

NEWSBEAT



SEPTEMBER 2018

NEWSLETTER FOR THE PRESBYTERY OF PORT PHILLIP EAST



Australian asylum seeker policy is governed by the 'politics of fear' says this expert. Turn to page 6 to learn more from The Social Justice Hub.

Kneading to learn of bread's importance in the Bible and history? Roll to page 5 to see the spirits rise at this Kids' Church activity.



Re-building and strengthening connections with Australia's First People

THE Village Church in Mount Eliza has embarked on a journey to develop a meaningful connection with the Willum Warrain Aboriginal community on the Mornington Peninsula.

This comes at a time when the Uniting Church has resolved to reconcile and help lead the national community to recognize the contribution and sovereignty of Australia's First People.

Learning through faiths

JOIN us during Multi-faith October at Ormond Uniting Church and experience the spirit of unity, respect and understanding through the wonder and diversity of faith.

On each of the four Sundays in October worship at OUC will be faith themed:

- **Christianity - Oct 7th**
- **Buddhism - Oct 14th**
- **Islam - Oct 21st**
- **Judaism - Oct 28th.**

There will be guest speakers, artistic representations and music at each of the services, culminating on the final Sunday with a multicultural morning tea at the end of worship followed by a multi-faith Panel Discussion.

For catering purposes for the final service RSVP by October 14.

Worship time: 9.30am.

Location: Corner of Booran & North Roads Ormond.

Bookings essential, please contact Christine: Tel: 9578 1553. E mail: ormond.unitingchurch.org.au

The Village Church is simultaneously working towards deepening its recognition of the Boon wurrung [Bunurong] people, as the Mornington Peninsula is their ancestral land. So, on **Sunday, September 16 at 2:30pm**, singing group

Soundwaves will hold a concert at the Village Church, 93 Canadian Bay Road, Mt Eliza, with the proceeds devoted to the development of an interpretive indigenous garden in the church grounds, and a donation to Willum Warrain. Below is a link to a brief and inspiring TED talk by Bruce Pascoe, who wrote the book *Dark Emu*, which

gives a very different perspective and evidence on Australian history to those in the European accounts. The Aboriginal people lived sustainably for tens of thousands of years and were engaged in extensive complex agriculture.

Visit:

<https://tedxsydney.com/talk/a-real-history-of-aboriginal-australians-the-first-agriculturalists-bruce-pascoe/>

Pictured is an exploration of indigenous plants at the Cranbourne Botanic Gardens with the Willum Warrain community, seated above with a church member, on Friday, August 17.

Tickets for the concert can be ordered through the Village Church office. Call 03 9787 1683 or e-mail ucame@hotmail.com.au

by David Arnott



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



Scott's leadership was worth the two-year wait

AFTER two and a half patient years of waiting and searching St Martins Beaumaris Uniting Church, celebrated the induction of their new minister Rev Scott Finlay recently.

More than 80 people attended the special service at the church on the afternoon of Sunday, August 5, 2018. Led by the Chair of the Presbytery, Rev Andrew Boyle, the induction was not only recognition of Scott's appointment but also embodied mutual commitments by our congregation, Scott and the Port Phillip East Presbytery to further the work of God in our area.

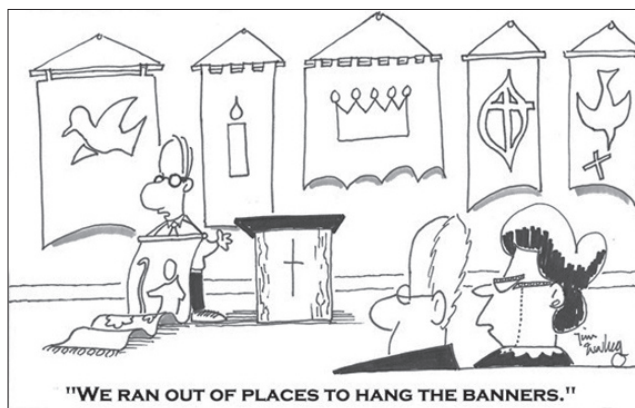
Rev Greg Fry, who chaired our Joint Nominating Committee, was the preacher and gave a very pertinent reflection on *Change*.

