

Morialta Vision ...in the Wilderness

A Publication of Morialta Uniting Church

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Welcome to Vision in the Wilderness 6

Colin Cargill Editor and Helena Begg Publisher

Things are starting to slowly change and we can venture out a little more. In this edition you can learn more about what we can and cannot do around the Church – as our doors slowly open.

You can read poems by our own local poets – Jill and Bob and we also include a range of musical treats from friends and others, as well as a brief lecture on “How to hold the Bible”.

We continue to welcome contributions, photos and articles – less than 300 words will be ideal and hand written pieces are fine. Cut off dates for future editions of “VitW” are **June 19 and July 3**. 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.



Photo taken on New Year's Day morning by Rose Fletcher

Pentecost Reconciliation

Flames and fears
Chaos and tears.
Fires severe
Arrivals draw near.

Red: blood ingrained:
Earth stained
History shamed.
Pentecost flame –
Wonder and strange

Confusion of voices
Culture and choices.
Peace in the dove
Peace from above

Reconciliation...
Together a nation.

Bob Hutchinson 2020

Creation Care

By Carol Penner

I'm another in the long line of admirers.

Eve and Adam admiring the garden, Abram staring, open-mouthed, at the stars, Elijah running through a beautiful rain, and David singing, always singing on the hillsides.

God's praises being sung through the ages, praise to a Creator whose work stands the test of time.

This time, it's my turn.

I close the computer, open the back door and step into the garden.

My heart is a sounding board for the night sky, deep with stars.

The fragrance of today's rain still lingers, and the crickets are singing all night long.

It's God's earth and I care for it.

So what do we do about the parts per million invisible to the naked eye that change our atmosphere, thinning the ice cap, raising the oceans, transforming our weather?

What about the beached whales, the bewildered polar bears, the news of one more species never to be seen again?

Creation has cared for me, nurtured me, held me close and taught me to sing.

I don't know what it will be today: a song of lament, a song of justice, a chant for peace, a chant for change, a hymn for hope, a hymn for healing?

Open now my lips, Lord, and my mouth will sing out your song.

Carol Penner is a Mennonite pastor currently teaching theology at Conrad Grebel University College in Waterloo, Ontario

International Days recognised by the UN

Each year the UN declares special days for us to remember special groups – many disadvantaged – and issues of concern for humanity. These are dates for June and we are invited to reflect, pray and consider what we can do to respond in love.

5 June – World Environment Day

8 June – World Oceans Day

12 June – World Day Against Child Labour

15 June – World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

17 June – World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought

19 June – International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict

20 June – World Refugee Day

26 June – International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

26 June – United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture

Preaching
that we are to
LOVE our neighbor,
WELCOME the stranger, &
STAND UP for the marginalized
does not mean you are making
political statements.
It means you are making
BIBLICAL statements.
- A Southern Pastor

From our Chairpersons: News re opening up!

We can now think about starting some activities up again! Church Council and team leaders have met, and here we summarise decisions and actions. Morialta has submitted a COVID-Safe Plan, as required by the government. We can now consider our individual activities in the light of the **government and Synod guidelines.** These include -

- **limits on group size**, generally a maximum of 20 for rooms large enough for sufficient distancing and 4m² space for each person, **and on activity length**, generally 2 hours or less;
- **records** kept of all people attending, with times in and out and contact details;
- **hand hygiene** on the way in and the way out;
- **1.5m distance** between people at all times;
- **no food or beverages** consumed unless brought from home for personal use only;
- **people who are unwell or have respiratory symptoms must not attend.**

Worship at Morialta will continue as in recent practice, with the weekly service available for viewing online, and printed copies of the text delivered to the letterboxes of those without internet who wish to receive them.

Each small-group activity will develop their own COVID-Safe plan for Council to check. Information about which activities are beginning, and when, will be shared by email and via *Vision in the Wilderness* each fortnight. Today we can announce that **the Library will be open for borrowing and return between 10:00am and 2:00pm on Tuesdays**, with one person at a time in the room. Committee members will process returned books on Fridays, allowing 72 hours between contact with books. Enjoy!

Please note - people in COVID-vulnerable groups (e.g. over 70) will need to complete a provided form on or before their first visit - these have been sent to the people concerned separately, and will also be available in the foyer. Questions welcome, to either of us!

