

# NEWSBEAT



FEBRUARY 2018

NEWSLETTER FOR THE PRESBYTERY OF PORT PHILLIP EAST



Ecumenical eco-warriors run showcase event at Rosebud UCA. Book your green room seat by flicking through to page 3.



Meet Mr & Mrs Scandrette... one couple's transformation training for churches. Turn to page 7 to save the date

## Who says discipleship has to be complicated?

THE evening before the Australia Day long weekend was the scene for the inaugural Murrumbeena Street Party.

With invitations extended across facebook, flyers letter box dropped and word of mouth a group of around 100-150 locals gathered at MUC to say hi, share some food, listen to great music, get their faces painted and have some great conversation.

What began as a warm evening cooled down when the breeze came up, making it a great evening to sit and talk.

by  
**Rev Jay Robinson**



Our aim was to welcome the community, to get to know our neighbours and for them to get to know each other, and that was definitely what happened. Neighbours from across the road, down the street and close by all came, as did workers walking home as they heard the great music coming from "Mic and the



Stands" from High Street UC, Frankston. As we packed up from the great event it was decided this is the first of many!



*Clockwise from top: family fun, al fresco dining, meet the band, church foyer chats, serving up a treat and the party's this way.*

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





## 127 years for this church that is small, but perfectly formed

WHEELERS Hill Uniting Church is often referred to as “Oh, you mean that little church on Ferntree Gully Road”. Despite that frequent description, we have a wealth of talent among our membership, with several of our members engaged in their week day lives, as counsellors, chaplaincy, overseas outreach



through Initiatives of Change, as well as the “ordinary folks” who see to the morning tea, property maintenance and keeping our garden looking great. This year we celebrated our 127th Anniversary. Being located on busy Ferntree Gully Road provides us with a great opportunity to reach out to passing traffic via our Wayside Pulpit, *pictured*. We have had several members arrive as a result of the messages we post there – one message even made it into our local paper – “Come and try our Sundays they’re better than McDonalds” - along with a photograph of our minister, Rev. Charles Sundaresan eating an ice cream sundae. Last year we welcomed Bible Study Fellowship to use our buildings for their weekly meeting. More than 100 ladies meet each week to study the word of God. We also reach out into the community with an active Over 50s card group meeting each week. Congregational Bible Study is not neglected with a weekly group meeting each Tuesday

morning for prayer and a discussion of the Lectionary readings for the coming Sunday. An evening Bible Study group meets monthly. We have a small but active Friendship Group which meets monthly, and organises various social events during the year.

We are not a wealthy church, but God provides our every need and we celebrate our life in Him as we meet each Sunday at 10.30am for worship. We welcome visitors, and can promise a good chat over morning tea after the service.

### Korean minister unites two congregations through Christ

The Melbourne Fijian Uniting Church use the St. Mark's UC, Chadstone, for worship and other church-related activities. Previously, we have done things such as quarterly combined services and luncheons, followed by Combined Church Council meetings for about 10 years now. For the last two years we have also provided Combined Carols Services.

At present we share a minister, the Reverend Paul Goh, who is helping the two congregations to do more combined activities, as he has won the respect and loyalty of both congregations. We had a combined service and luncheon on the 31st December, and are presently hoping to jointly staff the Lions Op Shop in Mt. Waverley from February 12th –16th 2018.

*by Jan Heeley*

# St Luke's Autumn FIESTA

**Saturday  
17th March 2018  
12noon 'til 5pm.**

**94-96 ESSEX RD,  
MT WAVERLEY**

**Market Stalls    Live Music  
Jumping Castle    White Elephant  
Gourmet Food    Animal Farm  
Classic Cars    Collectables  
Plants    Books**



[www.stlukesmtwaverley.unitingchurch.org.au](http://www.stlukesmtwaverley.unitingchurch.org.au)

**Southern Mornington Peninsula  
Uniting Church**



## **BOOK FAIR & Family Fun**



**Saturday 10th March, 2018  
9.30 am to 2 pm**

**Dromana Welcome Centre (UC)  
305 Pt. Nepean Rd.,  
Dromana**



## **Ecumenical ecology**

Rosebud Uniting is having an event in March where Rabbi Jonathan Keren-Beck will come to the church to show the new Al Gore film, *'An Inconvenient Sequel: Truth to Power'* writes Bronwyn Pryor. He is a member of ARRCC, Australian Religious Response to Climate Change, which I have been attending, the past year.