Presbytery Secretary Ian Firth adds: "An expectant congregation gathered for the induction of Rev Scott Finlay. After a vacancy of just on two and a half years the congregation was excited to have a minister. Rev Greg Fry, chair of the Joint Nominating Committee during these years quipped that, at times, he thought it should be a paid position."

Members of the congregation were involved throughout the service, led by Congregational Chairperson Nick Toovey. A varied group of people, representative of the the congregation and reflecting the diversity of the people for whom Scott will have pastoral responsibility, gave bible readings and others presented him with a Bible, water, bread and wine and the the congregational roll. Many members of Presbytery were present along with representatives from local churches.

Words by Alison Davies. Photos by Rev Kevin Kim

Chapel chortles



Spotted on

facebook



Our dawn service, reflecting on the realities of experiencing homelessness, the realities that we can never truly simulate... and beginning to dream of a different experience.

Together we have raised just over \$23,000 to build a home for young people experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

Will you build it with us? Make your contribution -<https://siyc18mornington.gofundraise.com.au/>

Supporting Manus to maketh the man

AS highlighted in the last issue of Newsbeat, it has been more than five years since Australia began holding asylum seekers in offshore detention centres in Manus and Nauru - with 12 distraught men taking their own life during that time.

Australia's policy of 'Regional Processing' has now left hundreds of men on Manus Island living in limbo, with little or no solutions being offered.

These men have endured unimaginable hardships, yet they still dream of a better future; where safety, justice and dignity might become a reality.



Since January, Act for Peace, the International Aid Agency of the

National Council of Churches has been quietly working with the Australian Churches Refugee Taskforce to find ways for Australians to show kindness and compassion to these men on Manus Island. They are working with an ecumenical partner organisation on the ground - the Manus Provincial Council of Churches (MPCC) - to create a welcoming environment for these detainees. All are ready to deliver practical support for these men, through training and community development, so they can heal from their trauma, find purpose and prepare for their future. Says a Manus Provincial Churches Council spokesperson: "We recognise the need for boosting the spirit and were disappointed when we could not advocate for the men to continue coming to church or

use the church grounds.

We are community churches and those refugees who did attend were educated and respectful of our elderly. We have also had trouble with baptisms where refugees have asked to

be baptised. We are concerned that we cannot fulfil our role when there is a genuine desire from those who wish to engage

in faith. Our aim is to develop peace and harmony through Christ. There is politics but we will not let that stop us working for the freedom of love and peace and what we can do to help them, we will try our best to help them."

Sadly, Manus PCC has insufficient resources for this project and asks if concerned Christians might offer a compassionate gift - with funds collected and administered by Act for Peace. If you would like to support these men please call 1800 1800 025 101 or visit www.actforpeace.org.au/wecare. Or use a Giving Form at <http://www.ucappep.org/newsbeat/events/>



Above L-R: Caz Coleman, Australian Churches Refugee Taskforce, Pastor Timothy Sandau, Seventh-day Adventist Church and Rebecca Lim, Act for Peace. Opposite: Caz and Rebecca, a Manus refugee, Father Clement Taulam, Catholic Church.



Dementia Workshop Dementia Friends

St John's Uniting Church
37 Virginia St Mt Waverley
1.30pm to 3.00pm on Friday September 14th



A volunteer from Dementia Australia will present an illustrated session in which the people talking actually have dementia

After the presentation, please join us for a cup of tea or coffee and informal discussion.

Please advise Margery Kennett 9807 4084, mbkennett@bigpond.com of your intention to attend.

A gold coin donation would be appreciated.

The Simply Living
Community Garden at
Port Melbourne Uniting
Church, 144 Bridge Street, will be hosting a free

Time to get your hands dirty!

