

NEWSBEAT



MAY 2018

NEWSLETTER FOR THE PRESBYTERY OF PORT PHILLIP EAST



Presbytery involvement across the region on ANZAC Day. Turn to page 3 to see another place where we feed into community life.



Cabaret stars come to Kinross Arts Centre for their annual fundraiser. Dance over to page 7 to see how you can enjoy these singing sensations.

Will Uniting Church ministers be able to marry same-gender couples?

by Andrew Boyle, Presbytery Chair



AT the triennial meeting of the Uniting Church's National Assembly, being held here in Melbourne in July, a report will be presented to enable the church to reconsider our understanding and practice of marriage in the Uniting Church.

This report was requested by the last Assembly meeting in 2015.

[The public also voted 'yes' to Marriage Equality in December 2017

- legalising same-sex marriage.]

The outcome of the deliberations in July may be that there will be some changes to who Uniting Church ministers are able to marry. In preparation for this debate, we held a conversation about Marriage Equality at the April meeting of Presbytery - Standing Committee is conscious that both clergy and congregations must



? be aware that this issue is being considered by our church.

In small groups we were invited to consider four possible options we anticipate may be offered as ways forward on the issue. Members were invited to respond with how they felt about the options, which one/s appealed to them most and how they believe their communities would respond to change, or the possibility that nothing may change. There was a warm

and receptive tone to the conversation. A proposal to send to the Assembly meeting was tabled, which the Presbytery will consider further at a meeting to be held in late May/early June. For further information talk to your minister or Presbytery representative.

Leaders learn what's necessary to keep Somers safe and sound

AT the recent Somers leadership conference 2018 - held at the end of April - the group learned all they need to know to make this fantastic annual camp a happy and secure environment.

The group learned about working with children with special and particular needs, how to run activities and groups, first aid, safe church, communication skills and identifying learning styles using DiSC.

We are grateful to Richmond Uniting Church and Rev Sally Douglas for their financial support of the conference.

Registrations for campers and slushies are open now so get in quick at <https://www.somerscamp.com.au/register/> The leadership conference was open to young people and adults wanting to train for leadership roles in their own

Cont. on page 2



Sunshine and smiles as Somers leaders re-connect and develop leadership skills.

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



Leaders learn what's necessary to keep Somers safe and sound



Cont. from front page churches, schools and congregations.

Look out for information in 2019!
Thanks to Moderator Sharon Hollis who joined us on the Saturday for training and for lunch.

by Rev Claire Dawe



Vanessa is the greatest showgirl

ALSO
Somers Camp regular Vanessa Fuller went off to join the circus recently! Vanessa was one of the featured 'Casey Kids' in the Circus Oz pre entertainment at Bunjil Place Theatre.



Along with eight other local teens, Vanessa, who features on Cranbourne Food Truck fliers, attended several training sessions over the term break to learn the various skills necessary for a physical circus performance such as balancing, tumbling, juggling and hoops. Confidence, team work and resilience were an important part of the program and she gave a very polished, professional performance.

Wit and wisdom



Death and Reconciliation explored

THE 'Side Door Social Justice Hub', based at St. John's, Elsternwick held its second Death Cafe recently. Death Cafes are a world-wide phenomenon which invites participants to talk about issues around death in a relaxed setting. Our first in 2017, with Nina Springle, coincided with 'Assisted Dying' legislation in the Victorian Parliament; she played a part in drawing up the legislation. The normal practice is not to have an agenda or speaker, and so the recent one on April 15th saw small groups sitting around tables, enjoying afternoon tea and talking about death, driving their own agenda. There was hardly a silent moment in the room for over an hour. The Hub and St. John's has been recognised for its work by having Rev. Philip Liebelt invited onto the Glen Eira Council's Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) Advisory Group, which is working on a Council statement to aid reconciliation for our First Peoples. The Side Door is hosting a Q&A Forum between Reconciliation and NAIDOC weeks on Thursday June 14th at 7pm at St. Johns, 567 Glen Huntly Rd, Elsternwick. The panel includes indigenous members of the RAP Advisory Group. Melissa Bickford is chair and Strategic Communications Manager of Aboriginal Victoria. John Murray is a Koorie Education Support Officer. They will share something of their story and what reconciliation looks like to them. Further details can be obtained by contacting Philip on 0400 631264 or philipliebelt@gmail.com and will be on the Side Door Social Justice Hub Facebook page.

