

NEWSBEAT



NEWSLETTER FOR THE PRESBYTERY OF PORT PHILLIP EAST

JUNE 2018



Och aye! It was a canny wee day down at Cranbourne Uniting recently. Toss the caber over to page 2 to see why this bonny Scotsman is donning his Tam o'Shanter.

Marriage Equality and Same-Gender Marriage - what we decided to say to the Assembly in July. See back page.



Stage One report is 'challenging' but members approve the next phase

THE vote was unanimous to move forward to the next stage of the Cultivating Our Future process at the Special Presbytery Meeting this week.

Some members expressed their shock and dismay at the findings of the Stage One report that explored the current situation and emotional barometer of congregations, ministers and synod stakeholders. Yet the majority felt the exercise was crucial to inform the next round of decisions on presbytery team formation, resourcing and congregational direction.

Rev Cameron McAdam, Deputy Chair of the Presbytery, led the opening session in a reading from Psalm 139 and prayers, before outlining the reasons why the consultation process had been necessary and the value of the feedback and analysis from the six months of research. He also shared with the meeting that although synod stakeholders had initially felt somewhat challenged by our presbytery's decision to carry out the consultation [in light of the Major Strategic Review] they now felt it had been extremely prudent and forward-thinking - unearthing the



bigger picture to inform future resourcing. Ecclesia Leadership's Phil McCredden, who has spearheaded the consultation process, then walked those at the meeting through the various stages of the discernment phase so far and what the next steps would be. He said of the Stage One report findings: "My role was to hold up a mirror to the presbytery, to discover what the issues are before us; through interviews, focus groups, church council surveys and ministerial reflections. What we came out with was honest, raw and showed vulnerability - but it was clearly pitched in reality."

The floor was opened up to questions of clarification, before breaking for a quick supper and

then splitting into breakout sessions. Four groups were formed to discuss the Stage Two priorities.

The meeting then approved Stage Two, which included three streams: (1) approval by the presbytery in June

Cont. on page 2



NB: There will be a special meeting of Presbytery in Council to approve new governance and staffing proposals and BOMAR applications on Wednesday, July 18th.



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





Cornish scoops award for its green credentials

CORNISH

College is celebrating as our EcoCentre picked up the 2018 Sustainable Community Award at the City of Greater Dandenong Sustainability Awards ceremony.

The collaboration between students and staff in its development, the use of sustainable resources in its build and the many ongoing educational offerings it delivers across Primary and Secondary Year levels, have all been recognised through this award.

Congratulations to all the finalists, it was great to learn more about others who are delivering projects to improve sustainability in our area.



Cont. from front page

of the 4 key decision making priorities, (2) around priority decision-making for presbytery governance and office staffing requirements (the deadline is late August), drawn together by a working group and approved by the presbytery in July, to shape these roles in more depth and the financial investment required for (3) further research and presbytery-wide strategy.

Presbytery Chair, Rev Andrew Boyle, concluded: "This process has been really important and puts us in a great position to be more discerning in creating these positions for the future of the presbytery."

*The full Stage One report is available on the Presbytery website at <http://www.ucappep.org/being-presbytery/resources/> by **Helen Beeby**

Spotted on

facebook

Hats off to this morning tea



We had a great time at our Biggest Morning Tea last Wednesday. A big thank you to all the CUPS team who raised approximately \$1000 for the Cancer Council, great effort, great results. Thanks again Michael for entertaining us. Tony and Michael for their help with the Hat competition. Everyone was thoroughly entertained



Claire sails away



This is what happens at playgroup before the kids arrive!

✿As one of Rev Claire Dawe's parting posts (she released ties at Chelsea Carrum Edithvale UCA on May 24 to follow a call at Manningham UC) she continued to show her fun side with these sailor dress ups. Hope to see you around Captain Claire.✿

Cam honours his vow

At the Village Church in Mt Eliza, we have an awesome bunch of prolific knitters who turn out volumes of stuff for others in our community. We had a running Facebook joke, that if they knitted this I would wear it in church. So, I honoured my pledge to wear this in church this morning, it was my story telling outfit



and went home with a prize. Thanks to Tracey for making the quilt which Margaret took home.



There was singing and music, cakes and chuckles - plus lashings of tea at Cranbourne UC's fundraising morning tea.

