NEWSBEAT



NEWSLETTER FOR THE PRESBYTERY OF PORT PHILLIP EAST



Solving the riddle... two churches launch the Mission Pilot process at a super-retreat. Discover more on page 3.

Conscious coupling. How two churches are working together to discuss a new union. Cast your eyes at



page 6 to hear more on tying this knot.

Searching for the soul in our city streets

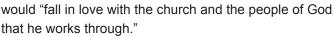
IF there's one reason, and one reason only, that you and your community come to the Mission Expo in May then it's this lady... Karina Kreminsky.

In an in-depth interview with *Newsbeat*, our keynote speaker on May 23rd, shared her chequered journey to re-discovering her connection with God, exploring the avenues of the traditional church until finally walking a spiritual path with local residents to form the extraordinary urban organism Neighbourhood Matters.

Karina explains: "I grew up in a Christian household with a typical legalistic framework. Something like 'you'll be happy if you just do the right thing.' It wasn't until my mid-20s, when I was in Argentina, that I had an experience with God that was about me reaching up to Him and Him reaching down to me. It was only then that I got the true and full idea of grace."

This experience led to an explosion of passion to tell people about Jesus. She then headed off to bible college but still says: "I never felt I wanted to be a pastor, because at that point I still thought the church was irrelevant."

What she didn't anticipate was that she



Yet, there was still this niggling feeling that she wanted to participate more with God in the world.

"In church, we tended to focus on ourselves and the work became about the church more than the world," she adds.

This collided with Karina's sense of her 'original call' and

so she took the bold step of leaving her job as a minister and moved to the inner-city Sydney suburb of Surry Hills.

"After moving in, I felt God spoke to me again about being a presence in the neighbourhood and where I might discover Him in the local

"We call it The Happiness Lab and

community. So I looked for the hubs in the area. One is our Neighbourhood Centre which runs a festival every year, social services programs and regular markets." With her husband of 14 years, Dr Armen Gakavian, Karina befriended the Neighbourhood Centre Director and shared how she wanted to connect and participate in the community. Troublingly, she found that as a secular community they were 'suspicious' of her Christian roots. "So I ran a course on spirituality," she tells *Newsbeat*.





Cont. from front page

it looks into broad areas such as gratitude and mindfulness and exploring what it means to live a meaningful life." This was the germination and blossoming of Neighbourhood

Rev Dr Karina Kreminsky shares her thoughts with Helen Beeby Matters.

The journey has not been easy, and what could be described as a source of dismay for Karina is how and

why people are sceptical about the modern church

and can be uncomfortable to learn you are Christian. "They don't find Christianity relevant to their lives and we can all feel a bit hopeless about that. Sometimes we come across as judgemental, too. What we need is a radical shift in the church in favour of supporting people of God in our



neighbourhoods. We need to support the scattered church, not focus on preserving the institution.

"What I hope people will take away from the May Expo event is how to be Christ in our neighbourhoods. To ask how can we be representatives of Christ in our secular culture? What is it like to live where we live and be of value as faith people? How do we participate and discern with God - because it's not about working *for* God, it's about working *with* God."

A busy week for Mike You

ON Wednesday night, March 4, Mike was inducted as minister at Endeavour Hills. This followed his ordination



the previous Sunday.

After a period of vacancy following the departure of Rev Robin Yang, the congregation was delighted that Mike accepted the call to be

The Presbytery Chairperson, Rev Andrew Boyle presided and Rev Julie Ross preached. Julie was the Chair of the Joint

Nominating Committee.

With Mike's enthusiasm and passion for ministry, the Endeavour Hills Congregation is heading for some exciting times.

by lan Firth

...and there's so much more at the Expo

YOU can hear Karina Kreminsky share further on her ethos and the focus of Neighbourhood Matters in the opening plenary session of the Mission Expo on May 23rd. Watch her now on Compass at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AUCrhm6zUZM or visit the website at neighbourhoodmatters.com.au

As a minister, lecturer and urban missionary from Sydney, she is also

the author of "Urban Spirituality: Embodying God's Mission in the Neighbourhood".

