

NEWSBEAT



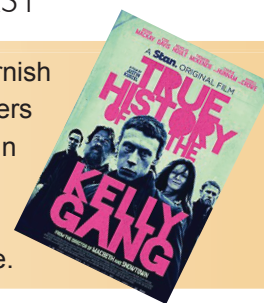
FEBRUARY 2020

NEWSLETTER FOR THE PRESBYTERY OF PORT PHILLIP EAST



End of an era... one of Port Phillip East's favourite sons hangs up his stole (from full-time ministry). Look to page 4 for more.

Child star from Cornish College rubs shoulders with Russell Crowe in movie blockbuster. Cut to page 2 for the full screen showcase.



Mercy mission saves thousands

AS many congregations offered prayers for those impacted by the fires all across Australia, a daring and valiant emergency evacuation was taking place by our own Presbytery folk, writes *Pastor Hannah Dungan*.

As the New Year revelry was only just subsiding, about 1,000 people were evacuated from Mallacoota via navy vessels, and were processed and reunited with family at the reception centre set up in Somerville. This had led to the scrambling of support ministry in our region by chaplains and personal support workers activated through the Victorian Council of Churches



Emergencies Ministry. The VCCEM volunteers, all pictured above, many of whom were from local Uniting Churches, lovingly listened and patiently waited with anxious families for the navy vessels to bring their loved ones home to safety.



Deep gratitude was expressed for the wonderful care they received. Credit to the Mornington Peninsula Shire and other local efforts to support those fleeing fire affected areas. Visit www.vccem.org.au for more details on coming forward for this invaluable ministry.



Charlotte and Ben writing notes to our courageous firefighters

Meanwhile, elsewhere in the Presbytery...

Angels on our doorstep

TRINITY Uniting Church, Brighton was host to Operation Angel for the last three weeks... Jacqueline Pascal and her army of angels managed to pack more than 18,000 comfort kits for our brave but exhausted firefighters. Every day hundreds of people, who may have already given either financially or by donating supplies, arrived to help pack these boxes. Every box has a personal handwritten

Cont on page 2



Peninsula Voice will be presenting a series of events



during 2020, which will reflect our commitment to bringing to the community conversations with eminent speakers.

We are considering running a forum in the first half of the year on Gambling and its affects on our community.

Continuing our conversations with esteemed writer, Hugh Mackay, we will also be holding a Book Launch for his latest writings entitled "The Inner Self" on **Friday 8 May 2020**. Further details will be provided in due course.

We are always interested to know the topics our community want to talk about. If you have any thoughts please do not hesitate to contact us. For all enquiries please contact:

Peter Orton Chairman, Peninsula Voice peter@theortons.com.au

WHILE most students were winding down after a busy year at school, Orlando Schwerdt was in Sydney to promote the new film True History of the Kelly Gang. Orlando plays young Ned Kelly in the film – a role he was thrilled to play.

After a year-long audition process – which even included horse riding lessons – filming for Orlando’s scenes primarily took place in Wangaratta and Marysville throughout July and August in 2018. He said he “absolutely enjoyed” the experience.

“Filming was amazing,” Orlando said.

“Everyone was really professional but they were also really lovely people.”

“My teachers and peers have also been really great about it,” he said.

“Mr Holland sent me all of the work that I had to do, and that was really lovely of him. I think I managed to keep up!”

Orlando has also featured in other stage shows, musical productions and short films, including Matilda the Musical, Opera Australia’s Carmen, the independent film

Incubator and, most recently, School of Rock the Musical. He also

enjoyed playing Edmund in the Cornish production of The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe. Orlando said acting is “an amazing hobby” that he would love to pursue after he completes his schooling at Cornish. He is also keen to study at university and become a barrister or a lawyer. True History of the Kelly Gang is out now.



Angels on our doorstep

Cont. from front page



high, with so many people wanting to make a difference. Trinity Brighton was only too happy to offer our hall for this important and vital work
Well done Angels!

note of thanks and encouragement written by the team.

Material support has poured in from local communities and from overseas.

One local couple, holidaying in America, have been following “Operation Angel” on Facebook and ordered supplies to be sent to Trinity for packing.

