

Morialta Vision ...in the Wilderness

– by the gift of the spirit we have not lost the way!

A Publication of Morialta Uniting Church

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Welcome to Vision in the Wilderness 10 – by the gift of the spirit we have not lost the way.

Colin Cargill Editor and Helena Begg Publisher

Plans are being finalised for a celebration of worship on August 16th and people can either join in the service in the church, or watch on their TVs or “devices”.

Even though we are not yet wearing masks, we provide advice on how to stop your glasses fogging up when donning a mask—if not for protection from COVID-19, then for when doing dusty jobs around home!

Along with the church leadership teams, we are reviewing the road ahead for Vision. We see 3 options – to continue with the shorter format (4 pages) every 2 weeks, **OR** return to the longer format (12 or 16 pages) every 2 months, **OR** ride off into the sunset - that is, close Vision and look at other ways to spread news and information within our community.

We would love to hear your views – so please tell us your preference. Workwise there is not a lot of difference and we are both happy to continue our roles. If we do continue with the shorter version, we will need a new name to reflect new circumstances. So please cast your vote – a “no response” maybe taken as a lack of interest in continuing!

Meanwhile, your contributions, photos and articles are always welcome – less than 300 words is ideal and hand written pieces are fine. Cut off dates for what may be the next “Vision in the Wilderness” is **August 14**.

My address for a letter box drop is 34A Moules Rd Magill
or call me on 0427 122 106
or email me at snout-n-about@bigpond.com.au

Go well and stay safe.

Fellowship reopens

Welcome back - we have missed you!

Fellowship will resume on Thursday August 20th at 10.00am unless current restrictions change.

Please note that unfortunately, we are unable to start the meeting with our usual tea/coffee.

Our first “official” meeting for the year will be an interesting talk by Margaret Cargill. Margaret will speak to us about medieval Conques Abbey, in Southern France.

If you would like to stay for lunch after the meeting, please bring your food, your drinks and your cup/glass.

We look forward to seeing you all again - it has been a long absence!

Margaret Clogg

Hope

Based on an article by Rev. Peter Sawtell, Executive Director, Eco-Justice Ministries

The word *hope* has two very different meanings in English. One of them refers to optimism, to a desired outcome at some point in the future. I hope to go camping this summer. The more dramatic the expectation, the less likely it is to be achieved, especially without hard and focused work.

The other kind of hope – the kind that sustains – is about values and commitments. The marvellous biblical vision of God's *shalom*, of a world with peace and justice encompassing all of creation. A commitment to *shalom* will guide our decisions – what we believe is good and right. The more dramatic this kind of hope, the more powerful it is in sustaining us.

Vaclav Havel – the writer and transformational Czech President – wrote about that distinction. Hope “is not the conviction that something will turn out well, but the certainty that something makes sense, regardless of how it turns out ... It is an ability to work for something because it is good, not just because it stands a chance to succeed.”

Hope sustains us. It keeps us oriented toward that which we hold as true and right. It gives us meaning and purpose in life.

But hope also needs to be sustained. That's especially true when the world in which we live is profoundly different from the qualities of our hope. When greed appears to be rewarded and poverty punished; when we are treated as individual consumers, not as members of a community; when we find meaning in life by acquiring things. We need to remind ourselves that we are members of Earth community – that we find our greatest delight in relationship.

One way to sustain our hope is involvement in a community of faith. In weekly services of worship (even when on-line), there's a chance to be restored in our commitment to “truth and right” – “justice and the other”. In the worship of our community, we reaffirm that our faith commitments “make sense,” and that they are more rewarding than individualism.

When we hope for something good, we're being optimistic. When we place our hope in something right now – hope in God, or *shalom*, or community – then we are sustained in our deepest commitments.

That kind of hope will sustain us and strengthen our commitment to our neighbours, wherever and whoever they are.

Shalom



From the Church Council Chairperson...

