

Morialta Vision ...in the Wilderness

A Publication of Morialta Uniting Church

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Welcome to Vision in the Wilderness 5

Colin Cargill Editor and Helena Begg Publisher

Maybe the end is in sight but we still have a way to go. Zoom has replaced face to face meetings and those of us who have used Zoom before know that it means we can join with people from several locations without using fuel or earning frequent flyer points and contributing to travel emissions. But it does mean no hugs which is important.

In this edition you can learn about an act of kindness, read reminiscences of Moscow, hear about nurse training 60 years ago, and listen to a range of music from friends. If you want to join our contributors, photos and articles are very welcome – less than 300 words will be ideal and hand written pieces are fine. Cut off dates for future editions of “VitW” are **June 5 and 19**. My address for a letter box drop is 34A Moules Rd Magill / call me on 0427 122 106 / or email me at snout-n-about@bigpond.com.au

Go well and stay safe!

From the Church Council Chairperson

Church Council continues to meet, via Zoom, and we will continue to explore and assess how Morialta UC can gradually return to a new normal safely. Please continue to pray for our Congregation Leaders and Church Council as well as all those who call Morialta UC home.

With the relaxation of some restrictions we are all beginning to think about how the post-COVID world will look. While the transition into social distancing and other restrictions was a rapid response to potential danger it is likely that as we emerge, butterfly-like, from the security of the past months, the transition will be slower. It is unlikely that larger gatherings will be permitted for some months to come. For that reason, it is more important than ever to take time to communicate with our circle of family and friends.

Thanks to the volunteers who prepare and distribute Virtual Church, and the accompanying printed material, each week we are able to come together while staying apart.

One important thing everyone can do is go through your ‘**Safe Church**’ check online before 30 June. All volunteers may apply for the check without cost. Importantly, after 1 July, as required by government regulation, people without the appropriate documentation will not be able to act in positions of responsibility within our community. If you need to know more, please contact Margaret Cargill, or me at your earliest convenience.

Bruce Ind



A Journey for All Australians

This year, National Reconciliation Week celebrates its 20th anniversary (27 May – 3 June) with the theme **In This Together**.

It's a theme with deep resonance as Australians, both on the coast and inland, deal with a barrage of challenges which have included drought, bushfires, floods, a global pandemic and economic instability. Just as Australia's ability to survive challenges and move forward as a nation relies on all of us – individuals, organisations and communities – so too do we need to come together in the spirit of reconciliation.

While we all have different life experiences, our approach to reconciliation and how we can follow our own journeys of tolerance and understanding are remarkably similar. Just feel inspired to join the conversation, learn more about our shared history and consider your journey, too.

Benjamin Quilliam is Bush Chaplain – Centralian Remote Area, which includes the APY Lands (Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara), home to around 2,300 First Nation people. The APY Lands is large, sparsely populated and the people speak the Pitjantjatjara language, making English a second or third language. A South Australian Government report (2019) found the APY Lands has some of the highest levels of intergenerational disadvantage in Australia.



For Benjamin (pictured inset), *In This Together* means confronting hidden biases and learning the facts. “There are still a lot of cultural and language barriers in this area as well as many inequalities. But we can learn many things from our First Nations People. It begins with sitting down and listening – learning about their culture, their language and their beliefs. It's all about getting to know them.

Did you know?

Before European settlement, Australia was divided into more than 500 different clan groups or ‘nations’, many with distinctive cultures, beliefs and languages.

And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. *Micah 2:4 (NIV)*

Caring Connections Catch-up 5: How are you going?

I am enjoying the phone chats, email conversations and Zoom meetings that are part of keeping in touch these days – and I hope you are too! We in the Pastoral Care Team are keen to do everything we can to support our Morialta community in these tricky times, so please do be in touch with your requests and/or ideas.

One thing we'd like to have firmly in place is our ability to send a greeting card from Morialta on special birthdays to those of you who would like to receive them. Cynthia Story looks after this program for us, and we value her skills and creativity very much – many thanks, Cynthia!

