

# Morialta Vision ...in the Wilderness

A Publication of Morialta Uniting Church

Issue 3 - 29 April 2020

**Morialta Uniting Church—follow us on Facebook or check out our website at [www.morialtauca.org.au](http://www.morialtauca.org.au)**

## Welcome to Vision in the Wilderness III

Colin Cargill, Editor and Helena Begg, Publisher

This is the third edition of *Vision in the Wilderness* and we continue to be heartened by your feedback and comments.

We also suggest using the term Physical Isolation in preference to Social Isolation. While we may be unable to hug or touch each other, we can sure continue to react to each other socially in many ways.

In this issue you can see and read what happened to David Puling's "sprouting potato", enjoy Gaynor's holy place, hear of Marie and Joan's Tasmanian adventure, read news from Mary Thorley and enjoy a mix of music from friends.

No one guessed who the donkey was – in fact Brian Piller was the only entrant. Brian guessed Katrina, but it was Roger Whibley.

We look forward to receiving your stories of survival in this time or brief stories about past travels, but please try to limit all articles to 300 words or less. That way we can share the available space between many.

Hand written pieces are fine – just drop items in my letter box at 34A Moules Rd Magill (0427 122 106) or email them to [snout-n-about@bigpond.com](mailto:snout-n-about@bigpond.com)

**Go well!**

## From the Council Chairperson

Easter was very different this year. COVID 19 certainly has a lot to answer for! However, members of Morialta UC, and many others, were able to share in worship on Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Whether you participated by viewing the videoed service, or followed the service in the printed word, I hope that you experienced the hope that comes from being people of the resurrection.

The newly formed Church Council met, via Zoom, on April 28. Please hold them, and all members of the Morialta Community in your prayers. While programs have been suspended there is still a need for the work of the community to continue, albeit in a different way.

In these unusual times Church Council is making use of technology to facilitate decision making. We supported the submission for a grant to install solar panels on church property as well as accepting the proposal for the distribution of the elements during Holy Communion held within virtual church.

I pray for your continued good health at this time. Please adhere to the directives handed down by government and synod so that we are able to give every opportunity for an accelerated lifting of restrictions.

Shalom, Bruce

## Easter as an enduring story of loss and hope

*Adapted from a article by Andrew Hamilton published in Eureka Street on Good Friday 2020*

Over the centuries Easter has changed to accommodate different societies. At first its celebration was workaday – the weekly Eucharist was a celebration to prepare for the return of Christ at the end of time.



When the persecutions stopped, Easter took on a more elaborate appearance — for large churches in the cities, a month of fasting to prepare and a week to celebrate the events leading up to Jesus' death and resurrection.

Events, games, vegetation and meals at Easter were marked by Jesus' story. Hot cross buns, Easter eggs, brodetto pasquale, passion plays, Easter lilies and passionfruit owe their names to Easter. Their names remain, even as secular events have come to mark the season: football; the Stawell Gift and country tennis tournaments.

In Christian churches the celebration of Easter this year looked more like Lent or Passion week. Also no football, concerts, interstate and international travel and family gatherings. Instead of celebrating the present, many were weighed down by fear and anxiety about the future.

The restrictions took us closer to the original Easter story. Then Easter Sunday dawned as emptily as it threatened to this year. There was nothing to celebrate. Jesus' world had been shut down; his disciples had shut themselves away in fear; the only people in the streets apart from the soldiers were a couple of Jesus' friends, mostly women, whose love overcame their fear and drew them out to visit his tomb.

As the sun rose on Easter Sunday his followers had not simply lost a friend and a leader – they had lost hope and meaning. They followed him because they believed that God would act through him to free his people. His crucifixion had proved that belief to be absurd and had taken away their hope. Easter dawned in a desert.

This year, as we contemplate all the things that could separate us from hope, Easter invited all of us to reflect on what matters to us deeply enough to sustain us in the face of loss and death. If the celebrations of Easter were muted, its challenge to reflect on our lives and world was sharpened.

