pakenham UCA and in November a group from the Homework Hub went to to thank them.**

by  
**Pal Wol**  
Age: 11 yrs  
**Homework Hub @ Pakenham UC**

Levi's mum dropped Levi at Glynis's house. Marie came to pick up Glynis and Levi with her Toyota Landcruiser. Then they went to pick up Mercy. Then they hit the road and came to my house. Then we hit the freeway. It took one hour. We finally arrived and we met Patricia and her husband Chris Begg. They told us lots of stories about the old buildings out behind the church. An artist has his studio above old stables. There is an art gallery where the minister used to live in a double-storey house. Patricia told us a story about a boy who disappeared after Sunday School and he had climbed the ladder and was hiding at the top of the steeple. Now they lock the door so no-one can go in. What we did: We thanked the people for giving the money to run



the Homework Hub. Glynis asked questions and we spoke in the microphone. We spoke at the end of the first service and the beginning of the second service. Then Patricia took us where we played tag and she showed us how to pirouette because she used to do ballet. We had lots of biscuits at morning tea. Then we went to lunch. Levi and I had the Big Breakfast – two eggs on toast, hash brown, baked beans, mushrooms, tomato, bacon, sausages, spinach and we nearly ate it all. Mercy had pancakes, berries and ice cream

and we all had milkshakes. We watched the lady play the pipe organ and she let me have a turn. It was cool. They gave us a box of chocolates.

## Smart move by UCA Funds

MANY Port Phillip East Presbytery churches and individuals have UCA Funds Management accounts. UCA Funds ploughs millions back into the VicTas Mission Fund every year. They also uphold a rigorous ethical investment approach - scrutinising all companies before they invest - and pursue equal opportunities. To this end, UCA Funds Management has appointed Fiona Pearse to its board of directors.

Ms Pearse will be UCA Funds fourth female board member, bringing the board to 50 per cent female representation. Ms Pearse has extensive financial executive experience from almost two decades at BHP Billiton and BlueScope Steel. As well as NFP non-executive directorships. Chairperson Dr David explains the board has been aiming for 50/50 female to male representation. Non-executive Director Gayle Wilson says: "Australian and global studies confirm the positive impact of Board gender diversity, not only on the financials but also the internal culture of an organisation."



## Brekky Club - chaps who chat about allsorts

### Quote

*Nothing is impossible, the word itself says "I'm possible"!*

**Audrey Hepburn  
of the month**



*The men from Armadale UC meet for a breakfast each month at a local cafe and enjoy conversations that range far and wide over many topics! Here we are at a recent meeting, writes Graeme Harris.*



**DURING** an exciting Rock 'n' Roll weekend held by Rosebud Chamber of Commerce Southern Mornington Peninsula

congregation hosted its own Rock Service on the Sunday morning - with guest band 'Blue Flame Rock'.

The service was cafe-church style around tables, with more than 150 people attending. The band sang

a couple of great brackets of 60s rock-n-roll favourites. I worked the message for the day around three songs, with the words distributed for people to sing along or talk about: 'Just a closer walk with Thee', 'Stand by me' and 'Try a little kindness'.

Did you realize the inspiration for 'Stand by me' first sung in the late-40s was Psalm 43. Look closely at the words in Psalm 43: 1-3 "So we will not be afraid, even if the earth is shaken, and mountains fall into the ocean... no I won't, I won't be afraid...if you stand, stand by me."

It is recorded the original gospel version of the song actually had the lyrics "O lord, O Lord stand by me" repeated. The later pop version changed this to "darlin, darlin ...stand, stand by me."

As well as an inclusive, friendly service and atmosphere, the gathering was drawn to reflect on the various contemporary songs that are inspired by words of Christian scripture. Attention was also drawn to some contemporary pop artists who have Christian-influenced backgrounds and use their singing as a vehicle to express their faith convictions, such as : U2; Kings of Leon and Lenny Kravitz. We can draw on this to bring the gospel to a contemporary generation, and have a great time in doing so.

## Reflections on Faith



## Musical musings

**Rev Chris Meneilly, minister at SMPUC, explores the scriptural influences on some pop classics to freshen worship**



Gracious God, we are



overwhelmed by the wonder of your mercy and love! You have so liberally poured out your unfailing and unconditional love upon us, and restored us to yourself through your forgiveness of our sin. Your words of peace - your shalom - has warmed our hearts, enlivened our minds, and encouraged our spirits and for this, we

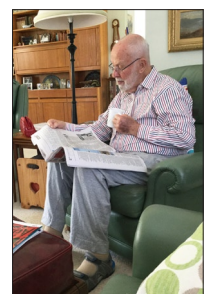
praise and honour you with songs of joy. Inspirational God, you prepare the way ahead for us, so that in peace and joy we may journey onwards to our home in you.