Mat also moves on

REV Deacon Mat Harry has also hung up his Hampton Park hat - sadly not his Collingwood shirt - at the end of May. Mat has been instrumental in bringing about highly successful community development work in his years at Hampton Park including a thriving Community



Garden, an Open Up free weekly lunch, playgroups and music groups for children - to name a few. He has swapped placement life for a position in the new eLM - equipping Leadership for Mission - Unit with the Synod, now based at the Centre for Theology and Ministry in Parkdale.

Elizabeth is the queen of seams and swaps

Elizabeth Alexandrou is the talented artist in the Chelsea Congregation who is the brains behind the yarn art each year for the whole area and who, with her son Mitchell who is also an artist, painted our street library cupboard at Chelsea, writes Rev Claire Dawe (just before she released ties at Chelsea UC).



The street library is where people borrow, leave and swap books outside of the Chelsea library – it's all round the world.

Elizabeth spent a weekend in Sydney at the time of the royal wedding working on the replica Megan Markle wedding gown which has been seen on all the TV channels. Elizabeth won't tell you this because she is so humble but she is incredibly talented. Her mission is to get everyone back to SLOW FASHION and make their own where they can. Go Elizabeth, I say.

For coverage of Elizabeth's royal wedding dress: www.9news.com.au/world/2018/05/19/17/48/royal-wedding-2018-prince-harry-meghan-markle-givenchy-dress



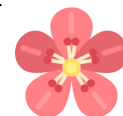
The annual presbytery Somers Camp is coming up fast, and so are the requests for subsidised places. If you have young people wanting to come from your congregation and you know that the cost might be an issue, speak to them now, organise a fundraiser where you can, and phone the Somers treasurer James Wright to let him know what you're doing. Our aim is always for the children who want to attend to be able to come along without being fearful of the cost.



Your help and support has enabled countless children attend year after year, and some of those young people are now leaders supporting others. If your congregation or members are able to make a donation, please phone James on 0401 479 688. We never take this financial support for granted and are always grateful. Registrations are open at <https://www.somerscamp.com.au> so encourage your young people in school years 3 up to 9 to apply asap. Happy camping!



ARMCHAIR TRAVELS EVENING CHERRY BLOSSOMTIME IN JAPAN



Join Julia and John Haig in a fascinating trip through Japan as the cherry blossoms welcome spring.

Sunday, June 24, 5pm-6:30pm (with interval)

Please bring a plate of nibbles to share at interval
St Mark's Uniting Church, Barkly St., Mornington.

Tickets: only \$10

Available from St Mark's Church Office or email:
stmarks.mornington@bigpond.com; ph 5975 1943

Proceeds to the St Mark's Multimedia Upgrade.

Creative thinking on new banners brightens up worship space at St Luke's



be rested, but to also do this in a way that allowed increased flexibility and closer reflection of the Church seasons. With the assistance of St Luke's member, Scilla Lucas, Ros managed to do this quickly and efficiently, without the long lead time and expense of commissioning large banners.



For the main sanctuary four pairs of long, two and a half metre drops were made in white, purple, green and red to reflect the colours of the Church seasons. Two smaller drops were also made for the lectern and the pulpit. Various symbols have been made in fabric so that they can then be attached to the drops using strong magnets. The advantage of this method is that the symbols and the colours of the banners can be very easily changed with each new Church season as can be seen in the photographs. The pairs of symbols that have been created include:

grapes/chalice and bread/wheat for communion; a Celtic Cross and Triquetra [Trinity Knot]; candles and trumpets for Advent [commencing on the first week of Advent, there was one candle and one trumpet, by the fourth week there were four candles and four trumpets]; a pair of doves; praying hands & an open Bible; a fishing boat and the fish symbol; Chi Rho and the Alpha and Omega.

