

NEWSBEAT



JUNE 2019

NEWSLETTER FOR THE PRESBYTERY OF PORT PHILLIP EAST



These showgirls have been very creative with their cups recently. Drink it all in on page 5.

Important meeting set for **July** to take our churches forward. Turn to the back page for details and dates.



Clergy sign for solidarity ...turn to page 4



Iftar meal connections signal strong future links

In transition...

THREE months into my role as Presbytery

Minister, I'm very much aware that moving roles, moving cities, and moving house, involves a lot of internal adjustment, writes Rev Duncan Macleod, Presbytery Minister Team Leader. It's not a simple matter of learning new names for people and streets. There's a bigger task to be done, internally.



William Bridges writes: "It isn't the changes that do you in; it's the transitions. Change is not the same as transition. Change is situational: the new site, the new boss, the new team roles, the new policy. Transition is the psychological process people go through to come to terms with the new situation. Change is external; transition is internal". Transition has been a significant part of my previous roles with the Uniting Church in Australia and the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand. Most of that has been with congregations, presbyteries and staff as they work through endings, living in the 'in-between' or neutral zone, and launching new beginnings.

As at the beginning of June, Port Phillip East Presbytery has a full ministry team, with Anneke Oppewal, Craig Mitchell and myself as Presbytery ministers, alongside the office bearers and people serving on committees and task groups. **We'll be celebrating that new start at a special Induction and Presbytery meeting on Wednesday, June 19, 7.30pm at Noble Park UCA. There are plans for various congregations, agencies and groups from across the presbytery to participate in the celebrations.** So,

we'd love to see as many as possible there to share in this new direction!

Cont. on page 2



It was just after sunset, and 40 Muslims and Christians gathered to share an Iftar meal together.

The Iftar meal is eaten at sundown as Muslims break their Ramadan fast. So we gathered at the Noble Park Uniting Church, on May 30, to share in this important meal in holy month. A wonderful night of warm fellowship was shared together and new connections were made. We heard the Call to Prayer, readings from the Quran and New Testament and speeches from both the Muslim and Christian community, along with sharing a Turkish bequest together.

The dinner was initiated by the Australian Intercultural Society, along with the Noble Park and Ormond Uniting churches and we look forward to more opportunities for such gatherings in the future across the Presbytery. **by Rev Andrew Boyle**



Photos by Craig Mitchell

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



In transition...

Cont. from front page

Craig, Anneke and I are working through our own transitions. We've been processing the endings of our previous roles,

with all that goes with letting go of responsibilities, close working relationships and hopes and dreams. Over the next few months we'll be working in the 'in-between' time, as we get to know people, processes and policies. We'll be working on healthy ways of working together, reflecting on our learning, sorting out good communication lines. We'll be bringing creativity and patience together as we engage with the Presbytery. I'm hoping that by the end of the year we'll have a strong sense of how our roles are best expressed. In the meantime, we invite you to join us in the transition.

Pictured R-L, contact details are:

Duncan Macleod (team leader) pm-tl@ucappeg.org
0439 828 718

Anneke Oppewal (pastoral) pm-pastoral@ucappeg.org
0437 298 454

Craig Mitchell (church development)
pm-cd@ucappeg.org 0417 323 088



Playing it safe at Somers - but still heaps of fun on the cards



Book now

Somers camp planning is well under way now! This year we have a team of 50 volunteer leaders who have been working tirelessly to plan and organize camp. Did you know that every single activity on camp has a risk assessment submitted to our core team? We love how hard our leaders work to keep our campers safe.

If you haven't already submitted your registration form yet head over to www.somerscamp.com.au/register. Do you have friends or family who would love to come along? Feel free to pass on this link to anyone who might be interested.

Looking forward to seeing you all there.

The Somers Camp Core Team



Faith at work

At Work with John's Gospel is a new Bible Study book on integrating work and faith, compiled by the Creative Ministries Network Congregation.

Click on the PPEP Events web page to read details on the back page of the book jacket, left. Copies can be purchased from Coventry Press at http://coventrypress.com.au/Bookstore?product_id=53

SOMERS CAMP
port phillip east presbytery | childrens camp

Somers Camp is a camp for children from Grade 3 - Year 9.

THE CAMP EMPOWERS CHILDREN IN A FRIENDLY, CARING COMMUNITY

It runs from Monday afternoon until Friday morning during the first week of the winter school holidays.

The leaders of the camp are dedicated to providing a safe and friendly place for children to have fun and grow as people.