They have

their meetings once a month on the third Sunday, 5.30 - 8 pm at Borderlands, Ecological Library, 2 Minona Street, Hawthorn.

It is very rewarding to be working with people from other faiths for the common goal of saving the planet from extremes of climate change.

All our faiths urge us to care for the delicate and beautifully productive earth we have been given.

I thought it was not an option for me to do nothing when our children and grandchildren

will be adversely impacted so much by extremes of temperature and rising seas.

Sunday evening, 18th March we are offering a light tea, and then Rabbi Jonathan Keren-Beck will speak on 'Judaism, Faith and the Environment,' Before showing the latest Al Gore film and answering questions

**The event will be on Sunday 18th March 5pm - 8 pm.**

**At Rosebud (Southern Mornington Peninsula) Uniting Church, 6 Murray-Anderson Rd, Rosebud.**

Enquiries, RSVP Bronwyn Pryor, mob 0423 01450

**Religious Freedom Review:  
Have your say...**

An independent panel has begun its review of religious freedoms in Australia, to examine whether Australian law adequately protects the human right to freedom of religion. Submissions from the public are invited. For details, see <https://pmc.gov.au/domestic-policy/religious-freedom-review>

## **STUDY GROUPS**

## **JESUS THE GAME CHANGER**

Jesus Christ has made an indelible mark on human history and He continues to do so through His followers. Yet many people do not realise that the values western democracies are built on originate in the life and teaching of Jesus – the equality of all, servant leadership, care for the poor and marginalised, dignity of women and children, education, to name just a few.

In this series, host Karl Faase travels to the UK, USA, Singapore, India and Australia, interviewing authors, academics and modern-day game changers about how the life and teaching of Jesus changed the world and why it matters."

These will be a series of video presentations and discussion groups in a relaxed and open atmosphere.

**EVERY TUESDAY EVENING FROM FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 27**



**7:30PM - 9:00PM | ALL ARE WELCOME TO COME ALONG  
117 MURRUMBEENA RD, MURRUMBEENA**

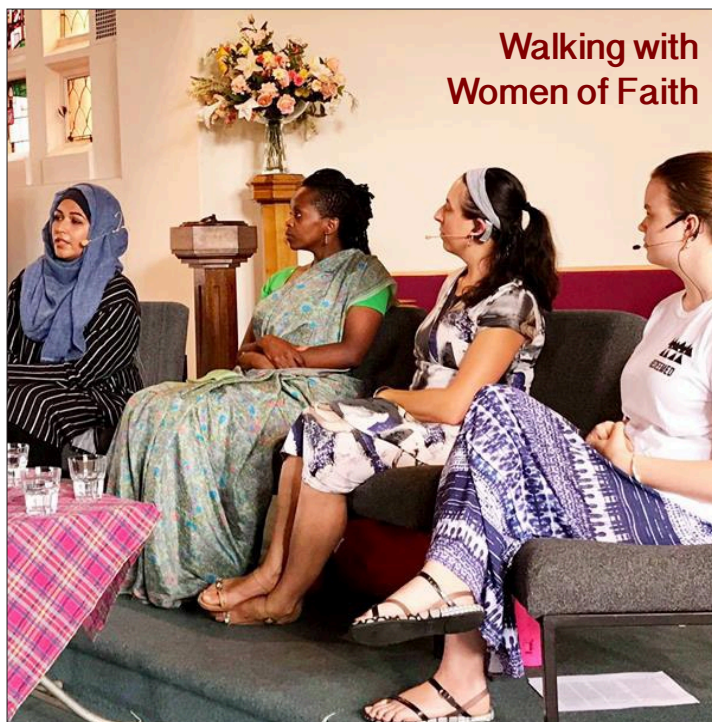
hosted by:



south eastern hub  
murrumbena uniting church

queries to Jay: 0410 465 836  
[jay@murrumbenauniting.org.au](mailto:jay@murrumbenauniting.org.au)





## Walking with Women of Faith

MORE than a hundred listeners turned out for the successful Women of Faith event at Murrumbidgee UC recently.

