

Morialta Vision ...in the Wilderness

A Publication of Morialta Uniting Church

Issue 7 - 24 June 2020

Morialta Uniting Church—follow us on Facebook or check out our website at www.morialtauca.org.au



From the Chairperson of Church Council

Like the daffodil bulbs that have been lying dormant for months, activity is sprouting in our community. More particularly, there is a gradual increase in activity around our congregation and our Chapel Street property.

Relaxation of COVID 19 restrictions means that our Workshop (Wednesdays 1:00 – 3:00) and Library (Tuesdays 10:00 – 2:00) are now available for members and the community to use. The Monday Boys will re-commence their important work around Chapel Street on 29 June. Keep Fit classes have restarted and, with the further lifting of restrictions, will operate on Monday and Wednesday mornings in greater numbers from 19 June.

Of course, all this activity can only occur if the protocols associated with COVID 19 are observed. Social distancing, good hygiene and recording attendance, as well as remaining at home if unwell, will ensure further relaxation of restrictions. Fellowship and other friendship gatherings will look to start again as they arrange their Morialta specific COVID safe plan. Watch this space.

Unfortunately, it is not possible that all activity may re-commence. Any activity involving the serving of food or beverages is still not possible. This means that Lunch on Chapel and Coffee and Chat, along with the all-important cuppa after worship, are still not possible.

During all this time members of the congregation and community, near and far, have been able to participate in weekly worship through our Virtual Church. Generally, between 150 and 200 'views' are registered and around 20 printed transcripts are put into letterboxes registered each week. However, the configuration of the church building makes it impossible to cater for more than 50 worshippers while observing present protocols. Church Council is monitoring this and all other COVID matters. Please keep them and all the congregation in your thoughts and prayers.

Bruce Ind

President's call to end racism

The Leadership of the UCA and UAICC are encouraging all members of the UCA to be active in the movement against racism in Australia.

Issues relevant to Australia include:

- pastoral support for people in prison, and their families and friends;
- ongoing effects of the trauma of colonisation;
- hope in emerging new Aboriginal leaders;
- new stories that are rising up, alongside the old stories;
- older generations mentoring younger generations.

The UCA has made a commitment to walk together as First and Second peoples, and as a church we have worked through a covenanting process together.

Every Sunday we acknowledge Aboriginal spirituality and the connection to land, language and culture. We pay respect to their elders, past, present and emerging, and we acknowledge their care of the land down the centuries.

Now we have an opportunity to turn our words into action.

As Uniting Church members, we are encouraged to take these **three actions**:

- **Show support** by sending a personal message of solidarity and greeting to the National UAICC to say you care – email: uaicc@nat.uca.org.au
- **Change your frame on Facebook** – update your Facebook profile picture to convey what your Church has to say on these issues. Two designs have been produced for you to select from – *Uniting Church against racism* or *Uniting Church against black deaths in custody*. You'll find them among Facebook's frame options. (Just search for Uniting)
- **Sign up to the "Change the Record"** campaign – a national campaign for social policy measures – that will reduce incarceration rates and deaths in custody. Signatures collected will be sent to the Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition. Simply click on <https://changetherecord.org.au/> and you can sign the "Change the Record" petition with one more click.

Be the Church Beyond Walls

We worshipped Jesus instead of following him on his path.

We made Jesus into a mere religion instead of a journey toward union with God and everything else.

This shift made us into a religion of "Belonging and Believing" instead of Transformation.

Richard Rohr

From the Pastoral Care team: How are you going?

Keeping us connected at Morialta while keeping us safe – that's the goal! Here are two updates from the PC team:

- If you are not able to view the Virtual Church services each week but would like to do so, give Margaret Cargill a call (0439 954814). We have several possible ways to help, so let's chat about what might suit you.
- If you'd like to come back to activities at the church as they open, AND if you are COVID-vulnerable (e.g. over 70 or with pre-existing health issues) please make sure you have completed and returned the Acknowledgement of Information and Advice letter you received recently. Email response is fine, or there are paper copies of the letter on a table in the church foyer. I have 53 replies already – well done all!