Written by Helen Haysom and submitted by Heather Molina

Robert's renewed ANZAC pride

IN 2016, St Luke's inspected and re-evaluated our collection of banners. Several of the beautiful banners were made in the 1980s and were starting to fray, fade and were in need of a rest. Congregation member, Ros Faichney developed an innovative way to provide new banners so that our existing ones could



VIETNAM veteran Robert Filmer proudly attended his first Anzac Day march this year, thanks to a joint initiative between RSL Victoria, RACV Victoria and Uniting AgeWell. Robert, who served as a ship's diver in Vietnam, was among nine Uniting AgeWell clients to lead the Anzac Day parade on April 25. Robert, now aged 75 and living at Uniting AgeWell's Noble Park Community, has rarely spoken about his time in the war. "In the 50 years I have known him he hasn't marched," said his wife, Pam. He got the letter and I think he has been proud of his service ever since. I think he deserved it for what he did."



Uniting AgeWell

At just 22, Able Seaman Robert Filmer spent his time diving into murky waters in search of bombs placed under ships by enemy forces. It was the Vietnam War, and Robert had the immense responsibility of dismantling bombs between 1965 and 1966. The butcher from Sydney's eastern suburbs followed his cousin's footsteps and joined the Navy to become a ship's diver. "I did an induction course at Rushcutters Bay, in Sydney, and they taught me to dive there," he said. "We were trained to look for bombs in all conditions, even at night time." Robert spent 82 days at sea on HMAS Sydney putting his life on the line to protect his comrades.

Planning Ahead Information Sessions

Funerals

FREE community information sessions to help you make informed decisions

Uniting AgeWell has designed this session to assist people to understand the funeral process, to reduce pressure during times of grief and loss.

What do we really need to know when someone dies? This session covers everything from arranging a funeral, ceremonies, costs and planning, so family members do not have to make lots of rushed decisions during a difficult time of grief and loss.

Presented by a panel, including our local chaplain and funeral providers, this session will help seniors and families understand the process.

Tuesday, 12 June

2pm – 4pm

Uniting AgeWell Noble Park Community

1312 Heatherton Road
Noble Park 3174

Light refreshments provided

9554 0700

unitingagewell.org/planning

Uniting AgeWell

Next month: Power of Attorney & Wills
Tuesday 10 July, 2pm – 4pm

Making our churches safer places

If you read this in time...

Another Safe Church training day at Cranbourne UCA, 41 Lesdon Ave, on Saturday 2 June from 10am until 12 noon. Book with Rev Tony Duncan - jenton@eftel.net.au ALL welcome, but please email to confirm numbers for materials and catering.



Musical musings

ST John's Mt Waverley UC Church in Society

Committee ran a highly successful seminar on Dementia, pictured right, with Kate Teggelove, below centre, a Registered Music Therapist and Research Fellow with the University of Melbourne.

These seminars explore the effects of therapeutic group singing for community-welling people with dementia and their caregivers across Victoria and Tasmania. This study is in conjunction with Uniting Agewell.

Kate led us singing "Pack up your troubles in your old kit bag" and "It's a long way to Tipperary" and "Waltzing Matilda." together. **by Margery Kennett**



Chorus of approval from caregivers at Dementia seminar



Pictured above, L-R: Margery Kennett, Kate Teggelove, Registered Music Therapist and Kathy Ferguson.

Struggling to find the right song for the right service?

THEN look no further than this amazing resource compiled by Dr Natalie Sims who worships at Brunswick Uniting Church. For those who are unfamiliar, the website pairs hymns and songs with the lectionary plus lots more - so you'll never have to say "Hmmm?" and tap your chin again about song choices when planning a service. Visit <http://lectionarysong.blogspot.com/>

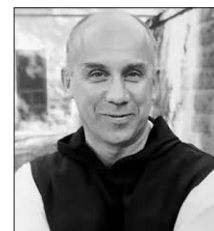
Quote

"The deepest level of communication is not communication, but communion. It is wordless. It is beyond words, and it is beyond speech, and it is beyond concept. Not that we discover a new unity.

We discover an older unity. We are already one. But we imagine that we are not. And what we have to recover is our original unity. What we have to be is what we are."

Thomas Merton, The Asian Journal of Thomas Merton, New Directions

of the month



St John's Uniting Church Elsternwick Social Justice Lunch



**Sunday
29 July 2018**

12pm for 12.30pm start

Refugee Legal's David Manne will update us on recent policy changes, their impact on asylum seekers and what is being done to support them.



David Manne, Executive Director of Refugee Legal

As a human rights lawyer, David has defended the rights, dignity and lives of asylum seekers, refugees & disadvantaged migrants for over twenty years.

