

NEWSBEAT



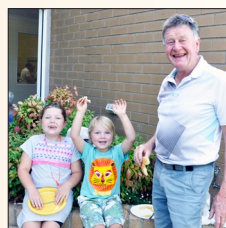
MARCH 2018

NEWSLETTER FOR THE PRESBYTERY OF PORT PHILLIP EAST



Could this tower be for the chop?

Topple over to page 3 for the full story of how it's not been a cake walk at Sandringham UCA recently.



You can't beat pancakes for bringing everyone together. Turn to page 4 and the back page for a taste of the flippin' community

by John
Connan

Call to action in support of cyclone hit

Tongans **Flash mob needed for urgent packing job**

TONGA recently suffered devastating cyclonic damage.

On TV you may have seen footage of the destruction of the 100+ year-old Parliament Building, below left, or scenes of devastation alongside a double-story school block – without realizing that that was Queen Salote College, the premier girls' school of our [Methodist] partner Church in Tonga.

More than 1,600 homes and 126 classrooms were destroyed or devastated. Salt-spray borne on the winds poisoned ground-crops; bananas and other fruits were stripped from trees - food will be short for six months. Many lost household effects.

Mission Liaison Group, having consulted the General Secretary of the Methodist Church in Tonga, is asking for second-hand or new tools, building materials, household effects and non-perishable food to send by shipping container as soon as possible. If you can't take the goods to 176 Chapel Road, Keysborough, Tues/Thurs, 8-10.30 am, ring John Connan on 0419 572 936.

The cost of shipping will be about \$5,500. If you can spare a donation in support of the funds for shipping MLG would be grateful. Cheques to the Treasurer, John Stollery, #24, 360

Cheltenham Road, Keysborough, 3173, or electronically transferred to Uniting Church Mission Liaison Group; CBA Chelsea; 063 118 10059600. Surplus funds will be transferred to the Methodist Church in Tonga for local distribution costs or emergency relief. **Packing Day will be Saturday, March 10, 8am - 11am, 176 Chapel Road, Keysborough, [Melway 94B1]. You're invited to be part of the "flash mob" to help with the packing. All help will be appreciated.**

... while Cornish is applauded for doing its bit for the planet

CORNISH College's EcoCentre has been shortlisted for the Greater Dandenong Sustainability Awards in the Sustainable Community Category. The Cornish EcoCentre allows students to learn and create outdoors and to build their own knowledge base around sustainability, animals, food production and the use of recycled materials.

The EcoCentre includes a nursery for flower, vegetable and native plant propagation; an aquaponics system; enclosures for chickens, ducks and

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."





It turned out to be a lovely day at Government House.

Volunteers and supporters listened to a one hour presentation by much-admired Governor, The Hon. Linda Dessau AC, Premier Daniel Andrew and assistants. Chris Marsh was presented with the group award on behalf of the Cranbourne Regional Uniting Food Truck team and at the photo shoot all members of the team received the same certificate and gift. The young man, pictured right, is the Premier's volunteer of the year - his name is Riley Briese and he established the Gateway Health Gender Service in the country.



The Mt Waverley Chadstone Inter Church Council is presenting The Way of the Cross on Good Friday
March 30th, writes
Margery Kennett.

The procession will start from St John's Uniting Church, 37 Virginia Street Mt Waverley at 11.15am. People will follow the Cross along Park Lane to Sherwood Park, and pause at Stations for readings, music and reflections. The procession then moves along Stephenson's Road for the final Station and refreshments at St John's. The banners used for the Stations were painted by Paul Gahan, a local Mt Waverley artist. For further information ring 9807 4084 or visit www.mtwaverleychadstonechurches.org.au



Readings

and *Conversation*

Based on the book by Diarmaid MacCulloch
and led by Malcolm Adams

Christianity has a deeply ambivalent relationship with silence. While one hymn exhorts the believer *"Tell out my soul"*, another warns *"Let all mortal flesh keep silence"*; Diarmaid MacCulloch charts this problematic and often contradictory relationship with aplomb in his book *Silence: A Christian History*.

This session will explore some of the themes MacCulloch raises, with the opportunity to discuss and reflect.

