

Newsbeat

NEWSLETTER FOR THE PRESBYTERY OF PORT PHILLIP EAST



JULY 2023 ISSUE

JULY HEADLINES

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CORNER

OVERWHELMED WITH
JOY & GRATITUDE AT
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UNITING CHURCH

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FROM REV DR SALLY
DOUGLAS & VIV
MOUNTAIN



Port Phillip East Presbytery's WHAT'S HAPPENING

An insight into what congregations,
schools & members are doing

BEING THANKFUL

Ross Mackinnon, a member from Glen Waverley Uniting Church (GWUC), shares his reflection on the theme for this month: thankfulness.

I would like to reflect briefly on this theme by answering the question - What does the Uniting Church mean to me?

I am glad to be a member of the Uniting Church in Australia for three reasons in particular:

First, it is a church which encourages its members to be involved in its worship, service and governance. All offices in the Uniting Church from the Congregational level to the National Assembly are open to women and men, lay and ordained.

Second, it is a church which strives for social justice. It takes a strong stand on important social issues such as justice for indigenous Australians, human rights, care for the environment, a just and sustainable economy and the need to welcome refugees and asylum seekers.

Third, it is a church which encourages its members to grow in faith and to explore new ways of thinking about God and interpreting Scripture.

Paragraph 11 of the church's Basis of Union reminds us that we are a church in the Reformed tradition and within that tradition, we need to continue to listen to modern scholars, keep in touch with contemporary thought, and confess the Lord in fresh words and deeds.

I understand that Paragraph 11 was the brainchild of Davis McCaughey, a biblical scholar, first President of the Uniting Church and later, Governor of Victoria. Davis McCaughey was 92 when he died and his son James said that his father spent his whole life seeking the truth, and in the end, he almost found it.

Within my own congregation, I see plenty of people who are involved in the Church's worship, service and governance. I see plenty of people who work for social justice, and I see plenty of people who are open to new ideas and new ways of seeing God and interpreting Scripture. And I am grateful.

Thanks be to God.



OVERWHELMED WITH JOY & GRATITUDE

The Melbourne Fijian Uniting Church shares photos that show some of the many things they are **thankful** for, because “a picture paints a thousand words.”

There is an atmosphere of excitement, hopefulness and joy amongst its members. Each Sunday, the church is filled with all ages in worship, new members continue to join the church community, they continue to strengthen ties with other Uniting Churches in the area and they wait expectantly for a new minister.



Thankful for young adults meditating together



Thankful for worship and singing praises together



Thankful for making memories



Thankful for special and long lasting friendships



Thankful to share the Good News with each other

FROM MELBOURNE TO BUNUBA COUNTRY



The students from Wesley College, Glen Waverley campus, recently went to visit Yiramalay Studio School. They have built a unique partnership between themselves and the Bunuba people. Bradon French, Chaplain at Wesley College for over 2 years, returned in June from their annual trip.

Bunuba Country is about 400km inland from Broome, marked by boab trees, red dust, natural springs, and cattle stations. Nestled in this paradise, an hour north of Fitzroy Crossing, is Yiramalay Studio School. Recently, I had the privilege of spending a few weeks up there with students from Wesley College. I remember Rev Graham Bartley, my predecessor as Chaplain at Wesley College Glen Waverley, speaking highly of his visits to Yiramalay, during my time working for the Vic/Tas Synod. With Covid-19 border closures in the rear-view mirror, I had the opportunity to experience it first-hand.

Yiramalay is a school grounded in principles of mutual exchange, community connections and skills pathways. Each year students from Melbourne visit for a 3-week induction, followed, in earlier years, by students from Yiramalay continuing their senior education in Melbourne. Recently, Yiramalay was handed over to Studio Schools Australia, and is seen as a model for learning on country – a possible solution to tackle failing indigenous education rates. Inductions still occur (hence my opportunity), however local Indigenous students who hope to attend Yiramalay also join these unique visits.

Inductions are both intense and fragile for all involved. For the Yiramalay students, a new 'Melbourne mob' brings new dynamics and pressures. For the Melbourne students, most have never experienced a context like Yiramalay. For the staff, it's a balancing act between supporting and challenging students to immerse themselves. It's a 24-hour a day melting pot for the three weeks of a typical induction.

