

NEWSBEAT



MARCH 2019

NEWSLETTER FOR THE PRESBYTERY OF PORT PHILLIP EAST



When the world prays together, magic happens. Discover more on page 7.

Years later these ladies reunited in a special home that has now reached the end of its journey for the church. Turn to page 6 for the full story.



Meet the energetic trio soon to be shaping a New Future with our churches

It was a joyful and auspicious evening at the recent Presbytery in Council meeting as the long and important discernment process of establishing the Presbytery Minister's roles and team structure finally came to fruition. Rev Kevin Dobson, Chair of the Presbytery Joint Nominating Committee presented a report to the Council, and members of the JNC, Wendy Adams, Jay Robinson and Rev James Douglas talked of the gifts and experience of the Revs Duncan Macleod, Anneke Opperswal and Dr Craig Mitchell, *pictured right*. A written ballot was conducted and the ballot overwhelmingly supported calls being issued to Duncan, Anneke and Craig. Deputy Chair of the Presbytery, Rev Cameron McAdam, left,



says: "After more than a year of working hard to discern strategic priorities, our governance and team structure and the focus of the ministry positions, the presbytery is so pleased to announce our new Ministry Team. This is a significant step in our process of cultural change

and as we work to ensure we better serve congregations and other expressions of the church across the Presbytery. These three ministry agents come with significant experience in pastoral, educational and strategic leadership and together will form a dynamic team joining with us in our ministry as Presbytery and as we continue through Cultivating a New Future, and form further strategic priorities for the Uniting Church across this region.

"Duncan has moved from NSW and already begun work with the presbytery and will be inducted at our next meeting. Craig will move from SA and begin around Easter, and Anneke from Yarra Yarra Presbytery and will begin in June. We invite your prayers for each of them as they move through this time of transition and new beginning."

To find out more about each of the new Presbytery Ministers' journey to this point in time turn to page two and three.

A packed house for the first Roach Lecture at Toorak



THE beautiful Toorak Uniting Church was a full house for the first thought-provoking Roach Lecture recently.

On Saturday, February 23 more than 260 people attended the inaugural lecture given by Rev Dr Robyn Whitaker. The subject matter was: The Bible And Secular Australia: Are They Compatible? and one listener described it as a fascinating lecture followed by many thoughtful questions.

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



Anneke Oppewal

MEET THE TEAM

Anneke was ordained in 1989, and has served two Dutch congregations and Toorak Uniting Church. She is currently ministering at North Balwyn Uniting Church, having overseen the amalgamation of the St Aidans and Trinity parishes. She spent 3 years in Guildford in the UK, where she engaged in teaching, leadership and mentoring roles, from secondary students to candidates for ministry.

Her ministerial passions are in leading worship, interpreting biblical texts, story telling, pastoral care and spiritual direction. She writes hymns, prayers and other worship material, and has published sermons, prayer resources and a community-based cookbook. She regularly contributes articles to the main ecumenical resource for worship preparation in Dutch churches 'De Eerste Dag'.

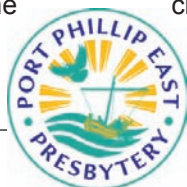
Meditation, mindfulness exercises and prayer are important parts of Anneke's daily spiritual practice. She qualified as a strategic psychotherapist and clinical hypnotherapist in 2015, having experienced its healing powers first-hand.

ANNEKE Oppewal was born and raised in the Dutch 'Bible Belt' of the Netherlands. She studied theology at the universities of Utrecht, Groningen and Nijmegen and completed a masters with majors in New Testament, Dogmatics and Pastoral Theology.

Her therapy work is deeply informed by her faith and the conviction that people can heal and change.

Within the presbytery, some committees Anneke has served over the years are the Formation Committees of Yarra Yarra and Port Phillip East, the Board of the CTM, and as the Chair of the Bethel Centre for the Healing of Abuse. She also helped found the Kinross Arts and Spirituality Centre.