Bruce Ind and Margaret Cargill

Words of wisdom for our time

“If you are neutral in times of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor. This is neither the time to stay neutral nor stay on the sidelines.”

South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu

Music and Good Advice on YouTube for your entertainment

From Gil Sullivan

Two more pieces recorded by Gil 30 years ago.

Wendy Hiscocks Toccata:- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=67Mtq2mUfow>

Wendy Hiscocks Joyu:- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GTryUgN26aU>

How do you solve a problem like Corona?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M4jR_9-YPK8&list=RD9Eo9M4-BrJA&index=4

How to hold a bible

https://vimeo.com/425676068/b4545cd8a1?fbclid=IwAR2dGD9-bpHL-5ln4N1jXfwFyRyEoyoUCuQooUNX1z-tCg2_3qX944haCdU

From the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra

A “self-isolating” performance of Waltzing Matilda Anzac Day Special

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UrG7PTffmlQ&list=RDUrG7PTffmlQ&start_radio=1

You raise me up—virtual choir

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d48vRYXe-DA>

Projects in these shut-in days



Christine Secombe made a cute set of pillows for their family (Julie and Kelly) in New York.



Margaret Clogg added to the cuteness by knitting rabbits with the yarn left over from the pillows.



Christine Secombe’s aunt gave her mother a tablecloth, embroidered in the 1940’s, as a gift. Judith Purling kindly quilted it and it has become a wall-hanging and a family heirloom.

Ralph Holmes 100 not out!

Ralph Holmes will celebrate his 100th birthday on 13th June. Many of us have very fond memories of Ralph and Dorothy, who were members of our community for many years, first at Newton UC and then at Morialta UC. We published Dorothy's obit in June 2017. Ralph, who now lives in an aged care facility in Jamestown, maintains his connection with Morialta and receives copies of *Vision* via Ruth Dunning. Ralph says 'he is waiting for the Queen's cheque to arrive'!



Ralph wearing his medals at the Anzac Day Ceremony at Belalie Lodge

Happy birthday Ralph from us all – and thanks for sharing your life with us over many years. We all feel the stronger for knowing you and we send you love and warm greetings for 13th June.

And to show Ralph is still in fine form – here is a short snippet that he sent us:

Two cows were grazing in a pasture when a milk truck went past with large letters on the tanker that read 'Drink Daisy's milk – it's homogenised, pasteurised and sterilised'. On seeing the sign one cow said to her mate – 'that makes one feel so inadequate'.



Ralph is excited about receiving cards from the Queen, Prime Minister etc.



Book Review

Without a trace by Lesley Pearse

Molly works for, and lives with her physically and mentally abusive father and down-trodden mother, without pay. A newcomer, an unmarried mother Cassie, and her six-year old coloured daughter Petal move into a deserted cottage. They are ostracised by the locals, but defended and welcomed by Molly. Even though Cassie remains totally secretive about her past life.

At celebrations for Coronation Day in 1953 Cassie and Petal, who had been made a fancy-dress costume for the occasion, do not appear. A concerned Molly sets out on her bike to find Cassie dead and Petal missing. While the police make no progress, Molly makes it her mission to find the little girl. All she has is friendly letter with an address in the Blitz-scarred East End of London. Here she is befriended by Constance, a sister working in the Church Army, and meets strangers from Cassie's past.

Poetry Cassie had written, spoke of an unnamed but different area. Sacrificing everything, including safety, a chance at love and happiness – is Molly now risking her own life?

Does she find Petal, is there a happy or sad ending? This action-packed tale with many twists is enjoyable and very hard to put down!

Reviewed by Joan Wagner

Learners and Learned

"In times of profound change, the learners will inherit the earth, while the learned find themselves beautifully equipped to deal with a world that no longer exists".

Erik Hoffer

COVID-19 is serious mate!

People keep asking "Is COVID-19 really that serious? Listen up! Casinos and churches are closed. When heaven and hell agree – it is very serious!