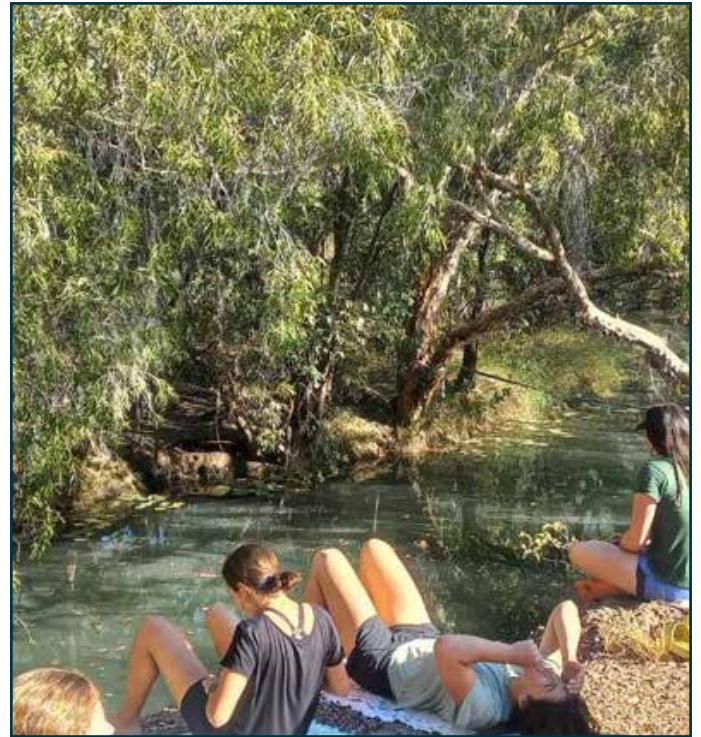
The induction experience includes learning about Bunuba culture and history from traditional owners Marilyn and Uncle Ralph, in classrooms and on country. Curriculum includes kinship structures, dreaming stories, botany lessons and learning about the famous Bunuba freedom fighter, Jandamarra. We were fortunate to be on country for Reconciliation Week so that concepts of reconciliation were made real over shared meals, story-telling and long drives in the toupie. Each day typically culminated with a swim or some fishing at majestic freshwater springs or along the Fitzroy River. Nights were filled with footy, discos, karaoke, and cups of tea.

Returning to Melbourne, I found myself reflecting on the strengths and limitations of immersion experiences like the one I've attempted to describe above. For many Melbourne students, the induction provided their first experience 'on country,' and for some, even their first meaningful conversation with First Nations friends. These are formative moments, and it's a privilege to walk alongside young people at times like that. Returning students can engage with reconciliation actions across College life to further develop their learning.





Wesley Students learning about the Bunuba culture and history from traditional owners Marilyn & Uncle Ralph



And yet, FIFO visits still risk reinforcing colonial and tourist mentalities – exploiting the scenario for selfies and stories to tell upon return. If reconciliation requires walking together as first and second peoples, surely a three-week wander doesn't suffice. It can only be the beginning.

In a year of referendum, Yiramalay inductions feel small. And perhaps that's appropriate. Bigger opportunities await each of us.

Written by Bradon French, Chaplain for Wesley College at Glen Waverley Campus



TOGETHER: ST COLUMBA'S NOBLE PARK & KEYSBOROUGH SAMOAN CONGREGATIONS



On Sunday 11 June, the Presbytery celebrated the regional collaboration of St Columba's Noble Park and Keysborough Samoan congregations.

Since Keysborough Samoan congregation moved to the Noble Park church site, the relationship between the two congregations has become stronger, and their collaboration has led them to become one congregation in the one body of Christ, the hurch.

Presbytery Chairperson, Tom Spurling, together with Presbytery Ministers David Higham and Rev Anneke Oppewal, lead the service which formally recognised the beginnings of the new congregation.



WHAT ARE YOU THANKFUL FOR?

Like many families, over the COVID lockdown, my family stayed in face to face contact through the magic of Zoom – technology that we all should be thankful for.

Once life resumed some sort of normality, a wedding that had been cancelled twice was able to be celebrated and fifteen months later we are so thankful for a new baby.

At the time of writing, our first grandchild, Mason John, is one week old. A beautiful healthy 8lb 4oz baby boy. From the first time we met him, we were besotted. Little fingers wrapped around our big fingers. It was a very emotional moment and we are so thankful for this little miracle of life. As Mason is the first of a new generation on both sides of the family, I am looking forward to him being the baby Jesus in our stable nativity this year, and him joining our Sunday School when he is old enough.

We are just so thankful for this little gift of life, and that our son and daughter-in-law are so happy to share this beautiful time with us.