Tuesday 13 March

4:30 till 6:00 pm

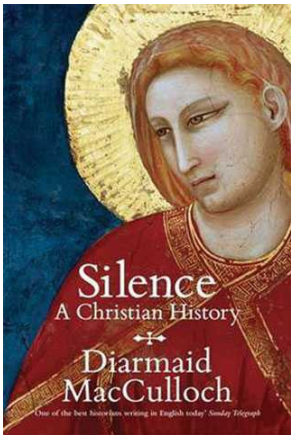
in the Parish Centre (or come earlier for Afternoon Tea)

Hampton Uniting Church

17 Service Street, Hampton VIC 3188

A gold coin donation would be appreciated
Enquiries: Tim Angus 0400 383 628

Preliminary reading material is available
Email: fordangus@fastmail.net



"THERE'S a Hippopotamus on our roof eating cake!" - well something has dropped a heavy piece of cake onto the footpath!

A monster comes to see - with long arms and a tiny cage to hold a stonemason and his apprentice.

They collect three buckets of loose masonry - it wasn't bits of cake falling on the footpath after all. Now it's safe.

But the monster lifts the men higher, to see cracks on the inside of the tower.

A structural engineer comes and takes a ride in the cage. Then he goes away, the men go away and the monster goes away.

We are waiting for a report - was it just a

hippopotamus sitting in our tower and eating cake?

We will erect safety scaffolding and wait for the report.

That's a story for another day.

by Christine MacDowall,
Sandringham UCA.



Is it 'off with its head' for the tower?

Any final words?

THE Frankston Interfaith Network hosted a panel discussion about the different understandings of death, and rituals around death, in a variety of faith traditions.

Rev David Fotheringham was one of the panel members, pictured below second left, along with Soofi Hakim (Islam), Rabbi Allison Conyer (Judaism), Azita Sobhani (Ba'hai), and Peter Howell (a psychologist and a Mormon). The discussion included questions about periods of mourning, suicide, and changes to funeral practices in recent times. About 20-30 people attended. David says it was a "safe place for people to ask curious questions and share personal experiences".



Moderator on tour



MODERATOR Rev Sharon Hollis dropped into High Street UC, Frankston, as part of her invitation tour of churches around VicTas, where she learned about their outreach programs such as Voices of Frankston Choir, a weekly sausage sizzle for the community, LARDER, E. Timor, N. India and more...

Photos by Rod Carruthers

Quote

"The belief in a supernatural source of evil (the Devil) is not an absolute necessity; men alone are quite capable of every wickedness."

Joseph Conrad, Polish-English author, England, 1857-1924

of the month



Important news for ministers and church councils

CULTIVATING a New Future is a cultural change process the Presbytery of Port Phillip East is undergoing to navigate the challenges we face as a presbytery in the changing reality of the church and community and the synod's Major Strategic Review.

Stage 1 includes compiling a range of information from congregations, ministers, interviews with key stakeholders and focus groups. This information will help the presbytery form strategy to support and encourage congregations in their ministry and mission. It will help the presbytery find the key areas we need to focus on into the future, and it will help the presbytery determine what staff it requires.



Key to Stage 1 is a survey of church council members and ministers so the presbytery understands and maps congregations supporting a strategy for leadership. Ministers and CC Chairs will need to explain this process to their church councils to ensure the presbytery receives the information it needs. To help with the process the steering team will hold **FOUR** regional information sessions. We are expecting ministers and chairs of church council (or delegate) to attend **ONE** of these sessions. The details are:

1. 7.30pm Wednesday 28th February 2018 - High Street Rd Uniting Church - Cnr High Street Road & Stewart Street, Mt Waverley. Facilitator: Rev Liz McMillan pm-pc@ucappep.org 0419 884 736
2. 3:30pm Sunday 4th March 2018 - Hastings Uniting Church - Cnr Hodgins Rd & Marine Pde, Hastings. Facilitator: Rev Fee Morrison feemorrison@netspace.net.au 0418 661 103
3. 4:00pm Sunday 4th March 2018 - St Leonard's Uniting Church, 2 Wolseley Grove, Brighton. Facilitator: Rev Hoon You hoonyou@gmail.com 0403 369 781
4. 7:30pm Wednesday March 7th 2018 - Endeavour Hills Uniting Church - 1 Hellyer Way, Endeavour Hills. Facilitator: Rev Cameron McAdam cameronmcadam@hotmail.com 0425774780

If you have ANY questions, please contact Cameron on cameronmcadam@hotmail.com 9787 1683, 0425 774 780.