**Know
your Soil**
workshop for
seniors on
October 10,
10am - 12
noon.

You will get
your hands
dirty as you
learn about
your garden
soil – what's in it, how it works and how to grow
things in it.

Are you involved in a local community garden and have stories and experiences to share? Following the workshop there will be an opportunity to tour the garden and chat over soup and bread about how we all connect with our communities through gardening and community food programs.

To book your place at the workshop and/or join in the tour and discussion please contact Janet Hoare, janet.hoare@southportuniting.org.au or 9690 1188.



Message

"I don't go by or change my attitude based on what people say. At the end of the day, they, too, are judging me from their perspective. I would rather be myself and let people accept me for what I am than be somebody who I am not, just because I want people's approval."

of the month Karan Patel



SONDER COLLECTIVE

many churches • one church

www.trybooking.com/XFBJ


REGISTRATIONS BY SEPTEMBER 10

no matter what church you call home

two thousand and eighteen • youth camp

CAMP FOR THOSE BETWEEN 11 - 17 YEARS OLD

This camp is made for small church communities, and individuals, from everywhere to come together. Open across all denominations. We are stoked that our camp speaker this year is Bradon French - he is the Inter-gen Youth Worker across Victoria and Tasmania for the Uniting Church. Bradon will be bringing us through the theme of **MESSY** over the weekend.



WHEN: Friday, September 14th at 7:30pm - Sunday, September 16th at 11:00am.

LOCATION: Merricks Lodge, 3670 Frankston-Flinders Road, Merricks VIC 3916

COST: \$45 per camper

ACCOMMODATION: Cabins (a list of what to bring will come!)
CONTACT YOUR YOUTH WORKER/LEADER OR
SONDER COLLECTIVE DIRECTOR • PS KELLY 0432 714 758

sondercollective.org

facebook.com/sondercollective



International Conference

#MCIC19
#discipleship

3-5 May 2019 @ High Leigh Conference Centre, UK

When: 3-5 May 2019:
Lunchtime on Friday 3 May to lunchtime on Sunday 5 May.

Where: High Leigh Conference Centre, Hertfordshire, UK

Fancy a Messy trip overseas?

Join the global community for the second Messy Church International Conference (MCIC). This is an unmissable opportunity to learn new approaches and ideas, to be inspired and inspire others, to make new friends and enjoy the company of old ones. It will be a gathering of Messy Church practitioners and friends from around the world, from all denominations with stories to share, experiences to pass on and wisdom to build up the Messy network from hugely different countries and cultures. The conference will be in English. For more details visit <https://www.messychurch.org.uk/MCIC19?>

**Do you knit, crochet or do needle work?
Would you like to learn to knit or crochet?
Willing to lend a hand and help others to learn?**



**Join the 'Yak n Yarn' group
and enjoy a chat and a cuppa while you work
on your own project or make something for charity**



**1.30-3.00pm 1st & 3rd Tuesday of the month
4th & 18th September
1st & 16th October
5th & 20th November
3rd & 18th December**

Uniting AgeWell, 1st Floor Activities Room

The Sonder Collective is excited to bring our 2018 Youth Camp to everyone between the ages of 11-17 years old, from any church community, whether you are one youth member or you have a whole group coming along. This camp is made for small church communities, and individuals, from everywhere to come together. We are stoked that our camp speaker this year is Bradon French - he is the Inter-gen Youth Worker across Victoria and Tasmania for the Uniting Church. Bradon will be bringing us through the theme of 'Messy' over the weekend, and like everything that the Sonder Collective does, camp is open to EVERYONE no matter what church you call home; we are a community of people who gather together.

REGISTRATIONS BY SEPTEMBER 7th.
CAMP DATES: Friday, September 14th at 7:30pm - Sunday, September 16th at 11:00am.
LOCATION: Merricks Lodge, 3670 Frankston-Flinders Road, Merricks VIC 3916
CONTACT DETAILS: Sonder Collective Director: Kelly Skilton kelly@skiltons.com and 0432 714 758
OR BOOK AT: <https://www.trybooking.com/book/event?eid=407663&>



Icons - including emojis - shed light on art



CHECK out the latest exhibition at Kinross Arts Centre, part of the Toorak Uniting Church complex, entitled **Epic Icons - Paintings & Light Projection**.