Written by Carolanne & Ray Strickland, Secretary and Treasurer from Uniting by the Bay UC

NEW ACT2 REPORT: IN RESPONSE TO GOD'S CALL

The latest report from the Act2 Project is now available, and will be formally launched on 13 July. An intensive engagement phase will run until the end of November. The [FULL REPORT](#) is available from the Act2 UCA website, where you can also [CONTACT](#) the Act2 team about the report or ask a question.

INTERGENERATIONAL WORSHIP IDEAS

Synod has many resources for you to try new ways of worshipping intergenerationally; to listen and be challenged in your faith and mission. [Check out the Intergenerational Resource Archive](#)



ANNUAL WINTER SLEEP-OUT

Cornish College shares about the astonishing amount they raised for homelessness in their Annual Winter Sleep-out this year.



Students, staff and alumni from Cornish College recently joined forces for a terrific cause at the annual Winter Sleep-out. This event is designed to shed light on homelessness, whilst raising money for the project providing homeless people with polar fleece sleeping bags: Backpack Bed for Homeless,

To begin the overnight sleep-out, everyone engaged in various activities such as night golf, peer-led discussions, gathering around a campfire, enjoying a BBQ dinner, and assembling blessing bags (packs of essential care items with a handwritten note of hope and positivity for those experiencing homelessness and/or disadvantage). Later they all slept outdoors in cardboard boxes to gain real insight into the hardships faced by those without homes.

Cornish was thrilled to announce that, in their 12th year of supporting Backpack Bed for Homeless, their collective efforts resulted in raising an astonishing \$20,000, which set a new record at the College and provided much-needed support for people experiencing homelessness.

*Lainey Foster,
Cornish College Communications Manager*

CELEBRATIONS AT ST MARK'S MORNINGTON UC

St Mark's Mornington Congregation, looks back at two joyous events from earlier this year.



On **Saturday April 15th** the congregation of St Mark's Mornington were delighted to join in the celebration of the marriage of their current minister, Rev Joy Blamires, to a former Mornington minister, Rev Andrew Hope (retired UCA Minister).

Rev Peter Whitaker conducted the wedding assisted by Rev Claire Dawe. The service featured original music composed by Andrew's son, Steve, a vocal item from Fiona Weir of the Leighmoor congregation, enthusiastic singing by the congregation, a blessing written by the groom, and an inspiring message by Peter Whitaker based on Genesis 24. The past and present were acknowledged through the symbols of candles. Memorial candles symbolised Joy and Andrew's former partners and close family members who had passed away, whilst two other candles symbolised the current Hope and Blamires families. These two candles were used to light a wedding candle when the couple were married.

On **Sunday March 26th** the St Mark's Mornington Congregation were thrilled to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the ordination of Rev John Taylor. He ministered in both Victoria and Tasmania before retiring to Mornington from Mooroolbark in 1991. After his retirement, he has continued to be involved in leading worship services locally over many years.

During the service, John shared some of his faith journey through an informal interview with the current minister, Rev Joy Blamires.

SERVANT LEADERSHIP

A personal account from Rev Peter Wiltshire investigating the why and how of leadership in service to others.



My earliest memories of faith formation are from within my family and my church community. Central to faith, as expressed in our family, especially by my mother, was the relationship between “the inner life, and being of service to others.” My father demonstrated the importance of personal authenticity in relationships, a commitment to education and inquiry-based practical learning, and integrity in the workplace.

“From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.”

One Sunday, at the Mt Albert Methodist Church, the Reverend Dr. Harold Wood, Principal of Methodist Ladies’ College Kew, preached on the text which became familiar in the lives of his students from “the Wood era,” Luke 12:48.

On this particular Sunday morning, a pivotal moment in my faith journey, Dr. Wood’s words resonated with “something I knew within my soul.” Until then, I had not recognized there was a connection between my life and these words: “from the one who has been entrusted with much; much more will be asked.”

Later, this phrase would become pivotal in the mentoring of student leadership in three Uniting Church Schools, including MLC.

“Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first, must be of service.” Matthew 20:26-27

During my years at Wesley College, Principal, Dr. Helen Drennen emphasized the United Nations vision of education, “Learning to Know, Learning to Be, Learning to Do, and Learning to Live With.”

These four comprehensive curriculum learning principles were intentionally interwoven with the Christian heritage of “being in service to others.” This message became the formative framework for a Wesley student’s understanding of leadership, “Service beyond Self.”

