

NEWSBEAT



NOVEMBER 2019

NEWSLETTER FOR THE PRESBYTERY OF PORT PHILLIP EAST



One of the presbytery's favourite sons returns. Turn to page 3 to witness the happy homecoming.

Check out the **Important** news on the upcoming Presbytery meeting on the back page.

Who's this smart cookie who goes straight to his MP for answers? Turn to page 5 to meet him.



THERE'S a renewed sense of hope and mission at one of our beachside churches...

In fact, there's a resurrectional feeling about the place.

Balnarring Uniting Church has had a half a million dollar reno - but they've placed the emphasis on community outreach.

"With the modernisation of the church and construction of the adjoining community centre we are looking for new opportunities and links with the community," says Colin Watt, Western Port UC Parish Secretary. "This building work, which was funded by a bequest from the appropriately named Ron Church with some of our reserves, is looking towards the future to support new initiatives and broaden our missional activities."

During the summer months the beautiful beachfront church is swelled by holidaymakers, adding to the faithful year-round congregants. They also cater for the Scripture Union Beach Mission leaders camp each year. The next steps are to improve links with local community groups, extend invitations and develop ideas for new worship services

This mammoth re-development took seven months to complete, and more than 70 folk from the Western Port

When optimism meets vision



UC Parish - comprising Crib Point, Hastings and Balnarring congregations - and honoured guests turned out for the special dedication service on October 27.

The service commenced with a warm welcome by congregational Chairperson Kevin Close. Special guests included Port Phillip East Presbytery Minister, Pastoral, Rev. Anneke Oppewal, Mornington Peninsula Shire Mayor Cllr David Gill, former minister Rev Fiona Morrison, Synod Building Department's Rina Neustroski and Ben Quick plus Scripture Union Beach Mission Chef Angela Chandler.

The service was led by the Rev Nigel McBrien and Rev. Oppewal delivered a Presbytery message of the church being the people's third house. Congregational members brought forward the Bible, a water bowl, communion utensils and symbols of worship including a candle, communion cloth, hospitality items,



Cont on page 2

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



When optimism meets vision

Cont. from front page

Key plea

We are from Seaford Uniting Church in Railway Parade, Seaford and each year we have held Carols by Candlelight in the church from 8pm for 1 hour of singing on Christmas Eve. Each year we have been fortunate to have a pianist who leads the singing. However this year we are struggling to find a pianist for the Christmas Eve carols. Can anyone help with our call for help for a pianist? The contact number to respond to this appeal is to the church secretary Bev on 0438 852692



educational material and a missional booklet to represent our commitment to study God's word, renew baptismal faith and to know God's grace when sharing communion in these modern facilities.

At the conclusion of the service a light luncheon was enjoyed in the Community Centre.

During the lunch a short Balnarring UC history was presented by Colin Watt. John McKenzie, the Building Control Group chairperson, outlined the refurbishment project undertaken by Next Generation Constructions. The Synod representatives and Fee Morrison acknowledged the significant contribution of the Balnarring congregation and expressed God's blessing on the church's future.

"We give thanks and praise to our Lord for the dedication and foresight of our founding congregational members, the devoted, hard working and faithful current members and the future members who will continue to proclaim the Good News in Balnarring," adds Colin. "We are hopeful we can go forward in faith and develop new directions with a feeling of optimism and renewed vision."



**Words by Colin Watt and Helen Beby
Photos by Rev Anneke Oppewal**



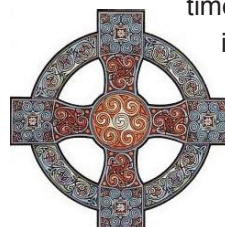
ARMCHAIR TRAVELS EVENING
The Beauty, Romance and Resilience of Outback Queensland

Sunday, November 10th, 4.30- 6.30pm
@High Street Uniting Church, 16-18 High St, Frankston.
Followed by a Shared Supper
Entry \$10 in aid of Jagriti Bhalai Kendra Society: Community Health Project in North India
www.womanandchildhealth.org
Tickets from High Street Uniting Church or
alan.mathews47@bigpond.com
0488 130747

Quench your thirst on Oasis Day



On Saturday, November 23, 2019 at 9:30 AM – 1:30 PM Ormond Uniting Church will be holding another Oasis Day. This mini retreat at Booran Rd, Ormond church will include



time for personal reflection, group activities including a labyrinth walk and invitations with visual art and poetry. No prior experience needed, and no uncomfortable show and tell sharing required either!