IT was a warm night however it didn't stop the 100+ people who gathered to hear our four women of faith share.

The crowd came from far and wide on Sunday, 21st January - with some from as far as Healesville and Woodend!

Our four women were Gabbi Sar-Shalom who spoke about her perspective of the Jewish faith, Anam Javed who spoke from the Muslim perspective, Swarupa Sakti Devi Dasi from the Hare Krishna (or Hare Krsna) faith and Laura Bennett from the Christian faith.

Each woman spoke for 20 minutes sharing about their faith and how that impacts the way they live. Questions followed with some probing and great questions being asked. The evening ended with some time to speak to our women over a very light supper.

Much was learnt and shared and it was great to watch people arrive with notebooks and pens. We thank the speakers and all who attended.

Now, onto the Men of Faith Forum to be held in April.  
by Rev Jay Robinson

## Call for choristers from north end of the Presbytery



## Come and sing with us...

Fun, fellowship, local and international travel  
a chance for you to become a part of Australia's  
Premier Welsh Choir.



## The Australian Welsh Male Choir

### Melbourne Chapter

Côr Meibion Cymreig Awstralia Y Bennod Melbourne

Wednesdays: 7.00pm-9.30pm

Melbourne Welsh Church

320 LaTrobe Street, Melbourne.

Enquiries 0425 725 525



www.awmc.org.au

Heal my heart and make it clean  
Open up my eyes to the things unseen  
Show me how to love  
Like You have loved me  
Break my heart for what breaks Yours  
Everything I am  
For Your kingdom's cause  
As I walk from earth into eternity

Hosanna Hosanna  
Hosanna in the highest  
Hosanna Hosanna  
Hosanna in the highest

– Brooke Fraser

## Quote

"All are but parts of one  
stupendous whole, Whose body  
Nature is, and God the soul."

Alexander Pope

of the month

## Memories of our Dad by Bill Pugh, a retired Melbourne Minister

THERE are many memories, but one stands out. Dad smoked a pipe. He spent time meticulously cleaning the bowl with his pocket knife and carefully poking pipe cleaners up the stem. His old pipe was important. Dad had been on the Western Front in WW1. A sapper, whose role it was to dig trenches, and dugouts; tunnelling under enemy positions, in small groups, dismantling enemy barbed-wire across 'No Mans Land' at night before an advance.

He experienced carnage, horror and suffering. Lost mates beside him. Was gassed and wounded in the leg by shrapnel. For the rest of his life he walked with a limp. Yet, on his return, he still played football and tennis, loved gardening. Like many WW1 diggers he could not go back to an office job. He tried farming, and failed. At the outbreak of WW2 he volunteered to serve again, but was refused because of his age and physical condition. Dad still did his bit, a volunteer air raid warden patrolling our streets at night, knocking on doors to ask

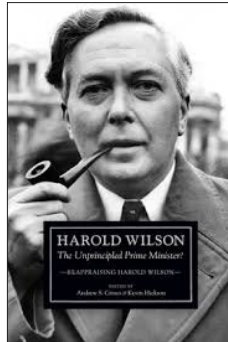


people to adjust their blackout curtains, to shut out any chinks of light. In our backyard he dug an air raid shelter, lined, sufficient for a family. His way of protecting us from some of what he had witnessed as a sapper

overseas. He helped dig trenches in our school yard. His two sons joined up. One served in the Middle East, the other in New Guinea. Whenever the news was bad in those areas, he lit his pipe and went for a walk. His youngest brother served in Syria. Returning, he was captured in Java. Dad lit his pipe and went for a walk.

Later he heard his young brother was incarcerated in Changi, and sent to work as a slave labourer, on the Burma Railway. Dad lit his pipe and went for a walk. Whenever the news was bad, on every occasion, he lit his pipe and went for a walk. And his walks were longer. He said nothing.