After some months of isolation, imposed by our reaction to COVID-19, we are starting to see a glimmer of change in our lives. While we still need to be careful and adhere to the conventions, developed as a consequence of the pandemic, we can celebrate the first face to face Church Council meeting in some months as well as look forward to the re-commencement of gathered worship. (More about that elsewhere).

Of course, there have been groups restarting their programs after careful consideration of a COVID Safe Plan to cover their activity. We all hope that these groups, and others, will be able to continue, without pause, as long as South Australia remains 'COVID-free'.

Technology has been a significant help in these times. Virtual Church has been possible because of the skills of those who worked behind the cameras and the messages of hope and challenge we received through the words of Our Minister and the worship leaders. And, we now commonly use another verb, ZOOM, in a new context.

We can look forward to the continuation of Virtual Church, even with the commencement of gathered worship, and be sure that those who are unable to join us in person will have capacity to join through YouTube, or the printed word.

Finally, in these months without an Office Coordinator in place, there has been much more reliance placed on some volunteers who have kept the Morialta UC community going. Thank you is such a small thing to say, but we all hope that those who have assisted know they are truly appreciated!

In other news, we will be interviewing candidates for the job of Office Co-ordinator this week.

Grace and Peace to you all!

Bruce Ind

Music clips to enjoy

Corona virus rhapsody based on Bohemian Rhapsody

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gEo9M4-BrJA&list=RDgEo9M4-BrJA&index=1>

Somewhere over the rainbow (Harrison Sheckler)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yjCrOLkg1AM&list=RDyjCrOLkg1AM&start_radio=1

Sound of Silence

Virtual choir - Oberstufenchor des Burger Roland-Gymnasiums und Ehemaligen

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p4gF3rMSruw>

Part 2 of Confounds the Science (SEQUEL)

Don Caron (enjoy the satire)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2bgTi1XDYA>

Art and Craft Circle

Fridays 10.00 - 11.30am

Our talented artists gathered last week for the first time since COVID-19 appeared, suitably distanced but with smiling faces!

All are welcome - bring your projects to work on and share in conversation. We ask that you bring your own refreshments until Covid restrictions are relaxed.



Alison Lockett, Bev Tredrea, Carole Lyons and Helena Begg (photo by Jenny Swanbury)

Birdwood, "the Mill" and "the Bay to Birdwood Run"

From Ruth Dunning



ZOOOOM echoed the heavy hum of machinery from the four-storey roller flour mill in Birdwood's Main Street.

In the 1940s this large structure with its 60 foot (18.3 metre) high round chimney stack never ceased to fascinate us as children. We would sometimes go to the mill after school and peer through the thick glass in the upper half of the main door.

We'd witness the massive rollers as they spun around with awesome power creating a thunderous roar. Gazing upwards we'd see myriads of little dust particles dancing in the shafts of bright sunlight which streamed through the high windows. We were aware too of the clean, fresh smell of the flour.

The Mill, opened in 1888, was considered one of the best flour mills in South Australia.

The production of flour ceased in 1948 and for the next 16 years the deserted mill, silent and still, was just a reminder of our pioneer settlers.

Birdwood was originally called "Blumberg" (Flower Hill).

In 1964, however, the Mill was envisaged as being a suitable site for a museum for vehicles and historic relics. Its establishment went ahead and it grew slowly with donations of items from descendants of some of the early pioneer families.

Today the Mill is the finishing point for the "Bay to Birdwood Run". This event for historic vehicles was begun in September, 1980, and has further succeeded in putting the little town of Birdwood on the map.



The Church

American Pastor Jon Tyson describes the church as, "a living network of persons who are committed to practicing the way of Jesus together for the renewal of the world."

Contributed by Gaynor Hallows

Caring Connections Update: Some changes afoot!

Greetings everyone! I hope the recent sunshine has helped lift your spirits and the rain has refreshed gardens near you!