The Mission Expo will also 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 in your local community and beyond.

Booking forms will be out next week... Don't miss them!



"Finally I was ordained today.

You cannot believe how long I have waited for this moment (above). 13 years ago, I came to Melbourne. I was nothing. I could not speak English or anything.

But, I realised God called me for this strange land. It was difficult to believe the calling. However, God led me to his plan to convince me why he called me here. During that time, I met good people who helped me and formed me. As our relationship grew, I was encouraged in my calling. I realised how much we are different in understanding God and Christianity, and also realised how much God wants us to be together in his message, his Son, Jesus Christ. I would like to say 'thank you' to everyone."

by Rev Mike You

Mission Pilot takes off

MISSION is like gardening. We do some of the work, but God brings the growth. Healthy organic growth takes time and nourishment, not just a big dose of fertiliser!

Organic images of mission were at the heart of the first

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_____ Week

Asylum Seeker Resource Centre Fundraiser

Ormond Uniting Church

(Cnr. North and Booran Roads, Ormond)

will host a concert including

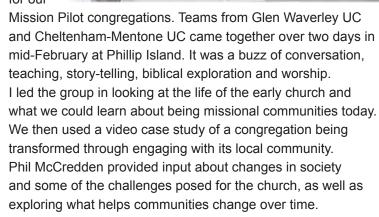


STAINER'S

CRUCIFIXION

Sunday 29th March, 2.00 p.m.

performed by TREK Musicals featuring Raphael Wong (Sun Aria Finalist) Weekend Intensive for our



Steering group members Belinda Clear, Dev Anandarajan, Greg Fry and Jay Robinson were involved in getting to know the congregations' team members and their church's stories.

Duncan Macleod led a session on discernment

How do we sing the Lord's song in this strange land?

how do we really
 notice what is going on in our local ne

notice what is going on in our local neighbourhoods and discern where the Spirit is at work?

On Sunday morning each team made a "Mission Map" of their neighbourhood. This became part of our prayer time together, people lighting candles to pray for those in their community.

What did people appreciate about the weekend? "Getting to know the others involved ... Mission beginning with listening to the wider community and to God ... Being in reminded that it is OK to fail ... That we can learn from

our mistakes

... That it's
OK for some
people to
dislike change
... That
change takes
time ..."
We finished
the weekend
with people



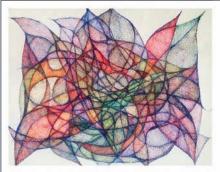
keen to get started and with excitement for where God may lead us!

Words and images by Craig Mitchell



Affairs of the Arts

NOT everyone may be familiar with Kinross Arts Centre, in the grounds of Toorak Uniting Church. Established in 2004 this gem of a gallery and cafe





RECENT WORKS MIRIAM MORRIS AND BRIGID BURKE

engages the community through arts and spirituality and is housed in a striking former Manse built in 1892. It incorporates the Hodges Gallery and other exhibition spaces, seven artist studios, The Manse Café and a courtyard garden at 603 Toorak Rd. Kinross founders from Toorak UC include the late Patricia Begg OAM and her husband and former Presbytery Treasurer Chris Begg.

This months free exhibition (March 6-26) showcases works from Miriam Morris and



"When I am afraid, I put my trust in you."

Psalm 56:3

Brigid Burke: Hours: Monday - Friday 10am-3pm. All welcome.

Miriam Morris has a dual career as artist and musician. Mostly abstract,
working in both acrylic paint on canvas and paper and with fine pen on paper.

Brigid Burke is an Australian artist, clarinet soloist, composer, video artist and
educator using mixed media on paper, glass work, contemporary new music,
and video.