Beachside fun-draiser draws the crowds

AS has been our practice for many years, we celebrated Pancake Night at the Beaumaris Uniting Church in the traditional way. Approximately 50 people



indulged themselves on delicious pancakes with a range of fruit toppings and ice-cream plus a wide choice of drinks. Some people enjoyed Fish and Chips on the lawn prior to their pancake dessert. It was a great opportunity for chatting and catching up on peoples' news at leisure with all money raised going to Uniting Care. A new initiative this year saw the men flipping pancakes on the barbecue! To see more flipping fun check out the photographs at our website: beaumarisunitingchurch.org.au/pancake-night-2018/

We were delighted to raise \$480 for Uniting to help families in crisis on the night. *by Alison Davies*



JOAN STOTT UCAF BURSARY

Are you:

- committed to or already studying for leadership or theology within the ethos of the Uniting Church
- under 35 years of age

Could you use funds to:

- pay fees to your "Place of Study"
- pay for additional courses or resources

Apply now for a Joan Stott Uniting Church Adult Fellowship (UCAF) Bursary for study in 2019

Contact:

Lencie Harding for more information and an application form E:
lencie.harding@gmail.com
Applications closing date is Thursday 31st May

Tips for new students: by Andrew Fuller sent in by Rod Dungan

1. Make friends with everyone. Parents, teachers, friends. Reduce stress levels by having as many positive friendships as you can.
2. Acknowledge your inner genius. Practice doing your best in life and you will succeed.
3. Know that geniuses make mistakes. People who achieve a lot know that you have to make mistakes to learn.
4. Prepare yourself for learning. Find ways to reduce distractions.
5. Live up your life and get enough sleep. Sleep helps you to manage stress, stay happy and also increases your marks.
6. Be healthy - eat breakfast. A lack of protein can actually cause headaches, concentration problems and low energy.
7. Do the most important things first. Write a to-do list each week.
8. Use your time well. If you can focus and listen well while at school you can save yourself endless hours.
9. From little things big things grow. Do a little bit, often.
10. Focus and immerse yourself. For some time every day switch off all technology and focus on your study.
11. Don't try to predict the future. Do the important things first and do them regularly.
10. Be curious. Look out for and learn things that are interesting.
11. Be active; break out into a sweat now and then.

A fuller list of student pointers at www.ucappep.org/What's On

Juicy art show bursts forth this month

Kinross Arts Centre warmly invites you to the Exhibition Opening of Succulents in Situ - a solo exhibition by Jo Reitze.

Featuring paintings and drawings of gardens and succulent plants
Special Guest Speaker: Sandi Pullman - Head Gardener, La Trobe Cottage.

When & Where: Sunday March 4, 3pm - 5pm,
Kinross Arts Centre, 603 Toorak Road, Toorak
(alongside Toorak Uniting Church.)

The exhibition runs until Friday 29th March, 2018 Open 10am - 3pm,
Monday to Friday. All works for sale.

ALSO FEATURED THIS MONTH:

"Women & Wisdom" International Women's Day Morning Event

When & Where: Thursday 8th March, 10am - 11.30am; Hodges Gallery
Coffee and Conversation to share wisdom for today's busy world. Jo Reitze will be in attendance. A contribution of \$5.00 per person towards catering is anticipated.

We look forward to seeing you. Bring a friend and enjoy!

If you are interested
in attending either
event bookings MUST
be made through
Lyndel Wischer,
Manager Kinross
Arts Centre www.kinrossarts.org.au
Tel. 03 9829 0340
Mob. 0404 078 105
(Gallery; Studios;
Cafe - open 9am -
3pm Monday - Friday)



Op Shop a triumph of ecumenism

The Toorak Ecumenical Opportunity Shop has operated for more than 35 years as an outreach initiative from three Toorak Churches – St. John's Anglican Church, St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church and Toorak Uniting Church.