Sincere thanks from the Purlings

"Thank you all for the love and support you have all given us through the phone calls, emails, cards, flowers and food as we dealt with the sudden death of our son, Michael. We are so fortunate to be part of the Morialta UC community."

Michael was killed in a tragic road accident while travelling in Vietnam, the country of his birth, on May 12th and news reached the family the following weekend.

After his birth parents died, Michael was placed in a very overcrowded, underfunded orphanage. He was one of the children brought to Australia in "Operation Babylift" and was adopted by Judith and David.

When Michael arrived, he was still very weak and at 2 ½ could not walk or chew fibrous foods, and was not used to being held and cuddled. It took some time for him to catch up, but he did.

He coped well with school and matriculated to Adelaide University to study accounting. He started working for Pizza Haven and spent the next ten years opening new stores and setting up their computer programmes around Australia, New Zealand and Thailand.

Later he started a company with a friend installing the self-check-in stations at airports for Qantas.

He met a young woman from Hungary who had come to Australia to do post graduate studies. When she sustained severe injuries in an accident, he cared for her, fell in love and they married. They moved to Queensland because Melinda loved the warm weather. They were very happy until Melinda took her own life and left Michael devastated and heartbroken. After a year he decided to do some travelling and sort out a future for himself. Michael will always be remembered as a caring and faithful friend, who brought great joy to everyone he met.

His funeral was conducted by Rev Diane Bury at Westminster School on June 13th.

Judith and David Purling



Music and other items to enjoy

The last in a series from Gil Sullivan

This group are from my 30s, & have been 'lifted' from video tapes.

2 Cimarosa Sonatas:- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sbvqxXQV8DY>

Clementi Sonata in F:- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pgz_YKDumLE

You Raise Me Up by members of the Georgian Singers, Mersey Wave Choir, and Runcorn Community Choir.

Piano and instruments: Jason Ellis

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d48vRYXe-DA&list=RdD48vRYXe-DA&start_radio=1

The Ten Tenors – Hallelujah (Leonard Cohen cover)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M9R6FBEe_10&list=RDM9R6FBEe_10&start_radio=1

Confounds the Science - (Parody of) Sound of Silence - REMIX

Don Caron / Linda Gower

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=57jRBt4h6ks&list=RD57jRBt4h6ks&start_radio=1

Latvian Tapestry



Margaret Whibley used her time and talents to turn a tapestry, done by an elderly Latvian friend, into a cushion. She is not ready for break-out yet as she still has two more to finish.

Jigsaws are fun!

Joan Morrison bought these jigsaws in the Market last year—and says she now realizes why Helena donated them! Look out for them in the next Market - Joan says she gained some wrinkles from the finishing the elephant skin!



Another random act of kindness

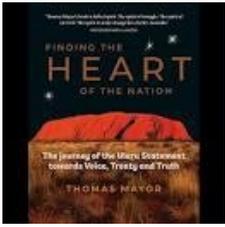
From Tasha Sampson

In January this year, Russell and Phil were busy constructing Russell's greenhouse in our back yard. Russell needed some paving for the flooring. On a very hot day, Russell and I drove to Bolzon's Home and Garden Improvements on Tolley Road St Agnes. We looked around, knowing that we needed 9m² of pavers, not fancy ones, just enough to cover the floor of his greenhouse. We spoke with a man who was in his late 60s or 70s, who I presume is Bolzon himself. I explained to him what Russell was needing.

He walked us to some piles of pavers on pallets and told us the prices. He then pointed to another pile and told us that we could take any of the pavers on that pile, for free. He even told us how many pavers we would require to cover the 9m². He had other customers and worked in a very warm little office and it was near the end of a hot day, but he was very kind to Russell and we made no purchases from his business. I offered him \$20, but he wouldn't accept.

The man simply did a random act of kindness to a little boy and it was really lovely.