**Amen.**

by Joan Stott © 2011 Joan Stott – "The Timeless Psalms" RCL Psalm Year B, used with permission.

### Free books to give away

Bill Pugh is still downsizing his library. Available are some commentaries, language resources (Greek and Hebrew), historical and fiction works. Please contact Rev Bill Pugh for a cuppa and mooch through the collection on 9598 5841.



### Kristen chosen for Joan Stott UCAF Bursary

The UCAF National Committee has awarded a 2017 Joan Stott UCAF Bursary (for study in 2018) to Kristen Furneaux of Victoria. Congratulations to Kristen who attends Mount Eliza Uniting Church and studies at Whitley Theological College. A one-page report on Kristen's Faith Journey - a fascinating read - can be found at <http://www.ucapppep.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Public-Announcement-Joan-Stott-UCAF-Bursary-2017.pdf>



Induction

date

REV John Mann's induction will be held at Burwood UC



(the one in Warragul Road near Toorak Road, not the A-frame Church on the Burwood Highway) on Friday, 16th February, 2018 beginning at 7.45pm. John recently hung up his hat as Presbytery Minister Admin for PPEP after seven and a half years. Rev Lauleti Tu'inauvai, former minister at Endeavour Hills UC and member of PPEP Standing Committee, will still be the Chair of the Presbytery of Yarra Yarra at that time so he will do the induction. Makes for a nice Port Phillip East flavoured occasion.



**Presbytery in Council meeting dates**

- 21 February
- 18 April
- 20 June
- 15 August
- 17 October
- 12 December

Meetings will be held at Noble Park Uniting Church, jct of Joy Parade and Allan Street and will commence at 7.30pm. All ministers and presbytery reps are asked to attend regularly. Thank you.

**Changing times require changes in our thinking**

LAST month we ran a front page article about an innovative step the Presbytery is taking in response to our changing cultural landscape and how the church can adapt to these developments. PPEP has employed the services of Ecclesia Leadership to help all our churches to navigate through such change. Below are two slides from a

**PART TIME YOUTH COORDINATOR**

Do you have an interest in developing a positive experience for children and youth in a Christian youth group environment? High Street Uniting



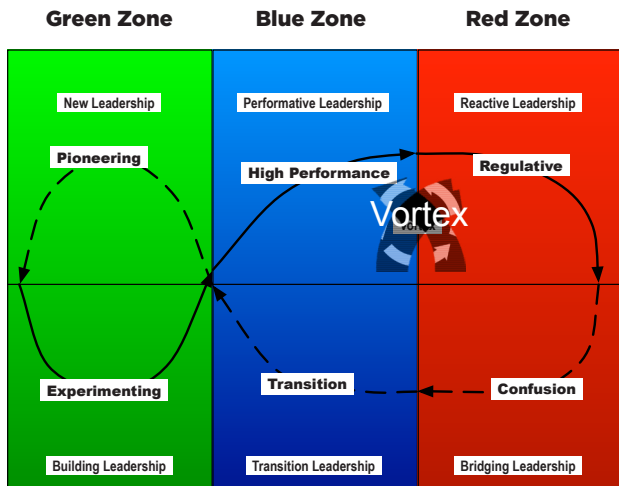
Church in Frankston is an active church looking to build up its school-aged ministry. We are looking for someone to join our ministry team to coordinate, lead and build our school-aged youth program. The role will be for 1.5 days a week, with some flexibility in hours. More details are available at [www.frankstonuniting.org.au](http://www.frankstonuniting.org.au) or at the Presbytery website Notices page. Applications close on 16 February 2018.

presentation that is being and will be used and discussed at presbytery, ministerial and congregational/church council level to allow our churches to understand where they are in

the three zone model, below left, and how they can respond. Don't worry too much about understanding the diagram in detail as the consultation will involve explanations to all congregations and groups in PPEP. Watch this space...



**Three Zone Model**



**Key Purpose**

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)



The full presentation is available on the website at [www.ucappegp.org](http://www.ucappegp.org) What's On page

If you would like to submit a news item for the Presbytery's monthly Newsbeat newsletter please send all articles and images to [newsbeat@ucappegp.org](mailto:newsbeat@ucappegp.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.ucappegp.org](http://www.ucappegp.org) and [www.facebook.com/ucappegp.org](http://www.facebook.com/ucappegp.org) for news, events and more....