"BEST FIVE DAYS OF MY YEAR"

Contact details
somerscamp.com.au facebook.com/somerscamp
admin@somerscamp.com.au

Religion and politics can mix



THE Village Uniting Church in Mt Eliza held an election forum for the candidates in the Dunkley electorate in the lead up to the recent federal election.

Liberal MP Chris Crewther, Labor candidate Peta Murphy and Greens candidate Emily Green were all present to respond to questions. The forum followed the key areas covered in the Assembly election resource, asking candidates questions on climate change, Australian aid, First Peoples, amongst others on regular issues like health, education and the economy. Opportunity for audience questions was also provided.

The church set clear boundaries at the beginning, reminding everyone present that this was a place of peace and prayer and to treat everyone with respect. Given there is a political process, and party policy, the questions and the forum were designed to hear what is behind the candidates, what are their values and vision for our country.

REv Cameron McAdam says: "A number of people in the audience spoke with me after and told me how helpful it had been, and certainly the atmosphere is one of respect. It makes people realise that we can do politics well if we try."

Chris Crewther, who subsequently lost his seat, wrote after the forum: "Fantastic to take part in the Dunkley community candidate's forum tonight! Thank you to Village Uniting Church in Mount Eliza and Rev Cameron McAdam for hosting, Cr Sam Hearn for MC-ing, fellow candidates for participating and every local community member who took time out of their schedule to take part and ask questions."

MELBOURNE suburbs are supporting West Papua's bid for freedom at the United Nations with a Windsor-style afternoon tea and variety concert at Mt Waverley Uniting Church.

The **Concert For a Free**

West Papua features contemporary cabaret, satire, comedy and music

along with a lavish High Tea on **Saturday, 15 June, 2-4pm.**

Artistes include internationally renowned vocal duo THE CHROMATIQUES, flamboyant flautist KYM WILSON and well known for her satire of high-profile political figures comedienne HELEN CHILDS. The purpose of the concert is to raise awareness and funds for the West Papua campaign at the UN General Assembly in New York in September 2019.

"The Concert for West Papua is not just a Saturday afternoon with fabulous musicians and cream scones"

says organizer Faye Gregson from the West Papua Womens Office in Docklands.

'It's also the vigorous old-style assembly where people can vote for West Papua. This next General Assembly in New York is the Papuans best shot at freedom in decades, and I want my church in the gallery alongside all the African, Caribbean and Pacific member-states'.

by Margery Kennett, Mt Waverley
Chadstone UC Cluster Social
Justice and Mission Committee

Sign Petition: www.DecolonizeWestPapua.com

CONCERT FOR A FREE WEST PAPUA

The Chromatiques
Vocal Duo

Helchild
Comedian

Kym Wilson
Jazz Musician

Uniting Church, 482 High St. Road, Mt Waverley
2pm - 4pm, Saturday 15th June 2019

Enquiries: Phone 0402 853 147;
Email: frwpwomensoffice@gmail.com

Proceeds to assist West Papuans at the UN
Bank: CBA, BSB 063162 Acc. 10610166
Use your surname and 'concert' as reference

\$25-\$15 conc
includes lavish afternoon tea
All Welcome

We, the undersigned, are members of a group of mostly clergy, both women and men, still actively involved in the life of the Church. We meet on a regular basis to explore and discuss issues of faith, church and society from a contemporary perspective.

We express our profound concern at the horrific events in Christchurch, New Zealand in March 2019, and believe that our church should respond strongly, and with conviction.

While we understand the complexity of the situation, which makes the sheeting home of blame problematic, we accept responsibility to examine our own thought and practices and those of our various churches. We do this in the hope that we can identify our contribution, intentional or otherwise, to the construction of a social, religious and political environment conducive to race-based hate speech.

We, as followers of Jesus, acknowledge that our churches have in times past promoted notions that racial and cultural superiority are justified. We acknowledge that such notions have contributed to the worst behaviour imaginable. The fifty deaths in Christchurch are but the most recent symptoms of faulty theology, poor education, careless talk and the mistaken identification of faith as a marker of superiority. Often when our society, or individuals within it, behave in a violent and offensive manner we have said little or have maintained our silence.

In recognition of our churches' complicity we, the undersigned, ask of the churches that, in word and deed, we together: embrace inclusiveness, and publicly denounce division; engage in open-minded study of other faiths actively build bridges between faiths and cultures, and decry the forces that keep them apart; resist the urge to convert or demean people of other faiths; proclaim love and peace as the very essence of God's will; stand up in our communities for justice; speak out against hate speech; call out racism.



Quote

"Struggle is a never ending process. Freedom is never really won, you earn it and win it in every generation."