Anneke is married to Harmen Oppewal, who is an academic at Monash University. They have two adult children, Arend and Freke. They have a kelpie whippet cross named Charlie. Harmen and Anneke enjoy live arts performances, movies, good food and travel. They are avid campers and love road tripping in Australia.



Craig Mitchell

CRAIG is married to Yvonne who is an early childhood educator and they have three young adult daughters – a musician/teacher, an artist/student teacher and a fashion design student.



He is originally from Queensland. They have lived in Canberra, Brisbane, Durham USA, Adelaide, Melbourne and Horsham.

After studying economics and working in the public service, Craig began congregational ministry and study in youth & children's ministry in 1980.

They moved to Adelaide where he worked in two parishes, as well as

co-ordinating the first About FACE project and NCYC 1985. Craig completed a Master's Degree in Religious Education at Duke University in the US and worked in a United Methodist congregation; while Yvonne changed careers from nursing to child care. He then served as Synod Youth Consultant in Queensland (where their twin daughters were born), finishing after NCYC 1991. Craig was UCA National Youth Director from 1991-1998 with The Joint Board of Christian Education and then Uniting

Education. The family worshipped at North Ringwood UC and their third daughter was born.

They then moved to Horsham where Craig was the Regional Development Worker with Grampians Presbytery. In 2003 they moved to Adelaide where Craig was a Mission Resource Worker with the Synod (including oversight of NCYC 2005), then Lecturer in Lay Ministry Studies at Parkin-Wesley College and Director of Christian Education & Discipleship at Uniting College for Leadership and Theology.

He was the Research Fellow in Christian Education for the UCA Assembly, and then National Director for Christian Education & Discipleship. The family have been members at Rosefield UC in Adelaide for 15 years. Recently he has been doing supply ministry at Blackwood UC while completing a PhD in Christian education and theology. Craig also has qualifications in communication and in vocational education. He has interests in music, cooking, multimedia, books and occasional gardening.

They have two Shelties, Robbie and Tinkerbell. Craig is passionate about seeing the church as an intergenerational, lifelong learning community of Christian discipleship seeking to participate in the mission of God. You can read more of Craig's views on his Blogs: craigmitchell.typepad.com, growing-disciples.org.au and craigcooks.com.au and also follow him on Twitter @craigmitch

MEET THE TEAM

Duncan Macleod

MEET THE TEAM



Duncan Macleod comes to Port Phillip East Presbytery from Parramatta, Sydney, where he was serving the NSW/ACT Synod as Director of the Uniting Learning Network for the last five years.

This role included the oversight of a team of consultants and educators, and shared leadership of United Theological College.

Duncan's ministry experience in New Zealand includes time as a youth worker in

Invercargill, minister with St Mark's Presbyterian Church in Tokoroa, NZ, National Youth Ministry Coordinator for the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand. Moving to the Gold Coast in 2001, Duncan served

as Minister Youth & Families at Robina Surfers Paradise Uniting Church (now Newlife Church), before taking up a role as Mission Consultant and Vision for Mission Advocate for the Queensland Synod for nine years.



During this time, he provided leadership in Pacific Parks Uniting Church, a church plant on the Gold Coast, as well as supply ministry in Edmonton, Cairns, Springwood, Logan, Albert St/Wesley Mission Brisbane, and Indooroopilly.

He also worked as Presbytery Minister (Mission & Education) with Canberra Region Presbytery for three years. Duncan is married to Ennis, who has a career in secondary and tertiary education and is currently working on a Master of Theology degree. Together they have three adult children, based in Canberra and Wellington, New Zealand. Duncan studied history, music and theology at University of Otago, Dunedin, and engaged in postgraduate studies in pastoral ministry and mission through San Francisco Theological Seminary. He was the co-author and executive producer for Faith Stories and Mission Stories; DVDs and study resources produced for Uniting Church congregations in 2009 and 2010. He is a keen photographer and musician and is known for his blogging on advertising and design at The Inspiration Room. Duncan's personal blog site is online at postkiwi.com.