Berlin's ministry journey comes full circle



by Ian Firth



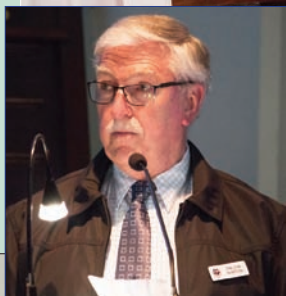
FOR those who have heard Berlin Guerrero's harrowing story of seeking asylum in Australia following imprisonment for his faith in the Philippines, to see him come back to the Port Phillip East Presbytery is a renewed blessing and a joy.

Rev Berlin Guerrero was inducted by Rev Cam McAdam, Deputy Chairperson of Presbytery, as the minister of the Dandenong Regional UC Congregations of Trinity and Lewe Tolu Vakalou (Fijian) at Dandenong on Sunday 27 October. It's a homecoming for Berlin as he was ordained by the Port Phillip East Presbytery in November, 2015. In her sermon, Rev



Ineke Gyles, the Chair of the Joint Nominating Committee, told the congregation that with 161 ethnic groups, the City of Greater Dandenong was the most multi-cultural place in Victoria. With bible readings in Tongan and Fijian, items from the Trinity Choir, the Fijian and Tongan choirs the induction service reflected this ethnic diversity. The Prayers of the People were also in Fijian, Tongan and English.

The people of the congregations are looking forward with excitement and anticipation to Berlin's ministry among them.



ST David's Parkdale UC has an Indigenous leader from Ikuntji coming in November, details on the flyer below, and would love to have everyone join them. He will be doing a short concert in both Australian (Lirritja) and English.

Ikuntji Elder

SIMON DIXON

Sunday November 24



10.30am
ST DAVID'S PARKDALE

12.30pm
FUNDRAISER BBQ

St David's Parkdale Uniting Church | 128 Parkers Rd, Parkdale
03 9580 2889 | office@parkdaleuniting.com.au



What the Rovers do for us...

ON SUNDAY, November 17th the annual "Thanksgiving Service for What Dogs Do For Us" will be held at Heatherton-Dingley Uniting Church, cnr Kingston and Old Dandenong Rds, Heatherton at 10am.



The whole service is based around dogs, from prayers to songs. Everyone is welcome to attend. Guest speaker this year is from **Seeing Eye Dogs**. Morning tea, for both dogs and their owners, will be served following the service.

by Chris Duguid, Heatherton-Dingley UC

Find yourself and your faith on the Larapinta

Quote

“Get the word out. Teach all these things. And don’t let anyone put you down because you’re young. Teach believers with your life: by word, by demeanour, by love, by faith, by integrity.”

1 Timothy 4:12-14

of the month

A rattling good read

A book was launched in October entitled 'Many faiths, One people'. The City of Greater Dandenong, together with Victoria’s Multi-cultural Commission launched the book depicting the diversity of faith communities across the city.

The Presbytery of Port Philip East has three congregations represented, *writes Chris Meneilly*: Springvale, Dandenong Trinity and St Columba’s Noble Park. The publication is a beautifully presented book and a positive contribution to community. “The Interfaith Network plays a vital role... to promote harmony, understanding and respect.” [extract]



MOTIVATED by Christian values and the belief that people matter, **Fusion** works to transform lives and the community. This can mean dealing with the most practical of needs - helping a young person to find a safe place to live, providing a way to learn when the classroom doesn’t work, or even scaling a mountain with a nervous teen who is building self-confidence. From 16 locations around Australia, we are committed to creatively find ways to ensure that a young person’s past doesn’t need to determine their future and their experience

A Journey to the heart - 16 to 25th April, 2020

of life can be transformed from this moment forward. This April

Fusion is running the Larapinta Pilgrimage, an opportunity to discover the Australian outback, develop understanding of Aboriginal culture and help young people like Ambya thrive.

