

# Beyond 2020 Vision

A Publication of Morialta Uniting Church

February 2021

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## Welcome to Beyond 2020 Vision

Colin Cargill, Editor and Helena Begg, Publisher

Welcome to the first edition of “Beyond 2020 Vision”.

We all look forward to 2021 being the year of the vaccine, giving friends a warm hug, and the possibility of travel to visit family and friends.

In this edition we remember Jennie Hosking, Bryan Forbes and Barbara Wittenberg.

We will be remembering Jean Cox next month.

You will also find a good mix of local Morialta news, plus a few items of interest from other sources.

We look forward to your contributions in 2021 – stories, events, photos and articles of less than 300 words are ideal. The cut-off date for our second edition will be **26<sup>th</sup> February**. Either drop a copy into Nicole at the office or call or email Colin on 0427 122 106 or [snout-n-bout@bigpond.com.au](mailto:snout-n-bout@bigpond.com.au)

**Go well!**

## The wild geese are back

Adapted from “Songs of Praise” and an article by Richard Sutton in Blog Posts, Encounters with Grace

A recent episode of “Songs of Praise” featured Loch Leven and the pink footed goose. The arrival of the geese in October is a dramatic spectacle, full of noise, wing beats, excitement and the unmistakable call of the wild echoing across the landscape. In Celtic mythology these travelers were like mysterious emissaries from other worlds, drawn to these waters by an irresistible force. Now we know their flight path – they remind us ‘that the globe is still working’.

These visitors have flown epic journeys across raging oceans and wild mountains, before navigating into our human world of power-lines, wind turbines and crowded cities. They tumble out of the air full of noise and excitement. This dramatic spectacle will be repeated every morning during winter as the whole flock rises and flies to feeding grounds, returning in the evening.



According to Ionian legend, Celtic Christians used the wild goose, as well as the dove, to symbolize the work of the Holy Spirit.

Every autumn they waited for the coming of the wild geese, just as

people had waited for the coming of the promised Holy Spirit. They believed that it was the ‘Wild Goose’ charisma of the Holy Spirit that called Patrick back to Ireland, brought Columba to Iona and Aiden to Lindisfarne. Men and women of great faith and courage were empowered to make a huge impact upon their world.

While the dove represents a deep peace that soothes and quiets our worried or troubled thoughts, enabling us to find renewal in the silence of the mind – the geese are loud and raucous, determined to go where they want to go, always being persistent and insistent.

Christians treasure the image of the Holy Spirit as the gentle dove called alongside us to help, comfort and inspire. But as I read the Bible, I am conscious that I also need to listen for that unmistakable call – challenging me to be persistent and insistent like the geese. But like the geese on the wing, Christians are in community. If we work together, each taking turns as the leader while others rest in our slip stream, we can achieve universal love, equality and justice.

While sometimes we need a whisper with a still small voice of comfort, at other times we may need a rebuke or even an unmistakable call challenging and beckoning us on.

**The Spirit is irresistible. She comes to fulfill God’s purposes. Am I still listening?**

## Seating in the Church

From Bruce Ind

With the return to gathered worship in August after the initial COVID Lockdown, the pews were temporarily removed to provide more flexibility and more seating in the church while complying with COVID Safe Practices.

Given the unlikely resumption of pre-COVID distancing in the short to medium term and a number of positive comments about chairs versus pews, Church Council has begun to look at the feasibility of permanently removing the pews and replacing them with appropriately designed chairs.

The green chairs are not suitable for permanent use in the sanctuary. Given the increasing need for support and comfort,

it is intended that further research will be undertaken. Comment will be sought from all members of the congregation during the exploratory phase of this process.

I would be very pleased to receive comments, both positive and negative, from any member of Morialta UC. Please email me, [bruceind@mac.com](mailto:bruceind@mac.com) or write a note and forward to me.

You may like to provide your thoughts about design/colour, features required and other considerations that should be taken into account.

While Church Council has already appointed a group to sponsor the exploration, if you have particular interest in participating in the group, I would be pleased to hear from you.



## Jennifer May Hosking (1946-2020)

Jennifer May Hosking (neè Worssam) was born in the beautiful Lake District in the UK, to parents Mervyn and Bessie Worssam.

After moving to Australia, Jennie started Sunday School at Keswick Methodist Church and was soon playing basketball (now netball), tennis, and involved in Comrades. She attended Richmond Junior Primary, Richmond Primary and Woodlands Church of England Girls Grammar School at Glenelg. After Woodlands Jennie attended the Metropolitan Business College in Pirie St and gained her first employment at the Methodist Home Mission Department for 3 years.

At aged 19, Jennie went on a trip to Melbourne, and on returning home she started receiving phone calls and flowers from a young Doug Hosking. Jennie & Doug were married in June 1966 and 2 weeks later flew to Rabaul, in Papua New Guinea. Daughter Belinda was born at Nonga Base Hospital near Rabaul in 1968.