Servant Leadership

Following my years at Wesley, during the two years of Covid lockdown in Melbourne, (2020-21), I undertook professional study on “Servant Leadership and Organizational Systems Thinking” from Cornell University, New York. Previously, I had completed post graduate research in Professional Reflective Practice at RMIT University, and subsequently trained in Values Thinking and Practice with Barrett Values, UK).

Servant leadership, as first proposed by Robert K. Greenleaf in 1970, is a theoretical framework, which advocates a leader’s primary motivation and role as service to others. The intention is to develop the character of the whole person. According to Greenleaf, a great leader is seen as servant first.



Greenleaf's vision and mission has its roots in his Quaker heritage. His research work was primarily a response to the damaging dominant culture of greed and malfeasance in certain aspects of corporate America at the time.

The Servant Leader

The following is a brief summary of what I have learned from my research into servant leadership:

What is Servant Leadership?

This way of being and doing places a premium on people and character development by establishing relationships that are mutually respectful, and trustworthy. The best test is that those served grow as persons. They, while being served, become healthier, wiser, freer, more autonomous, and more likely themselves to become servants. Further, what is the effect on the least privileged in society? Will they benefit or at least not be further deprived?

The guiding principles of Servant Leadership.

A leader who is committed to servant leadership will be guided by these principles: active listening, empathy, healing, self-awareness, persuasion through shared conversations, wide lens perspective taking (conceptualization), foresight, the application of wisdom and experience, stewardship, integrity in practice, commitment to the growth and development of the whole person, community building and professional reflective practice.

The Soul of Servant Leadership

Following the completion of the Cornell program, I undertook further professional learning through the Shalem Institute for Spiritual Formation, Washington D.C. This learning focussed on nurturing spiritual depth in the servant leader through focus on: the Soul of Leadership, the Soul at Work.

Applying Learnings

With the co-operation and support of the Leadership and Pastoral Care teams at Mt. Martha, I have over the past year, worked with key elements of this "transformative way of offering leadership."

The learnings from Cornell and Shalem offer a helpful perspective of "faith seeking understanding," (*Fides quarens intellectum*, Anselm of Canterbury)

Through practical theological reflective practice, we are, as a leadership group, journeying further into our true selves, becoming "the body of Christ in service to others." This is our expression of being an ongoing learning and missional church, offering servant leadership to the community.

Rev Peter Wiltshire



JOIN SYNOD 2023

VicTas Synod 2023 will be held from November 18-21 at Box Hill Town Hall.

The Synod meets approximately every 18 months to receive reports, discern proposals, and discuss matters that concern the general oversight, direction and life of the Uniting Church in Victoria and Tasmania.

Those attending the Synod meeting are nominated representatives from all eight presbyteries. The program includes a Tributes Service, which honours ministers who, since the previous Synod meeting, have:

- been ordained, retired or been received from other denominations since the preceding Synod meeting (2021).
- celebrated 50, 60, 65 and 70 years since ordination or commissioning.

The meeting will also be live-streamed and most of the sessions recorded including the Opening Worship on the morning of November 18.

WHAT IS SYNOD?

Synod meetings are important in defining who we are as the Uniting Church in Victoria and Tasmania. They are sometimes faced with challenging matters and important decisions, including discerning who will be our next Moderator-elect. Such decisions are best made when we gather together to discern God's direction for our Church, and listen to the varied voices that make up our Synod.

SPECIAL GUESTS

Brooke Prentis - Aboriginal Christian Leader, international speaker, writer, educator, and poet will preach during the Opening Worship.

Rev Associate Professor Robyn Whitaker - Senior Lecturer in New Testament, Pilgrim Theological College, will lead the Bible Studies.

YOU ARE INVITED!

If you would like to be a member and attend, speak to your minister and/or contact Anne Kim for details on how to nominate. Any confirmed member of the UCA can nominate as a Synod member.



**WE BELONG
TO THE DAY**

Synod
2023



David Fotheringham



Brooke Prentis



Robyn Whitaker

WHY GO TO SYNOD?

LET'S HEAR FROM SOME PAST & FUTURE PPE ATTENDEES...



**BELINDA CLEAR, Pastor,
Sandringham UC**

I'm looking forward to going to Synod 2023 because I feel like this is such a significant time in the life of the Uniting Church; a time when the choices that we make are going to have a massive impact on our future options. I'm excited to be part of these discussions.

I will be joining the meeting from the lands of the Wurundjeri People of the Kulin Nation.