Ambya was a kid who’d had it tough. After years of experiencing bullying Ambya fell into hard drugs, a life of crime, and ended up being expelled from school. Fusion saw past her behaviour and spoke to her true self; through Daytrips and the Pilgrimage to Uluru; changing the way she saw herself and the world around her.

Today, Ambya is busy building a bright future for herself, her partner, and her beautiful daughter. To find out more or to make a donation visit: <https://larapintapilgrimage.gofundraise.com.au/>

A COMMUNITY EVENT HELD SINCE 1993

HILLTOP MARKET

SATURDAY

16 NOVEMBER 2019

9am - 2pm

CAKES
CRAFT
PLANTS
BOOKS
JEWELLERY
WHITE ELEPHANT
GOURMET FOODS
APRON STALL
SAUSAGES/BURGERS
FRAMES & PAINTINGS
ANTIQUE & CLASSIC CARS

In cooperation with St John’s and St Luke’s Uniting Churches

High Street Road Uniting Church
Mount Waverley
482 High St Road Mt Waverley - Cnr Stewart St
Melway 61 G12

Market 2019 1 FLYER A4 2019 Layout - 3

fusion | 16 TO 25 APRIL, 2020 | AUSTRALIAN walking holidays

Larapinta Pilgrimage

- a journey to the heart -

Experience the Iconic Red Centre at the heart of Australia.	Gain personal insights and learn more about Aboriginal culture.	Help transform communities, enabling young people to thrive.
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Photo Credit: Great Walks of Australia & Andrew Bain

☎ 03 9579 3955 | ✉ fundraising@fusion.org.au | 🌐 larapintapilgrimage.gofundraise.com.au

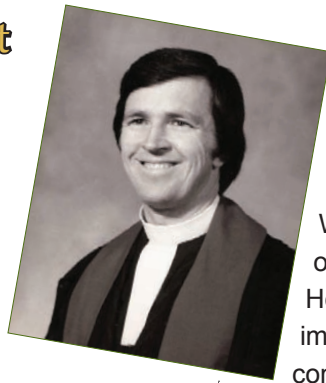
Golden moment for Robert

SPECIAL congratulations to the Uniting Church and Port Phillip East Presbytery legend Rev Dr Robert Johnson, who celebrated the 50th anniversary of his Ordination on Tuesday, October 29th. He was ordained at Eltham Presbyterian



Church in 1969.

He says of the milestone: "In preparing to preach this Sunday I reflect that although the community and the place of the Church in the community has changed markedly in the last 50 years, the basic task of helping people to be open to the grace of God and



to follow Christ in sharing that grace in relevant ways in the world is still exactly the same. I still get excited about sharing that good news, and seeing people's lives changed. What a privilege to get to do this for 50 years! Congratulations on this amazing achievement, Robert.

Samuel is top of the class when it comes to initiative

YEAR 6 student at Cornish College, Samuel, has had a busy start to Term 4.

While most students were enjoying the last day of their school holidays, Samuel met with the Hon Mark Dreyfus QC MP to discuss important issues in the LGBTIQ+ communities.



Samuel is exploring tolerance and respect as part of the Year 6 Exhibition.

The exhibition encourages students to inquire about societal issues and reflect on how they can help make a difference. Throughout the

Year 6 Cornish College student discusses key issues with the Hon Mark Dreyfus QC MP

semester, students choose an issue that is important to them, research the topic and identify problems and possible solutions to build on their entrepreneurial mindsets. They share their critical thinking and



ideas for making a difference with members of the College community at an exhibition. Other topics this year include climate change, bullying, social media and screen time. Samuel

has been interested in the topic and, in a fantastic display of initiative, he organised an interview with Mark Dreyfus, Federal Member for Isaacs. Samuel says the interview went really well and Mr Dreyfus's answers gave him important context about current events, equality in Australian laws and empathy in public debate. They also discussed "what Mr Dreyfus plans" to increase acceptance and respect for minority groups.