 **St. Andrew's Berwick Uniting Church**
Berwick's original church on the hill!



COMMUNITY FAIR

SATURDAY 2ND MARCH
8.30AM - 3PM

105 HIGH STREET, BERWICK (SERVICE ROAD)

* BOOKS * CAKES * BBQ *
* FRUIT & VEG * CRAFT *
* PLANTS * JUMPING CASTLE *
* FACE PAINTING * LIVE MUSIC *
AND LOTS MORE!!!

Long-held values - new responses

The Social Justice Group at Sandringham UCA has been an important part of congregational life for years, even when membership gradually fell away.

by **Rev Christine MacDowall**

Two of the long-standing members recently moved into Mercy Place Fernhill residential care. With enthusiastic support from Mercy staff, the Social Justice group will begin to meet – at Mercy Place!

After the initial planning meeting, invitations will be extended to other residents and also to the Catholic Church across the road. We wonder where this will lead...



St Andrew's Berwick UCA Community Fair, includes drama performances at 11am from the Ad Lib Drama school members (who meet Thursdays and Saturdays at St Andrews) and music performances from 12 till 3pm by various artists including teenage members of the Casey Young Musicians Club, (which meets fortnightly in our church, in partnership with Berwick and District Folk Club), Edward Nass from BAD folk, and Cranbourne R UCA FUN night performers. Band Journey bound will play from about 2.15 to 3pm.

A very warm welcome for Nigel



The induction of Rev Nigel McBrien as minister of the Western Port Parish (which comprises the congregations of Balnarring, Crib Point and Hastings) was noteworthy, not only for the warmth of the congregation but also for the weather. It was hot! *writes Ian Firth.*

Rev Cam McAdam, Deputy Presbytery Chairperson, presided with Rev Ray McClusky preaching.

In his remarks, following his induction, Nigel thanked the Parish for its care in receiving him and his family, following a forced relocation to Victoria to access medical services not available in Tasmania. One congregation member wrote on Facebook: "Despite the very hot weather, we had a large crowd of people attend the Induction of the Rev Nigel McBrien today. Lovely to see members of other local churches join us and stay after to enjoy a luscious afternoon tea."



Reflections on Faith

Evening Praise by Bill Pugh

Hushed was the Evening Hymn. Some of us remember singing this at an evening service. Sadly there are very few evening services now.

A youth input with choir and fellowship was special. Most of our Anglican friends do not have Evensong, either.

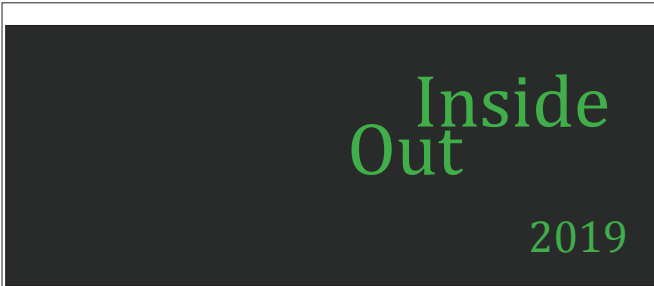


Photo: Lucas Wright Howie and Micah Meadows

In country ministry the evening service was special and the time set by the need to milk the cows. Henry Wells reminded us that our Lord was very busy healing the sick gathered around him in the evening, and our need for his healing touch as we worship and pray thus: "Hear in this solemn evening hour, and in thy mercy, heal us all." There are many lovely evening hymns which are never used. The Australian Hymn Book has a special heading for evening selection. In reality Sunday has become a half day, and the new week begins then, such is the pace and pressure of modern living. One way to benefit from this wonderful resource is to read and meditate on one of these in your Sunday evening devotions.



Last Sunday morning at our Church around midday, we ended our praise singing, The Day You Gave us Lord is Ended. John Ellerton reminded us that our praise in the evening is continued as dawn breaks across each continent and island.

