

# NEWSBEAT

NEWSLETTER FOR THE PRESBYTERY OF PORT PHILLIP EAST



SEPTEMBER 2019



"Who Am I?" as the song goes in *Les Misérables*...  
The curtain rises on page 7 to identify this Irish theological gem.



New Principal shares her vision on page 6

Gregor and Gareth bid adieu to the congregation at Coatesville recently. Read how it played out on page 4.



## A passion for God's creation

ANDREA Mayes cares deeply about our planet and her faith journey has led her to candidate as Deacon for the Uniting Church. At 10am on Sunday September 15 at Hampton Park Uniting Church Andrea, below, will use the Season of Creation material to explore the link between our faith and climate change.

Cont on page 2



## Churches called to action

UCA President Dr Deidre Palmer is inviting church members in our presbytery and beyond to participate in an important global climate action day this month. Dr Palmer says in her invitation letter: "Climate refugees, widening deserts, polluted oceans, endangered animals

and vanishing forests are signs of the suffering of our planet, and a cry for us to take compassionate action as disciples of Christ." UnitingWorld has launched a campaign, and even if you can't attend the demonstrations at Treasury Gardens, Melbourne, on September 20, 2-4pm you can still support by clicking on <https://www.unitingworld.org.au/climatestrike/>



## Soul Day - for Ministry Agents

**Tuesday, October 29, 9.30am - 3pm**  
**@ Hampton Uniting Church.**  
**Food, stories and practices to nurture the soul.**  
**Contact Rev Anneke Oppewal,**  
**PM Pastoral on 9558 4710 or**  
**[pm-pastoral@ucapppep.org](mailto:pm-pastoral@ucapppep.org)**  
**for details and registration.**



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





## Andrea's passion for creation

*Cont. from front page*

"I hope to inspire people to become involved in addressing climate change. Our faith provides so many reasons, such as God creating this world and loving it, Jesus encouraging us to love our neighbour, and the Spirit working to reconcile all of creation to God," she says.

### How it all started...

When I was growing up I loved the bush and wanted to become a Park Ranger. I studied environmental science and worked on environmental programs and policies. I became a Christian in North Belconnen Uniting Church when 25. I initially had trouble connecting my passion for the environment with my faith. I worshipped in other denominations and then moved my family to Melbourne. In 2014 I completed a unit in Ecology and Christianity at UFT (now Pilgrim College) which allowed me to make concrete links between my faith and current environmental issues. Later that year I felt drawn back to the Uniting Church by its commitment to reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions. In 2015 I joined ARRCC (Australian Religious Response to Climate Change) and discovered the ecumenical and interfaith links that can be made around environmental issues. Now, in my second year of training as a deacon candidate I am growing in my confidence in proclaiming the link between the bible, our faith, and current environmental issues such as climate change.



Faith and Climate Change T-Shirts and Jumpers by ARRCC. There are four different designs, accessible through the following page: [https://www.arrcc.org.au/arrcc\\_t\\_shirts](https://www.arrcc.org.au/arrcc_t_shirts)

If you can, join the campaigners on Friday, September 20, 2pm - 4pm. For details click on the link to the Facebook event here: <https://www.facebook.com/events/294034611478041/>  
Bring a banner from your faith community.

There will be a multi-faith service for Climate Strike by ARRCC on the same day 12.30-1.30pm (just prior to the demonstration) at Wesley Church Melbourne, 148 Lonsdale St, Melbourne. Also free.

Green Traditions

### Get in quick

**A Climate of Change Conference** by Justice and International Mission at Centre for Theology and Ministry, 29 College Cres, Parkville. Saturday, September 7th, 9.30am-4pm. Cost \$40/\$30 concession, for more information see <https://victas.uca.org.au/event/jim-conference-2019/>

Book now



**A CLIMATE OF CHANGE: TOMORROW'S MORAL IMPERATIVE TODAY**

**SATURDAY 7 SEPTEMBER  
CENTRE FOR THEOLOGY  
AND MINISTRY,  
29 COLLEGE CRESCENT,  
PARKVILLE**

For information or to register, visit [www.justact.org.au/a\\_climate\\_of\\_change](http://www.justact.org.au/a_climate_of_change) or call 03 9340 8868



equipping Leadership for Mission



Join us to celebrate **LIVING THE CHANGE YEAR TWO** together: creating a flourishing world for all. We gather as members of **diverse faith communities** and those who care for our planet to share our stories of **change, transformation, and regeneration**. We tap into our deepest values to find the inspiration to address climate change and support each other in the journey.