Book Reviews



Finding the Heart of the Nation: The journey of the Uluru Statement towards voice, treaty and truth by Thomas Mayor

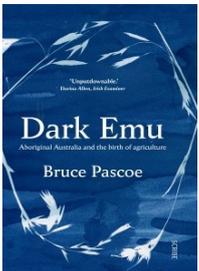
This is an inspiring book that documents Thomas Mayor's tour of indigenous communities encouraging discussion of the Uluru Statement. The voices documented clarify what the Uluru Statement is, and why it is important to all Australians.

If you want to understand the importance of the Uluru Statement from the Heart, and the broader context of the struggle of Aboriginal people towards justice, recognition and respect – this book will make it possible. Read it to recognise why Australia Day is deeply problematic as a national exercise.

Read it to discover the emotional, intellectual and cultural strength of Aboriginal people.

“... we can learn many things from our First Nations People. It begins with sitting down and listening.” Benjamin Quilliam (Bush Chaplain)

Adapted from published Reviews - Editor



Dark Emu: Aboriginal Australia and the birth of agriculture by Bruce Pascoe.

Dark Emu is a fascinating book and started life as Dark Emu: Black Seeds: Agriculture or Accident? – in 2014. This edition was published in 2018, and a version for younger readers, Young Dark Emu: A Truer History, in 2019.

Pascoe examines the journals and diaries of early explorers, such as Sturt and Mitchell, and early settlers in Australia. He cites evidence in their accounts of existing agriculture, engineering and building, including stone houses, weirs, sluices and fish traps, and also game management - evidence that challenges the traditional views about pre-colonial Australia and "Terra Nullius". He includes Sturt's encounter (1844) with hundreds of Aboriginal people who were living in an established village in what is now Queensland, in which a welcoming party offered him "water, roast duck, cake and a hut to sleep in".

Pascoe quotes historians such as Rupert Gerritsen – *Australia and the Origins of Agriculture* (2008) and Bill Gammage – *The Biggest Estate on Earth: How Aborigines Made Australia* (2012), who argue that Aboriginal people were agriculturalists as much as hunter-gatherers, and used fire, dams and cropping to support themselves sustainably in their environment.

After reading this book, my reaction was – “Why didn't we study the content of Mitchell's and Sturt's diaries when we learnt about their exploits in Australian History?”

Editor and material from published reviews

A Cry of Desperation

'I can't breathe' is a cry of desperation, a dying man begging for air, a last gasp before a life is snuffed out. A plea ... not just for himself but for millions of others who suffer systematic or opportunistic persecution, discrimination and humiliation every day.

I can thank God that I do not have to endure such pain and misery. I am safe and comfortable here in my nice house in Adelaide. I sympathise with all those others but they seem so far away.

I can breathe freely – or can I?

My living is compromised by a million factors. The petrol in my car is supplied by companies whose owners live in luxury. The plastics I use pollute rivers and seas and choke the life out of animals, birds and fish. I wear clothes made in slave-like conditions in buildings with no safety concerns. I heat my home with climate-destroying coal and gas. I benefit from an economic system that enriches and comforts the wealthy and powerful and breaks the poor and vulnerable.

I like to pretend I can breathe ... But, truly, I can't breathe.

'Get your knees off our necks' is a demand for freedom, a cry of resistance, an affirmation of right. I can see why it is directed to those responsible for Black Deaths in Custody.

But my knee is in there too. I am complicit in this as long as I am part of a system or culture that continues these practices. I am compromised. I am a contributor to the discrimination and persecution. I too am responsible. I need to get my knee off their necks.

Editor's note: *The Uniting Church leadership has invited us to respond to "Black Deaths in Custody"*

Adapted from a piece by Kevin Liston – contributed by Kathy McEvoy. Kevin Liston was born in Ireland, ordained a Catholic priest (1973), served in Kenya until 1977, arrived in Australia 1982, and devoted 30 years to refugee and migrant services.

An Urgent Appeal to help Refugees in SA

Circle of Friends (COF) and Justice4RefugeesSA (J4RSA)

Over 180 people on bridging visas in SA, many with young children, have lost their jobs or even businesses as a result of COVID-19, and have no access to any welfare support, including *JobKeeper* or *JobSeeker* payments. These are people who came to us for shelter and are now in great need.