**WENDY ADAMS, Secretary,
Church Council,
St Leonard's Brighton UC**

Attending Synod is an opportunity, and a privilege, to be part of the discussion of significant issues. We witness how consensus decision making allows for all voices to be heard and valued.

I live on the land of the Bunurong people of the Kulin nation.



**DANIEL SIHOMBING, Supply
minister, Koren Church of
Melbourne, Mulgrave**

This is going to be my first time participating in the Synod Meeting. I am looking forward to getting a broader picture of what is happening in the UCA, especially with our Synod. I believe that this experience will be crucial in my journey as a candidate.

CONTACT SYNOD LOGISTICS COORDINATOR AT VIC/TAS SYNOD

For further details relating to our Vic/Tas Synod Meeting please contact, Sarah Manase, Synod Logistics Coordinator at Sarah.Manase@victas.uca.org.au

Want to know more about what to expect at a Synod meeting? Take a quick look at our [online information booklet](#).

Want to share a flyer about Synod to your congregation, these can be printed from our Synod Website or [click here to download](#) or feel free to contact Sarah Manase for more.



BOOK REVIEW: “HOW TO TALK ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE IN A WAY THAT MAKES A DIFFERENCE”



Vivienne Mountain reviews one of the books in the LEAF library, St Leonards Brighton Beach, How to Talk About Climate Change in a Way That Makes a Difference by Rebecca Huntley, 2020.

Vivienne Mountain, a member of the PPE Climate Action Network, recommends for those wanting to honour God’s good creation, and to act responsibly in the face of the effects of climate change on our world, to have a read of this book. It examines particularly the complex emotional reactions to climate change that can freeze engagement with the issue, and with those dismissive of the reality of climate change.

While Huntley is best known as an author, researcher and social commentator, she notes the value and contribution of faith communities, providing care and help with grief as people experience greater distress and despair in extreme climate situations. As people live with the awareness of the potentially tragic consequences of climate change they become more anxious, and are unable to move forward with any solutions. At the same time, in the face of approaching tragedy, an optimistic or hopeful approach can seem trite and superficial.

This book offers a way of talking about what is becoming known as “climate grief” in ways that acknowledge the emotions that are felt around the issue.

Huntley describes the book as a “kind of self-help guide for the climate age (minus the survival tips or advice about managing eco-anxiety). A way to help you better understand the way those around you are reacting to climate change. ... And, increasingly, how we respond to our real-life experience of climate change, including temperature rises and weather events.”

The book is available from the contact the Leaf Group at [St Leonard’s Uniting Church, Brighton Beach](#)

Alternatively, you can contact Vivienne to borrow the book directly from her:

M: 0438 19 0438

E: mountainvivienne@gmail.com

HOW TO
TALK ABOUT
CLIMATE
CHANGE
IN A
WAY THAT
MAKES A
DIFFERENCE

‘The antidote to climate anxiety is action.
Make your first action reading this book.’ OSHER GONSBERS