In movies, politics and history the pipe has been a symbol and persona. Popeye's clay pipe, was part of his image. Santa too. Sherlock Holmes and James Bond characters are noted for their smooth images and deftly positioned pipes. None of these affectations could be applied to our Dad. Dad's well-maintained, oft-lit pipe and long walks was his way of escape and coping. Sometimes he walked out into his beloved garden, lit up, and looked far away. He never spoke to anyone of us about the horror of his experiences, and the recurring nightmares, which is rather slickly termed PTSD, Post



Traumatic Stress Disorder: A condition coined to umbrella all the horror and after-trauma of war. Dad smoked his pipe.

On Remembrance Day we try to sum everything to do with war in two minute's silence, and move on. Surely not enough. The next war will be started by the push of a button. Meaning PTSD for humankind who survive, and terrible destruction for our precious planet. Perhaps my father's pipe, its spiralling smoke, and his long walks in silence were his prayer to heaven. Dad was never outwardly a religious man. He was a family Dad, a community man. To me his pipe and his walking were his silent and personal pilgrimage for peace.



## Free books still to give away

Bill Pugh continues to downsize his library. He had a Zimbabwean pastor, studying over here, who swing by recently - he shared some stories and took some books away. There are still more, however, if you're interested. Available are some commentaries, language resources (Greek and Hebrew), historical and fiction works.

### Chuckle corner

Please contact Rev Bill

Pugh for a cuppa and browse through the collection on 9598 5841.



## A Lenten Pilgrimage to the Heart

The Ecumenical Lenten Resource for 2018 is available at [www.sacc.asn.au](http://www.sacc.asn.au). It has been prepared by a team from the South Australian Council of Churches Community for Ecumenical Learning. Since the first Ecumenical Lenten Study in 1972, thousands have come together in small groups and have come to know one another better. We give thanks for the sharing and growth in faith and action that has happened through these resources. SA Council of Churches hopes that Christians from different traditions will continue to come together in 2018 around the resource A Lenten Pilgrimage to the Heart and to reflect on how Lent continues to be meaningful in the midst of today's complexities and challenges. Please let SACC know if you download and/or use the Resource [sacc@picknowl.com.au](mailto:sacc@picknowl.com.au). This will assist the preparation of resources in the future.



"Apples are fine, but I find today's teacher prefers a nice latte."



## Come along to this thought-provoking Lenten study series

### A three week series featuring James Alison

IN Chapter 1 of John's Gospel we hear Jesus announced as "the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" *writes Rev Andrew Boyle*.

This notion of Jesus taking away our sin is at the heart of our remembering Jesus' Passion and our Easter celebration. But what does it mean?

#### Contact us

VCC EMERGENCIES MINISTRY  
4 / 306 Little Collins Street  
Melbourne 3000

(03) 9650 4511

emergencies@vcc.org.au

www.vccem.org.au

REGISTER FOR TRAINING ONLINE AT  
www.vccem.org.au/training/

@VCCEMERGENCIES

VCC EM



VCC Emergencies Ministry  
**VOLUNTEERS**

"Compassion  
in times of crisis"



A particular understanding of this, which suggests that God required Jesus to die for us, has prevailed in our tradition, but many find this an objectionable understanding of God and the meaning of

Jesus' life death and resurrection. How might we develop a new and richer understanding of what it means that Jesus "takes our sin away"?

Come and join us as we explore these question over three weeks at Ormond Uniting Church. We will do this by viewing and discussing some lectures by theologian James Alison, *pictured*.

Studies will be on Sunday evenings: the 18th and 25th of February and 18th of March from 5.30-8.00pm and include a light meal.

Enquiries and bookings to [ajmboyle@optusnet.com.au](mailto:ajmboyle@optusnet.com.au)



## Victorian Council of Churches

### EMERGENCIES MINISTRY

#### Psychological First Aid/Personal Support

VCC EM training is a comprehensive training package designed to equip members of faith communities to support affected residents through their participation in VCC EM deployments.

The training course is a 2 stage process involving

**Self paced learning** and completion of the workbook. This material *must* be completed prior to attending the training day.