The exhibition by Rosella Picciani runs from August 19 - September 9, Tuesday to Friday 10am-3pm and with Rosella herself attending on Sundays 11am - 4pm.

Venue: Kinross Arts Centre, 603 Toorak Road, Toorak

And one to delight all generations don't miss their **Spectacular Outdoor Light Projection** on Friday 7th September, 7.30pm - 9.30pm. Gather in Toorak Uniting Church paved open area under the fir tree; hot drinks available. Families and people of all ages very welcome. Rug up and enjoy! Light Projection technology and support by Projection Teknik.

Project Manager: Lyndel Wischer. Enquiries: 0404 078 105.



Pictured left: Rosella is an Italian-born, Australian artist whose work is semi abstract and pointillist. She is inspired by nature, culture and the human obsession with major icons and symbols from history - including modern day emojis! Visit www.rossellapicciani.com for more information and examples of her work.

Bread of heaven?

by
Sally Mullins

The Village Church in Mt Eliza has an active Sunday morning Kid's Church program. Like a number of Uniting Churches, the Village gathers for worship in an intergenerational atmosphere before Kid's Church begins.



The program includes prayer, bible readings, craft, games, music and activities. It is led by a creative and energetic team of leaders.

On a recent Sunday Kid's Church focussed on bread, discussing the way bread is and has always been a very important part of life, even as far back as Bible times, with lots of stories in which bread is mentioned. The discussion moved to the concept of 'heavenly bread', with the question, "Wouldn't it be wonderful if there was a bread which, if we ate it, we would live forever?"

It was then time for the children to get their hands dirty, very

enthusiastically making a classic Australian bread, 'damper'. Dividing into small groups, the children worked collaboratively with some great cross age mentoring. Placed in the oven, the children waited patiently and dedicatedly to see (and taste) the fruits of their labour. The damper was enjoyed in the winter sunshine, with generous toppings of butter and/or honey.



Manne of the moment... legal champion outlines 'flawed' politics of asylum seeker policy

ASYLUM Seekers and detention centres are the hot topic of the moment - so it was perfect timing for more than 80 people to gather at St. John's, Elsternwick for their annual Social Justice Luncheon to hear David Manne, Executive Director of Refugee Legal. In his talk, David attacked a "fundamentally flawed" "politics of fear", which is at odds with Australia being a "big hearted country" and that we "clearly have the means to increase our refugee intake."

by Rev Philip Liebelt

He said that "detention is an extreme form of deterrence" and that "cruel mandatory indefinite detention is at the root of the problem." He called for an end to temporary visas - "a twilight world left with constant uncertainty" - in favour of "reinstating permanent visas." David believes that we could actually lift our migrant intake numbers. Since World War II 800,000 people have been given refuge in Australia. This is "not extraneous ... but integral to society," because they have made a "significant contribution."



Planning Ahead Information Sessions

Grief & Loss

FREE community information sessions to help you make informed decisions

Uniting AgeWell has supported many clients, residents and family members during times of grief and loss.

Everyone experiences grief differently and it is something that takes time to work through. Understanding the process and having the support and ability to talk about your loss is important.

Come along to learn how to access support groups or professional help, to look after yourself or help a person who is experiencing grief and loss.

Our chaplain and Uniting AgeWell Palliative Care Specialist Kerry Whitlock will present on this topic.

Tuesday, 11 September
2pm – 4pm

Uniting AgeWell Noble Park Community

1312 Heatherton Road
Noble Park 3174

Light refreshments provided

📞 9554 0700

📍 unitingagewell.org/planning



I awake this morning
In the presence
of the holy angels of God.
May heaven open wide before
me

That I may see

the Christ of my love

And his sunlit company
In all the things of earth this day.