As you will be aware (I hope!), Sunday 16th August will be the day we can celebrate a return to worship in the Chapel Street building for those who wish – and in a way that enables those joining us from home to do so live, as it happens (9:30am), and also later, whenever we choose. How very grateful we are to the wonderful extended team that will make all this possible – and has worked so long and hard since the COVID-19 restrictions began, to make sure we could all participate in Virtual Church without missing a Sunday!

You will have received a letter last week, by email or in your letterbox, with news about how worship in the church will look as we begin to gather in person again. Things will be different! Council and the Project Management Team they have appointed have been diligent in designing an approach that prioritises keeping everyone safe. One feature of the 16th will be the option of organising small groups (4-6) to gather (safely!) in homes or coffee shops after worship for a catch-up. If you have questions or comments for us, please contact any member of the Project Management Team: Bruce Ind, Jenny Swanbury or me.

Here's an update as of 1 August on responses to the questions we've asked you recently: 67 people have returned their *Vulnerable Persons* letter of 5 June (of 86 sent); 42 people have indicated that they plan to attend worship in person from 16 August; 19 have indicated that they will not attend in person at this stage; 5 are ambivalent. And of course, things may change before then! Please let me know your plans as you are able.

Shalom!

Margaret Cargill, Team Leader (0439 954814)

More on Kindness

From Cynthia Story

Several weeks ago Joan W wrote on 'Random Acts of Kindness'. I thought then how this amazingly different time has obviously made some people think twice about how vulnerable the next person in the street or shop might be ...

They far outnumber those who still choose not to see or hear what is happening – not just around them – but sometimes right in front of them. After my first reaction of anger comes disappointment... which changes to frustration, but then rapidly moves to sadness for what they are missing.

I dare hope that soon, the person with eyes and ears of their soul shut down, will become aware of the beauty around them.

Kindness is the language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see.

Mark Twain



Tips on how to wear a mask without your glasses fogging up

Based on an article by Craig Lockwood and Zoe Jordan, University of Adelaide – the Conversation July 2020

Wearing a mask can be uncomfortable or frustrating, especially if you're not used to it. People who wear glasses, those anxious about being able to breathe properly or who wear masks for extended periods of time, face challenges.

How to stop glasses fogging up? Wash your glasses with soap and water (regular washing up liquid is ok), then dry them with a microfibre cloth which comes free with each pair of glasses, or buy them from optometrists. Soap reduces surface tension, preventing fog from sticking to the lenses. Avoid facial tissues which leave moisture-attracting lint on the lenses.

Or use a commercial de-misting spray that dries clear – but check that it is compatible with your lens type or lens coatings. Available from your optometrist.

You can sew a metal tie into the top of a cloth mask and mould it to fit over the bridge of your nose or slightly moisten a tissue, fold it and place it under the top edge of the mask.

Masks are safe – face masks do not cause a drop in blood oxygen or an increase in blood carbon dioxide.

They work – Videos were made of people talking, coughing and sneezing – while not wearing a mask, wearing a single or double cloth mask, or wearing a surgical mask. The results were clear. While a surgical mask was the most effective at blocking droplets and aerosols, a cloth mask (the more layers the better) is the next best thing. No mask was scary.

Why don't we feel optimistic?

Adapted from an article in Science

The first half of 2020 has seen extraordinary accomplishments in science. The international scientific community has described the genomic sequence of the COVID-19 virus and structures of its important proteins, elucidated principal aspects of the immune response, identified neutralizing antibodies that can serve as therapeutics, and developed promising vaccines. There is much more to learn about COVID-19, but the achievements so far are remarkable. So why doesn't this progress feel like the triumph that it is?

Public health guidance is ignored, reopening businesses happens too fast, people fight over wearing masks, and the forces that undermine confidence in vaccines proceed unimpeded. Scientists, health providers and industry are confronted with people who downplay and criticize their tireless efforts.

So why do some people insist on sticking their fingers in the eyes of the very people who can lead the world out of this calamity?