REBECCA HUNTLEY

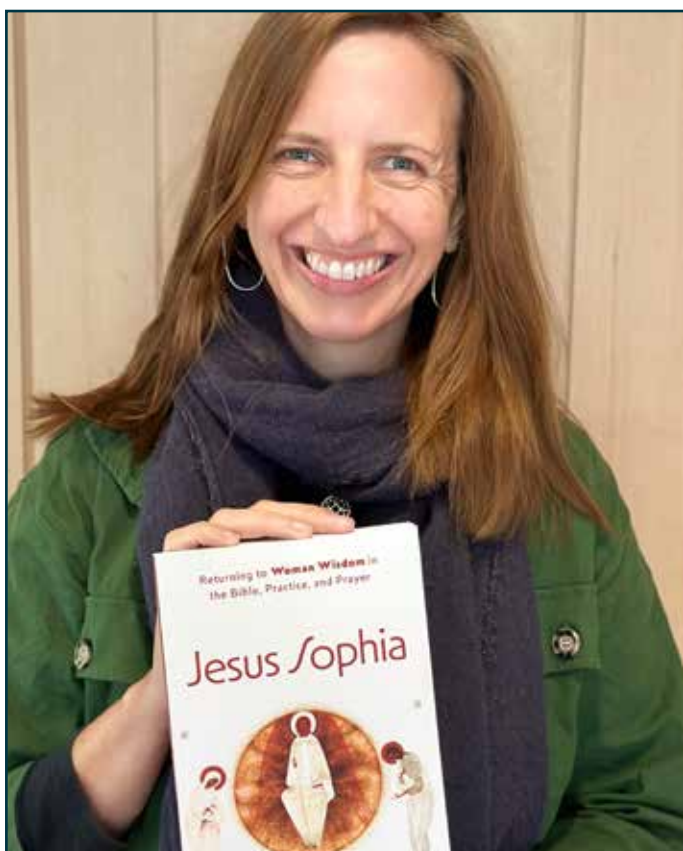


BOOK REVIEW: JESUS SOPHIA

Rev Dr Sally Douglas's book *Jesus Sophia: Returning to Woman Wisdom in the Bible, Practice, and Prayer* was launched on May 18, 2023. It can be purchased online via Amazon, Booktopia and the [publisher](#).

In the groundbreaking book *Jesus Sophia: Returning to Woman Wisdom in the Bible, Practice, and Prayer* Sally Douglas excavates biblical and early church understandings of Jesus as the female divine and brings this evidence to life. Through close reading, Douglas explores the overlapping theological themes that Jesus and Sophia share in the bible. She then challenges readers to engage with the question "so what might this mean for how we live?" both in relation to the church and in our own lives. Questions about biblical interpretation, theology and faithful practice are investigated in relation to themes including divine hospitality, friendship, anger, and care for the earth. In this process understandings of the cross are revisited, female imagery for God is reclaimed and celebrated, and exquisite liturgies are shared. With dynamism, humor, faithfulness, and creativity, Douglas encourages, challenges, and supports readers as they discover Jesus Sophia for themselves.

Written by Rev Dr Sally Douglas



LITTLE FREE PANTRY: ENGAGING ORMOND COMMUNITY

Needing some inspiration for outreach?

In early April 2020 the Ormond UC congregation built the Little Free Pantry to help the community around them. What a remarkable success it has been!



The pantry is a place where people can freely receive and give household essentials of bread, packaged food, drinks, and toiletries. Everyone is invited to either donate items to, or, if in need, take items from the pantry.

The sign on the pantry door says: "Please, take what you need; give what you can." Since it opened the community response has been highly encouraging. Supplies are being left by many local people and are being taken by those in need. The pantry was instigated by one of the groups at Ormond Uniting Church, who have developed a roster to check its contents twice a week. One of their great supporters is the Baker's Patisserie in Bentleigh who generously sell, at a very reduced price, a good supply of bread twice a week.

To some extent the pantry is seen as the face of the church within the community. If members of other churches are interested in starting something similar, then we have the knowledge and expertise to assist you. Just give one of us a call and we can start a conversation with you.

For further details about this project contact David (0488 204 049) or Dennis (0408 457 009)

PANTO = SUCCESS!



It takes a village to bring a production like this to stage. This is the cast of Cinderella.

What a ball!!

Over the long weekend in June, Mt Eliza Community Pantomime held their third production, a sold-out season of Cinderella. Mt Eliza Community Pantomime is an activity of the Village Church and includes both church and community members. Mt Eliza Community Pantomime began in 2019 when some church and playgroup families got together and dreamt of doing something fun in theatre and in Mt Eliza. The church instilled in this group some wonderful values around inclusion, kindness, encouragement and giving people a go – values that are often articulated by the wider pantomime community. Best of all, the church is at the heart of something that just brings so much joy to our community.

Pantomime has something for people of all ages. Mt Eliza Community Pantomime has provided a wonderful connecting space for the church and wider community. It's led to some incredible conversations and pastoral moments. People have often come to take part with preconceived ideas about the church, or concerns that a church is behind the production. But the professionalism and good heart of the pantomime leadership, and connection with church members soon puts people's minds at ease.

Proceeds from the pantomime go to supporting church activities like playgroup or youth engagement and proceeds from the 2022 production of Jack and the Beanstalk are helping to build a new playground at the church.

This year's production began way back in the second half of last year as key leaders perused scripts and began to creatively imagine what could be. Auditions were held in February, and cast and crew worked so hard to bring the show to stage. This production was co-directed by Emily Husband and Ali McArdle, and co-produced by Cameron McAdam and Ali McArdle, but a whole team brings it to stage.

The pantomime community have so many great stories to tell about how people have felt included or their lives have changed from being involved. In this production, local psychiatrist Liz Hollis heard so much laughter when dropping off her daughter at rehearsal, she decided to join her on stage. Local theatre legend, and church member, Shirley Bowen came out of retirement to play the wicked stepmother. Robyn Walker, who played Cinderella, had her own fairy tale moment, discovering that her great grandfather had played the role of Baron Hard-up in a Cinderella Pantomime in 1939. In fact, Cameron McAdam, who saw the stepsisters in Cinderella as a boy, can now check off his desire to play that role from his bucket list.