Staffed by many volunteers six days a week, most of the volunteers are drawn from membership of the three churches. The Op Shop receives second-hand goods, mostly clothing, sorts and re-sells a proportion of the stock. Each year the Op Shop gives the proceeds of its sales to numerous charities; last year the generous financial support from the Op Shop to those in need amounted to

\$252,000, given directly through around 35 grass-roots charities.

The Op Shop accepts donations of clothing and bric-a-brac, books and glass-ware. Items are sorted for most readily saleable, priced and displayed, or stored for seasonal sale. The remainder of incoming stock is distributed to other charitable organisations to sell; recipients including Broadmeadows Op Shop.

The Op Shop, at 1a Caters Ave, Toorak, with a public car park opposite was joint winner in 2010 of the Stonnington Community Award. The operation of the Toorak Op Shop has given more than \$1.5 million to charities in the past 30 years. Moreover, the Op Shop is a celebration of volunteerism, ecumenism, generosity, and a place of friendship.

The following is a list of the recipient organisations to whom the Toorak UC portion of the money generated by the Op Shop was distributed as a result of its work in 2017: Avalon Centre; Berry Street Family Service; Black Rhino Basketball Club helping South Sudanese assimilate; Broadmeadows Uniting Care; Harrison Community Services UnitingCare; HALT (Hope Assisting Local Tradies); John McCrae Centre Day Care centre for the Elderly; Kildonan Uniting Care; Prahran Mission Uniting Care; VICSEG - New Future-Programs for Family, Children & Young People; P.S. My Family Matters; Manningham LINC (Volunteers Working with Refugees & Elderly); Western Tigers Football Club – South Sudanese Integration Program; TUC Minister's Discretionary Fund.

by Carlo Jack



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

Planning Ahead Information Sessions

Managing Anxiety & Depression

FREE community information sessions to help you make informed decisions

Uniting AgeWell is here to help you understand anxiety and depression, with the help of experienced professionals.

Anxiety and depression are both serious mental health conditions. Anxiety occurs when anxious feelings make it hard to cope with daily life, while depression is an ongoing intense sadness that also affects physical health. Unfortunately, older Australians can be particularly vulnerable to these conditions.

During this information session, a guest psychologist and our chaplain will provide useful tools to help you or your family/friends manage these conditions.

Tuesday, 13 March

2pm – 4pm

Uniting AgeWell Noble Park Community

1312 Heatherton Road
Noble Park 3174

Light refreshments provided

📞 9554 0700

📍 unitingagewell.org/planning



Next month: *Understanding Dementia*
Tuesday 10 April, 2pm – 4pm

‘Peninsula in Peril’

Rabbi Jonathan Keren-Black (member of ARRCC, *The Australian Religious Response to Climate Change*) shows why all Faiths urge us to care for our environment. Watch **Al Gore’s** new film:

‘An Inconvenient Sequel - Truth to Power’.



Uniting Church, 6 Murray-Anderson Rd, Rosebud 3939
Sunday 18th March 2018, 5pm – 8pm
Entry (for light tea) \$10 (\$5 concession)
[Proceeds to assist the work of GreenFaith ARRCC]

All welcome whatever your faith or beliefs

Enquiries, RSVP, Bronwyn Pryor, Mob. 0412 301450 bron@pryor.org.au



Myer man takes the reins at UCA Funds

UCA Funds Management - which holds accounts for many individuals and organisations in our Presbytery - has appointed a new CEO, Mathew Browning. Chairperson Dr David Cousins AM says:

“Mathew is a proven asset manager and advisory business leader, with a strong track record.” Mr Browning brings more than 25 years’ experience in financial services,



property and professional services to UCA Funds Management, in roles across Australia, Asia and the UK. This experience includes a decade with the Myer Family Company (MFCo).

Reflecting on the appointment, Mr Browning adds: “I am excited to be a part of UCA Fund

Management’s deep ethical investment heritage and to be joining its passionate team.”