**Face to face training day.** This day utilizes multi learning opportunities including teaching, discussion, personal reflection and role playing / scenarios to enable the trainee to assimilate the information and understand the context, roles, responsibilities and processes involved.

**WHERE:** VCC Emergencies Ministry State Office  
4/306 Little Collins St  
Melbourne

**WHEN:** Sat 24th March & Wed 11th April 2018  
(8.45am – 5.00pm)

**COST:** \$80 waged or \$40 concession/Refresher training  
(Covers all catering, training materials and registration costs. Please inform us of any dietary requirements)

**REGISTRATION:**  
REGISTER ONLINE AT: [WWW.VCCEM.ORG.AU/TRAINING](http://WWW.VCCEM.ORG.AU/TRAINING) OR  
BY PHONING 9650 4511

Completion of the workbook and attendance at the training are essential prerequisites for application for registration with VCC Emergencies Ministry. Successful registration will require the completion of safety checks and referee reports and will occur after the training has been completed.

**FURTHER INFORMATION:** PLEASE CALL THE VCC EM STATE OFFICE ON (03) 9650 4511 OR  
EMAIL [EMERGENCIES@VCC.ORG.AU](mailto:EMERGENCIES@VCC.ORG.AU)

This training is essential for all in the faith community intending to respond to emergencies and disasters in Victoria. The Victorian State and Local Governments are continually increasing the requirements for people to enter disaster areas. The VCC is authorized by Government to coordinate and integrate faith communities' response when disaster occurs.

#### Compassion in Times of Crisis

## Calling all who show compassion in crisis

IN a week that saw an incredibly moving anniversary remembrance service of the Bourke Street Mall tragedy, the powerful and important work of VCC Emergencies Ministry was once again showcased to the public.

This is why the organisation is seeking new blood and inviting existing members to attend training courses next month.

Michael Downing, Regional Support Officer, says: "I would appreciate if members of Port Phillip East Presbytery would consider undertaking the training for VCC Emergencies Ministry in March/April 2018 and also have discussions with others in your faith community whom you feel would be suited to such a role."

"This would suit individuals who have some flexibility to attend incidents as they may arise. We do however understand the need to juggle other commitments with the possible needs of VCC EM and understand that there will be times when you may be asked to attend an incident and will not be able to and that is fine. I look forward to hearing from you in the near future and thank you for your support of VCC EM and willingness to serve Christ in the world and show compassion in times of crisis."





*The happy couple... above are Mark & Lisa Scandrette, married for 25 years and with three young adult children.*

## Husband and wife team come to Oz to ReIMAGINE

MARK and Lisa Scandrette are staging two workshops in the Port Phillip East Presbytery in March, and attendees are being invited to register now.

Mark and his wife, Lisa Scandrette, are cofounders of ReIMAGINE, A Centre For Integral Christian Practice, based in San Francisco. ReIMAGINE is a non-profit organization that fuels efforts to help people experience greater wholeness through encounters with the life and teachings of Jesus by awakening imagination, inviting participants into transformational experiences and empowering leaders who can transform their communities.

The two events are:

**Daytime** on Wednesday 7th March, 9:30am-12:30pm & 1:30pm-4:00pm: Create thriving cultures & practices hosted at **Murrumbeena Uniting Church**,

117 Murrumbeena Road, Murrumbeena. Two half-day workshops for local/regional church leaders & ministry workers, creating 'networks/communities of practice'

- Morning: Creating thriving family/intergenerational culture, "Belonging and Becoming"
- Afternoon: faith-full practices for discipleship and mission, "Practicing the Way of Jesus"

Participant cost \$40 (inc GST) includes refreshments & lunch.

**Evening** on Wednesday 7th March, 7:00pm-9:30pm: workshop on "Creating a thriving family culture"

Hosted at **Glen Waverley Uniting Church** Cnr. Bogong Ave & Kingsway, Glen Waverley

Evening workshop for families & leaders on creating thriving family culture, "Belonging & Becoming". Goals include connecting families with each other for ongoing encouragement, support, & accountability. Participant cost \$20 includes light refreshments.