**DATE AND TIME**  
Sunday 8th September 2019  
2:30-5 pm

**LOCATION**  
Multicultural Hub  
506 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne VIC 3000

**BOOKINGS**  
<https://www.trybooking.com/BELIE>  
Cost: Free, please book for catering numbers

**CONTACT DETAILS**  
SUE ENNIS  
[WCRPAUST@IINET.NET.AU](mailto:WCRPAUST@IINET.NET.AU)  
TEXT 0400 069 014

#### PROGRAM

- Speaker on 'Indigenous Spirituality and Climate Change'
- Fun activities
- Small groups sharing
- Vegan finger food feast



### Down to earth

Living the Change by ARRCC (Australian Religious Response to Climate Change) Sunday September 8th, 2:30pm-5pm at Multicultural Hub, 506 Elizabeth St, Melbourne. Free. Please book for catering numbers on <https://www.trybooking.com/BELIE>

The main speaker is Glenn Loughrey, a Wiradjuri man from NSW and the priest at St. Oswald's Anglican Church in Glen Iris. He is talking on Indigenous Spirituality and Climate Change.

## Come celebrate a Ruby Service at Mt Martha



Mt Martha Congregation will be celebrating 40 years since the Congregation was established at 10am on Sunday, September 22.

Initially the Congregation met at Mt Martha House, a local community facility, until the current church was built some years later. The Moderator, Rev Denise Liersch, will be the guest preacher.

At this service and the morning tea that follows we will be remembering those faithful and committed people who had the vision to create a new congregation, as well as those who have served as ministers. All are welcome to attend.

ST ANDREW'S hosted three Tongan choirs from Canterbury Balwyn Road UCA last Sunday, for 'a pleasant Sunday afternoon' of singing, writes Rev Wendy Snook. They were the



Canterbury UCA Church Choir, Men's Choir and the Youth Choir and Paloneti Puamau and I sang solos. Some songs were in the Tongan language, some in English, and the congregational singing was in both Tongan and English simultaneously! Perhaps that is what heaven will sound like? It was a really enjoyable time of fellowship and praise of God. Visitors came from other churches and the community as well. We would like to thank them all very much for coming.

## A glimpse of heaven

### Dementia Workshop

### Ageing Well, Ageing Wisely or What are the things I should do now

St John's Uniting Church  
37 Virginia St Mt Waverley

1.30pm to 3.00pm on Friday September 13<sup>th</sup>



Diana Cerini, Client Advisor for Uniting Agewell in their Homecare Program at Strathdon Community at Forest Hill is the Speaker.

Then, please join us for a cup of tea or coffee and informal discussion. Please advise Margery Kennett 9807 4084, [mbkennett@bigpond.com](mailto:mbkennett@bigpond.com) of your intention to attend.  
*A gold coin donation would be appreciated.*



CLIVE Butler was awarded the 2019 Casey Individual Volunteer of the Year award for services to church, Transit emergency relief and Probus for 35 years. Mr Butler has volunteered with St Andrew's, Berwick UC since the late 1980s, fundraising to upgrade facilities and holding the position of church treasurer for nine of those years. Since 2013, he has also coordinated the fundraising for Transit Soup Kitchen in Narre Warren, providing important items, including food and blankets. Clive says: "It certainly did come as a surprise. If I join a club and I can help in some way well then I put my

### Quote

*"Think of giving not as a duty but as a privilege."*

John D. Rockefeller Jr.

**of the month**

hand up. I have to be involved if something interests me – and that's basically what drives me," Mr Butler adds.





## Record year of community giving at High Street Uniting Church

### OPERATION LARDER...

It is pleasing to report that our food expenditure to assist the disadvantaged in the Frankston area for the 12 month period was a little under \$48,000. A sizeable increase from \$12,000 approx in 2013 and from \$27,000 in 2016. Thank you all for your continued financial support and donations of food, particularly those monthly blocks of cheese. With such a large increase in demand for food your committee is actively pursuing additional avenues to obtain funds. It is a big task.