Ahead of his retirement on 28 February, current Chief Executive Officer Michael Walsh, pictured left, will be handed over the mantle to Mr Browning on February 5. “We would like to thank Michael for his significant contribution as CEO over the past five years. In this period, UCA Funds Management grew from \$820 million to the \$1.1 billion

today and consolidated its leadership in the ethical investment sector,” concludes Dr Cousins.

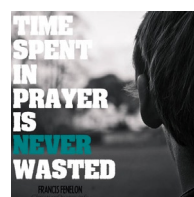
“Michael has helped build a sound foundation for the business, allowing it to become the first faith-based social enterprise to be licensed by the Australian Securities and Investments Commission as a Responsible Entity.”

Want to understand how the budget affects you?

UCA Funds also opened up early registrations for their budget breakfast recently, after selling out a week before the event last year, so they recommend registering as soon as possible. Treasurers, board and committee members attend to understand how the budget might impact congregations and charities.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/not-for-profit-post-budget-breakfast-tickets-43153240504?aff=UCAFMWeb>

Details also from Stephanie Duthie (03) 9251 5458.

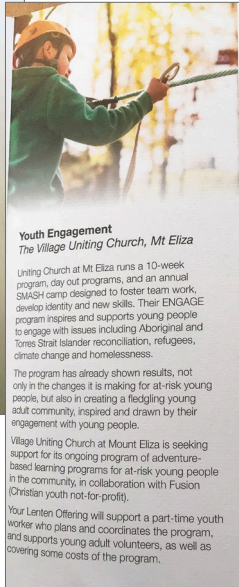


Loving God, as the optimism of youth recedes under the hard grit of daily life, please maintain within us the buoyancy of your sisterly Spirit, and the will-fullness of your lovely Christ.

Amen

from *Brief Prayers for Busy People*, Bruce Prewer available from www.booktopia.com.au

Ilma reaches a century with 100 balls



Youth Engagement
The Village Uniting Church, Mt Eliza

Uniting Church at Mt Eliza runs a 10-week program, day out programs, and an annual SMASH camp designed to foster team work, develop identity and new skills. Their ENGAGE program inspires and supports young people to engage with issues including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander reconciliation, refugees, climate change and homelessness.

The program has already shown results, not only in the changes it is making for at-risk young people, but also in creating a fledgling young adult community, inspired and drawn by their engagement with young people.

Village Uniting Church at Mount Eliza is seeking support for its ongoing program of adventure-based learning programs for at-risk young people in the community, in collaboration with Fusion (Christian youth not-for-profit).

Your Lenten Offering will support a part-time youth worker who plans and coordinates the program, and supports young adult volunteers, as well as covering some costs of the program.

A gift to youth

THE Village Church, Mt Eliza is celebrating after its Youth Engagement work was chosen by Uniting (Share) as one of four projects for the 2018 Moderator's Lenten Appeal. Look out for the brochure, cover above, in your church, for more information.

Rev Cameron McAdam, minister at The Village Church says: "It's great that a project in Port Phillip East Presbytery has been chosen, and we hope people will support us, and the other projects, selected for the Appeal."



of wool so she can continue her hobby of knitting for charities. Ilma moved from independent living in Mornington 16 months ago but keeps in touch with her many friends at St Mark's.

Pictured right is Ilma showing her letter from the Queen to her Mornington friends.

Editor's note: special thanks to Rev John Haig for this piece, and many others. John announced his retirement from full-time ministry as at December 31, having concluded 50 years of continuous pastoral ministry in January 2018.



Family matters at our presbytery churches

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

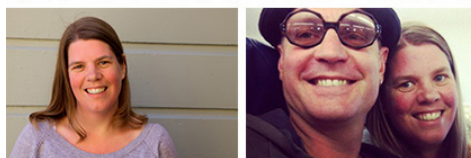
Hosted at **Glen Waverley Uniting Church** Cnr. Bogong Ave & Kingsway, Glen Waverley Evening workshop for families & leaders on creating thriving family culture, "Belonging & Becoming". Goals include connecting families with each other for ongoing encouragement, support, & accountability. Participant cost \$20 includes light refreshments. **Registrations for both options are open now at www.ucavt.goregister.com.au/scandrette2018/**

Create a thriving family culture with Mark and Lisa Scandrette

Join Mark and Lisa to explore the eight essentials of family culture that help each person to flourish. Families come in all sorts of configurations, but all families can provide the secure space of 'belonging and becoming' which everybody needs in order to thrive.