Community and social connections are not a flash in the Sandringham pan

A PARTNERSHIP between Sandringham Uniting Church and Mercy Health that was proposed in 2012 has finally been sealed with the signing of a new contract.

This landmark moment, on January 23, comes after

some visionary thinking way back in 1971, when Sandringham Methodist Church established 14 independent living units on their Bay Road land. When the Presbyterian and Methodist churches in

Sandringham combined in 1977 to become the Uniting Church this community care partnership continued.

With a number of twists and turns through the decades (for the full story visit https:// www.ucappep.org/newsbeat/media-releases/) along with detailed discussions involving representatives from Synod and Presbytery it was agreed that Mercy Health would purchase the whole site, and they now rent

by Dr Shirley Martin PSM Secretary, Sandringham Church Council Road, to the Church Council. The agreement includes a refurbishment of the church building; the maintenance of the Memorial Garden in perpetuity; and an arrangement to cover the

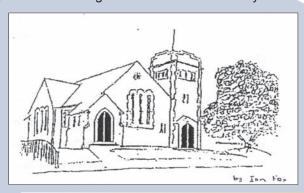
protection of all the stained glass windows in the Memorial Hall.

the Sandringham Uniting Church building, on Trentham

The Minister and congregation of Sandringham Uniting Church are excited by the changes and potential future mission. The window, *pictured*, was originally in the Methodist Church, shows the lantern, and speaks of this long journey and community focus: "I am the light of the world, he that follows me shall not walk in the darkness, but shall have

Keeping church history alive

The first Presbyterian church building in Trentham Street Sandringham opened in 1898 and the building as shown in the sketch by lan





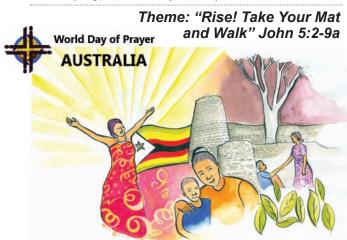
Fox, *opposite*, was built and dedicated on November 2nd, 1929.

the light of life." John 8:12

The beautiful stained glass windows were in place for the opening and the magnolia tree was planted. Following union, in 1985 the Methodist Church building closed and many of the stained glass windows from the Methodist Church in Bay Road were incorporated into the buildings at the Sandringham UCA site on Trentham Road.

Do you have a story to tell?

TELL us the story about someone in the history of the church you knew of and valued personally. The UC Historical Society is planning a meeting on Sunday 16 August at, 2.30 pm at Brunswick Uniting Church, 211 Sydney Rd in which four presenters will tell these stories. Interested to be one of the presenters? Send a submission to Robert Renton at PO Box 5064 Hoppers Crossing VIC 3029 or robert. renton@bigpond.com by 20 July.



The 2020 World Day of Prayer worship service by the WDP Committee of Zimbabwe will be held tomorrow Friday, 6th March at a church near you. Visit https://www.worlddayofprayeraustralia.org/locate-a-service/



Discipleship discussions deepen commitments

THE first of the two Forming Disciples in a Missional Church workshop by Craig Mitchell was a huge success on Thursday, March



one out it will be held at the CTM on April 28th. Details on the PPEP website.



The most beloved musical of all times is screening at

HEATHERTON-DINGLEY UNITING CHURCH

Cnr., of Kingston & Old Dandenong Rds., Heatherton (The Little White Church on the Corner) on Thursday evening, March 12th at 7pm sharp

WITH SING-A-LONG LYRICS!

Supper at Intermission.

So come and unleash your own musical passion as our resident singers and musos add to the fun.

** \$5 donation for supper **



Unleash the Music is a casual gathering of music lovers that meets at the church monthly on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays from 8 to 9.30pm. Anyone with a voice or instrument is welcome to come along and

Sonder is on Cloud nine, 10, 11 & 12am

While most people are winding down for the evening, or even sleeping, did you know there is a whole Region awake and hanging out?