Local federal member for Parliament, Peta Murphy, attended the production and even spoke about it in parliament, saying, "The level of interaction and sheer joy of children and adults in the crowd...what it all added up to was a feeling of community, a feeling of engagement and belonging, a feeling of people all being part of something together." If you'd like to hear her comments, they are on her Youtube page and begin her comments on [National Cultural Policy](#).

The church tells this story through the program which led Mt Eliza resident Val Hardie to comment on a local Facebook page, "*We were there last night and were thoroughly entertained. It is fantastic...that...proceeds...go towards supporting community activities. Events like this bring communities together and Mt Eliza Uniting Church is commended for their efforts ... and especially for bringing smiles and laughter!*"

For a church that tries to be intergenerational, these words were very heartwarming.

Rev Cam McAdam

Minister, The Village Church Mt Eliza

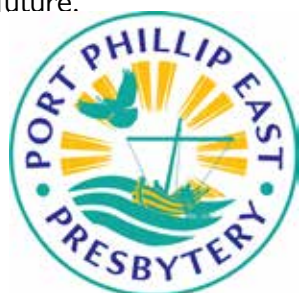
PRESBYTERY IN COUNCIL MEETING

The June Presbytery in Council meeting was held on 21st June on Zoom, with 48 members and 16 visitors joining in. The worship was led by Semisi Tauali'i (Minister of Mt Waverley Uniting Church) who played a beautiful hymn sung by Melbourne Fijian Uniting Church Choir. The reading from Matthew 9:35-10:8 was read in Fijian by Duncan Turuva.

We heard the stories of the two amalgamations; from Sharon D'Cruze and Nive Ioelu from St Columba's Noble Park and Samoan congregations, and from Di Paterson who shared the story of the Black Rock and Cheltenham-Mentone amalgamation. The Presbytery Chairperson, Tom Spurling was delighted to announce that the Trinity Brighton congregation had agreed to financially support part of the Presbytery's mission project in the Casey Cardinia region. The Presbytery invited Helen Wells, Trinity church council chairperson to share how the generous offer came to be made.

After a break, Robin Yang introduced the Disability Action Plan, which was presented by Kelly Skilton. Following the presentation, participants shared further discussion with each other in separate breakout rooms, on how we can implement the plan into action. In a private session, the Presbytery members affirmed Duncan Turuva's readiness for ordination as a minister of the word. Semisi led us in a prayer of blessing for Duncan.

Tom informed the Presbytery that the Standing Committee had agreed to the request by Craig Mitchell for early release from his placement as Presbytery Minister-Church Development on account of his mental and emotional health. He has requested that people do not contact him at this time. There will be an opportunity in the future for us to thank Craig for his contributions to the Presbytery and wish him well for the future.



CONGRATULATIONS DUNCAN TURUVA



Presbytery is very happy to congratulate Duncan Turuva who was deemed ready for ordination at the June Presbytery in Council meeting; pending completion of his studies for Ministry of the Word. At the time of publishing, he has now completed all requirements for his studies and is available for placement.

Let us hold Duncan in our prayers as he embarks on the next part of his journey. That he may be blessed in blessing others in service. May his path be smooth, clear and filled with joy and fulfilment, sharing the good news of Christ, giving shape to Christ's ministry in our midst and growing in God's love together with others that he will be sharing his ministry with.

A NOTE FROM THE COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

Thank you for all your stories, and articles about events, workshops, and testimonies that have been happening around the Presbytery. It is much appreciated.

If you'd like to contribute to Newsbeat, the Presbytery Website, Facebook page or weekly emails please send to our Communications Officer, Sarah Manase to comms-officer@ucappep.org

Please note: When sending photos they need to be individually attached to the email so that the file name is maintained and there is no reduction in quality. If emailing them is not possible, they can be accessed electronically other ways.