Mark and Lisa's book 'Belonging and Becoming' will help your church community to reach out in love and mission to nurture families for the good of the world.

Could this be the approach that not only nurtures each family in your local church, but helps you to reach out and build relationships with families in your local neighbourhood?



“ Your family can be a space of **belonging**, where each person feels safe, loved, cherished and cared for, and a place of **becoming**, where you help one another discover and develop how you participate in the greater good. **”**

• Tue 6 March,
Living Faith Church,
37 Grimshaw St, Greensborough

• Wed 7 March,
Glen Waverley Uniting Church,
Cnr. Bogong Ave & Kingsway, Glen Waverley

Time: 7.00pm - 9.30pm

Cost: \$30 per person Includes light refreshments & book

Stronger numbers at PiC meeting

OUR first meeting for 2018 was held at Noble Park on 21 February. This was the best attended PiC meetings we've had in recent times. Rev Andrew Boyle, Presbytery Chairperson, led a Commission Service for Mr Jeff Gardner, the new Presbytery Treasurer and for convenors and members of the various Presbytery committees. Andrew spoke to his presentation on *The Issues at Play In the Presbytery*, which included the conclusion of the Presbytery Minister, Administration; four years of part time Presbytery Minister, Mission & Education; reduced administrative capacity and developing a full time supply role to September, 2018 to cover administration, mission and education. Rev Sue Withers from the Centre for Theology & Ministry addressed the meeting on consensus decision making and Rev Cameron McAdam informed the Presbytery on the progress made to date with Cultivating a New Future and the work still to be done.

by Ian Firth

Making our churches safer places

Upcoming Safe Church Training sessions:

- Sunday 18 February at 2pm at Pakenham UC (register at revannsim@gmail.com)
- Sunday 25 Feb at 1.30 pm at Chelsea (register at clairedawe@hotmail.com)
- Tuesday 20 March at 9.30 am and at 7 pm at Mt Eliza (register at clairedawe@hotmail.com)
- Tuesday 10 April at 9.30 am at Rosebud (register at clairedawe@hotmail.com)

Presbytery in Council meeting dates

- 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.



ST. Andrews, Berwick is seeking a part-time (0.5) Family & Children's Worker to:

- Co-ordinate and lead a new

playgroup at St Andrew's for local disadvantaged Anglos, migrants and refugee families, offering pastoral care and support for them. Resources include a purpose built room and building, the minister, lay helpers, and possibly Uniting Church agency staff. (This is negotiable, but possibly Tuesdays 9.30- 12 noon.)

- Lead Kids' Church/ Sunday school fortnightly in the Worship@9 weekly format, utilising a range of activities for families to explore faith. This includes utilising the resources of the minister, lay leaders, the Ministry Centre and the garden.
- Provide pastoral care and support to children and families who are involved in the two Play groups and Worship@9 during school terms
- To develop and co-ordinate "Messy Church" or "EEE" i.e. "Eat-Explore-Experience"

For a full job description and application details, visit the Presbytery website What's On page.

Gone but not forgotten

REV John Mann, our former Presbytery Minister, Administration, was inducted into Burwood Uniting Church, to a packed house on Friday, February 16.

His warm welcome included the secretary of the Church Council, Jessie Clark, pictured, and the lady standing next to her is the Chair, Joan Addison. John didn't waste much time getting involved in the Burwood community and is also pictured flipping pancakes with Honorable Graeme Watt MP, Member for the State Parliamentary seat of Burwood (centre with other volunteers from Burwood UC.)

Congratulations John, we will miss you, and thank you for your time and efforts at Port Phillip East. Keep in touch.



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.

Visit the Presbytery website at www.ucappep.org and www.facebook.com/ucappep.org for news, events and more....