567 Glen Huntly Road, Elsternwick

TICKETS: \$25 - all proceeds go to Refugee Legal

INFO: stjohns.elsternwick@ucappeg.net

BOOK: www.trybooking.com/VWDJ

BYO wine; soft drink provided

REFUGEE RIGHTS

Church collaboration brings sweet music to the ears of community choir

THE concert at St John's Uniting Church, Mt Waverley featured two excellent choirs: The Voices of Frankston (associated with the Choir of Hard Knocks) conducted by Kerry Gerraty and the Conchord Sri Lankan Choir conducted by Rushan Hewasasam. It was a wonderful occasion on April 29th, sponsored by the Uniting Churches of Mt Waverley and Chadstone. The proceeds of \$3,073 were donated to The Voices of Frankston.

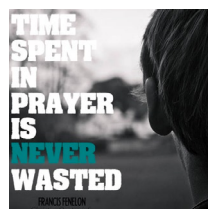
Words by Margery Kennett.
Photos by Ian Bock



Show and tell reveals raw talent

At their monthly Friendship group meeting in May, Win McCreadie and Wilma Coleman were among these talented people who brought their creations in to share with each other. It was a fun time. It was also an opportunity to admire and talk about many gifts and graces.

Wilma paints in water colours. And Win spun her own wool from the sheep on her farm to make her blanket



Have mercy, O Lord, upon all those who labour in the cultivation of the earth, and grant that by the power of Thy grace their own souls may be made fruitful unto all good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Richard Meux Benson, 1824-1915
From A Calendar of Prayer by Fiona MacMath



"Stepping into the Divine"

Pallotti College Retreat Centre, Millgrove
June 22nd to 24th 2018



Labyrinth Retreat

Spirituality within the Australian landscape
Drawing on the work of Rev. Dr. Robin J Pryor

6pm Friday 22nd until after lunch on Sunday 24th
Facilitated by Bronwyn Pryor and Christina Rowntree
Singles \$210 / Couples \$380 (includes accommodation & food)
All welcome – no experience necessary!

For information and registration contact Bronwyn Pryor -
Mobile: 0412 301 450 / Email: robron@pryor.org.au

May Fete in pictures

High Street Uniting Church, Frankston enjoyed another successful annual fete day and despite the windy day saw a good turnout from the community. The numerous stalls - cakes, competitions, card sales, white elephant, books, jams, sausage sizzle, plants and fancy goods etc. - raised \$7,211 for church outreach programs.

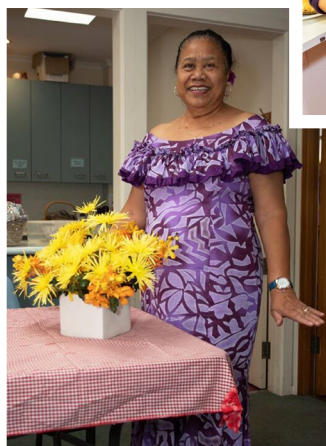


From the top:
a painted
Hannah
Dungan,
the band
entertain, the
Devonshire
tea room and
Chris Cohen
turns Fonzie..

Photos by Rod
Carruthers



Rev Brenda
Cooper helps the
cream tea crowd,
Rhona Russell
leads Guess the
Snake comp with
floral prize and
Helen Beeby
sells items made
by Indian widows



uca funds
UCA FUNDS MANAGEMENT

Up and coming...

Discussion forum on the banking royal commission: 14 June

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/ethical-consulting-group-discussion-banking-royal-commission-tickets-45886240982>

New appointment of Director – Development

http://www.ucafunds.com.au/news/Pages/FMN_Autumn_2018/Announcing-the-appointment-of-Director-Development.aspx

How does China's recyclable policy impact Australia

http://www.ucafunds.com.au/news/Pages/FMN_Autumn_2018/Bye-bye-recycling.aspx



Still a few places left...

Experience Incredible India



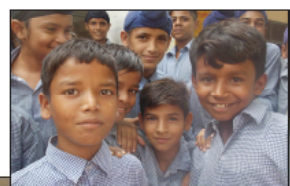
JOIN us for another amazing journey that combines sight-seeing with support for a Woman and Child Mobile Health Clinics program in North India (JMK).