The family next lived in Kavieng (New Ireland) (1971-1975) where Jennie started playing golf and worked for various government departments, including as PA to the District Commissioner and the Education Department Superintendent. Later she managed the pharmacy.

When the family returned to Rabaul in 1976, Jennie became secretary at the Rabaul International School and relaxed by playing social squash with Jenny Charlesworth, who also later became a valued member of MUC.

In February 1978 the family returned to live in Renmark where son Paul arrived. Several moves followed Renmark – Leigh Creek in 1983 and Lower Mitcham in 1988. Back in Adelaide Jennie was appointed to run the audio-visual area in the senior library at St Peter’s College. Six years later the family moved to Mt Gambier where Jennie worked as an SSO at various

schools in the area, continued to play tennis and took up social swimming.

Jennie became ill in 1994 and was admitted to the Flinders Medical Centre with acute liver failure. The day after her 49<sup>th</sup> birthday she received a life-saving liver transplant. Never one to hang about, Jennie resumed playing social tennis 4 months later. In 1999 they moved to Port Pirie.

Jennie had always wanted to live in the land of her birth, so Doug applied to the Methodist Church in London and was posted to the Trent Valley Methodist Circuit. They lived in Beeston, Nottingham for 2 years and travelled visiting family in Cardiff, the Lake District, and many other parts of the country. In 2005 they travelled home on the Trans-Siberian Railway to settle in Magill, and later Athelstone.

Jennie’s first World Transplant Games were in Adelaide in 1996 where she won 2 Gold and 1 Silver Medal. She later competed in 8 Games in Europe, Asia and Australia – winning 9 Gold, 3 Silver and 3 Bronze and holds World, Australian and British record times for 100m and 200m sprint in the 50+, 60+ and 70+ age group.

Despite work and ill-health, Jennie was always involved in the community - CWA, Children’s Hospital Auxiliaries, cooking meals for the disadvantaged, working for Uniting Communities and Uniting World, teaching English as a second language, organising libraries and organising the sale of Riverland fruit in Adelaide.

Jennie used the Transplant Games to see the world, sometimes with Doug, sometimes with friend Elaine and sometimes a tour.

Among words used to describe Jennie are courageous, generous, adventurous, cheerful, resilient, creative, a lesson to us in positivity, life of faith, witness and courage, an inspiration, beautiful, warm, and loving.

An amazing, loving, caring woman!

## World Day of Prayer

World Day of Prayer seeks prayer and action for peace and justice. ‘Informed prayer and prayerful actions’ is its call. Begun in 1927 and now held in over 170 countries and in many different languages, each year the program comes from a different country. We have the opportunity to get to know more of that country and culture, understand Biblical passages in their context and pray with them and for them.

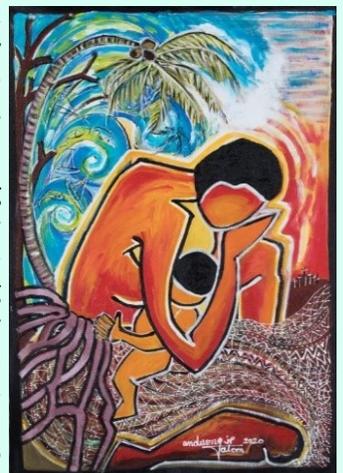
The movement aims to bring together various races, cultures and traditions in a yearly common Day of Prayer, as well as closer fellowship, understanding and action throughout the year.

Traditionally World Day of Prayer is held on the first Friday in March. This year women of the churches in Vanuatu have prepared the service and their theme is ‘Build on a Strong Foundation’.

The painting chosen to represent WDP 2021 is by Vanuatu artist Juliette Pita. It shows a mother bending over her child.

The waves crash over them but a palm tree bends protectively over them. On the horizon are small crosses representing lives taken by Cyclone Pam in 2015.

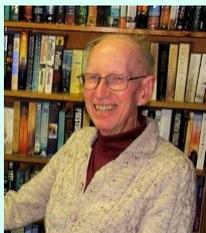
This year Morialta Uniting Church will host the World Day of Prayer service for the churches in our surrounding communities. We will follow the order of service presented by the Vanuatu women. Offerings for the day will support and partner with two projects in Vanuatu.



**We are pleased to invite all to World Day of Prayer 2021 (COVID aware) at Morialta Uniting Church on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March at 10am.**

## Bryan Forbes (1930-2021)

Bryan's self-deprecating unassuming manner belied a deep thinker with a strong commitment.



Bryan was born in Beverley, Western Australia on 8th March 1930. His parents divorced when he was quite young and he moved with his mother and grandmother to Perth, and attended Clairmont Infant School.