Amen

Iona Community

Share Sunday resources now available

SHARE Sunday celebrates the amazing array of community services being undertaken by our agencies, parish missions and congregations.

Share is now part of Uniting, the community services organisation of the Church in Victoria and Tasmania, continuing the legacy of Share and Share Sunday.

This year's focus is "Faith in Action" and the Share Sunday 2018 resources offer a full worship service including:

- A sample service outline, including a liturgy, sermon and suggested hymns
- A PowerPoint presentation
- Stories of people supported by the church's faithful generosity.

You are encouraged to adapt the material to suit your context and congregation(s).

To request a copy of the Share Sunday resources, contact Deborah Loh: P: (03) 9192 8101 or E: Deborah.Loh@vt.uniting.org;



Next month: *Your Wellbeing, Your Plan*
Tuesday 9 October, 2pm – 4pm

Assembly pals sought

Young members of the 15th Assembly are inviting their friends for a weekend of fun and faith formation this summer. <https://assembly.uca.org.au/news/item/2857-our-lead-story>
Sign up at <http://nyalc.org.au/>

Politicians unite in building a brighter college future

Cornish Principal, Ms Vicki Steer acknowledged the support of The Victorian Government for their new Senior Studies Centre in a symbolic turning of the first sod ceremony at the College this week.

She thanked Deputy Premier and Minister for Education, The Hon. James Merlino MP along with the Member for Mordialloc Mr Timothy Richardson MP, and the Federal Member for Isaacs, The Hon. Mark Dreyfus QC MP, for \$2 million from the Capital Funding Program



for Non-Government Schools: Matching the school's commitment to make the Centre a \$4 million reality. The three MPs then met with Year 10 students to answer questions posed by students about their journeys into politics. Mr Merlino says: "The thing I love about politics is the ability to make a change, and to make a difference." Such sound advice rings true amongst the Cornish community, where the school motto is 'Make a Difference'. Year 10 students Freya and Niall participated in the ceremony and will be among the first to enjoy the new facilities. Freya is looking forward to the collaborative learning space and Niall is excited about the the opportunities it will create.

The build of the new Senior Studies Centre, scheduled to open in mid 2019, will cement the College's commitment to providing the VCE and giving every opportunity to senior students to discover their unique pathways following Year

12 in a purpose-built facility.



Pictured left: Back row (L-R): Year 10 students Freya and Niall, Year 12 students Gabriel,

Matthew, Alice and Kennedy. Front row (L-R): The Member for Mordialloc Mr Timothy Richardson MP, Deputy Premier and Minister for Education, The Hon. James Merlino MP, the Federal Member for Isaacs, The Hon. Mark Dreyfus QC MP, Cornish College Principal Ms Vicki Steer and Cornish College Board Chair, Reverend Dr Robert Johnson. Below: construction site from the air.



Listen Well Pastoral Care Volunteer Training

Wednesday 5th & 12th September 2018
9.30am - 12.00pm
Uniting AgeWell, 1312 Heatherton Rd Noble Park

As part of Uniting AgeWell's ListenWell project, volunteers are trained to be effective pastoral carers. Two mornings of training are available to anyone interested. The knowledge and skills gained would benefit those wishing to support people pastorally and spiritually, particularly older people. The training is being conducted by: Cathy Beaton, UA Chaplain and Rhea Josen, UA Pastoral Care Volunteer
The two sessions cover:

Session 1

1. Pastoral Care
2. Active listening
3. Boundaries

Session 2

4. Grief and loss
5. Conflict
6. Referral and confidentiality
7. Self-care
8. Becoming part of a Pastoral Care Volunteer team
9. Understanding Dementia

Date: Wednesday 5th & 12th September 2018

Time: 9.30am-12noon

Place: The Sanctuary, Uniting AgeWell, 1312 Heatherton Rd Noble Park

Cost: Free, Morning Tea and Session Notes are provided

RSVP: Cathy Beaton, Chaplain on Mb 0426 220 079 or Reception 9554 0700

The sessions are

- [Open to anyone from the wider community interested in developing their pastoral care skills.
- [Suitable for Parish Pastoral Care Volunteers and Elders, for those wishing to volunteer in Aged Care Homes or in other community groups with older people.