Circle of Friends (COF) is a longstanding organisation providing practical support to refugees in need and they are asking for donations of food, grocery or personal care items, money or gift cards to support their work. The demand is quite high and in some weeks they have packaged over 100 food deliveries. If they receive excess supplies, they will share them with other groups.

To donate –

enter <https://www.givenow.com.au/circle-of-friends> in your search engine and complete the form for financial donations or call COF on 0407532116 or email them at info@cofa.org.au to enquire how to donate. **All donations are tax deductible.**

Israel and Palestine work together in coronavirus response

Adapted from an article by Rev Dr Rob McFarlane on "The 2019 Breaking Bread, 'Give Peace a Chance' tour group"

Christina Samara (a Palestinian Christian from East Jerusalem) and Elisa Moed (a Jewish Israeli citizen) operate "Breaking Bread Journeys", an amazing interfaith travel venture. It involves travel in both Israel and the Palestinian Territories, with a focus on understanding.

Rob recently had a Zoom conversation with these two remarkable people.

Like many travel agents, they are feeling the impact of the total shut-down. Ironically, the blockade of the Gaza Strip has largely protected Gaza from Coronavirus, whereas infections and deaths have been significant in Israel.

Faith impacts were enormous, especially during Passover and both the Orthodox and Western Easter and Ramadan. The Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem and the Tomb of the Patriarchs in Hebron, sacred to both Jews and Muslims, were closed. The majority of Rabbis agreed that seders (Passover meals) could be held via Zoom, as we have shared Holy Communion online.

But in all the difficulties there are signs of hope with unprecedented cooperation between Israeli and Palestinian leaders. There was no distinction in the COVID response between Israeli and Palestinian territories. A massive program is underway with Israeli medical personnel training up Palestinian health workers. There is full cooperation around security and implementing shut-downs across the region. Significantly many doctors and 50% of pharmacists in Israel are Arab Israeli citizens, both Muslim and Christian. The big question as people look to the future is "Can this cooperation be leveraged moving forward?"

May the unprecedented cooperation occurring at this time lay the foundation for a lasting peace.

Rev Dr Rob McFarlane serves as Presbytery Ministry Leader in Parramatta Nepean Presbytery, and is a member of both Jewish-Christian and Muslim-Christian dialogue groups.

Spirit of God

Adapted from St Augustine (354-430 CE)

Breathe into us Spirit of God,
that we may think what is holy.

Drive us Spirit of God,
that we may do what is holy.

Draw us Spirit of God,
that we may love what is holy.

Strengthen us Spirit of God,
that we may preserve what is holy.

Guide us Spirit of God,
that we may never lose what is holy.



Congratulations!

Craig Mackenzie recently celebrated his 60th birthday with the family.

An old environmentalist's last words

An old man, that doctors feared was close to death, is at home resting in his bed.

He looks up and says, "Is my wife here?"

His wife replies, "Yes, dear, I'm here, next to you."

The man goes, "Are my children here?"

"Yes, Dad, we are all here," say the children.

"Are my grandchildren here?"

And they say, "Yes, we are all here Grandpa"

The man sits up and says, "Then why in the world is the light on in the kitchen?"

A senior's version of Facebook

From Christine Garner

For those of my generation who do not, and cannot, comprehend why Facebook exists:

I am trying to make friends outside of Facebook while applying the same principles. Therefore, every day I walk down the street and tell passers-by what I have eaten, how I feel at the moment, what I have done the night before, what I will do later and with whom. I give them pictures of my family, my dog and of me gardening, taking things apart in the garage, watering the lawn, standing in front of landmarks, driving around town. having lunch, and doing what anybody and everybody does every day. I also listen to their conversations, give them "thumbs up" and tell them I "like" them. And it works just like Facebook. I already have 4 people following me: 2 police officers, a private investigator and a psychiatrist.



*"Yes, the planet got destroyed.
But for a beautiful moment in time we
created a lot of value for shareholders."*