by Rev. Philip Liebelt



ST ANDREWS GARDINER UNITING CHURCH
FÊTE FESTIVAL
 1560 MALVERN RD GLEN IRIS
 10:00 AM TO 02:00 PM

GARAGE SALES : CLOTHES, ART & CRAFT, JEWELLERY ,
 TOYS AND MORE ITEMS
 GAMES AND ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS
 SAUSAGE SIZZLES, FOOD& DRINKS

PARKING AVAILABLE AT GARDINER STATION CAR PARK
 A SHORT WALK TO CHURCH

FROM US TOGETHER FOR THIS COMMUNITY

ANZAC spirit moved in Mornington



Mornington

REV John Haig, from St Mark's Mornington held the community together in prayer and messages of peace on ANZAC Day, without undermining the sacrifices so many men and women had made in the field of battle for our freedom. The ANZAC Parade, complete with drums and brass band, saw community groups young and old walk together to mark this



Cornish College represented at Chelsea



important day of remembering the fallen. Before war veterans and students from schools around the area read poems, biographies of Mornington WWI volunteers, an ANZAC Requiem and an Honour Roll of the Fallen at Mornington War Memorial. The Last Post and Reveille stirred tears for many, as did Sub Lieut. Emily Batista RAN, from HMAS Cerberus, speech about those lives that were 'paid for in blood, but celebrated in freedom.'



"ANZAC Day goes beyond the anniversary of the landing on Gallipoli in 1915. It is the day on which we remember all Australians who served and died in war and on operational service. The spirit of ANZAC, with its qualities of courage, mateship, and sacrifice, continues to have meaning and relevance for our sense of national identity." Anzac Day as described by the Longbeach RSL in Chelsea.



Pictured are Cornish College School Captains Kennedy, Matthew, Gabe and Alice as well as Head of Senior School Mr Phillips and Year 10 form teacher and secondary science, mathematics and physics teacher, Mr Byrne marched in yesterday's ANZAC Day Parade in Chelsea.

... and Cranbourne UCA invited to join the proceedings

Rev Ineke Gyles participated in the 11am ANZAC Day Service at Cranbourne today and several congregation members were also spotted in the crowd. We will remember them.



Witness
and **Resistance**

Images from the Book of Revelation for a world in crisis



Led by
Rev Robyn Whitaker



How imagery of the strange world of the Apocalypse might speak in our world

Robyn Whitaker is the Bromby Senior Lecturer in Biblical Studies and Academic Dean of Trinity College Theological School. She explored the imagery of the Book of Revelation as part of her Doctoral Thesis

Wednesday 2 May 2018

7:30 till 9:00pm in the Parish Centre following a **light dinner** at 6:30pm

Hampton Uniting Church 17 Service Street, Hampton VIC 3188

A joint presentation with Holy Trinity Anglican Church Hampton
\$15 / \$10 concession includes dinner – for catering, prior advice is helpful. (\$10 / \$7 session only)
Enquiries: Tim Angus 0400 383 628 Email: dayspringcontact@hotmail.com

Hastings gets crafty for another year



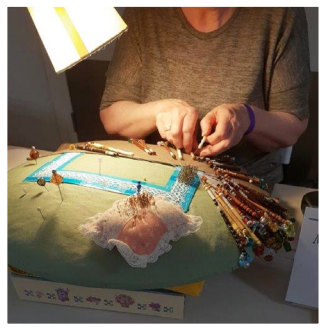
HASTINGS Congregation of the Western Port Parish has been hosting the Western Port Craft Expo for the last 6 years.

This year we had to move away from the Hastings church due to outgrowing the venue. In partnership with the Hastings Community Hub we held it at their site. This meant that all but the coffee cart were inside and protected from the wind and rain on the 14th April this year.

This is a great event, showcasing craft from the local area, we also have talks from artisans, crafty kids, have-a-go crafts - from leather making, card making, Saori weaving and Indigenous basket weaving.

This is a great community event, building relationships across our local community and within our parish.

by Rev Fiona Morrison



Spotted on

facebook

Great celebration yesterday at Connections Dandenong to recognise Jo Austin, second left, as a Pastor working with Hampton Park and UnitingConnections. [Rev Deacon Mat Harry & PMPC Rev Liz MacMillan, second right, were all smiles.]



Yesterday was another amazing night with the Men of Faith Forum. So many people gathered at Murrumbeena UC to come and listen to five incredible men share their own stories and how their faith impacts each of their lives.

Thank you: Jasbir Singh Suropada, Imam Riad Galil, Rev Dr Alexander (Sandy) Yule, Dinesh Weerakkody and Rabbi Shamir Caplan; for sharing with all that came, for the conversations had, and for the questions asked. Again, what a privilege it was for us to gather to learn and grow more together as faithful and 'faith-full' people.