Man: It's too hot to wear a mask!

COVID-19: It's not the heat, it's the stupidity



Interfaith Service on Thursday August 6th at 6pm EST, via ZOOM

Hosted by the UCA and ICAN

The Message will be offered by the Pacific Conference of Churches General Secretary Rev James Bhagwan on the impacts of 50 years of nuclear testing across the Pacific.

The service is open to everyone.

For more information and to join the service – click

<https://actionnetwork.org/events/interfaith-service-for-nuclear-disarmament> and sign up.



The Uniting Church View of the Nation (Part 2)

12 key actions proposed by the UCA

The key actions are based on the principles outlined in **Part 1** (VitW 9) and seen as key in the process of rebuilding our nation.

1. Stimulation of the economy with a focus on job creation by investing in projects that are good for all Australians and for our planet.
2. Fix gaps in the social security safety net and ensure a permanent increase to JobSeeker Allowance, providing a liveable safety net for those out of work.
3. Ensure community services are properly resourced to support vulnerable and disadvantaged individuals, families and communities, including domestic and family violence and mental health.
4. First Peoples and rural and remote communities must have adequate access to food and health services.
5. Develop initiatives that improve access to affordable housing for all people.
6. Ensuring our tax system is fair and transparent, with individuals and corporations contributing fairly to the costs of post-COVID-19 recovery.
7. Doing our share for the global recovery from COVID-19 and building a more equitable, safe and sustainable world for the future.
8. Reducing fossil fuel usage, and excessive consumption of resources to build for a sustainable future.
9. Adequate support for people living with disability as well as older Australians.
10. Prioritising work towards Voice, Truth and Treaty for First Peoples, meaningful action on incarceration rates for Indigenous Australians and calling out racism and building inclusion across all Australian society.
11. A focus on creating pathways to permanent migration.
12. Collaboration between governments and civil society with political leadership focused on the common good.

As I Grow Old I Will March Not Shuffle

by Brian Bilston

As I grow old I will not shuffle
to the beat of self-interest
and make that slow retreat to the right.

I will be a septuagenarian insurrectionist
marching with the kids. I shall sing
'La Marseillaise', whilst brandishing
homemade placards that proclaim
'DOWN WITH THIS SORT OF THING'.

I will be an octogenarian obstructionist,
and build unscalable barricades
from bottles of flat lemonade,
tartan blankets and chicken wire.
I will hurl prejudice upon the brazier's fire.

I will be a nonagenarian nonconformist,
armed with a ballpoint pen
and a hand that shakes with rage not age
at politicians' latest crimes,
in strongly worded letters to The Times.

I will be a centenarian centurion
and allow injustice no admittance.
I will stage longstanding sit-ins.
My mobility scooter and I
will move for no-one.

And when I die
I will be the scattered ashes
that attach themselves to the lashes
and blind the eyes
of racists and fascists.

Dogs – freeloaders or friends?

The Editor

Pet dogs today couldn't be further from the fierce, wild animals that once had to fend for themselves against predators. We pick up after them, feed them, buy them treats and take them in the car.

According to Courtney Sexton, a scientist studying how the domestication of dogs could inform our knowledge of human evolution, "that's because a



humans' 'best friend' is an evolutionary freeloader."

According to Sexton – "Dogs have essentially outsmarted us. They have evolved to be the laziest creatures in the world. We do everything for them."

In the tens of thousands of years that dogs have been hanging out with humans, they have developed an incredible way of communicating with us without words. This can potentially inform us how we communicated before words and how people today still communicate non-verbally.

Her current study focuses on the facial expressions of dogs. "We know those with plainer faces—no cute coloured eyebrows—are more behaviourally expressive because they have more muscle movements in their faces."

In a society where a direct form of non-verbal communication with each other is declining (viz people staring at their phones even while dining with friends), dogs could be a lifeline for humans to rediscover ways to communicate non-verbally."