Coretta Scott King
of the month

Signed:
Members of the
Progressive
Explorers Group
as at Tuesday, 30
April 2019
For a full list of
signatories click
on: [https://www.
ucappep.org/
newsbeat/events/](https://www.ucappep.org/newsbeat/events/)

"You, Lord, took up my case; you redeemed my life."

Lamentations 3: 58

Singing sensation returns

2019 Hymn Fest at St. Andrews in the Our Hymn fest for this year will be held on Sunday 16th June at 2.00pm

Our first Hymn Fest was held in 2017, is now an annual event and has since has grown each year! The last 2 years we have had an overflowing church and the event is proving very popular with people from all over attending for a fun filled afternoon of music in particular the hymn singing of "good old fashioned hymns" - many of which aren't sung in services today.

St Andrew's Church Choir leads the hymn singing accompanied by our pipe organ which happens to be 60 years old this year! The choir will also perform several pieces together with soloist and St Andrew's member Monique Churchill who is also a singing teacher, has been on Australia's got Talent and also sung with Australian opera!. Wendy's band 'Journey Bound' will also be taking part so people are in for a great afternoon which also includes afternoon tea!

St. Andrew's Berwick Uniting Church
3rd annual
Hymn Fest
2019
Sunday 16th June 2.00pm
St. Andrew's Berwick Uniting Church
105 High Street, Berwick

Come for a fun filled musical afternoon and sing your most loved and favourite hymns!

Featuring St Andrew's Choir and pipe organ, with performances by 'Journey Bound' band and special soloists

WINTER ARTS FESTIVAL
PART OF THE 2019 CITY OF CASEY WINTER ARTS FESTIVAL

\$10 entry fundraiser
includes afternoon tea

berwick.unitingchurch.org.au [@StAndrewsBerwickUnitingChurch](https://www.facebook.com/StAndrewsBerwickUnitingChurch)

facebook

Spotted on

Like the Presbytery of Port Phillip East website by clicking on
<https://www.facebook.com/ucappegp.org/> ... go on, do it right now :o)



Pretty in pink Our cups runneth over



Pictured above is Shirley - from the Hastings Congregation and Manager of our Op Shop - who finds time to sew for the Dress-a-Girl-Around-the-World project. This is her latest and cutest creation.

Cranbourne Uniting Patchworkers' Biggest Morning Tea event has been running for over 20 years and is very important to the group and the Cranbourne Community - including Inner Wheel, Freedom Church, and the Ruby Gumnut Goddesses from Rowville who made special hats from bras. Great to be here with Rev Ray McClusky.



A fitting occasion for the Creeds



Photo by Hazel Roberts

The Mt Waverley Chadstone Uniting Church Cluster organised a workshop to consider the relevance of the Creeds within our Uniting Church context in the 21st Century. It was led by Dr Geoff Thompson, Coordinator of Studies - Systemic Theology at Pilgrim Theological College. The workshop at High Street Road UC was an excellent occasion to learn more about where the old and new Creeds fit in the Church's history and the Basis of Union.

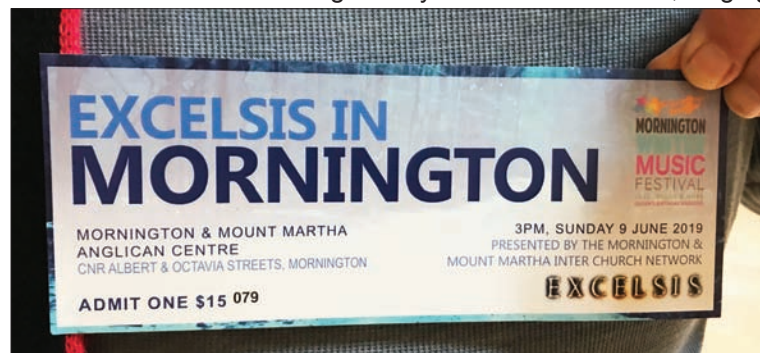
Casting call



YEARNING to tread the boards?
 Can carry a tune? The Village Church, Mt Eliza is still looking for an 18-35 year old male to play the key role of Wishee Washee in their pantomime 'Aladdin.' Contact 0425 774780 for an audition.

Winter warmer

THE Excelsis Choir will be performing as part of the Mornington Winter Music Festival on Sunday, 9th June, 3pm at the Anglican Centre, Mornington. Excelsis is Melbourne's most exciting and dynamic Catholic choir, singing for liturgical



events around Victoria and also giving regular concert performances. The choir sings an extremely varied repertoire

of sacred music from numerous Christian traditions, incorporating classical European works, hymnody, contemporary church music, traditional African pieces, spirituals and gospel songs.