*You can read the complete article by typing "Easter as an enduring story of loss and hope" into your search engine.*

## Caring Connections Catch-up 3: How are you going?

Hello again from the Pastoral Care Team! We hope you are learning to manage our new reality better and better. Hopefully there are lots of phone-calls and email messages flying about keeping us in touch with each other – and even Zoom gatherings, Skype calls, Facebook posts and other types of connectivity! The directory I talked about last week is happening, and should be available later this week to help us keep in touch more easily.

Some aspects of life go on unchanged in this new reality, and one of those aspects is the loss of people we love. Jan Schroeder and her family experienced such a loss in the past weeks, when Jan's son-in-law Peter Leaney, husband of Deb, died suddenly. Peter was a physiotherapist working in Moonta, and had been part of the extended Schroeder family for over 40 years. Our love and prayers are for Jan and all the family at this sad time – especially knowing that they will have to wait an extended while before they can farewell Peter as they wish.

## Welcome home Mary Thornley



It was wonderful to have news that Mary is home again – Alleluia! As Mary shared in an email to friends – “The joys are several, including being with Peter 24 hours continuously, enjoying our own space and treasures (even if the parts he could not control still need to be sorted), having great space and convenience in the bathroom, and relaxing in my own bed. Another particular and unexpected joy was that on our return home some of our neighbours had put balloons on the gates and were out to meet us.”

The fireworks and champagne will have to come later!

## The incredible journey of plants

By Stefano Mancuso

Scientist Stefano Mancuso and colleagues are experts on training plants, just like neuroscientists train lab rats. In his new book he describes how they discovered that if you drip water onto a *Mimosa pudica*, it responds by recoiling its leaves. However, if you continue to drip water onto the plant, the plant seems to realise the water is harmless and stops reacting. In fact it will not react to water again for several weeks.

He also thinks that plants are aware of themselves, in terms of the total plant. The example he cites is a tree. If a tree is shaded by another tree it will compete for light with the other tree. But when lower branches of a tree are shaded by other branches of the same tree, they do not compete for light.

His favourite are the invasive plants. Invasive species are the most beautiful plants that I can imagine and migration is one of the most important forces of nature. All living organisms migrate. Humans are the only species that are no longer allowed to migrate freely, and this is completely unnatural.

Reviewed by Colin Cargill

## Music and more on YouTube for your entertainment

### From ANZAC Day – a bit of nostalgia

“When the lights go on again” was played on 5MBS on ANZAC Day. While I have heard it many times before, somehow the words had so much more meaning. It made me realise how the inconveniences we are experiencing today are really insignificant when one thinks of the “inconveniences” faced during war. Instead of bombs, we have only leaves falling, rather than just waiting for a telegram and hoping, we can skype our families across the sea, and while toilet paper may be scarce, we do not have rationing.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vzIFaYos\\_QI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vzIFaYos_QI)

### From Mandy Hutchinson

A piece that her group plays. Program notes written by their wonderful cellist Sally Stephenson.

**Bohuslav Martinu** composed his nonet for the famous chamber ensemble, the Czech Nonet, to celebrate their 35th anniversary. Martinu drew inspiration from Bohemian folk music, and this is evident in the first and third movements of the nonet.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c361zD5r3ec>

### From Gil Sullivan

A selection from the Orangerie in Darmstadt - Germany 2018.

The very last piece was Gil's encore 🎭.

Mozart Sonata in F K332:-

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pWniW1yxEWM>

Miriam Hyde Valley of Rocks:-

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nMaHgei8Kw>

Miriam Hyde Brownhill Creek in Spring:-

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vwOIEbdYCzc>

Miriam Hyde Returning Tide at Sunset:-

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QbQwQoaQcpM>

### From Kym Purling

An interview with Graham Cornes of 5AA.

<https://play.acast.com/s/cornesy/conversationswithcornesy-kympurling>

### From Craig Ottmann

“Day by Day” by Colleen Hewett

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5hGagE4YBJw>

## Not everything is cancelled!

Sunshine is not cancelled – autumn is not cancelled, love is not cancelled, relationships are not cancelled, reading is not cancelled, devotion is not cancelled, music is not cancelled, dancing is not cancelled, imagination is not cancelled, kindness is not cancelled, conversations are not cancelled and most of all, **hope** is not cancelled. – Keep looking up!



