

Morialta Vision ...in the Wilderness

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

A Publication of Morialta Uniting Church

Issue 13 ~ 16 September 2020

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

Welcome to Vision in the Wilderness 13

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

Colin Cargill, Editor and Helena Begg, Publisher

“The spring is sprung, the grass is riz, the grass is riz, the flower iz”.

This is our 13th edition of “Vision in the Wilderness”, or Vision in the shorter version, and we plan to stay with this version for the remainder of 2020, at least.

We have received a few new names including *Lifelines*, *Water under the Bridge*, *Morialta Outreach*, *Still Our Vision*, and *Our Outreach*, among others. Any more ideas out there?

Meanwhile, your contributions, photos and articles are always welcome – less than 300 words is ideal and hand written pieces are fine. Cut off date for the next “VitW” is **25th September**.

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

Go well and stay safe.

Introducing our new Office Coordinator

Living locally for most of her life, Nicole Charrison is Morialta UC’s newly appointed Office Coordinator.



After a break of a number of years, while she was caring for her young son, Nicole has re-entered the paid workforce in this important part-time role.

Nicole’s previous employment was in the same type of role as Office Coordinator.

Nicole looks forward to meeting all the members of the congregation and community as she takes up her responsibilities.

Welcome to the Morialta family, Nicole!

Where to buy Fairtrade products

In issue 11 we printed an article about Fairtrade products and several readers have asked where they can buy them.



According to our search – they are available at Aldi, Coles, IGA and Woolworth Stores. Ask the manager if not in stock.

They are also available at the *Ecolateral Eco Store* - 411 Magill Rd, St Morris (83333478). They also have other eco-friendly products that can make life easier and more sustainable.



International Day of Peace - 21 September

The UN Charter (Article 26) recognises the connection between disarmament and sustainable development. Article 26 requires the UN to facilitate disarmament ‘in order to promote the establishment and maintenance of international peace and security with the least diversion for armaments of the world’s human and economic resources.’

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes that *there can be no sustainable development without peace, and no peace without sustainable development*.

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted these connections. The poor, marginalised and those in regions of armed conflict suffer the most from the pandemic. It has become obvious that peace, disarmament, justice, sustainable development and environmental protection are required to adequately address the pandemic and ‘build back better’.

The UN General Assembly has declared September 21 to be the International Day for Peace (Peace Day) devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, both within and among all nations and peoples. The 2020 theme is “Shaping Peace Together”, with key aims to advance a global ceasefire, to spread kindness, compassion and hope during this time of pandemic, and to reject discrimination and hatred. This message comes at a time when South Australia is planning to become the “Arms Export State”.

You can take the UN 1-minute survey <https://un75.online/?lang=eng> to find out more and if you have concerns why not write to the South Australian Premier to express them.



Fire stick farming

Adapted from “Re-viewing the Australian landscape: how art and science un-earthed ancient wisdom” – a talk by Olga Gostin given at the 2020 T.S. Convention in Melbourne

Firestick farming practices describes how Indigenous Australians managed fire and land before European settlement. It naturally varied from country to country – the term for local environment preferred by Aboriginal people. But there were common rules applied across the board: it was a deliberate, planned activity based on co-operative action. Burning off occurred in a cyclical pattern, dictated by local circumstances, and it was effected in a mosaic pattern; that is, some areas were burnt while adjoining patches were left untouched for a season or two, thus offering refuge to game driven away by fire. The importance of regular firestick farming on a rotational basis, was that it reduced fuel loads and resulted in low intensity and cooler burns – in marked contrast to the conflagrations that overtook Australia recently. Fires were vital to the regeneration of some pyrophyllic plants and enticed regrowth while the ashes provided soil enrichment. Importantly, as soon as the burnt parts regenerated, animals were attracted to the fresh meadows where they were more easily hunted down. Gammage (The Biggest Estate) describes this practice as “farming without fences”.

When Europeans took over the management of country, they disregarded local knowledge and practices developed over thousands of years. They created a wilderness where there had been a managed estate before. Specialists in fire management suggest that the fuel load today is 10 times what it was in 1788, and that every doubling of fuel load results in a quadrupling of fire intensity. This is not to say that it is possible, or even desirable, to replicate pre-1788 environmental management practices. Demographic factors and lifestyle changes preclude that option from the outset.

But it does mean that there needs to be a serious and respectful engagement with Aboriginal custodians and local cultural knowledge with a view to developing a third knowledge system. This combined knowledge system would integrate the best of traditional knowledge and western science.