**Registrations for both options are open now at [www.ucavt.goregister.com.au/scandrette2018/](http://www.ucavt.goregister.com.au/scandrette2018/)**

## David marks ASC's 21st birthday with more offers to share their work



I am currently offering the following dates to Churches interested in having me speak on the ongoing work of The Asylum Seekers Centre in Dandenong.

Last June, I completed 1,000 Sermons, and in November reached 2,000 in total speaking engagements.

On February 6th, The Centre will celebrate 21 years of operation, and on February 10th, I will be in Perth, supporting Kay Goldsworthy as she is installed as Archbishop of Perth. Currently available Sunday Mornings:

- February 4
- April 15, 22, 29
- May 6, 20, 27
- June 3
- July 1, 22, 29
- August 5, 12, 19, 26
- September 16
- October 7, 21, 28
- November 18, 25
- December 2, 9, 16

Please email me, or call me on my Mobile 0409 416 744, if you would like to book a Sunday Morning, or would like to discuss other options.

Yours in His Service,  
David Spitteler



## World Day of Prayer: Friday 2nd March, 2018

This year's service has been prepared by women of Suriname, a small country in the north of South America. They chose the theme: All God's Creation is Very Good! Look out for a WDP service in your area.



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



Uniting Church in Australia  
**PARISH OF BALKARA**

### 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**  
**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



# Cultivating a New Future: update

PROGRESS continues with the important PPEP consultation and strategy work - which will soon require congregational input. In the coming months regional presentations will be held to provide information for the chairperson and minister of each PPEP church on how to facilitate the three zone model discussion at their church council.

Says Phil McCredden, *pictured right*, of Ecclesia Leadership: "The purpose of the regional meetings is to provide both church council chairpersons and their minister a process for leading a discussion at their own church council meeting. When they discuss the model at their church council, we are asking them to determine where their church is, and to discuss the challenges this presents."

"It is important for ministers and representatives of the church council to participate in the regional presentations so they become familiar and comfortable with leading a discussion on the three-zone model, to enable their own church council discussion to be as effective and worthwhile as possible."



## 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.



The Uniting Church in Australia  
**OFFICER PAKENHAM MISSION AREA**  
Tivendale Road, Officer | 47 James Street, Pakenham

## FAMILIES MINISTRY POSITION (PART-TIME)



We have a 10-hour per week position for a Families Ministry person based at the Pakenham Uniting Church, commencing March 2018. We're multicultural, intergenerational and aim to strengthen ties with families who come into contact with us.

The position description can be obtained by emailing :

[pakenhamuca@bigpond.com](mailto:pakenhamuca@bigpond.com).

Applications close 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2018

For further information, contact Marie Harding on 5942 7326 or 0418 563 682

### St Mark's Uniting Church Mornington Office Administrator

Situated in the heart of Mornington, St Mark's Uniting Church is seeking to employ an experienced, committed person, as the Office Administrator. If you enjoy working with people and have skills in administration and finance this could be the position for you. This is an important role within our church and the Mornington community.

The successful applicant will support the Minister and the Children and Families Pastor, Playgroups program, and the various groups and committees of our church. In addition the successful applicant will assist the church community in fulfilling its vision and missional goals. The position includes oversight and coordination of the hire of our facilities to community organisations.

The successful applicant will:

- Possess strong interpersonal skills and be a good communicator,
- Be a self-starter, with an ability to work independently,
- Be proactive with an ability to demonstrate initiative, while also enjoying being part of a team,
- Be highly organised with strong planning and time management skills,
- Be a caring and compassionate person,
- Be proficient in the use of Microsoft packages and be conversant with MYOB and Pastoral Care programs.
- Have an interest in and a willingness to work within the ethos of the Uniting Church,
- Hold a current Working with Children Check

This position is part-time for 12 hours per week (currently 4 mornings, but negotiable)

To obtain a copy of the Position Description and to lodge an expression of interest please email: [mtonucaofficeapp@gmail.com](mailto:mtonucaofficeapp@gmail.com)

Applications close 12th February 2018.



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](https://www.facebook.com/ucappep.org) for news, events and more....