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

Reflections on Faith

When the spirit moves in blissful harmony

IT'S impossible to talk about Sunday 19th May without struggling to find the right words. As one person said: "It's been a long time since we've had young children running through the building like that". Said while a string of young boys raced through the back door and out into the courtyard behind the church building. It wasn't just that the Zimbabwean community swelled our numbers, or stunned us with their beautiful red outfits, or captivated us with their friendliness and smiles. I have to say it – it was the vibe.

Get social at media workshop - book now

Come and explore how and why we might – or might not – adopt various forms of social media for mission and communication in different ministry contexts. You'll learn from Rev Jay Robinson, representatives from the Synod comms unit, and ministers on their adoption and use of social media in their ministry. "Social media for beginners: no question too simple"



When: Thursday, June 6, 10am-1pm

Where: Centre for Theology and Ministry, 29 College Crescent, Parkville, VIC, 3052

Cost: \$10 (includes morning tea)

Bring your own device.

Register at www.trybooking.com/BSES or by email to ann.byrne@victas.uca.org.au

For more details: Ann Byrne on 03 9340 8800 or e-mail ann.byrne@victas.uca.org.au or

Stories of Childhood

Playgroup/Pre-school Ministry Training Day
Saturday June 22, CTM, Parkville

STORIES of Childhood will assist you and your church in connecting more deeply with the children and their carers you are called to serve. The excellent electives on offer across the day include...

- Making music meaningful
- Using puppets with purpose
- Creative craft that communicates
- Safe conversations
- Inclusion and engagement for all abilities
- Identifying and responding to family violence
- Pathways from playgroup to congregation

Information and registration at <https://ucavt.goregister.com.au/storiesofchildhood2019/info/>

It was the whole experience. The coming together of two very different faith communities; different in terms of culture, language and tradition. The whole thing felt natural and right. Genuine and not contrived. Real and rejuvenating.

But it was the song that got me and also moved quite a few others to tears.

Sung in the Shona language. It began with a burst of energy, movement and pace. Drum beats focussing



our attention.

Song and dance wrapping themselves around each other.

Like a stirring wind it gained momentum and swept us into its embrace, and we found ourselves swaying with its rhythm and poetry. After a while the tempo

relaxed and released its grip. Then, with an unexpected yet mesmerising softness, the song began to caress

us with its gentleness; carrying us away on the invisible wings of prayerfulness. Taking us to a place where neither language nor culture was a barrier. The song becoming an expression of faith flowing from the hearts and voices of a community for whom God is neither abstract nor absent, but real and present.

Such a moment cannot be engineered, and probably not produced again.

But that's ok. It was a moment of transfiguration and we were able to share in it. The ordinary was transformed into the sublime

by Rev David Pargeter

Uniting Church Historical Society 2019 Program

UC NATIONAL HISTORY CONFERENCE:

"Finding a home in the Uniting Church". Friday evening 7th June – Monday 10th June, Centre for Theology and Ministry, Parkville. More information later.

LECTURE 2:

"Rediscovering the Vision: the contribution of the Congregational, Methodist and Presbyterian churches in the formation of the Uniting Church in Australia". Rev. Dr D'Arcy Wood, 2.30 pm 18 August, The Avenue UC, Blackburn Road, Blackburn.

HISTORIC CHURCHES OF MELBOURNE TOUR:

Visiting the Collins Street Baptist Church, The Scots' Church and St Paul's Cathedral for guided tours. 10 am–3.30 pm, Tuesday, 24th September.

Information: Geoff Paterson 0448740195.

Enquiries:
Robert Renton
0427 812 606



Uniting Church in Australia
SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA

and the only way to honour such a moment was with silence. A reverential time of stillness. A time in which two very different communities came together as one. It's a moment that will stay with us for a very very long time.



A decade of devotion to Tenebrae

Dinner and Shadows for Stonnington UCA's 50 Members of the Stonnington Community UCA, St Andrews Indonesian Gardiner, the Tamil Congregation and Armadale Congregations gathered for the annual Tenebrae service conducted over a meal. The combined dinner has been running for over 10 years, and includes the readings and liturgy of the shadows, while members eat together. It is a wonderful time of cross cultural fellowship and worship together.

by Rev Greg Crowe

Are you prepared for a health emergency at your church?

The Village Church is running a First Aid workshop on Saturday, June 15 and we'd love to get as many people as possible along.