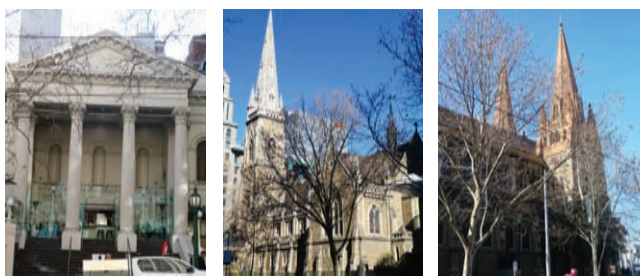
Graeme Horsburgh  
Larder Treasurer



Uniting Church in Australia  
SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA

UNITING CHURCH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**2019 CBD Churches Walking Tour**  
**Tuesday 24 September 2019**  
**10.30am-3.30pm**



Join us to visit three CBD churches:

- Collins Street Baptist Church;
- The Scots' Church, Collins and Russell Streets corner;
- St Paul's Cathedral, Swanston and Flinders St corner.

We assemble outside Collins Street Baptist Church ready for a 10.30am start. Please make your own lunch arrangements although tables will be reserved at *Elements Cafe*, 120 Collins Street.

**Please RSVP with your name, phone and email to Geoff Paterson by Monday 16 September on 0448740195 or email [gkp@netspace.net.au](mailto:gkp@netspace.net.au)**

## Parting is such sweet sorrow - for Gregor too...

THE releasing of ties service for Rev Gareth Darlow in Coatesville saw a service celebrating 10 years of ministry, where puppet Gregor expressed his dismay about the difficulty of



**by  
Rev Anneke  
Oppewal**

goodbyes. While sermon, songs and prayers spoke about the

possibilities of new beginnings offered as Gareth moves on to Glen Iris Uniting Church,

pictured right is Gareth at his induction. The Coatesville congregation now begins the journey of reflecting on the future that lies ahead for them.



Glen Waverley Uniting Church  
cnr Kingsway and Bogong Ave, Glen Waverley



## Grand Fete

大型淘宝日

**Saturday 19 October 8:30am - 2:00pm**

Collectables, Toys,  
Asian Food, Drinks,  
Pick a \$2 Box,  
Pre-loved Clothes,  
Pre-loved Books

Trash and Treasure,  
Face Painting, Plants,  
Hamburgers,  
Sausage Sizzle,  
Fresh Fairy Floss

Silent  
Auction with  
an amazing  
range of  
goods,  
Jazz Band

Craft,  
Devonshire  
Teas, Jams,  
Jewellery,  
Animal Farm,  
Cakes





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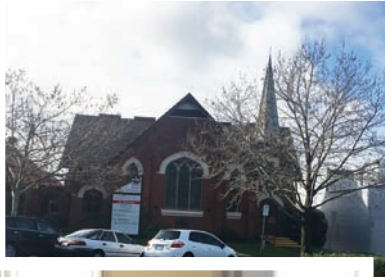
Like the Presbytery of Port Phillip East website by clicking on <https://www.facebook.com/ucappep.org/> ... go on, do it right now :o)



Spotted on



WORSHIP in Oakleigh on Sunday was led by Papa Faikeau Joseph from the Cook Island Congregation in Frankston and Papa Eddie Dean the national Secretary of the Cook Island Congregations - who was visiting from



Queensland. Lots of singing, plenty of smiles and two choirs from very different music traditions brought in some warmth on a very cold Melbourne morning.



WE have a number of Messy Churches across our presbytery. Yesterday, St Andrew's Berwick UC held their quarterly gathering, below, that brings 20-30 parents and children together for a time of worship, learning, friendship and hospitality. The atmosphere was warm despite the weather outdoors!



## Hampton's Call delights all with Ann's positive response

INTRODUCING Rev Ann Simons as the new minister at Hampton Uniting Church, *writes Ian Menzies*.

Ann is currently in Placement with the Officer, Pakenham Mission Area, a role she has been in since 2013 following her exit Placement to Drouin, Bunyip from 2005-2012. She holds a Bachelor of Education (1985), Master of Divinity (2004) and a Graduate Diploma in Spiritual Direction (2010).

Ann's key attributes include a love for preparing and sharing in weekly worship and a passion for pastoral care. Her interests



extend to spiritual direction, and she is excited at the potential for input and personal growth arising from Hampton's Dayspring programs. Ann wants to move from a full-time role to a 0.6 full-time at Hampton and is likely to commence in January.