DIARY DATES

Creative Spiritual Practice – Endeavour Hills UC

Thursdays 7-9pm
Hosting Cothumos spiritual art journalling
Further info cothumos@gmail.com

Mission Meals Project

Thursdays 5.30 - 7pm
St Kilda South Port, 325 Dorcas St, Sth Melb.
Contact Rev Alex Sangster 0411 292 273

Act2 Project: Report formally launched

Thursday 13 July, Facebook Live
1:00pm AEST
(12:30pm ACST and 11:00am AWST)

Yarn for 'YES'

Thursday 13 July via Zoom at 7.30pm
Alison Overeem, Advocate of the Walking
Together Circle and others
[Click here to register](#)

Intercultural Neighbouring Sunday

Sunday 16 July
Further details can be found on our UCA
website

uniting.church/intercultural-neighbouringsunday-2023

Book Launch

Even the Devil Quotes Scripture: Reading the Bible on Its Own Terms by Robyn Whitaker
Sunday 23 July, 3.30-5pm
St John's Anglican Church Hall
86 Clendon Rd, Toorak
FREE Tickets from

events.humanitix.com/book-event-even-the-devil-quotes-scripture

President's Conference 2023

26-30 July
Redcliffe Uniting Church in QLD
Further info [click here](#) to register

Fellowship for CALD Ministers

Friday 21 July at 11am
Canterbury Uniting Church
RSVP to Devanandan Anandarajan via email
Devanandan.Anandarajan@victas.uca.org.au

An afternoon with Tony Rinaudo National Tree Day

Sunday 30 July, from 2:30pm
St Mark's Uniting Church Mornington
Cnr Barkly & Waterloo Streets, Mornington

Welcoming and Inclusive: Actions for Churches in response to people with disabilities and mental health issues

Saturday 29 July, 9:15 am – 5 pm
Salvation Army Centre, 1010 Whitehorse Road, Box Hill or Online
Cost: \$40, includes catering.
[Click here for further details.](#)

Presbytery in Council meeting

Saturday 19 August via zoom
Further details are to come via email

PreachFest

1-3 November, 2023
Further details go to [PreachFest website](#)

Vic/Tas Synod Meeting

18-21 November, 2023
Box Hill Town Hall, 1022 Whitehorse Road
Contact Synod Logistics Coordinator Sarah Manase sarah.manase@victas.uca.org.au

Uniting in Prayer July

Each week congregations are encouraged to include their neighbours in their prayers. The Presbytery's prayer calendar covers congregations, schools and agencies of the Uniting Church in our Presbytery and Synod. You can check the calendar on the Presbytery website.

July 2	Heatherton Dingley congregation - Rev Deacon Andrea Mayes, Chair Christine Duguid Karingal congregation - Rev Reg Davies. Chair Margaret Higgs
July 9	Korean Church of Melbourne (KCM) congregation - Rev Han Song, Daniel Sihombing, H.H. Kim & Christina Kim, Chair Seoungup Kim
July 16	Leighmoor congregation- Rev Heeyoung Lim, Chair Jenny Longmuir
July 23	Uniting By The Bay - Chelsea-Carrum Congregation - Rev Sam Joo, Chair Marie McIntosh
July 30	St Mark's Mornington congregation - Rev Joy Blamires The Village Church Mt Eliza congregation - Rev Cameron McAdam, Chair Andrew Stork



A prayer of thanksgiving

*Let us pray,
The cool winter mist that hovers
upon the waters in the morning
light. For the flight of the birds
ascending quietly, majestically from
the mist upon the waters and taking
to the skies.*

*The sun set low, it's radiating light
like many torches from Heaven,
The cloud of breath in the morning
chill from all things living.*

*We give you thanks, O God for these
quiet reminders of your presence
As the day unfolds with the warm
beverage held with cupped hands for
warmth.*

*For the person we meet along the
pathway who acknowledges the day
with hello.*

*The person at the supermarket who
spends a moment in conversation,
The person who lightens our day in
our daily tasks.*

*We give you thanks, O God where
you bring lightness to life.*

*We know, as we listen and read the
news, that there is much that is
broken in life. Such stories are like a
shattered mirror of humanity that
cannot be mended.*

*Thankfulness seems almost out of
place, until we find the stories of
the rescuers,*

*the carers, the people who speak
justice, who bring hope.*

*Thank you, O God, that you are
the light that shines even in the
broken prisms of light.*

*Thank You, Jesus for your
redeeming Love that inspires as
we see your example.*

*Thank You Jesus for the power
of your love that shines, blesses,
restores.*

We give you thanks

*We thank you for the moments
where our souls connect to You
and we know that we
are better for the encounter with
you,*

*In this winter season, we thank
you, O God, for your reminder
that you are still present in the
everyday.*

Amen

Prayer supplied by Rev Nigel McBrien
from Western Port Uniting Parish



Visit the Port Phillip East Presbytery office
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