"Indoor"
GARAGE SALE
& Clothing Clearance –
all clothing in hall – 50c each



SATURDAY 9th NOVEMBER 2019
from - 9am – 1pm
At Springvale Uniting Church
Balmoral & Albert Ave, Springvale.

- * Morning Tea/Lunch
- * Household items
- * Op Shop bargains
- * Toys
- * Home - made cakes
- * Christmas gifts
- * Jewellery and lots more



CHRISTMAS OPEN DAY

MARKET, ANIMAL FARM, TOURS, FOOD, LIVE MUSIC, KIDS ACTIVITIES AND MORE - COME AND MEET US!

SATURDAY 9TH NOV 2019
2 CUMBERLAD DRIVE, MT MARTHA
10AM - 2PM



INDOOR CHRISTMAS MARKET

Wednesday 4 December 2019 - 11.00am – 4.00pm

Uniting AgeWell Noble Park
1312 Heatherton Road, Noble Park

- ┆ Gifts
- ┆ Cards
- ┆ Candles
- ┆ Bric-A-Brac
- ┆ Christmas Items
- ┆ Plants
- ┆ Arts and Craft
- ┆ Jewellery
- ┆ Sausage Sizzle
- ┆ Isabelle's Café – tea/coffee/soft drinks/snacks

Eftpos facilities available
Anyone interested in booking a stall please contact reception on 03 9554 0700 or email noblepark@unitingagewell.org

The art of mental health

AT ARMADALE, we enjoyed an evening of music, art, song and food on World Mental Health Day, 10th October, as part of Mental Health Week.



It was a time to raise awareness of and celebrate mental health, as well as to offer an opportunity to think about and reflect on what mental health is and what we can do together to ensure we remain well or how we might heal ourselves.



We shared in things and tried new activities together. There was a blues trio - The Mysterious Fourth - to entertain us and Ruth Deane produced a work of art before our very eyes while speaking about art and mental health. We all participated in workshop activities to compose a song and do painting, all topped off by lots of food - thanks to members of the congregation. *by Graeme Harris*



Thoughtful moments led by Rev Fiona Winn, left.



With all its sham, drudgery and broken dreams
'It is still a beautiful world...'

nature : creation : hope

Series of four weekly services:
 13 October God in nature; nature of God
 20 October Our bubble; creation and care
 27 October One in 9; our hope for planet#3
 3 November Co-creators; making, marking, moving

PLUS: Public Meeting 16 October - Prof. David Karoly, CSIRO, 'Science of Climate & Change'
www.stleonards.org.au

OUTSIDE St. John's, Elsternwick, a melting earth installation met people when 'The Side Door Social Justice Hub' screened the film '2040' on the eve of the great Climate Action March in the city, *writes Rev Philip Liebelt.*



On this occasion 'The Side Door' worked with Bayside Climate Change

Earth matters...

Action Group, who promoted its work and gave people an opportunity to find ways they can act. Spirited conversation took place over supper, amongst the pleasing-sized group who attended. Throughout its nearly three years existence, 'The Side Door', based at St. John's, but led by a committee of people from various organisations, has worked with various action groups on a range of activities. In August, Denisse Sandoval from the JIM unit of the Synod led an introductory workshop on Community Action, and other action groups were specifically invited, and people came from a wide area. The next event is a forum on Ageing Well, see below, when the speaker will be Gerard Mansour, Commissioner for Senior Victorians and Ambassador for Elder Abuse Prevention.

St John's Uniting Church,
567 Glen Huntly Road,
Elsternwick

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO AGE WELL?