## Our Plan

Marie Elson and Joan Morrison

Ten days in Hobart in March to visit family and friends. What could possibly go wrong? What actually happened was COVID19. When we left Adelaide people were buying toilet paper in a frenzy. "How ridiculous" we said. BUT, a few days into our time in Hobart we were faced with restrictions which upset our plans. We were unable to meet a group of Church friends and attend their Sunday services. Eating out was more difficult – half the tables and chairs removed from cafes – and shopping discouraged. Still, we had a good time.

Our BnB was a wonderful haven owned by Joan's friends Judith and Chris Cornish who are both professional actors. We were able to go to their final performance of "Her Story" which they depicted daily, in the Cascades Female Factory Historic Site. It is a powerful performance of what life was like for these poor women. They portrayed the story of Mary James (fictional), who stole a square of silk and was deported to Hobart in 1833, sentenced to 7 years. The privations, solitary confinement and treatment of those poor souls left us feeling very sombre, but glad we had been able to see their presentation.

We were able to visit the Botanic Gardens on 2 separate sunny days – very enjoyable. For those of you who watch Gardening Australia, we went to "The Patch" and saw Tino's giant pumpkins. They were enormous.

We also found a beautiful little 'surprise' out in the country—a cafe called "Slice of Pie", which was still open. We sat outside in lovely weather and enjoyed the most delicious cherry pie you could ever imagine, surrounded by cherry and apple orchards, with a backdrop of the spectacular "Sleeping Princess" mountain, birds singing, sun shining!

We were able to see Joan's family several times and we are both glad that we were able to do as much and enjoy it. Goodness knows when we will have another holiday?

We arrived home the night that restrictions were placed on all in-coming travellers, so we came home to 14 days of isolation. Really, it is not so bad after all – no need to rush around – we have been able to stop and think. It is amazing how quickly each day passes.

We look forward to the day when we can greet you all again. Meantime stay well and keep smiling!

## Not everyone is connected!

From Mary Thornley

Most of us are bombarded with news of Covid-19, the toll it is taking across the world and our own country's steps and discourse in trying to manage it. However, an email from a friend in the UK included the following salutary story:

"A family member who works in a bank said that a lady came into the bank recently and couldn't figure out what was going on as there were various distancing signs out, very few people about, and police protection. She had neither TV, radio, phone and didn't read newspapers so she was very surprised to hear that the world was in crisis."

## Making it real: Genuine human encounter in our digital world

The Australian Catholic Bishops' Social Justice Statement for 2019 – 2020

*Given the current reliance on digital technology to maintain communication with friends and family – it may be useful to reflect on the ACBSJ statement for 2019-2020 - Editor.*

The statement affirms the positive possibilities for encounter and solidarity offered by new digital media, while warning of those elements of our digital world that may be harmful. These include information overload; social isolation; marginalisation of the vulnerable; consumerism and fake news.

The Statement reminds us that the new digital media cannot be seen as neutral or 'unaffected by any moral considerations'. While many users do not realise it, the core business of social media platforms is to sell advertising and maximise profits. People's personal lives may be reduced to data that is traded for profit or power, and it is used to target and influence us in ways previously unthinkable. Pushing users to more extreme positions and promoting fake news and conspiracy theories sells, but this is at odds with human solidarity.

The Statement amplifies Pope Francis' call to us to 'boldly become citizens of the digital world', with the image of the Good Samaritan as our inspiration. We are called not only to love our neighbour, but to bring the love of God to the new global neighbourhood. The Statement points out that we are called not just to be inhabitants of this new digital world, but active citizens shaping it.

All of us – whether we are users, communities, industrial or political leaders – have a role to play in rejecting hatred, divisions and falsehoods. We have a duty to foster a neighbourhood that promotes those human attributes and social values that lend themselves to genuine human encounter – love, understanding, beauty, goodness, truth and trustworthiness, joy and hope.