This 13-day tour takes in majestic New Delhi, golden Amritsar, bejewelled Agra and spiritual Dharamsala. Visiting some breathtaking heritage and natural wonder sites - including the Taj Mahal and Golden Temple - we'll also re-connect with the project organisers and the families we help. You'll also experience responsible travel excursions and meet with Indian people to enable the small travel group (8-12) to explore and reflect on the diversity of Indian culture. Staying in comfortable, authentic, ethical hotels, and travelling in comfort, all needs and abilities are catered for without losing a true immersion in Indian life.

Cost: \$3,980 which includes flights, accommodation, transport, sight-seeing entry fees and most meals. A fundraised donation of \$500+ to the JMK project is also encouraged. Contact us for the full itinerary and pricing (additional travel plans, before or after, can be accommodated) on the phone or e-mail below.

Dates - Thursday, September 06 - Tuesday, September 18, 2018

Contact:
Helen on
0434 412104 or
e-mail:
helen.beeby@gmail.com



In association with

Creative Journeys





Presbytery Resolves to support UCA ministers' freedom to marry same-gender couples

AT a special meeting of the Presbytery on 23rd May we considered supporting a proposal being brought to the UCA National Assembly meeting in July, by the Assembly Standing Committee, that Uniting Church ministers be granted the freedom to be able to marry same gender couples.

by Rev Andrew Boyle, Chair of Presbytery



Currently UCA ministers are not free to do this. The crucial clauses of the Presbytery resolution read as follows:

- To request the Assembly Standing Committee to amend the Marriage Rites of the Uniting Church in Australia to include same-gender couples
- To affirm that Ministers of the UCA may exercise the freedom of faithful conscience with regards to accepting requests to celebrate marriages of same-gender couples according to the Rites of the Uniting Church in Australia
- To request the Assembly Standing Committee to amend and expand the Liturgy of the Marriage Service to include same-gender couples, noting the concern of some ministers and congregations who wish to continue to affirm that marriage is between a man and a woman.

The Assembly will debate these proposals at its meeting in July. Watch the news media and Newsbeat for more details of this significant debate.

Presbytery in Council meeting dates

- **20 June - approval of four key areas of CoF consultation**
- **July 18 - Special Meeting, see cover.**
- **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.



A visit not to be missed

Dr. Holly Allen, author of the seminal Intergenerational Christian Formation, editor of the Intergenerate:



Transforming Churches through Intergenerational Ministry and Nurturing Children's Spirituality will be in Melbourne over Friday July 27 and Saturday July 28. One of the most significant voices globally in the growing area of intergenerational ministry Especially suitable for those in any ministry leadership role, participants can register for either or, ideally, both days. Discounts for groups.

Venue: Centre for Theology and Ministry, 29 College Cres, Parkville

Time: 10am – 4pm (each day)

Cost: \$70/day

Early Bird Rate: \$60/day or \$110 for two days if registered by July 5*

Group discount rate of \$100/person is available for groups of 2 or more from the same church/organisation, registering for both days by July 5.

Further details and to register contact chris.barnett@ctm.uca.edu.au

Going forward....

Dear members of Presbytery

This is the full proposal being put forward to the Assembly meeting from the Presbytery of Port Phillip East on the issue of Marriage Equality:

That the Presbytery of Port Phillip East resolves:

- (a) To acknowledge the changes made to the Marriage Act by the Federal Parliament of Australia in December 2017; and
- (b) To write to the 15th Triennial Meeting of the UCA Assembly 2018 recommending:

That the Assembly resolves:

- a) To acknowledge the changes made to the Marriage Act by the Federal Parliament of Australia in December 2017;
- b) To acknowledge the diversity of theological views held in good faith among congregations, individuals and Ministers of the UCA
- c) To affirm the work of the Assembly Working Group on Doctrine and the Assembly Standing Committee Report on Marriage
- d) To request the Assembly Standing Committee to amend the Marriage Rites of the Uniting Church in Australia to include same-gender couples
- e) To allow Ministers of the UCA the freedom of faithful conscience with regards to accepting requests to celebrate marriages of same-gender couples according to the Rites of the Uniting Church in Australia
- f) To request the Assembly Standing Committee to amend and expand the Liturgy of the Marriage Service to include same-gender couples

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....