Sonder Cloud is our ONLINE region and they hang together on

weekdays from around 8:00pm -12:00am AEST. We play games and chat;

tonight was



hilarious rounds of jackbox with a crew across Victoria and people in Sydney and Darwin. Our channels are 18+ (we have an under 18 channel in plannings to run on earlier hours.) but if you're in want of friendship and community then jump on the SonderCloud Server: https://discord.gg/4A2FE3F If you have tabletop simulator, then jump online for Wednesday with Lanie (aka. Patti Mayonnaise) at 8:00pm AEST.



Through the ages

LOOKING for Intergenerational inspiration during Lent?

There's a whole resource created by the eLM Unit available at www. ucappep.org on the Resources Page.



Let me not to the marriage of true minds Admit impediments



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 an application form E:lencie.harding@gmail.com

Applications closing date is Friday 29th May

DUNCAN Macleod, Craig Mitchell and Andrew Boyle led High Street Road and St John's Mount Waverley congregations in an overnight retreat to further explore how they might come together to form one congregation.

The event involved input, lots of conversation, deep questions, worship and fun, exploring change processes, leadership, group dynamics, and vision for mission.



AGES 17-27 // ARE YOU INTERESTED IN YOUTH LEADERSHIP?
(EEN TO DEVELOP YOUR LEADERSHIP)
LE & LEARN AWESOME NEW SKILLS?

Y OUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Whether you're already involved in running youth programs or you're keen to get started, the Somers Leadership Conference is perfect for you!

After training youth leaders for more than 20yrs, the Somers team have partnered with guest speakers & professionals in their fields with awesome leadership experience to provide a refreshing approach to leadership training.

With a strong focus on individual development & the latest info on youth leadership, you'll be set to put your new skills & knowledge in action as a confident youth leader!

\$95 INC LUNCH & SNACKS

REGISTER NOW

for enquiries & to book your spot email: core@somerscamp.com.au



SAT 25 APRIL 2020 // 8:30AM - 5:30PM LORD SOMERS CAMP

LORD SOMERS CAMP
CRN OF PARKLANDS AVE & LORD SOMERS RD
SOMERS, VIC



TWO magpies have ruled our backyard for some time. This spring they produced one child. Incessantly demanding to be fed, morsels of food are shoved down its throat. A gulp **Reflections on Faith** ellections on Faith

then the demand for food continues. Gradually it is learning about life. What is edible and what is not. Learning how to listen for worms underground and dig them up as its parents do. It is now slowly leaving its parents and exploring the garden itself; surprised at what it discovers. Mum or dad are not faraway to rescue it if a predator looms.



retired UCA Minister

Moments of pleasure rolling with a parent on the grass and with wings outspread basking in the morning sun. But its childhood is running out. The parents want it to stand on its own two feet and leave home. Their reminding pecks are putting the young bird in place. They have had enough. It's time to fly over the fence into the wide world and make its own way.

How will it go? Many unseen challenges are over fence for the immature and unsuspecting. But its parents have prepared their offspring the best they know how, drawing on their own experience.

> It is not hard to imagine human experience as similar for children growing up. Some have the example and wisdom of

parents as they cross the fence into adulthood. Sadly some are without such help and have to go it alone.

Schoolies week is a kind of coming of age for some, but sometimes the challenges are so tempting that unwise choices are made, the ready availability of alcohol and illicit drugs are a problem – sometimes lethal. Where growing up has been rigid this can prove hazardous when community and parental ties are loosened.

The strength and support of good friends is important, and the influence of moral education in development brought into focus. The report of a young man CORNISH yourselves with the who made the most of his education in school and synagogue is found in the Gospels. Jesus of Nazareth grew up in a family, respected his parents and teachers in synagogue and school but challenged the Temple teachers in Jerusalem with his questions. Luke writes that Jesus grew and increased in wisdom and stature in

> Jesus asked the right questions and came up with wise rules to

keep his disciples, who were pupils or learners, as the Latin root indicates, on the right path. He encapsulated the secret in two commandments in his reply to a lawyer searching for wisdom. Loving God and your neighbour as yourself was the way to proceed as you crossed the fence into life.