The time has come to engage in a true dialogue with First Australians, a dialogue that has been mainly absent since the arrival of Europeans as testified by the recent rejection of the Uluru Statement from the Heart.



A display of Aboriginal artifacts in Loxton Historical Village including Nardoo seeds, grinding stones and other stone implements.

(Photo courtesy of Jenny Swanbury)

Grandmother Lore

By Amanda Jane Reynolds (cited in the Tarnanthi Catalogue edited by Nicki Cumpston, 2019:189)

Taking her stick marking the earth/the spirit of sacred Country
Taking her stick and marking the earth/songlines are awakening

The whiteman came and didn't see/ask, respect or listen
The whiteman came and didn't see/deeply connected living.
The time has come to listen, hear and engage with the First Australians.

May goodwill, respect and wisdom guide the ensuing dialogue.

To all of us who are chocoholics...



Adapted from Be Slavery Free

As we enter a time of great uncertainty, we can still work for justice and fairness. It could be worse.

Imagine being so poor that you would risk the chance of slavery for your child to get a job and send money back home to help you survive. Can you imagine being a parent who is so poor that you have to affect your child's development and take away their education so that they can help you on the family cocoa farm?

In the current market, a farmer receives 6% of the value of a chocolate bar. For a cocoa farmer to get close to a living income, 100g of milk chocolate would cost about 16 cents more. According to the CSIRO, an average Australian eats 32kg of chocolate a year. This means we would need to pay \$52.31 more per year for our chocolate, in order for a cocoa farmer to get close to earning a living income.

Be Slavery Free are asking us to donate this amount as our chocolate offset. They will use our donations to campaign and partner with chocolate companies and producers to raise farmer's incomes. <https://beslaveryfree.com/donate>

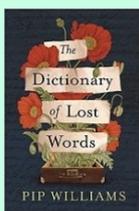
You can also order postcards from <https://beslaveryfree.com/shop> and post them to the 6 big chocolate companies (you will need 6 postcards/person) – their addresses are on the back of the postcard on a tear off section. Cards ask companies to put it all together to end child labour.

Enjoy your chocolate while you work for justice and equality!

Book Reviews

The Dictionary of Lost Words by Pip Williams

This is the first novel written by Pip Williams, a local author who lives in the Adelaide Hills.



It is a fascinating tale about the gathering of words by lexicographers for the very first Oxford English Dictionary.

The story is very much based on true facts, and on the people who were involved in gathering the words. They worked in the Scriptorium, a grand garden shed in Oxford, England. The novel is set in the time when the suffragette movement was at its height and just as World War I was looming.

Esmu spends her childhood in the Scriptorium, where her father is one of the team, and secretly begins to collect words of her own. She grows up to become part of the team, but realises as time goes by, that words and meanings related to women's experiences and lives often go unrecorded. Thus she begins to collect words for her own Dictionary of Lost Words.

This book is deeply thought-provoking about the power of language. It is really a good read and is available in our own library.

Jill Kerr

Two videos to put life into perspective

Gilbert and Sullivan (modernised)

Guy Noble and the WASO

<https://youtu.be/AAkGG4mCiXo>

How does the first 6 months of 2020 compare with the 20th century?

Author unknown

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ziu8AtJrEDM>

Act for Peace Mail from Jordan

Dear friends,



I am Fares, the Executive Director of DSPR Jordan (Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees). I have been working here since 2003 and I currently work with Syrian refugees.

When you work with refugees, you feel their sufferings and you want to help them any way you can. We provide training workshops, support groups and healthcare. Many don't have the money to buy food, so we are there to support them.

During this time of lockdown we have learned a lot. Within the little space that is our world, we learned that we can still care and provide for others.

Many local Jordanians and refugees volunteer with us. They grabbed every opportunity to help and in the midst of uncertainty, they have left their homes and baked for the more vulnerable, they have collected veggies to give to the



Protecting Refugee Children

Last week was National Child Protection Week (7-12 September) and over 1000 teachers, parents and students signed an open statement calling for support for families seeking asylum. Over 16,000 children from refugee families are currently at risk of homelessness and destitution, particularly as many evictions moratoriums come to an end this month.

The statement reads:

"We believe in a society that cherishes our children and young people and values their education. We understand that in order for students to learn about the world, their peers and themselves, they need a safe, supportive and engaging environment. When parents struggle, children struggle at school".