The Days

A poem by Jill Kerr

Sipping tea in the morning sun
by the window in my mother's chair
Crosswords, iPad and phone at hand
Dog walkers going by

Koala perched in gum tree,
munching contentedly been there for days
Magpies on the garden path
joyful voices carolling

Pottering in the garden,
secateurs in hand snipping here
planting there,
Savouring the verdant air

Walking by the river in the Autumn cool,
pink and grey galahs screeching overhead
Greeting others passing along,
a brief respite from aloneness of one

Familiar faces smile from photo frames
beloved, yet far away
Long phone calls and FaceTime,
texts from friends help bring them near

Time for cleaning dusty corners,
decluttering cupboards and shelves
Soup simmering on the stove,
wafting tasty aromas around

Favourite music filling the soul,
Bach to Brubeck
and Abba in between,
persuading the body to move in time

Immersed in the world of books,
reading new and familiar friends
Hours to ponder and reflect
days and times flown by

Wandering through the maze of days,
negotiating the hours
Autumn days slip slowly by,
the dark closes in

This time will end.

Disease models

From a retired Scottish Epidemiologist

While we hear about disease models every day, how much do we know about them?

"A model constitutes a theory, and a predictive model is therefore only a theoretical projection." That bears saying twice, slowly! If I ruled the world it would be inscribed on the lintel of every scientific institution, along with this from Richard Feynman:

"In general, we look for a new law by the following process. First we guess it. Then we compute the consequences of the guess to see what would be implied if this law that we guessed is right. Then we compare the result of the computation to nature, using experiment or experience and comparing it directly with observation, to see if it works. If it disagrees with experimental results and observations, it is wrong."

In that simple statement is the key to science. It does not make any difference how beautiful your guess is. It does not make any difference how smart you are, who made the guess, or what his name is - if it disagrees with experiment it is wrong.

Covid Learnings

Author Mark Delaney shares six learnings from his experience of the Coronavirus season that may help us better care for the creation.

- We have time to appreciate nature
- We can work and play closer to home
- We can be brave and selfless when we need to be
- Slowing the pace of life and re-learning what's important
- A new appreciation of science and facts
- As a global community, we're all in this together

Take the time to reflect

As we emerge from COVID, you can be sure of this: the corporate marketing machine, with all its skill, money and guile, will be urging us to go back to 'normal' life – shopping, travelling and cramming in as many activities as possible, telling us all the while that those things will make us happy. Our only weapon against this marketing might is a deep and deliberate reflection on the type of life we really want.

I'd urge us to reflect now, before all the restrictions lift and the marketing voices intensify. Our collective answers may determine whether we can help make the world a better place for ourselves and for our neighbours.

(Read the full article at https://www.commongrace.org.au/covid_learnings)

Mark Delaney holds a Masters in International Development. He and wife Cathy lived and worked in India for 24 years, assisting people to become literate and to access government entitlements. Mark is concerned that the climate emergency will wipe out many developmental gains in India and elsewhere, He co-authored 'Low Carbon and Loving It', with his son Tom, published in 2018.

Exactly how loudly does "Creation" have to scream?

Adapted from an article by David Lester (Google [Climate change, coronavirus and our chance to save the planet for more.](#))

Humans have seen off 60 % of the world's mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians and one million plant and animal species are under threat (WWF 2018). Half the world's coral reefs dead, half the world's tropical forests cleared and the oceans polluted. Droughts, heatwaves, desertification, fires, floodings and storms, and water and food shortages, have increased on an unprecedented scale.

What upsets dedicated scientists and schoolchildren, and makes millions facing environmental catastrophe angry, is that we have been warned, repeatedly.

In 1960, geochemist Charles Keeling concluded that human activity – mainly deforestation and burning of fossil fuels – was causing dangerous build-ups of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. In 1962 American conservationist Rachel Carson published *Silent Spring*, cautioning about contaminating the natural world with synthetic pesticides, mainly for single-crop farming. While *Silent Spring* became the inspiration for the ecology movement, it was attacked by the chemical industry lobbyists.

In 1972, the Club of Rome – an international association of scientists, economists, former heads of state and business leaders – published *Limits to Growth*, predicting widespread environmental collapse unless we curbed our appetite for ceaseless economic growth.

In the succeeding decades, scientists, indigenous voices, land experts, flora and fauna experts and cultural experts sounded warnings. In 2006 Nicholas Stern (former World Bank chief economist) predicted a \$9 trillion hit to the global economy unless we dramatically reduced carbon emissions. Two years later, Ross Garnaut, one of Australia's pre-eminent economists, forecast more frequent and devastating fires by 2020 if we failed to reverse course. "If you ignore the science when you build a bridge, the bridge falls down," he told the ABC in January, just as his dire predictions were being realised.

On the lighter side...