Calling for Creative Responses to the theme of UCA Assembly 2018: Abundant Grace, Liberating Hope

- What do you hear in this theme and how does it speak into your life and the life of our Church?
- LOGO – what do you see in this expression of the theme?
- What are the ways you hear and see God's abundant grace at work in the world, and in and through the church?
- Where do you experience God's liberating hope in your life and where you see the Church embodying this liberating hope?
- Where do you hear this theme expressed in the Biblical Story?
- What songs do you hear echoing this theme? Is there a song you are prompted to write/sing in response to the theme?
- What prayers are evoked in you by this theme? (Including prayers of adoration, praise, confession, lament, prayers for the world, the church,)
- Are there photos that you have taken, that reflect this theme?
- Are there other visual images/symbols/icons that emerge for you, as you reflect on/are inspired by this theme?
- In what other ways might you to give expression to the theme?

Send creative responses to iferguson@icloud.com by May 31st 2108

Selected responses will be used to resource the church during the Presidency of Deidre Palmer.

Marking the Way of the Cross

A POWERFUL outdoor ecumenical service took place thanks to Mt Waverley Chadstone Interchurch Council on Good Friday.

Way of the Cross 2018 is the second year that the images painted by local artist Paul Gahan, and printed on banners, have been used. The procession began with the first Station at St John's Uniting Church. People then followed the Cross along Park Lane to Sherwood Park, and paused at Stations for readings, music and reflections as they walked around the park. Rev James Douglas led the singing of hymns and chants between the stations. The procession then moved along Stephenson's Road to the final Station at St John's. About 160 people from the 14 member churches attended, participated in the drama and readings and then enjoyed hot cross buns, tea and coffee.



Words by Margery Kennett, photos by Ian Bock.

Quote "I am blessed to have so many great things in my life - family, friends and God. All will be in my thoughts daily."
of the month
 Lil' Kim

Bible studies over buns and biscuits



Members of Armadale Uniting Church meet for Bible study over a late afternoon tea for the first of a series of Bible studies leading up to Pentecost.

Submitted by Karel Reus

Singalong success attracts special guest

THIS year's Hymn Fest at St Andrew's Berwick UC welcomes special guest artists, Monique Churchill, and Journey Bound. Monique is a wonderful professional singer, actor and teacher from Cranbourne. Many people will recognise her from her successful TV appearances on 'Australia's got talent' a few years ago, (when she was Monique Le Bas, and sang operatic pieces).

Journey bound is Rev Wendy Snook's band, with Sharon Start, Maurie Richardson and John Wilson. They recently performed at the Rhyll Wooden Boat Festival, and this Saturday will be performing at the Mordialloc Train Festival. We are also looking for extra singers to sing with the St Andrews Choir for this special event. A warm invitation is extended to members of your church choir/singing group and congregation to join with St. Andrew's Berwick Uniting Church Choir members to lead the singing in our 2018 'Hymn Fest' hymn-singing afternoon on Sunday 3rd June at 2.00pm at St Andrew's Berwick Uniting Church.

St. Andrew's Berwick Uniting Church

Hymn Fest

Join the Choir!

We need singers to sing in the choir on the day and lead the congregational singing of a long list of favourite hymns, both old and new, and perform alongside "Journey Bound" band and soloist Monique Churchill.

Our first ever event last year was a huge success with an overflowing church!

No singing ability or experience required.

Sunday 3rd June
2.00pm
St. Andrew's Berwick Uniting Church
 105 High Street, Berwick

Contact Matthew Clark 0437 397 369 mc1287@hotmail.com





Low Sunday proves to be a high point at Beaumaris UCA

THE Sunday after Easter Sunday is traditionally known as *Low Sunday*, probably so named because of its relative unimportance in contrast with Easter Sunday, *writes Alison Davies*.

On Sunday 8th April Reverend John Connan asked all members of the Congregation to wear bright colours and “silly hats” and bring along funny religious jokes to share with the congregation. The Service Sheet began with the words “Because this is a day of the unexpected, the Order of Service may include the following but who knows exactly what their sequence may be?!” and that’s exactly how it was. Rev. Connan’s reflection was based largely around the



“Smiling Christ” and the joy that emanated from his preachings and that’s how the service transpired. Not

a single member of the congregation left without a feeling of joy in their hearts and a broad smile on their faces. Each hymn was sung with fervour – hymns such as Rejoice the Lord is King, Lord of the Dance, Give Me Joy in My Heart, Rejoice in the Lord Always and Again I Say

Rejoice, Joy is the Flag Flown High from the Castle of my Heart, and finally You Shall Go Out With Joy and Be Led Forth in Peace. For a Low Sunday we all went out on an absolute high!!!! Once again the church was filled with the splendour of our Easter Garden on Easter Sunday.