Social responsibility and care

for others is grounded in home, school and community. When we cross the fence the final responsibility for life is ours. The skills we have inherited go with us and are put to the test and increasingly challenged.

How are our young developing? Do we care? Tolerance, forgiveness and support are important attitudes. And the values we live by are the social foundations on which we build our young as they cross the fences, high and low. All have their challenges. We know because we have been there before.

session on iPad use. Please join other parents and grandparents on Friday, March 6 for 'Setting iPad restrictions - Parental controls'. This is an ICT session to provide an introduction to the iPad, information about using parental

Setting iPad

restrictions -

Parental controls

taking the lead on social

CORNISH College is

media responsibility

by running a special

device. Please bring your child's device to the session (remember to take note

controls, an overview of

some Apps commonly

used at school, and a

chance to familiarise

of their passcode). Limited seats available -

please book your free ticket via the Event

Bookings tab on: https:// cornish.fireflycloud. net.au/parents/eventbookings/setting-ipadrestrictions---for-parents Cornish College, 65 Riverend Road, Bangholme,



Tickets available online from:

www.ticketebo.com.au/timorlestefundraiser

Peter Paul and Mary at February Presbytery meeting

YOU probably don't know that the Presbytery has its own version of this famous folk group in Jay Robinson (vocals) Duncan Macleod (keyboard) and Craig Mitchell (guitar). This talented trio got the meeting off to a great start by leading us in song. They also concluded the meeting by teaching us a lovely sung benediction. Anneke Oppewal led a reflection focused on her recent road trip to Sydney where she and her husband Haram, experienced bushfires on the way there and floods on

the way back. The meeting day was also Duncan Macleod's birthday and everyone enjoyed the birthday cake. (Except for Duncan who missed out!) Apart from receiving reports, the focus of the meeting was on the Cultivating a New Future Stage 4 Report.

Following presentations of the eight aspects of the Report, members were invited to participate in small group discussion on whichever aspect of the Report interested them. Following lunch there was a plenary session to hear feedback from the small groups prior to considering a number of recommendations. The meeting was held in the Senior Studies Centre at Cornish College. The Centre provides a great space for the Presbytery meeting, rooms for small groups discussions and lovely outdoor space with seating and tables to have lunch. It struck me just how much our Presbytery has changed in the past five years. Our Presbytery Ministers, Anneke, Craig and Duncan can take much of the credit for the positive changes they have introduced.

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



Presbytery meeting date for 2020

* Wednesday, April 29th, 7pm
The next Presbytery in Council
meeting will be on 29/04/2020 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.

Like the Presbytery of Port Phillip East website by clicking on https://www.facebook.com/ucappep.org/





by lan Firth

St Luke's Shares



Ready to roll for our Lenten study this year, using materials written by the multi talented Craig Mitchell. For details and copies visit http://growing-disciples.org. au/lenten-studies-water-for-the-journey/

Looking towards Holy Week

Friends in ministry,

We are contacting you about an educational ministry in service of the UCA and Christ's broader church, auspiced by the Congregation of Mark the Evangelist (UCA, North Melbourne). The ministry provides small group studies online in PDF and occasional liturgical resources. In preparation for Lent this year, some new liturgical resources for Passion Sunday or Good Friday, and Maundy Thursday, have been published online:

- The Passion according to St Matthew A Service Order http://marktheevangelist.unitingchurch.org.au/illuminating-liturgy-the-passion-according-to-st-matthew-a-service-order/
- A Tenebrae Service around St John's Passion http:// marktheevangelist.unitingchurch.org.au/illuminating-liturgy-a-tenebraeservice-around-st-johns-passion/

Craig Thompson Minister, Congregation of Mark the Evangelist 0408 389 751

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.