## Chocolates after Easter



Maybe you are still in the market for chocolate, not having scored enough from family and friends over Easter. Here is an update from "Slavery-Free" about Australian Companies.

*While the much-loved Australian companies, such as Haigh's and Darrell Lea, are not of a size (as yet) to run their own programs in West Africa, Haigh's led the way in becoming the first bean to bar chocolate company to fully certify with UTZ (Now Rainforest Alliance). Darrell Lea made the announcement that they would work with Barry Callebaut's Cocoa Horizon's. We are very proud of these companies - as we are of our cousins over the ditch at Whittakers.*

So we can eat these famous chocolates with a clear conscience – calories aside of course!

## Reflection from the President National Council of Churches

Bishop Philip Huggins

I was once in a church overseas for its first service after being shut for some time. There had been much suffering and sadness.

The closure had not been because of a strange virus, but rather, the more familiar problem of banal political oppression causing a loss of freedom to worship. Worshipping with these people, on their first Sunday back in their church, is one the most wonderful moments of my life.

The church was beautifully restored. The place was packed. People prayed with passion. The music was sublime. It took me a while to realise they were worshipping without any books.

During their persecution, while the church was shut, they had memorised the liturgy. Now this faith-life they had sustained privately and discreetly, in spiritual communion, could be shared together again in their beloved church.

This was sacred liturgy in the fullest meaning. The faces shone. Tears flowed. People couldn't stop smiling. It was like a thousand Easter Sundays all at once. Little needed to be said to make the clear biblical connections. "I AM the Resurrection and the Life," was the text.

You can see where this is heading...

As I write, our churches are shut and our faithful souls are worshipping at home. But there will come a day when we will again open the church doors. In our various traditions, we will offer God the best worship of which we are capable.

We will do this together. It may be after the Easter date but, yes, let's expect it will be like a thousandEasters all at once!



## A home made "Holy Place"

Gaynor Hallows was missing a holy place to visit, so she made a little prayer/reflection place at home. It's made from cardboard, contact and cellophane!

Thanks Gaynor.

## Hindu Reflections on the Pandemic

Impermanence and interdependence are not mere truisms, but deep existential truths, truths we must hold in our hearts even once this passes.

We suffer because others suffer... Attention to the massive suffering caused by the pandemic can inspire us to hold this insight in our hearts now and after the pandemic has passed.

By developing an open awareness of the situation around us, we allow ourselves to become more responsive, and less reactive, agents of benefit, not of harm.

## Fellowship

Are there any members who would like to receive the Together Magazine online? If so, can you please just email [jwoodward@sa.uca.org.au](mailto:jwoodward@sa.uca.org.au).

Packing Day, which was scheduled for June, has been cancelled for this year.

I hope you are all managing well during these most unusual times and finding things to do that would normally be 'on hold'. Thinking of you all and looking forward to a time when we can all meet again.

Margaret Clogg

## Collects in the Time of Virus

### God of Shadows

give shelter to hollow, shaken humans  
bewildered by sudden closure,  
sturdy structures shattered, hopeful trade ended,  
meaningful work gone.  
In the shocking silence where nothing can be said,  
let birdsong be heard.

### God who speaks the word 'Beloved'

keep watch on those who give voice to care,  
who speak trenchant truths,  
explaining, instructing and chiding without blame.  
Let us hear the warmth and strength in voices that stir  
response  
and nourish hope in thoughtful action.  
Give us ears to listen without fear.

Collects by Julie Perrin, published with permission.

## On the lighter side...



## The Sprouting Potato – Part the Second

From David Purling



Rather than throw away the "wrinkled old potato", I planted it. Lo and behold, it wasn't long before it had started to grow. New leaves had started to appear above the ground. Maybe, I thought, just maybe I should not have written it off, thinking it would just die in the ground. We certainly have had that happen to other "more precious" plants. So, seeing the beautiful new leaves sprouting from a wizened old potato got me thinking. Thinking about life...