Sun 17 November 2.30 - 4pm
Free presentation and Q&A session
followed by light afternoon tea

Presenter:
Gerard Mansour,
Commissioner for
Senior Victorians
& Ambassador
for Elder Abuse
Prevention

THE JOURNEY OF AGEING

- Opportunities, protective factors, and what to look forward to
- Elder abuse, financial problems, and other vulnerabilities
- Planning ahead: Frailty, the death of a long term partner, & other challenges
- What might we need when we are less able
- Home care, residential aged care, and other support
- What to do and where to go with concerns about your care or that of others

**RSVP by Thursday 14 November via - mforbes57@gmail.com
or on the Side Door Facebook site - www.facebook.com/groups/1638845386412991**

Ministry agents are continually being asked to give of themselves, but we all need balance in our lives. This is why new Presbytery Minister, Pastoral, Rev Anneke Oppewal and her PM colleagues saw the wisdom of running a

Soul Day

to provide space and time to rejuvenate, reflect and rebirth...

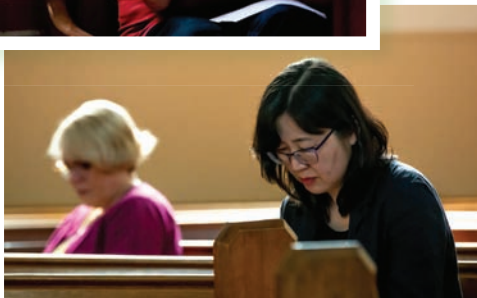
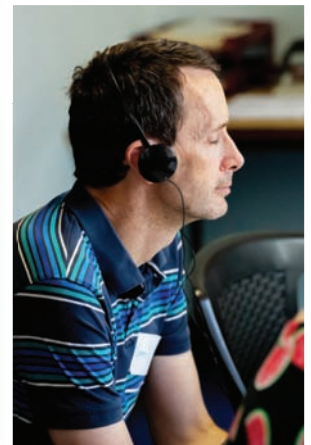
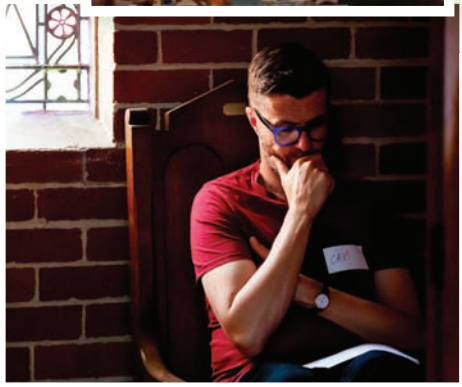
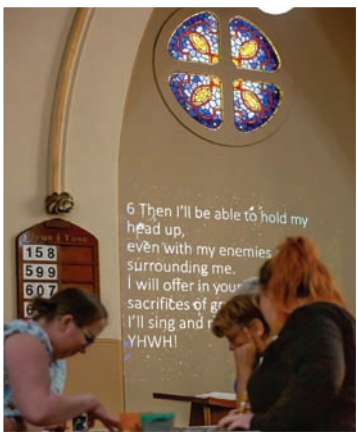
IN OCTOBER, 25 of our ministers, pastors and other lay workers gathered at Hampton UC for a retreat day, writes Rev Duncan Macleod.

We reflected on the imagery of Psalm 27 - light, shelter, singing, guidance, refuge, companionship, courage in adversity. We made prayers and listened to music, explored images and wrote reflections.

There was space to be still and sit in God's presence. Later the presbytery ministers - Duncan, Anneke and Craig - each spoke of practices that sustained them in life and ministry. Lots of conversation over a fabulous lunch. In the afternoon, we gathered in small groups to reflect on our own sustaining practices. The day closed with a guided reflection led by Anneke and a song based on Psalm 27 written by Craig.



4 I'm asking God for one thing, only one thing: To live with him in his house, my whole life long. I'll contemplate his beauty; I'll study at his feet.



Clockwise from top: Ann at window, Mandy in pew; Ineke and "I'm asking God", James with headphones; Belinda, Wendy, Di and Kelly with poetry, HeeYoung Lim and Jay in pews; Cam with reading and Hampton's stained glass window.