'Special' birthdays are designated as 21, all 'big-o' birthdays (30 onwards), 85 and every year after 90. If you would rather **not** receive a card on these occasions, please make sure that you let us know your wishes. You can do this at item 2A in your Caring Connections personal letter, if you have not yet returned it, or please contact Margaret Cargill to update your information.

If you have lost your letter, contact me, Margaret Cargill, by phone or email to ask for a duplicate copy. 37 households have not returned their letters, even though many of them gave permission to include their details in the directory when contacted. This is your big chance to make sure that your wishes about pastoral care, privacy and communication methods are understood and put into action – we look forward to hearing from you!

Captain Cook – an unusual diary entry

From the Conversation – April 28, 2020

As he sailed from the tip of Cape York, Cook wrote an unusual diary entry: *From what I have said of the Natives of New-Holland, they may appear to some to be the most wretched people upon Earth, but in reality they are far more happier than we Europeans; being wholly unacquainted not only with the superfluous but the necessary conveniencies so much sought after in Europe, they are happy in not knowing the use of them.*

They live in a Tranquillity which is not disturb'd by the Inequality of Condition: The Earth and sea of their own accord furnishes them with all things necessary for life; they covet not Magnificent Houses, Houshold-stuff [...] they live in a warm and fine Climate and enjoy a very wholesome Air, so that they have very little need of Clothing and this they seem to be fully sencible of, for many to whome we gave Cloth to, left it carlessly upon the Sea beach and in the woods as a thing they had no manner of use for.

In short they seem'd to set no Value upon any thing we gave them, nor would they ever part with any thing of their own for any one article we could offer them; this, in my opinion argues that they think themselves provided with all the necessaries of Life and that they have no Superfluties —

For a working-class man from Georgian England to see and appreciate the cultural values of Indigenous people is remarkable, considering that clarity of understanding is only just dawning on the average Australian.

Morialta Netball Club return to training!

Training has been able to resume on our courts from Monday 18 May. Strict protocols are in place to maintain social distancing, and signage has been erected to ensure all players, coaches and parents know what to do. The focus for the next few weeks is fitness, core skills, positive team culture and court systems (not competitive). We send warm wishes to all!

Fig jam for sale

Ruth Pitt has some delicious home-made fig jam for sale – proceeds to Beyond Morialta Mission Projects funds. Contact Ruth on 8365 1140 to arrange collection or delivery.

The church is not “closed”

"The work of the church is essential.

The work of caring for the lonely, the marginalized, and the oppressed is essential.

The work of speaking truth to power and seeking justice is essential.

The work of being a loving, liberating, and life giving presence in the world is essential.

The work of welcoming the stranger, the refugee and the undocumented is essential.

The work of reconciliation and healing and caring is essential. The church does not need to “open” because the church never “closed”. We who make up the Body of Christ, the church, love God and our neighbors and ourselves so much that we will stay away from our buildings until it is safe. We are the church."

(From Deon K. Johnson, Bishop-elect of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Missouri, USA)

Random acts of kindness

From Joan Wagner

A couple of weeks ago I met with a niece who had a rare day off work. We met at a café at Ingle Farm Shopping Centre for lunch where she gave me a spray of Singapore orchids. On my way back to my car I was stopped by a young woman with two little girls who asked me if I desperately needed a toilet roll as they had a spare. I said I was OK and I would prefer she gave it to someone in need but I applauded her role model showing of kindness to her daughters.

A couple days later as I was about to unload my boot with a couple of bags at another supermarket, a young lady came across to me saying she was waiting around for her daughter's return and would she like me to lift my bags into the boot by her and then take my trolley back.

I shared this with a couple of friends who jokingly said 'perhaps they see you as an old lady' however as my hair is not yet grey or white (temporarily) 😊 I chose to be thankful for their kindness to a stranger despite my years.

I read recently Oprah Winfrey despite her success struggles with personal demons made the choice to start every day with three things to be thankful for.

This is a different time and one to choose kindness to others whatever their circumstances.



2020: International Year of the Nurse and Midwife

Ruth Pitt describes nursing training 60 years ago.