Community spirit is at an all time

high, with so many people wanting to make a difference. Trinity Brighton was only too happy to offer our hall for this important and vital work
by Jen Verwoert

Cornish student features in major new movie role



Change the Heart service as meaningful as ever



IN the lead up to 26th January 2020, people from around 20 churches gathered on Mothers Beach Mornington, to reflect on the injustice, theft, racism, murder, genocide and other horrors meted out to our first people by the



colonizing groups over more than two centuries. Highly respected Elders and Members of the Bunorong Land Council offered a traditional welcome to country, which is so moving when received in the context of the treatment they have received. The "Truth will Set us Free" was the foundation of this prayerful, respectful service, one of 26 across Australia, and is hoped to inspire positive actions alongside our first people, to "Change the Heart". Before European settlement 232 years ago, an estimated 750,000 - 1 million people inhabited this continent in around 250 language groups, living in relative harmony and sustainably for 60,000+ years. They saw themselves as custodians of country and respected "Mother Earth". As one Radio National report outlined, they did not have kings and queens, did not steal land, paid respect to neighbouring clans and only used what they needed from the land. Bruce Pascoe's book "Dark Emu" demonstrates very clearly that the first peoples had sophisticated agriculture, land and water practices, food processing and even urban living in some areas, long before middle-eastern civilizations.

by David Arnott, Village Uniting Church, Mt Eliza



Wheelchair Accessible Beach Fun @ Mills Beach and Mt Martha
 Until April 2020, these Lifesaving Clubs have matting and beach wheelchairs for loan during patrol hours on patrol days. Point Leo Surf Life Saving Club also has a Sandcruiser beach wheelchair for free hire. To book the Sandcruiser call Andrew on 0407 332 264, email admin@pointleoslsc.com.au or contact the Point Leo Foreshore Office on (03) 5989 8333.



cultural partner

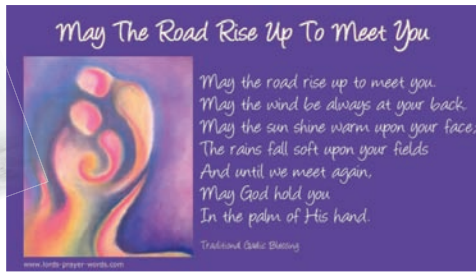
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SacredEdge
 FESTIVAL

Diving Deep into Diversity
 arts, music, & stories

MAY 1 - 3
 2020 QUEENSLIFF

Indigenous | Refugees | LGBTI | Earth & Ocean | Wellbeing
 Info & Bookings
www.unitingqueenscliff.org.au



What a legacy...

UCA legend Rev Peter Whitaker has retired as a Uniting Church minister, with his final service at Leighmoor Uniting Church, on Sunday 26 January. This 'end to an era' was marked with a Release of Pastoral Ties, led by Presbytery Minister Duncan Macleod. Peter and Gillian, *pictured below*, have been at Leighmoor for 10 years and they were showered with parting gifts from grateful members of the congregation.



Editor's note:

I was always struck by Peter's ability, at Synod meetings and in Presbytery, to cut through the issues and be



clear on outcomes. One of the most telling examples of this was during the *Uniting our Future* process when church buildings and assets (many from Port Phillip East, including Leighmoor UC) were being sold, amid much anguish by UCA churchgoers. This was his response in Newsbeat, November 2013: *"It is easy and justifiable to critique the process that has brought the Synod to this point, but ultimately we must look to the future. The future for Leighmoor UC, a small growing congregation, stands on the cusp of growth or stagnation. This will depend largely on a proper and relatively expensive re-location of a discrete programme run for young mum's and the inclusion of members and groups joining us from churches in our neighbourhood that are being closed. Handled well, and with generous support from Presbytery and Synod, Leighmoor stands to be a stronger church in the future."*

Grace & Peace, Peter Whitaker (Rev) **Ed: Enjoy retirement.**

YOU'RE INVITED TO THE

OPERATION LARDER

FUNDRAISING CONCERT

Come and support Operation Larder Inc.
 A voluntary Church and Community group that helps distribute food through Community Support Frankston to disadvantaged members of the local Community.

SAT FEBRUARY 8TH
2:00PM
HIGH STREET UNITING CHURCH
16-18 HIGH ST, FRANKSTON

PERFORMANCES BY:

- CADENCE
- PETER JENKINS
- EDEN MESTDAGH
- REESE MESTDAGH
- CHASE MESTDAGH

RESERVE YOUR TICKET AT THE CHURCH OFFICE
 PH: 97833400 OR CALL INTO THE OFFICE 9AM-3PM TUES-FRI
 Online ticket sales at trybooking.com -
<https://www.trybooking.com/BHSRS>

TICKETS PRICES: \$20 ADULTS - \$15 CONCESSION - CHILD U16 FREE
 INCLUDES AFTERNOON TEA

The Performers



Peter Jenkins

Peter Jenkins has been featured in many theatrical productions in the last few decades. Leading roles include Tony (West Side Story), Henry Higgins (My Fair Lady), Seymour (Little Shop of Horrors), Lumiere (Beauty and the Beast) and most recently, Pinocchio (Shrek). By day he is a primary school teacher, training up the next generation of performers.