For those who do not have a First Aid Certificate (and/or need to renew), the workshop will run from 9am – 4pm and importantly, will include added information around 'providing emergency response in an educational care setting' (HLTAID004) eg. managing and

reducing the risk of allergies/ asthma/ anaphylaxis. For those who only need to complete the annual CPR certificate renewal, this will be covered in the second part of the day from 12:45pm – 4pm. For details and to book see the base of the flier below...



The Christian Playgroup Network is a superb resource to equip, encourage and enable healthy Playgroup ministry in local churches. Visit <https://cpn.org.au/>

As 'Chosen People: Called to Proclaim' the greatness of God, let us remember that

Christ has gained the victory over death and will welcome into eternal life all those who trust in him. In the presence of death and destruction, pain and loss, the risen Christ still brings grace and peace, comfort and hope, healing and renewal.

We thank God for creative initiatives that bring:

- hope to people in distress, and generate incomes for those in poverty;
- comfort to the bereaved and friendship to the lonely;
- education to end illiteracy and medical supplies to those who are sick;
- food for the hungry and homes for the dispossessed;
- welcome for the refugees and good news of the gospel to those who still do not know Jesus as Lord and Saviour.

In all these acts of love, we see the hand of God at work. To God be the glory for ever and ever.

Amen

from a Call to Pray by the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women





V

FIRST AID & CPR CERTIFICATION



A First Aid Certification with focus on 'Providing an emergency response in an educational care setting' (HLTAID004), which includes additional information on managing and reducing the risk of allergies/ asthma/ anaphylaxis.

WHEN:	Saturday 15 June 2019
FIRST AID CERTIFICATE (includes CPR):	9:00am - 4:00pm @ \$155pp
CPR 12 MONTH REFRESHER:	12:45pm - 4:00pm @ \$75pp
VENUE:	The Village Church, 93 Canadian Bay Road Mt Eliza
WHO SHOULD ATTEND:	Anyone who runs/ cares for young people in programs/ clubs/ organised activities. Anyone needing to update their First Aid or CPR certification.

RSVP: SUNDAY 26 MAY 2019 to The Village Church on 9787 1683 OR ucame@hotmail.com.au

Presbytery in Council meeting dates for 2019

- **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 commencing at 7.30pm. All ministers and presbytery reps are asked to attend regularly. Thank you.

Cont. from front page



We will be delighted to induct Revs Duncan Macleod and Anneke Oppenwal and commission Dr Craig Mitchell at the Presbytery meeting on **Wednesday 19th June at Noble Park UC**. At this meeting office bearers and committee members will also be commissioned. This will be a great moment in the life of the Presbytery and we encourage members of congregations within the presbytery to join us.

SPECIAL PRESBYTERY MEETING – WEDNESDAY JULY 17TH

Presbytery Standing Committee has agreed to call a special Presbytery meeting on

Wednesday 17th July at 7.30pm to advance the work of Cultivating a New Future. We are currently in Stage 3 of the four-stage process and there are some important questions we need to discuss and decisions we need to make as we move into Stage 4. This meeting is being called so that all members can be dynamically engaged as we advance this work.

During Stage 4 we will address three of the four priorities identified in Stage 1:

The leadership structures of the presbytery and how we might work within these in dynamic and effective ways
The launch of some cutting-edge, missional pilot programs, in identified congregations, through which we may learn and build congregational and ministerial capacity

A review of the resources across the presbytery and how we may deal with these in effective and pastoral ways
These are important issues as we embrace a challenging future and we hope you will be able to participate in our deliberations on the 17th July.

by Rev Andrew Boyle, Chair of the Presbytery



Vale Patricia Begg

PATRICIA was a long standing member of the Toorak Uniting Church and of the Presbytery. She served for many years on the Pastoral Relations committees of both Nepean and Port Phillip East presbyteries.

Patricia was diagnosed with motor neurone disease 9 months ago and died peacefully at home on 1 May.

The Toorak church was full of people wanting to pay their respects to Patricia and to acknowledge her impact on so many organisations and people. Patricia was the much loved wife of Chris Begg, who for many years was the treasurer

of the Nepean and Port Phillip East presbyteries.

Patricia made a significant contribution to the work of PRC with her wise insight and carefully chosen words. We will miss her and we extend our heartfelt sympathy to Chris and also to Patricia's family.

The Presbytery of Port Phillip East gives thanks to God for the life and witness of Patricia Begg.



by Ian Firth

*Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving
for the life of*



Patricia Jean Begg OAM

13 May 1939 - 1 May 2019

Toorak Uniting Church

2pm Thursday, 9 May 2019

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