60 years ago this month I started 4 years of nurse training at the Memorial Hospital. Back in those days I remember we –

- lived on site, changing room-mates and rooms twice a year.
- had one pay-phone for 90 nurses and the home was locked at 10pm – definitely no alcohol allowed.
- were not allowed to wear starched uniforms outside and removed many shanked buttons before taking them for laundering.
- spent the first few months cleaning, delivering meals, polishing silverware on Sundays, helping others when called, watching and learning.
- gained competence and confidence for more responsibilities – caring holistically for 3 patients each on day duty – many more at night.
- gave 4 hourly alcohol back-rubs to all patients to prevent bed-sores. (*A stranger told me at a dance he knew I was a nurse – I had hard hands.*)
- had to ‘shake down’ thermometers, and pick up the mercury beads to hand to Matron for a replacement if we broke one.
- attended lectures and exams in our off-duty time, and passed well.
- could only use the lift if with a patient – I remember stalactites of dried egg on the back stairs after breakfast serves had been dropped.
- ate well, benefitting from fresh milk, cream and eggs from a Hills farm.
- recorded on paper, cleaned, sterilized, re-used equipment and folded newspaper to make disposal bags for removed dressings etc.
- bed-bathed patients, did pre-op shavings, face shaves and hair styling.
- lifted patients in pairs, (monkey grip) – no mechanical lifters then.
- removed patients’ flowers at night, tidying and returning them in the morning – damp-dusted rooms. (Maids cleaned the floors)
- spent some shifts helping in the operating theatres – a highlight for me.
- missed out on casualty (ER) experience, but the training, discipline, hard work, joy and sadness shared with the friends equipped us well for the future.

For tea drinkers

From Be SlaveryFree

T2 started in Australia and is a much-loved company. But did you know T2 is owned by Unilever? Unilever, along with 2 other companies, owns roughly 80% of the global tea market.

Unilever sources their tea from both tea plantations they own and a network of suppliers that includes over 300 suppliers in Assam alone. Unilever has industry leading policies for fair compensation for their direct employees, but we would like to see these extended to their suppliers to ensure tea workers receive a living wage.

Oxfam estimates that workers on plantations in Assam currently receive around AU\$0.06 per 100g of bagged black tea. T2 sells 100g of their Assam black tea for AU\$12. Farmers would require only the equivalent of AU\$0.15 to enable a living wage to be paid.

You can read more about the policies of T2 and treatment of tea growers, as well as what you can do to encourage change at <https://beslaveryfree.com/tea>

Impressions of Russia – 1986 Moscow

Ruth Dunning

The train journey passed quickly and we were soon settled in Moscow's Intourist Hotel. Walking across Red Square, passing through the Troitskaya Tower (all agog) to explore within the walls of the Kremlin, we passed the modern Palace of Congresses and the Grand Kremlin Palace when suddenly the shrill blast of a policeman's whistle pierced the air – Bruce, busy filming, had sauntered over the white line!

The Cathedral of the Assumption, with its majestic interior, measures just 38m (high) x 24 m x 35.5. m. Its frescoes and temperas were illuminated by twelve gilt and silver chandeliers. It contains the wooden throne on which Ivan The Terrible was crowned at 16.

The Archangel Cathedral was equally impressive with its 13 m gilt iconostasis hiding the altar from view. "No-one knows what it is like behind the screen" said our guide. Here lies the very ornate tomb of Ivan The Terrible. This fearsome yet generous man held six-hour long banquets for thousands of people and the food was served on gold jewel encrusted plates. He was said to be quite mad and insisted the servants change livery between courses while he changed crowns.

Later we visited the Novodevichy Convent and the tombs of Krushchev and Chekov; passed the Lenin Library; and St. Basil's Cathedral and the bronze statue of Alexander Pushkin. Pushkin was irresistible to women (apparently) and was famous before he was 20 for both his poetry and his pursuit of titled women. When he married 16-year old Natalya he noted in his diary that it was the 113th time he had fallen in love.