The voice of prayer is never silent. Nor is the sound of evening praise ever lost. And Samuel received a life changing call in the silence that followed the hush of the evening hymn.

**Synod Social Justice Family Camp
Adekate Lodge Creswick
Friday 8 - Monday 11 March 2019**

An activity of equipping Leadership for Mission, Uniting Church in Australia, Synod of Victoria and Tasmania.



Lord, make me like a crystal, that your light may shine through me.
Amen.
Katherine Mansfield (1888 - 1923)

facebook

BIG

congratulations to Marie who volunteers at Hampton Park UC for our community lunches here every Tuesday and Thursday - she is such a huge contribution to all. Marie received the Senior Citizen of the Year Award at the City of Casey Australia Day awards.

Spotted on



Nicole Mugford, above, is the newly commissioned Youth and Young Adults worker at St Leonard's Brighton Beach. She comes over from SA. She was also a Joan Stott UCAF Bursary winner in 2018.



Only weeks after ordination Paulo's dream becomes a reality

THE induction of Rev Paulo Kwajakwan reflected Paulo's life journey. The Chollo choir sang, making the connection back to Paulo's life in South Sudan and the Gospel reading was in Arabic connecting with Paulo's time studying at the Theological Seminary in Cairo. This was read by Paulo.

Rev David Fotheringham, Chair of the Joint Nominating Committee preached and the Chairperson of Presbytery, Rev Andrew Boyle, presided. Your correspondent had to wear two hats as both Secretary of the Presbytery and as the Chair of the Mount Martha Church Council. So an interesting time was had by all!

The Mount Martha congregation is looking forward to an exciting journey with Paulo as we work together to minister to both our church community and the wider community. **by Ian Firth**

Quote of the month

Let your hopes, not your hurts, shape your future.

Robert H. Schuller

A promotional poster for 'Folk Uniting Night' on March 16th. The poster features a large microphone graphic and lists details: '\$7 entry includes supper and door prize', 'Doors open 6.15pm', 'Jam Session from 6.45pm', and 'Spot Acts from 7.30pm'. It also mentions a featured act, 'Service Amateurs Theatre Society', and includes logos for 'Folk Uniting Night' and 'The Food Truck'.

The Cranbourne Bendigo Bank will be holding a 'Barefoot Bowls Night' as a fundraiser for The Food Truck. It will be held on Friday 15th March, 6pm - 9pm, at the Cranbourne Bowling Club, 5 Grant St., Cranbourne, there will be a sausage sizzle, raffle and auction items. Cost \$10 per person and all money raised will go to The Food Truck. So get your Team of Four together and come on down for a night of fun.

A farewell service for a gift that gave joy to thousands

THE name Catherine Ritchie has a special meaning for many church folk. Not least the many deacons and deaconesses who had the use of a house in Mt Martha named after Catherine - a property purchased through a bequest to the Presbyterian Church decades before by Annie Burwell.

At the end of last year, Catherine Ritchie House - which, sadly, had come to be used less and less in recent years - was sold, and the proceeds will be used for respite and short-term holidays for deacons and deaconesses.

To mark the many years of good and faithful use of the property - and the generosity of the original gift from Annie Burwell (no-one actually knows why she left the bequest back in 1937) a Service of Thanksgiving was held at Glen Waverley Uniting Church on February 9th at 2pm.



Above: Rev Graham Bartley leads the Thanksgiving Service; Gavin Blakemore, left, was treasurer for final six years for the house with some of the service



Rev Graham Bartley preached and many deaconesses, deacons and users of the Mt Martha property attended to give thanks for 28 years of the Mt Martha property.



attendees, and Helen Jackson speaks at the service about being the Committee Chair. Below left is a group of deaconesses enjoying a reunion at Catherine Ritchie House

It was sold in late 2018 with the Annie Sunderland Burwell trust funds now to be administered by the Synod Pastoral Assistance Committee. For a more detailed history of Catherine Ritchie house go to the Port Phillip East

Presbytery website at www.ucappep.org and look under Resources.



