



## Morialta Uniting Church Annual Report

March 2018

This report is presented as just one part of a larger package designed to communicate effectively with the congregation and beyond. Please also consult our bimonthly magazine '*Morialta Vision*', available on our website at [morialtauca.org.au](http://morialtauca.org.au), where additional information is also made available throughout the year.

At the March congregational meeting we recognized with warm thanks, heartfelt spoken accolades and loud acclamation the long and valued service – some 25 years – that Bruce Ind has given to Morialta congregation as its Chairperson, and also that of Church Council. Margaret Cargill was welcomed to the role of Chairperson of the Congregation following her election.

At report time in 2017 we were working on finances to ensure we can sustain full-time ministry for the next 5 years. 'Mission – Possible!' was the program run to encourage increased committed giving, and its strong results enabled us to proceed with the Joint Nominating Committee processes and call Rev Bob Hutchinson as our minister from 1 August. The congregation is benefitting from synergies between Bob's ministry style and our vision seen in the first 6 months and looks forward keenly to travelling on together.

The congregation joined with the wider UCA to celebrate the church's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary in June, with a visit from the Moderator, Rev. Sue Ellis. We also appreciated the opportunity to participate in gatherings of the Urban Mission Network, which brought fresh perspectives and news of happenings in other active congregations.

At the end of June we farewelled and extended our warm thanks to Rev Dr Jonathan Barker, who had provided Supply Ministry to the congregation for 14 months. Particularly in July, but also throughout the year, Morialta Uniting benefitted greatly from the gifts and graces of the retired ministers who call the congregation home – Rev Christine Garner, Rev Jenny Swanbury, Rev David Purling, Rev Doug Hosking and Rev David Pill have generously supported the ministry offered by Morialta Uniting, in a number of ways, and we are very grateful to them.

Since its inception, our *Beyond our Walls (BoW)* program has provided a worship resource for smaller congregations and faith communities as well as individuals who are unable to attend worship. Over the past six years the whole service has been recorded once each month, while on the other Sundays the sermon and readings are distributed via YouTube. The BoW program was reviewed in 2017. The review team concluded that the responses by the congregation and other users to the survey we conducted, together with the usage indicated by YouTube data, supported the continuation of the BoW program in its present form. This service is only made possible because of the significant commitment of talented members of the congregation who operate cameras, mixers and other equipment, and we thank them warmly. A BoW Oversight Group was established as an outcome of the review and has commenced work.

The **Student Accommodation Program** has been a significant part of our mission for 30 years and with the erection of two new courtyard homes at 24 Chapel St we will be in a strong position for years to come. After careful planning work in 2017, demolition of the old manse is expected in March 2018, and project completion around September. Eight students will move in then – they are currently accommodated in houses in Rostrevor and Athelstone.

It is good to be able to report on activities designed to nurture growth in faith and a sense of belonging to the Morialta Uniting community for our **children and young people** and their families. The plan developed in 2017/8 is to encourage participation in worship and

worship leading (including AV and music), designated programs on Sundays that match attendance patterns, and weekend social activities. A Morialta group attended Kids' Camp Out (KCO) in 2017, and reported highlights on their return; a small group joined with Pilgrim Uniting for 2018's KCO, supported by a leader and several craft volunteers. Five campers and two leaders attended SAYCO in October (SA Youth Camp Out).

While the congregation contributes generously to the finances required to support our mission, a number of **Community Building and Fundraising** events add to our resources. Among these is the Mighty Magill Market. Nearly 100 people worked to prepare or serve at the Market, and the \$10,000 raised is a significant fillip to Morialta Uniting's bottom line. Other events included the Garden Party at Jan Schroeder's home, and the Kym Purling Trio concert, raising funds for Morialta programs as well as the Long Hai Centre in Vietnam.

In June Morialta's **Lunch on Chapel** program (formerly Coffee Corner) celebrated a significant anniversary. Volunteers, regular attendees and invited guests enjoyed a time of reminiscence and refreshment as they acknowledged the commitment of many people over the 25 years that the program has operated – to date!

Several other friendship- and fellowship-based activities are held within the life of Morialta Uniting. Each Monday a small group of men – the **Monday Boys** – diligently carry out garden maintenance around the church property and enjoy a cuppa after their labour. The **Friendship Group** meets for mahjong and other games in the foyer each Wednesday after Lunch on Chapel, and the Community Centre's bridge group play alongside them. Two **playgroups** continue to use our facilities. **Fellowship** continues strongly, and will hold its meetings in the daytime all year round in future.

The new verandah outside the Kooka Rooms has been a boon to all users of the site, and opened up new possibilities by providing a sheltered, dry outdoor space. The **playgroups** and the **netball club** have been especially appreciative.

Morialta Uniting continues to value its relationship with the **Morialta Netball Club**, which has an increasing presence in the summer and winter seasons of the netball competition – currently 19 teams. We supported the club in its bid to the government's Fund My Neighbourhood program, and congratulate them on winning funds to resurface and upgrade the courts, which are also home to our **social tennis club**. This work will take place in September. The Club continued its support for our **Beyond Morialta Mission Projects** (BMMP), donating the generous proceeds from its Mother's Day cake stall. BMMP projects supported in 2017 were helping face climate change effects in Tuvalu, contributing to the support of children orphaned by AIDS in Zimbabwe, and the work of the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress.

Opportunities to 'delve deeper' were provided through four **Lenten Reflection groups**, one in a local café, and the church open for prayer throughout Lent – alongside the evening **Gateways** reading group fortnightly and **Gateways-by-day** several times a year.

Morialta Uniting continues to have strong representation on the Magill Interchurch Council. One of the pastoral support workers employed through the Council spoke to us during the year and participated in Bob's induction service. Morialta hosted the annual World Day of Prayer service in early March. This event built on the warm goodwill generated by the Council-sponsored Ecumenical Walk between three member churches in October, held to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the SA Council of Churches.

Church Council has been working hard to address a number of issues in the life of the church, with extra meetings required in late 2017/early 2018. Work continues on tightening and streamlining processes so we can continue to comply with Synod requirements as the number of members able to contribute to management decreases. A number of people have recently been welcomed into the life of the congregation; families and individuals were acknowledged at a morning tea in mid 2017 and in a service in early 2018. A congregation-wide process for discerning our mission priorities into the future is planned for 2018. We move forward in hope and trust, seeking to join in with God's activity in the world.