We enjoyed our visit to the ballet in the Tchaikovsky Concert Hall despite the hall being hot with no drinks available. The atmosphere was electric.

Leaving Moscow airport we again encountered soldiers everywhere as we walked to the plane. It wasn't quite so frightening now – we were going home!

A 2-step strategy to house everyone – the need has never been clearer.

Based on an article in the Conversation by Ron Wakefield, Dean, School of Property, Construction and Project Management.

The COVID-19 pandemic has shown us our health is intimately connected to the health of the person next to us and that it is vital that the homeless are put into emergency accommodation – for their health and ours.

"Matthew has been homeless for over 20 years but then woke up in a 4-star hotel" (ABC) demonstrates the irony of getting people off the street and into hotel rooms as a stopgap measure to protect us all. But when social-distancing restrictions ease and our world returns to "normal" what then?

Despite numerous enquiries into homelessness since 1980 (AHC), few recommendations have led to action.

Professor Wakefield's solution is – "To avoid people being deposited back onto the streets, we're asking all governments to fund a rapid spot-purchasing program". This program worked for the Victorian government in 2016. The program funds community housing agencies to buy up "distressed" or cheap housing. These properties are let at below market rent to people who pay 30% of their income as a social rent. Vendors and developers benefit and thousands of people get a home. It provides an enduring social benefit - funds spent on motel rooms become community-owned property assets.

The program cost around A\$210 million in Victoria and costs in other states would be similar. The cost of homelessness is greater than the cost of fixing it, so it makes economic and social sense.

"People in emergency accommodation can't wait years for new housing to be built. They (and we) need these homes now while longer-term solutions are developed."

For the full article type "The need to house everyone" into Google and then consider contacting your State and Federal MPs.

On the lighter side...



As John Wesley might have said, in the current situation:

May your heart be strangely warmed but the rest of your body remain socially distanced!

Avoid all the people you can by all the means you can in all the places you can at all times you can, as long as ever you can.



Music on YouTube for your entertainment

From Gil Sullivan

A selection of pieces recorded by Gil 30 years ago.

Haydn Sonata 1st & 2nd movements:-

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gwdup7fGDcc>

Haydn Sonata 3rd movement:-

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HwgytZGC3VA>

Bach Preludes:-

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vveM3QmS7l4>

From Colin Cargill

"Milonga Gris" – Carlos Aguirre covered by **Hairul Umam**:-

https://youtu.be/9nk_d-Mmkp8

"Isn't she lovely" jamming by **Hairul Umam** and Koh Mr Saxman at Malvin Saxproshop:-

<https://youtu.be/wMFcHuhWXQU>

Who is Muhammad Chairul Umam aka Hairul Umam? Hairul is an Indonesian sax player I met in Yogyakarta. He is now a professional musician in Jakarta Indonesia and appears regularly at the Java Jazz Festival in Jakarta.

From Daniel Emmet

Daniel Emmet is an opera singer who is gaining rapid notoriety as a rising multilingual star, whose voice, once heard, makes you take a step back and catch your breath. Here he sings not "Nessun Dorma" from Turandot but "Nessun Dorma...alla Corona" :-

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uL52AuF4QzY>

Toilet Paper and Corona virus

Many of us have been a little perplexed that the Corona virus pandemic caused a run on toilet paper. There seemed to be little logic unless you explore the many corona viruses that inhabit mammals. While there are a number of respiratory corona viruses in humans, human enteric corona viruses seem almost non-existent. However, pigs are the reverse – they seem to lack a respiratory corona virus but are "home" to 3 enteric corona viruses – all of which can cause severe diarrhoea. So, was it pig farmers who have been stockpiling toilet paper?

Just a thought - Ed.

Madame Elisabeth Bollinger

Member of the famous French Champagne family, on alcohol



"I drink it when I'm happy and when I'm sad.

Sometimes I drink it when I am alone.

When I have company I consider it obligatory.

I trifle with it if I am not hungry, and I drink it when I am.

Otherwise I never touch it, unless I am thirsty".

London Daily Mail October 1961