Reflections on Faith

IN the days of the theological hall at Ormond College, Principal Hector MacLean taught students Old Testament studies and Hebrew. His pastoral experience and simplicity and depth in sermon preparation were evident in his practical approach to our training. At the end of each year graduating students were invited to afternoon tea at his home along the tiny crescent where our professors lived. Mrs MacLean was a gracious lady and a wonderful host. It was a special time for nine of us. We were privileged to have been at Ormond. Hector inspired us with a love for the Old Testament and the importance of disciplined preparation. He prayed before each lesson with moving *ex tempore* prayers. Someone said Hector prayed like an angel. He gave us a sense of real fellowship as he presided over The Lord’s Supper in chapel.



A Special Afternoon Tea, by Rev Bill Pugh

How fortunate we nine were as we met on that final afternoon tea in his home. Not long after, the nine were ordained into parishes in Victoria, Tasmania and the Northern Territory. One became naval chaplain. Another, a specialist in Hebrew, became a respected teacher with the Presbyterian Church in Korea. Another, a skilled tradesman, returned to the New Hebrides, now Vanuatu, to serve with his wife, a nurse. Later they sponsored two young men from there for education in Australia. On returning, one became Chief of Police, and the other the Secretary of the Presbyterian Church in the New Hebrides. At Ormond College the nine, under guidance by Hector MacLean other lecturers and teachers, were given a solid foundation which served us well, in many challenging fields of mission. Wonderful wives gave selfless devotion and support, in sometimes trying conditions.

Reflection: Lord, thank you for Bible study, inspiring teachers and faithful prayers. For the unstinting support of wives and partners in fields of mission. As we share our joys and concerns each Sunday, may we remember those who serve in ministry, near and far. As areas of need are reported, remind us to be generous in our giving.



Making our churches safer places

Safe Church Training at:

- High Street Rd Mt Waverley UC - on 8 May 2-4pm High Street Rd Mt Waverley Contact neilwhitt@optusnet.com.au for details.
- A Safe Church Training session will be held at the Southern Mornington Peninsula UC, 6 Murray Anderson Rd Rosebud on Wednesday 9 May from 9.30am. Register with Rev Claire Dawe at clairedawe@hotmail.com

Prevention is better than cure

Uniting AgeWell has implemented an enhanced flu vaccination and infection control program to ensure all its communities are well prepared for the coming flu season. The organisation is rolling out a comprehensive flu immunisation schedule for staff, including immunisation clinics at all sites throughout April and May, to ensure all employees have easy access to vaccinations free of charge.



Uniting AgeWell CEO Andrew Kinnersly said while the organisation previously offered staff free flu vaccines each year, this year they had enhanced the vaccination program and expected all staff to receive the flu vaccine, unless they were unable to for medical reasons.

“Last year was the worst flu season witnessed across Australia and a very difficult time for people in aged care,” he said. “We have made it very clear to our staff, through multiple communications including staff meetings, newsletters, videos and posters, that we expect them to receive the flu vaccinations unless they are medically exempt.

KINROSS CABARET

(annual fundraiser) -
Saturday 19th May,
7.30pm - 10pm, 2018
Toorak Uniting Church,
Faichney Room.

Featuring the Fabulous
Jazz Vocal Quartet -
The Velvetones
and our very own Nina
Mumford.

Book at <https://www.trybooking.com/VCLA>
\$40 and \$30 concession;
Door Sales available.

Cabaret Seating; Drinks included; BYO Supper Plate; Silent Auction with 2 Holiday House Weekend Away Prizes; Raffle Prizes.
Enquiries: Lyndel 0404 078 105

PLUS

JULIANA'S MOTHER'S DAY NECKLACES EXHIBITION & SALE

Thursday 10th May - Saturday 12th May 2018

Kinross Arts Centre - Hodges Gallery

You're Invited: Opening Event on Thursday 10th May at 11am; please join the artist for conversation about her work and a glass of bubbles. A donation from funds raised will be given to St Kilda Mums.
Enquiries: Juliana 0400 100 394

10am - 3pm Each Day; Devonshire Tea served on Saturday from 10am - 2pm.

Where: 603 Toorak Road, Toorak

Gallery & Manse Gallery Cafe Open 10am - 3pm, Monday to Friday
General Enquiries: Tel 0404 078 105 or 9829 0340



Life is a cabaret, old chum

Planning Ahead Information Sessions

The Journey into Aged Care

FREE community information sessions to help you make informed decisions

Leading aged care provider Uniting AgeWell aims to reduce the unknowns when it comes to residential care.