## Enjoy a very fruitful morning - register now

# DIVING DEEP

PREPARING YOUTH AND ADULTS FOR BAPTISM AND CONFIRMATION

### WORKSHOP

This interactive session will focus on the educational dimensions of preparing people for baptism and confirmation: our aims and understandings, a variety of approaches, mentors and companions, plus a range of print and multimedia resources including a preview of new UCA materials.

### FACILITATOR

Craig Mitchell is the Presbytery Minister - Church Development with Port Phillip East Presbytery. He is the former UCA National Director for Formation, Education and Discipleship. Craig has produced faith development resources for all ages in the UCA over many years.

Cost \$10

To register call 9568 8177 or email

[office@murrumbeenauniting.org.au](mailto:office@murrumbeenauniting.org.au) by 3 September

An activity of Port Phillip East Presbytery and Murrumbeena Uniting Church

Tuesday 10 September 10am-12.30pm  
Murrumbeena Uniting Church



## Fancy a beachside villa break in SA?

YOU'LL find it at the UCAF NATIONAL CELEBRATION on:

29 April – 3 May 2020

Seaside location near historic Glenelg.

- Celebration Dinner with UCA Assembly President as guest speaker
- Worship, bible studies, guest speakers from Frontier Services and UnitingWorld.
- An update on the new UCAF National Committee structure
- Fun, food and fellowship, electives, free time to explore Adelaide or just relax.

Accommodation in villas with beds at floor level. 2 people per room, 2 bedrooms per villa. West Beach Parks, Military Road, West Beach, S.A. Airport transfers and all meals

included

Early Bird Payment: \$700 by 31st October, 2019.

Standard Rate: \$750.

Deadline 1st February, 2020

Contact Lencie Harding for a Registration Form/ more information. Phone:

03 9571 8175. Or email: [lencie.harding@gmail.com](mailto:lencie.harding@gmail.com)



## Nicola outlines the vision at Cornish for a world we all want for the future

“WHEN Cornish College was founded, we made a very important decision in answering the question that all schools should ask...“education for what?” We answered “education for a sustainable future” says new Cornish College Principal Nicola Forrest.

As a member of the school community since 2010 and Deputy Principal from 2014, I feel well-prepared to lead the school through the next period of its development and to build on the wonderful momentum we have gathered under our first two Principals, Kerry Bolger and Vicki Steer.”



I look forward to embracing opportunities for this learning community to build on the innovative and progressive thinking that have long been our “point of difference” and the impetus of our passion for being at Cornish College.

Our school’s vision, our purpose for being, is steering us in a clear direction. When we educate for a sustainable future, we make a commitment to design curriculum that is meaningful and transferable; we make a commitment to engage learners in a world beyond topics and textbooks, toward globally-accessible understandings; we make a commitment not to rush, but to thoughtfully gather the learning that can fill our senses with wonder, giving us time

to inquire and delve deeply into what makes us curious. I look forward to leading this wonderful school and working with the Cornish College community to ensure that we do our part in making a difference for the world we want for ourselves, our children and generations to come – a world in balance, where there is enough for all, forever.”



## NAVIGATING THE LANDSCAPE 29 – 30 OCTOBER



Australia's social context is changing rapidly, and with it, so is the nature of church and ministry. It is increasingly shaped by great diversity across culture, race, gender, class, education, region, geography, and age. Histories of migration, relationships between settlers and Australia's indigenous peoples, and dynamics of power, privilege, and marginalization bring additional complexity and challenge.

There is an urgent need for the church to respond to this, but how? Ministry in Australia's diverse contexts now requires leaders with an artist's pallet of tools, experiences, and knowledge. These “artists” are able to engage and foster community within and beyond the walls of

churches, shaped by the biblical vision of Shalom in which each person is able to be fully themselves, have their voices heard, and have their gifts shared.

This workshop seeks to resource intercultural ministry for a variety of ministry leaders nurturing cultural relevance, understanding, and awareness in their communities.

The workshop includes two days of engagement on gospel and culture, biblical reflections, sharing of ministry experiences, panel discussion and group discussion. Participants will need to be open to the actual experience of intercultural ministry, being in community with and learning from expressions of faith and cultures outside their own.