If you have any questions or require more information please contact: Cathy Beaton, Chaplain on Mb 0426 220 079 or Reception 9554 0700



Remini-Sing

Community-based therapeutic choirs for people with dementia and their family caregivers.

- ♫ Relaxed & supportive group settings ♫
- ♫ Sing old favourites & learn new songs ♫
- ♫ No musical talent required ♫
- ♫ Connect with others over afternoon tea ♫
- ♫ Contribute to dementia research ♫

Choir locations include:
Hawthorn, Kingsville, Forest Hill, Noble Park, Brighton, Bendigo and Hobart.



The University of Melbourne is investigating the cognitive and wellbeing effects of weekly therapeutic singing groups for people living with dementia and their family caregivers.

If you are aged 60 or older and have a diagnosis of dementia, or care for someone with dementia, you may be eligible to participate in this randomised control trial.

To register interest, contact Carol Fountain at Uniting AgeWell:
(03) 9251 5997

CFountain@unitingagewell.org

This study has been approved by the University of Melbourne Human Research Ethics Committee Reference Number - 1749728.1



Presbytery gathers to hear more on Assembly and to sanction the proposed staffing model



by Ian Firth

On a cold and damp night, the meeting got off to a great start with those members of Presbytery who attended Assembly leading the Presbytery in worship.

The main focus of the meeting was to deal with the proposed Presbytery staffing model. Rev Cam McAdam, Deputy Chairperson of the Presbytery spoke to the report and responded to many questions and suggestions.

Following supper, Presbytery members met in small groups to discuss the report in more detail. A further question session followed before members voted to endorse the staffing model subject to confirmation of funding.

Another highlight of the meeting was the recognition of Rev Dr Chris Page as a UCA minister. Chris is minister at Toorak and started the process of recognition in 2011.



Tim steps up for vital presbytery role

As the Presbytery of Port Phillip East currently has vacancies in all three of its Presbytery Minister positions, Rev Tim Angus has been approached and, after consulting with his family and Church Council, has agreed to take on a 0.2 Full Time

Equivalent (FTE) role (which amounts to one day per week) to provide some pastoral support to the presbytery until a permanent appointment can be made.

The role will commence immediately. To facilitate this, Tim will be reducing his placement time with Hampton from 0.6 to 0.5 FTE. There will be no change to the number of worship services Tim leads.

You may recall that Tim's previous placement was as Presbytery Minister, Pastoral Care with the Presbytery of Gippsland, making him an obvious candidate for this new role. Please uphold Tim and the Presbytery in your prayers.

Courtesy of Ian Menzies and NUCH publication



IMPORTANT notice for Safe Church Training to be held at Hampton Park Uniting Church on Saturday, September 8 from 2pm until 4pm. Rev Tony Duncan is leading the training.



Prayers of sympathy on Father's Day weekend

Please add Jeff Gardner, our faithful Data Support Co-ordinator, member of Standing Committee, Treasurer of Coatesville UCA congregation and Resources Committee convenor to your prayers.

Jeff and his wife Cheryl had to return early from a trip to Europe last month after his father passed away suddenly, aged 92.

Jeff and Cheryl live in East Bentleigh and Jeff is also a member of PPEP Finance Committee and the Communications Task Group, as well as providing IT support for the Presbytery office.

Jeff retired in 2014 after 30+ years involvement in the IT industry. Jeff and Cheryl have a son and two daughters. Apart from Church involvement Jeff is heavily involved

with the South East Suburban Table Tennis Association, sings with a local community choir, is keen on watching most sports and especially enjoys AFL.

Editor's note: Thank you for the many ways you support the Uniting Church and our Presbytery, Jeff, and sincere condolences for the loss of your father.



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....