Are you considering residential care? Are you unsure where to start or who to talk to?

Our panel, which includes Uniting AgeWell Admissions Manager Sharon D'Rozario, Client Services Coordinator Nickie Arthur and our community coordinators, will explain the process from start to finish during this session.

Learn about My Aged Care, how to prepare for your assessment and which documents you require for admission into residential care.

9554 0700

unitingagewell.org/planning

Tuesday, 8 May
2pm - 4pm

Uniting AgeWell Noble Park Community

1312 Heatherton Road
Noble Park 3174

Light refreshments provided



Sacredodge

Spirituality in Diversity

festival
of
arts, music,
& ideas

QUEENSLIFF UNITING CHURCH
MAY 4-6, 2018

Information
www.unitingqueenscliff.org.au
03 5258 2854

- Focus:**
 - Indigenous
 - Refugees
 - LGBTI
 - Sustainability
 - Mental Health
- Explores:**
 - The Sacred
 - Justice
- Inclusive Community**
- Features:**
 - Keynote Speakers
 - Performances
 - Art Exhibition



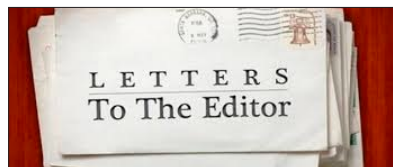
Special meeting promises to be challenging but valuable



WE are getting to the pointy end of stage 1 of 'Cultivating a New Future', the presbytery's cultural change process.

Stage 1 is about compiling information through survey work, conversations, focus groups and forums and seeing what key challenges and issues are facing the presbytery, especially considering the Synod's Major Strategic Review and the changing nature of the community around us, the post-Christian context.

Last week the steering committee worked our way through the first draft of our consultant, Phil McCredden's report to the presbytery. We had a rich conversation talking about what surprised and challenged us.



The report will be presented at the next Standing Committee meeting and to the full presbytery at a special

by
Rev
Cameron
McAdam

At its 2017 meeting, the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania proposed a restructure of and financial constraints for Presbyteries. As a result of these decisions, the Synod Ecumenical Relations Committee (ERC) is concerned ecumenical opportunities within Presbyteries may be further limited. The ERC strongly urges Presbytery Standing Committees and Presbytery Reps to consider the appointment of a permanent position, with delegated authority, of a Presbytery Ecumenical Officer.

The appointment would need to be a person (lay or ordained, retired or in placement) who is:

- committed to the 'ecumenical movement';
- prepared to initiate and encourage ecumenical events around the presbytery;
- and act as the 'official presbytery contact' for reporting to the ERC and receiving communications from the ERC.

Our challenge in this 21st Century is to keep alive the ecumenical spirit and action that we, as the UCA, inherited in our founding principles. Yours in Christ,
Peter Weeks, Convenor

Family ties

HANNAH Dungan, centre, and Brenda Cooper were commissioned as Youth Co-ordinator and Pastoral Care Co-ordinator at Frankston UC recently.



meeting on May 30th.

The report includes an overview of all the data, along with analysis and observations.

It will take some time to read through properly and I encourage you to set time aside to read the report thoroughly in readiness for May 30th. At this meeting we'll discuss some of the key cultural issues we face, and in stage 2 we'll discern together which of these we believe we need to work on together.

As I said at the last Presbytery meeting, this feels like a line in the sand, a vital moment where we can together make some steps and choices about the church's future. For those of us who minister and work for the church, here lies a moment when we can improve our workplaces and choose to work together. Please come on the 30th with a good and open heart.

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

New face on Presbytery Standing Committee

Presbytery in Council meeting dates

- Please note that there will be a **special PIC meeting on Wednesday 30 May** to hear and discuss the outcome of the **Cultivating our Future survey**.
- 20 June
- 15 August
- 17 October
- 12 December

ALL 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.



At the Presbytery meeting held on 18 April, Mr Rod Dungan was elected to the

Presbytery Standing Committee (PSC). Rod is currently working in a designated placement and community ministry at



Brentwood Secondary College. He has been involved in youth work since 1980 and has worked in various congregations in Canberra, South Australia, Tasmania and Victoria as well as for the Assembly.

His broad experience of the Church and especially youth work will be of great value to PSC as it grapples with the complex issues facing the church today.

If you would like to submit a news item for the Presbytery's monthly Newsbeat newsletter please send all articles and images to newsbeat@ucappeg.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.ucappeg.org and www.facebook.com/ucappeg.org for news, events and more....