Students and teachers from over 40 schools are also taking action this week as part of the National Week of Solidarity with people seeking asylum. Australian Human Rights Commissioner Edward Santow joined spoken word poet Hani Abdile and Refugee Council of Australia (RCOA) Policy Officer Shukufa Tahiri in a Solidarity Assembly on 8th September, hosted by Shabnam Safa, chair of the National Refugee-led Advocacy and Advisory Group (NRAAG). Commissioner Santow said:

"We in Australia have said over and over again, 'we're all in this together'. This has to mean something not just for some, but for everyone in our community."

To contact or support the Refugee Council – go to www.refugeecouncil.org.au



less fortunate. They have even produced masks in the communities where we serve.

We appreciate your support and solidarity. We thank you for your prayers and your help and support. We anticipate more poverty especially among those who were already vulnerable. We will continue to distribute vouchers for food and hygiene kits. As 1 Corinthians remind us: *And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love* (5 Cor 13:13).

Thank you for helping us keep the faith, instilling hope in us and most of all, for your love!

With your support, Act for Peace's local partner, (DSPR), provides food ration packs to the vulnerable families, urgent medical referrals, training workshops and psychosocial support.



A refugee settlement

Two more things we can do right now to help the world

From *Reset – Digital for Good*

As mentioned in our last edition, we are publishing 12 easy things we can do right now to help fight climate change. Here are the next two.

Optimise your diet

The global livestock industry produces more greenhouse gas emissions than cars, planes, trains and ships combined. But we do not need to be vegetarians – we just need to reduce consumption of red meat and dairy products – perhaps by 50%. We do not even have to join the many people in Asia, Africa and the Pacific, for whom red meat and dairy are luxuries seldom enjoyed. *As they can afford to eat more, we can afford to eat less.*

Avoid plastic whenever and wherever you can

Ways to reduce plastic use:

- Avoid one-use plastics – use your own cloth bags.
- Stop buying plastic water bottles – take your own.
- Remove microbeads from your routine – many facial scrubs, toothpastes and soaps contain miniscule plastic beads that end up in the oceans being ingested by fish, birds and other wildlife.
- Put pressure on companies – refuse to buy over-packaged products or leave the packaging behind at the check-out. Also contacting the manufacturer to complain is helpful.

New Assembly Website

The Assembly's new website is uniting.church and it includes a new section – *Shaped by Jesus* – which explains the Uniting Church's approach to Jesus' transforming ministry.



The Uniting Church is a community of people who are shaped by Jesus' teaching and example, by Jesus' life, death and resurrection. We seek to be followers of the way of life Jesus demonstrated and encouraged. In our founding document, the Basis of Union, the Uniting Church describes Jesus as “Lord of the Church’s life, and as the beginning of a new creation, a new humanity”.

As a result, the key values of the Uniting Church come directly from our understanding of Jesus, how Jesus expressed God’s priorities and how Jesus taught us to live. Here are some of the characteristics we see in Jesus and try to express in our life as a Church.

Resources from the old website can now be found at <http://resources.uca.org.au>.

When you put it on social media, in the news sheet and shared it in the service but a church member says they never heard about it...

Therefore I told you these things long ago; before they happened I announced them to you...
Isaiah 48:5

How to offset your travel with a donation and reduce your carbon footprint

The Editor

One of my friends, on seeing this sad news – *Canada’s Last Fully Intact Arctic Ice Shelf Collapses* – the Arctic has been warming at twice the global rate for the past 30 years – decided he needed to act.



https://www.huffpost.com/entry/canada-last-arctic-ice-shelfshelf_n_5f2c9d69c5b64d7a55f0d6ec?ncid=newsltushpmgnews

He decided that he needed to have a way to be accountable for his carbon output, so he went looking. And here is what he found!

A *Carbon Neutral Charity Fund* who plant trees and allow you to reduce your impact on our planet by offsetting your unavoidable greenhouse gas emissions. When you offset with CNCF, they invest your donation in native tree planting projects. <https://cncf.com.au/product-category/quick-offsets/>

My friend thought that he was a relatively informed person but, while having heard of carbon offset schemes, he had never gone in search of such a fund in order to be personally accountable.

He discovered that for his medium size car, he would need to pay \$65.50 for 15,000km travel/year, which makes his carbon offset price around \$0.45/100km, which most would agree is not much.

For a long-haul international flight, he needed to spend \$99 to plant enough native trees in Australia to offset 5.22 tonnes of CO₂-e (average emissions of an international return flight with one stop over).

Something to think about when we can travel again!

Fairness and Social Justice

“Since this is an era when many people are concerned about ‘fairness’ and ‘social justice’ what is your ‘fair share’ of what someone else has worked for?”

Thomas Sowell



“One day my boy, when we are a rich country, we will have a carbon footprint like that.”