Eden Mestdagh

Eden Mestdagh started her love for classical guitar since childhood. She has been having lessons for 8 years achieving an A with honours for her 6th grade exam. Eden has done some busking and performed at her school graduation.



Reese Mestdagh

Reese Mestdagh started to play very early in her childhood, she is a natural musician who performed at her primary school graduation.



Chase Mestdagh

Chase Mestdagh is a versatile and creative musician, who studied singing, guitar and piano. She has performed at school, theatre and concerts. She also loves the cello and has taken up the challenge to learn it. Chase loves writing her own music.



Cadence

Cadence is a five piece vocal and instrumental music group. Their material is selected from a wide range of styles, the sound is very much based around the vocal harmonies, presented in a "folk" style, and including many a cappella items.





TAWK almost missed his induction due to his unfamiliarity with Melbourne traffic! This is understandable after three years of living in Swan Hill. Rev Andrew Boyle, Presbytery Chairperson conducted the induction, pictured, and Rev Ian Cayzer preached. Ian chaired the Joint Nominating Committee.



Ian Firth shares with Newsbeat on the induction of Rev Dr Tawk Kap at Uniting by the Bay, Chelsea – Carrum Congregation

Photos by Carolanne Strickland

After being without a minister in placement for some time, Tawk and his family were warmly welcomed by the Congregation. It will be quite a change to be living in metropolitan Melbourne after three years in placement in the Eastern Mallee Rural Cluster where there's a distance of 100 kms between congregations.

The Presbytery warmly welcomes Tawk as he begins ministry at Chelsea-Carrum.



Retired ministers Revs Robert Johnson, Ian Cayzer and John Lamont welcome Tawk Kap after his induction



*The 2020 World Day of Prayer worship service prepared by the World Day of Prayer Committee of Zimbabwe will be held on **Friday, 6th March** at a church in your area.*

Zimbabwe means 'House of Stones' and is located in Southern Africa. It is a landlocked country that lies between the Limpopo River in the south and the mighty Zambezi in the north. Harare is the capital city and also the seat of government while Bulawayo is the second largest city. The country has an estimated population of about 16 million people and 16 official languages. English, Shona and Ndebele are the most widely used. The Victoria Falls are a major tourist attraction and considered one of the Seven Wonders of the World. The World Day of Prayer programme is based on Jesus' encounter with a person who although positioned for healing, had not acted. Jesus asked: "Do you want to be made well?" You are faced with this life-changing question. What are you going to do? "Rise! Take your Mat and Walk," said Jesus. Our sisters from Zimbabwe are taking Jesus' encounter as a call to act in love for peace and reconciliation. "The

action verbs suggest that we should not be afraid to act on the word of God. God is offering us the steps for personal and social transformation."

Theme: "Rise! Take Your Mat and Walk" John 5:2-9a

Nonhlanhla Mathe, the artist, explains that the painting portrays people's lives in their society. The background, right to left, represents a transition from a dark difficult past, to a more prosperous and promising future. The composition at the foot of the painting with the Republic of Zimbabwe flag in the centre is a display of love, healing and reconciliation as inspired by the story of John 5:2-9a. The part with vegetation is representative of the potential economic productivity since the nation is an agricultural based economy. Locations for WDP Services can be found by visiting: www.worlddayofprayeraustralia.org. Or call your church.

Diary date for World Day of Prayer



JOAN STOTT UCAF BURSARY

ARE YOU:

- committed to or already studying for leadership or theology within the ethos of the Uniting Church under 35 years of age

COULD YOU USE FUNDS TO:

- pay fees to your "Place of Study"
- pay for additional courses or resources

Apply now for a Joan Stott Uniting Church Adult Fellowship (UCAF) Bursary for study in 2021

CONTACT:

Lencie Harding for more information and application form E:lencie.harding@gmail.com

Applications closing date is Friday 29th May



Noughties... but nice

ANNUALLY since 2009, the Stonnington Community Uniting Church (formerly Ewing Memorial), Malvern East, has celebrated the 'Big 0' birthdays, 70, 80, and 90 of its members.

Two of our UCAF members were the very first in 2009, Dorothy Grenness and Rev Dr Jenny Byrnes' stepmother, Jean Byrnes.

The Glasshouse Café at Caulfield Racecourse has allowed us to use their Function Room free of charge for the celebrations which have been well attended and enjoyed by all.