"I came away from the day on Tuesday with a renewed sense of how theologically broad a church we are. Beginning with Craig's 'up close and personal' which focussed on hospitality and self-care and the presence of God in the sharing and the tasting; then on to Duncan who I felt was very brave to make himself so vulnerable in the sharing of his family story and where God fitted into and continues to affirm and uphold them as a family and in his ministry practise. There was the third story from Anneke where concepts such as 'miracle' and 'healing' was made so personal. The hospitality provided by Hampton was amazing and I was very taken by the effort put into every 'corner' of the day to assist us in engaging with all our senses and focussing fully on the psalm of the day."

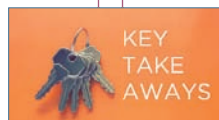
Ann Simons

"The place of contemplation. A great retreat day, loved it, will carry it with me, refreshing."

Cameron McAdam

"The retreat day was excellent. The theme of Psalm 27 led us into a variety of ways to meditate on the Psalm and 'take ourselves away' to a special place to feel God's peace. Thanks to you all for sharing so deeply in your stories, you really opened yourself up and gave the opportunity for some deep stuff."

Di Paterson



We're making available the Prayer Stations from the Retreat for readers to do their own reflections. Click on <https://www.ucappeg.org/presbytery-retreat-2019/>

A dozen good reasons to attend presbytery - for all church members

PORT Phillip East Presbytery meetings are going through a makeover.

People are still talking about the last meeting in September which was focused on discipleship in the local church, led by Presbytery Minister Craig Mitchell. The next meeting will be held on **Saturday, November 23 at Cornish College, Bayside, 10 am to 3 pm.** The longer meeting time gives a chance to work further with the combination of learning, conversation and decision-making. This time the interactive part of the meeting will focus on 12 approaches to the Christian gospel as experienced by communities of faith, led by Presbytery Minister Duncan



Macleod. The program in the morning will be of interest to all members of the church, not just

Presbytery members. The afternoon will include an update on strategic planning for congregations and the presbytery as a whole.

On **Saturday February 22, 2020,**

the meeting will be sharing learning on governance and implementation, along with decision-making relating to leadership structures, property and finance. There will be take-home learning for church councils.



by **Duncan Macleod**
PM, Team Leader

Mission in Our Streets

Saturday 23 May, 9.30 am - 4.00pm

Inspiration | Learning | Resources | Stories | Conversations | Encouragement

MAY 23 2020

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
REV DR KARINA KREMINSKY
Author of
"Urban Spirituality"
neighbourhoodmatters.com.au

**PORT PHILLIP
EAST PRESBYTERY
MISSION EXPO
9.30AM-4.00PM**

**NEIGHBOURHOOD
Mission**

A DAY OF INSPIRATION,
LEARNING ELECTIVES
LOCAL MISSION STORIES
AND RESOURCE DISPLAYS

OUR **Presbytery Mission Expo** will provide a kaleidoscope of insights and tools for congregations to engage in local neighbourhood mission, *writes Dr Craig Mitchell, PM Church Development.*

How do we connect and build meaningful relationships with people in our postcode? How do we invite them to deepen their spirituality and explore Christian faith? How do we partner with others for the well-being of our community? Rev Dr Karina Kreminsky will provide input in our opening plenary session. Karina is a minister, lecturer and urban missionary from Sydney, and author of "Urban Spirituality: Embodying God's Mission in the Neighbourhood". The Mission Expo will feature a range of learning electives on connecting with children and their families, building intercultural communities, creating community partnerships, faith sharing, fostering discipleship, using electronic media, creating public sacred spaces, activating social justice concerns and more. Story Spaces will offer insights about Playgroups, Community Gardens, Op Shops and other local initiatives offered by congregations. The Resource area will feature a range of practical and helpful resources for growing in mission both in your local community and beyond.

*Karina Kreminsky was recently featured on Compass - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AUCrhm6zUZM>
Her website is neighbourhoodmatters.com.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@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....