### VENUE

Wyselaskie Auditorium, Center for Theology and Ministry, 29 College Cres, Parkville VIC 3052

(Parking not available on site, but paid street parking available)

### TIME

9:30am – 4:30pm

### COST

\$60 for both days or \$40 for 1 day

### REGISTER

Please register by 5pm Friday 18 October [www.trybooking.com/BELMS](http://www.trybooking.com/BELMS)

For more information, contact Dev Anandarajan at [Devanandan.Anandarajan@victas.uca.org.au](mailto:Devanandan.Anandarajan@victas.uca.org.au)



## BRUNSWICK UNITING CHURCH

## Student House

### Moving to Melbourne for tertiary study next year?

Are you interested in being part of a Christian student house in Brunswick?

Our program provides affordable housing close to university and public transport in Melbourne's inner-north. Students explore their faith with fellow young Christians and actively participate in the life of Brunswick Uniting Church.

If you are interested in joining our vibrant community, and need more information, visit our website:

[www.brunswick.unitingchurch.org.au/student-house-program](http://www.brunswick.unitingchurch.org.au/student-house-program) and contact our Student House Support Worker at: [studenthousebuc@gmail.com](mailto:studenthousebuc@gmail.com)



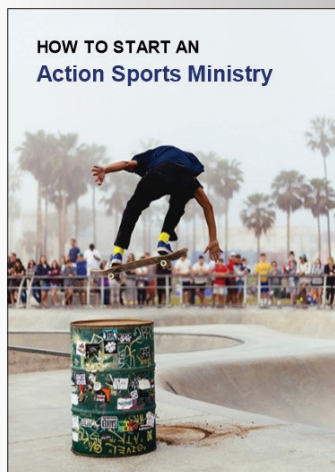
## One for Youth Ministry?

THE Action Sports culture is growing fast in every region of the world. Surfing, skateboarding and climbing will be introduced in the 2020 Olympics. Action sports bridge different socio-economic boundaries, religion, gender, age and are based on shared experience and values. Action Sports are a lifestyle and a subculture that is largely unreached by traditional churches and sports ministries, so Action Sports ministry both supports and validates the believing participant as well as reaching out in mission to the non-believer.

Action Sports ministries are important because they are the incarnational expression of the church entering the unreached subculture of the Action Sports tribe in order to:

- Share the love of Jesus,
- See them come to faith
- Disciple them into a relevant faith community
- So that they do the same for others in their Action Sports community and beyond.

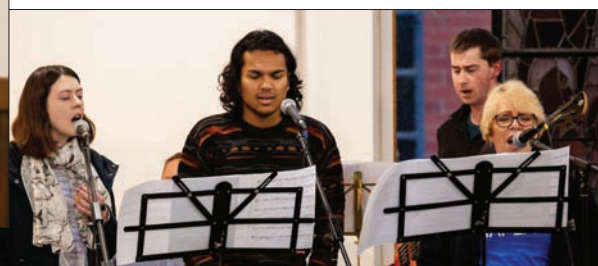
Visit <https://www.max7.org/en/resource/actionsportsministryguide> to download a full ministry guide to discipleship through Action Sports.



# When Jools came to town a dream was dreamed together



*Kelly, right, and Jools, below, entertain and enlighten.*



A WONDERFUL evening of worship and teaching at the Sonder Collective worship at Murrumbena, says *Craig Mitchell*. Rev Dr Julian (Jools) Hamilton from Ireland gave a challenging and encouraging message about Jacob and Esau, connecting with the story of the musical *Les Miserables*. All credit to Kelly Skilton, the band, Jay Robinson, and of course Jools.

Over 60 people attended. This is such a great movement within and beyond our presbytery.

GOD of Wisdom and Life,  
You are in the very air that we breathe.

*Spirit of Hope,*

May we draw in your presence,  
To be soothed and find rest.  
Help us release to you

The troubles and concerns that restrict our breathing;  
the worrisome thinking of difficult and changing times with uncertain futures  
that deflects our focus from living in the moment with you.

*Spirit of Hope,*

Let us draw in your gentleness

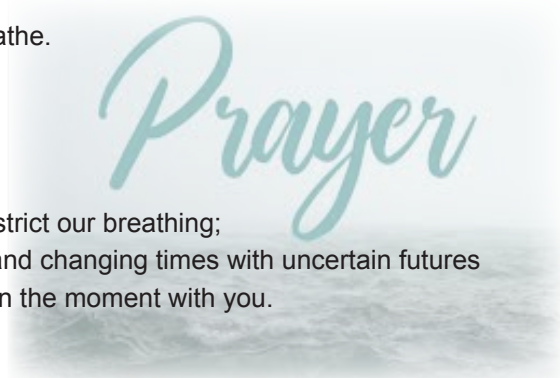
So that our present moment becomes melded with the wisdom of the past,  
nestled in the great cloud of witnesses.