Back in 2013 many decades after they trained together as young girls, pictured far left.



is coming up
5-9 July

Why stand on the sidelines?

HAVE you ever wondered about being part of the gathering and decision-making process that shapes the Uniting Church? Then you might be just the person to attend the Synod meeting in July, 2019.

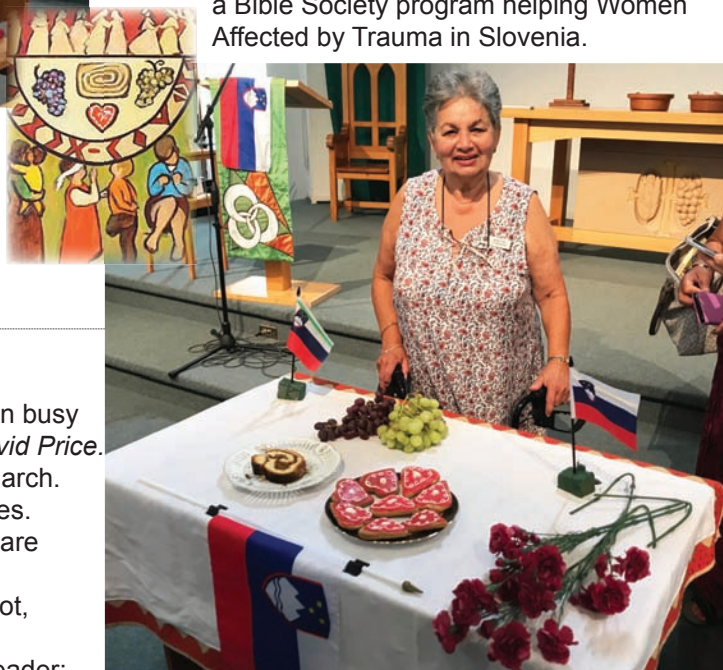
Two wonderful short videos have been produced from the last Synod meeting and we've uploaded them to the website. Click on the slider image on the Home page at <http://www.ucappep.org/>

If watching them whets your appetite to be a part of it, then follow their prompts to put your name forward.



WORLD Day of Prayer this year was a moving service compiled by the women of Slovenia. Services were held in different denominational churches across the Presbytery (and the globe) and were decorated with Slovenian flags. Some, such as Marlene Thresher at High Street UC, Frankston, below, baked traditional Slovenian cakes and biscuits to share. The offering this year will go to a Bible Society program helping Women Affected by Trauma in Slovenia.

“Dober dan” [Good Day] from Slovenia as the world prays together



“That would be an Ecumenical matter...”

Mornington/Mount Martha Inter Church Network has been busy over Christmas and has an active year ahead, writes David Price. Lent is coming, beginning with Ash Wednesday on 6th March. Most Churches have opted to run their own Lenten studies. However, all are invited to attend the following which we are aware of:

- Tuesdays 7.30pm at 20 Carramar St. Home of Alison Kot, 0417746096; led by U/C Pastor Hannah Dungan
- Thursday 7.30pm at 25 Boormanii Drive Mornington; Leader: David Price 0481 752093

Mornington/Mt Martha Anglican Church is also holding a Lenten Film Festival at 3.30pm on Sunday afternoons throughout Lent in the Anglican Centre. Anyone with an interest in forming an interchurch Choir can contact Graham or Dorothy Barker on 03 59752464.

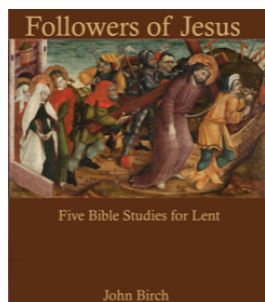
We have committed to hosting a recital by the Excelsis Choir as part of the Mornington Winter Music Festival on Sunday afternoon 9th June at the Anglican Centre.