Our Minister, Rev Greg Crowe or Church Council Chairman, Dick Carter, say a few words and the afternoon is concluded with slices of flourless chocolate or orange and almond cake baked by Chef Momo of Malvern and contributed by our church. In the words of our Minister 'they have been and I think continue to be a really lovely way of making people in the congregation feel special.'

We are yet to celebrate a member's 100th birthday but I'm still hoping.

Cutting cakes, L-R: John Riches (90), Dorothy Kell (90), Sue McGrath (70), Cheryl Jenkins (70), Peter Kaye (90), Bryan Kerr (90), Beryl Gillies (90), Errol Fernando (80).

by Lencie Harding


16 TO 25 APRIL, 2020


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.



Photo Credit: Great Walks of Australia & Andrew Bain

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

Book Sale


1000s of Secondhand Books
二手書出售

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

Saturday
29 February
8:30am-4:00pm

Enjoy a Devonshire Tea

Donations of books welcome
from February 24





Proceeds to support the work of Glen Waverley Uniting Church
www.gwuc.org.au

Hampton Park empowers women during crisis



A VERY warm welcome to new Women's Crisis Support Workers, Brooke and Indu, *pictured left*, who started this week at Hampton Park Uniting Place.

They will be available Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays to offer advice and resource avenue options to women and families coping in crisis situations. Visit <https://www.facebook.com/Hampton-Park-Womens-Crisis-Support-Service> for information.

Reflections on Faith

SOME think it's not cool to be religious. But people of faith, however simple, seem to have a kind of serenity about life. Maybe it's time for those challenged by the fences to put churchgoers and people of all faiths on the spot, asking them to explain themselves. Faith is not the passport to a secret society, but a way of coping with life over the fence, empowering ordinary people to walk each day.



by **Bill Pugh**
retired UCA Minister

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



Building faith and fulfilling God's purpose

Craig Mitchell is running two workshops (5th & 19th March 2019) based on his recent doctoral research into faith formation and education in the Uniting Church in Australia. The same event will be run at two locations in Melbourne. The focus is on congregations as lifelong learning communities of missional discipleship – connecting how we grow in faith with how we live

for God's purposes. The research is based on visits to 13 churches around Australia. Lots of great examples of church learning 'culture', leadership, programs and activities, and the dynamics of discipleship development.
5 March, 10am-3pm at Glen Waverley UC
19 March, 10am-3pm at Centre for Theology and Ministry
More information and online registration here - <https://www.ucappeg.org/forming-disciples-in-a-missional-church/>

Port Phillip East Presbytery
Register at ucappeg.org

Forming Disciples in a Missional Church

Led by Craig Mitchell



A workshop about congregations as lifelong learning communities

Thursday 5 March
Glen Waverley UC
10.00am - 3.00 pm

Thursday 19 March
Centre for Theology & Ministry
Cost \$20 includes lunch

Mission Expo: Memory Jogger

Saturday 23 May, 9.30 am - 4.00pm

Inspiration | Learning | Resources | Stories | Conversations | Encouragement

MAY 23 2020

SAVE THE DATE

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".

*Karina Kreminsky was recently featured on Compass - Watch it on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AUCRhm6zUZM>

Her website is neighbourhoodmatters.com.au

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

Joy Blamires ordination - Saturday 14 March at 2.30pm at the Leighmoor Church, Wickham Rd Moorabbin.

SAVE THE DATE

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 in your local community and beyond.

Presbytery meeting date for 2020

- **Saturday, 22 February**
 The next Presbytery in Council meeting will be on Saturday February 22, at a venue to be confirmed. Resources will be available to take home. All ministers and presbytery reps are asked to attend regularly. Thank you.



NEW AND RENEWING GATHERING

Growing New Christian Communities; Having a Go and Learning Together

THIS IS FOR YOU IF:

- ▶ You want to celebrate new and renewed ways of being Christian community.
- ▶ You seek to be inspired about possibilities in discipleship.
- ▶ You desire to hear the lessons learned by some of the practitioners having a go in Vic/Tas.
- ▶ You trust that reflection during the day will help reveal the next steps...

Follow up Zoom meeting on Wednesday 22 April 7pm.

DETAILS

DATE
 Saturday 14 March 2020

TIME
 9:30am arrival for 10am - 4pm

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

TICKETS
www.eventbrite.com.au/e/new-and-renewing-gathering-tickets-87072412931

COST
 \$20 (metro), \$10 (rural / interstate). Lunch Included

equipping Leadership for Mission

Uniting Church in Australia
CHURCH OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA

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....