Inform our thoughts, warm our hearts,  
And bringing freshness to our journeying.

*Spirit of Hope,*

Let us be steeped in your ever-present tenderness  
so we are not distracted from your Way of love for our neighbour,  
of living in peace-filled kindness as your church together,  
enlivened, strengthened and supported in your love  
for the sake of the joy we have in you. Amen

**by Rev Anne Hewitt Executive Officer of Churches Together SA (formerly the South Australian Council of Churches)**





# Worshipping, Believing, Living as Christians

I'VE been visiting churches across our Presbytery, meeting the ministers and attending worship services. In my conversation with ministers, I have tried to ask: "Apart from Sunday worship, what happens to help people grow in faith and discipleship?" Their responses have been varied and interesting. I'm learning a lot about the rich diversity of our congregations.



**by Craig Mitchell,  
Presbytery Minister  
Church Development**

I'm blogging about ways to think about how we envision, plan for and resource lifelong faith development. Here is one way, based on the theological work of Geoffrey Wainwright. In his landmark book *Doxology*, Wainwright talks about the dynamic relationship between Christian worship, Christian theology and Christian living:

## Worship and Belief

*Our experience of worship shapes our Christian beliefs  
Our Christian beliefs shape our worship*



## Belief and Living

*Our Christian beliefs shape our everyday lives  
Our everyday experiences shape our Christian beliefs*

## Worship and Living

*Our experience of worship shapes our everyday lives  
Our everyday lives shape our worship*  
These connections provide one way on thinking about where and how we learn to become Christian. Our growth in faith and discipleship involves experience, exploration and integration of these three areas of being Christian.

## Voluntary Assisted Dying response

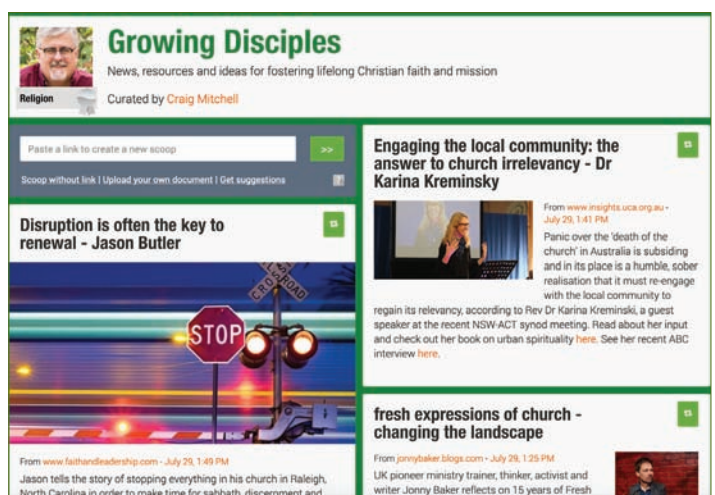
The 2017 Synod meeting requested a consultation on this across the whole Synod, in anticipation of the Victoria State legislation.

The Synod 2019 meeting "affirmed that palliative care is the primary way in which we support and care for those at the end of life, including their families, and called on the Victorian Government to increase resourcing for this." It was recognised there will be a range of faithful Christian responses to this issue.



Get the scoop on Growing Disciples. Craig Mitchell posts a regular roundup of resources, articles and events about formation, education and discipleship across generations. Visit <https://www.scoop.it/topic/fednews>

Read more about this by clicking on my latest blog post at [www.growing-disciples.org.au](http://www.growing-disciples.org.au)



*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](mailto: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](http://www.ucappeg.org) and [www.facebook.com/ucappeg.org](https://www.facebook.com/ucappeg.org) for news, events and more....**

## Presbytery in Council meeting dates for 2019

- **Wednesday, 18 September**
- **Saturday, 23 November**

The next Presbytery in Council meeting will be at Noble Park Uniting Church, Wednesday September 18, 7 pm to 9.30pm. This is the first in a series of fresh approaches to meetings. We will be focusing on learning around discipleship in Christian communities, led by Craig Mitchell. Resources will be available to take home. The November meeting will be on Saturday November 23, at Cornish College. All ministers and presbytery reps are asked to attend regularly. Thank you.