Musical musings



Dates for your diary:
 • Peninsula Voice and Farrell’s Bookshop are hosting a discussion with Hugh Mackay about his new

book “Australia Reimagined towards a more compassionate, less anxious society” at 6.45pm at St Macartan’s Public School, Mornington on Thursday 14th February. Tickets are \$5 at the door and books will be available for purchase.



Soulful studies

Lenten Bible Studies, in a relaxed and informal atmosphere at Cranbourne Uniting Church, being led by the Reverend Tony Duncan, 7:30pm - 6, 13, 20, 27 March & 3 April.

Celebrating **150** Years
Moreton Bay Fig Tree

Come and celebrate this magnificent living monument that has provided shelter and protection to the people of Brighton for 150 years
****ALL WELCOME****

Sunday March 31
at 2pm

Trinity Uniting Church
17 Black Street, Brighton

Guest soloist Stephen Marsh

For more information:
 Jen Verwoert 0419 492 222
www.trinitybrighton.org.au

Joyful scenes at presbytery meeting herald a new dawn

Pastors Anna White-Atkins and David Atkins from Parkdale led worship and had us clapping along to a contemporary version of an old hymn.

Chairperson Andrew welcomed Rev Nigel McBrien who was recently inducted at Western Port Parish and Nicole Mugford, newly commissioned Youth and Young Adults worker at St Leonard's Brighton Beach.

Andrew also announced that Heather Hon, a Presbytery minister candidate has accepted a call to Koonung Heights. Heather will be ordained at Glen Waverley on

Saturday 6 April at 2.30 pm.

A written ballot was conducted regarding the appointment of Revs Duncan Macleod, Anneke Opperwal and Dr Craig Mitchell as new Presbytery Minister and the ballot overwhelmingly supported a call being issued to them.



by Ian Firth

The Chairperson Working Group brought a report on the role and suggested remuneration of the Presbytery Chairperson. After much discussion the Presbytery decided that an interim Chairperson should be appointed for 12 months from 1 May 2019 and that the position should be remunerated at .5% of stipend.

Presbytery in Council meeting dates for 2019

- 10 April,
- 19 June,
- 21 August,
- 16 October
- 11 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.

To see who represents Port Phillip East Presbytery on the current Standing Committee visit: <http://www.ucappeg.org/about-ppeg/key-people/>

Not just containing individual reflections **Still time to order online**

for each day, this FREE 2019 Lenten Resource contains weekly ideas for families and households. From Ash Wednesday to Easter Day you will find a fresh thought and invitation for reflection for each day. Visit: <http://www.ctmresourcing.org.au/2019-lenten-resource>

Are you up to date with your training?

SAFE CHURCH TRAINING
Saturday 2nd March, 2019
1.30 registration
2.00 – 4.00 pm workshop
Cook Islands Uniting Church
14-16 Burton Ave, Clayton



Please note that it is mandatory for all people with a Working With Children Check Card (or waiting for it to be approved) to attend a Safe Church Training Course every three years. The invitation is extended to the wider Presbytery. To register in advance or for further details please contact Faye Sanderson as the Culture of Safety Contact Person, Parish of Balkara P 0418 579 057 or email faye.sanderson@bigpond.com

There is also a Safe Church Training session planned at Dandenong Uniting Church on March 30th. Address: 32 Scott St, Dandenong VIC 3175. for details call (03) 9793 3832.

Lenten Reflections 2019

Created with love and full of care by the staff of the CTM for your Lenten journey.

From Ash Wednesday to Easter each day you will find a fresh thought and invitation for reflection, as well as an activity for your household at the end of each week.

We would be pleased to know how you are using the reflections and your ideas for future resources for individuals or groups.

May your Lenten discipleship be enriched by this resource.

Uniting Church in Australia
PARISH OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA

equipping Leadership for Mission

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....