At about age 10, one of his uncles taught him to ride a bicycle, which he continued to do well into his eighties. At age 12 he moved to live with his father in Murray Bridge but soon relocated to his mother's home in Rose Park where he attended Rose Park Primary School. Friendship with two mates led him into Scouting, a place where he felt comfortable. Bryan attributed his tolerant nature to the Scouting Movement and its leaders.

Bryan attended Unley High which has produced many notable alumni; Julia Gillard and Bryan Forbes were just two. After completing Leaving Honours, Bryan took up a cadetship in the School of Mines, but having decided that was not for him, he accepted a cadetship with Sir Douglas Mawson. He continued his undergraduate studies in his first love, geology, while putting up with his minor field of chemistry.

Graduating with First Class Honours, he was accepted as a PhD student to study deposits of ancient sedimentary rocks found in the Flinders Ranges. His academic achievements were

acknowledged when he received a prestigious Silver Jubilee scholarship to study in England.

Around this time Bryan started to realize that there was more to life than study, feelings which led him to Semaphore Methodist Church to explore his relationship with the Divine. Bryan always had questions and felt that we should all be looking for the sacred in our surroundings.

It was also at Semaphore Methodist that Bryan met his wife Judith. They married in 1955 and immediately sailed for Durham University. Michael was born in Durham in 1957 and the young family returned to Adelaide and Hillcrest rather than explore other career options in Africa and other romantic sounding places.

Helen and then Kathryn were born at Hillcrest and Greenacres Methodist Church loomed large in family life. In 1967 they moved to Rostrevor, and Newton Methodist became their church. Later Bryan became a regular member of the Morialta 8.30 congregation and also devoted time to the library and writing book reviews for Vision.

Bryan retired from the Geological Survey Department in 1987 and while he had enjoyed his field trips, his retirement was an opportunity to explore interests such as bushwalking, bike riding and poetry, as well as music appreciation. He was proud of his children and always spoke glowingly about each of them and what they achieved.

Bryan was a deep thinker, with a well-developed, if subtle, sense of humour.

## Used coffee beans can help your garden

*Adapted from an article in the Conversation by Tien Huynh, Senior Lecturer in the School of Sciences, RMIT University 2018*

Did you know that morning cups of coffee contribute to six million tonnes of spent coffee grounds going to landfill every year? But this does not have to be the fate of your personal morning caffeine addiction. With care and patience they can enhance your garden.

You may have noticed that some cafes now offer free spent coffee grounds for customers to take home and use in the garden. In theory, this is a great initiative, but the reality is that fresh coffee grounds are high in caffeine, chlorogenic acid and tannins that are beneficial to humans, but toxic to plants.

The spent coffee must be detoxified by composting for a minimum of 98 days for plants to benefit from the potassium and nitrogen contained in the roasted beans. Without adequate composting, the benefits are scant. So rather than pour your spent coffee grounds straight onto your pot plants, you need to compost them.

Coffee grounds enhance the value of the compost and offer a cheap alternative to fertilizers.

Savvy businesses have already begun processing coffee grounds on a commercial scale, turning them into nutrient-rich fertilizers, or soil conditioners, in convenient pellets for use in the garden.

## From the Library

We begin the year with further donated books from Dillon's Bookshop via Hilary Taylor, with our sincere appreciation.

These are: -

### 'Bring me back'

by BA Paris - 2018 crime fiction

### 'Lady in Waiting' (Lady in waiting to Princess Margaret)

by Anne Glenconner - 2019 memoir

### 'The Family Gift'

by Cathy Kelly - 2019 fiction

### 'The House of Brides'

by Jane Cockram - 2019 fiction

### 'Live a Little'

by Howard Jacobson

### 'The Mothers'

by Genevieve Gannon - 2020 fiction

These proof copies with green stickers (not for sale) are located on the bookcase on the right as you enter the library under "New Additions".

Wishing you God's richest blessings in the year ahead.

Enjoy!

Miranda, Jill and Joan



## Greetings from Woomelang

We held our first live-streamed service from Morialta today using my Telstra dongle at the church. Since COVID there have only been 2 or 3 services at our church, conducted by the Anglican minister. However, the “high church service” in our Uniting Church seemed quite odd as the furniture up the front of our church doesn’t suit.

Everyone this morning was so relieved to view your service, which we have all become used to over many years. There was a little buffering but that was ok. To make it even better in the future, I have worked out how to connect the sound through our own speaker system and not have it coming out of the TV.

I also wanted to report that the sound and balance with your singers and piano was just perfect... (*Take a bow, John Drew - Ed*). I hope you don’t mind my constructive comment. I

continue to tell you and all your team what a marvellous ministry you are doing ... and now with live-streaming! I just hope you don’t all wear out – it must be hard work doing it so frequently.

Robert and I happened to watch two of your online funeral services also – just tops compared to what funeral parlours offer. But of course, great sadness and loss to you all.

COVID is providing so many challenges, and with overseas travel on hold and state borders being closed at short notice, it can be quite unnerving for us all.

We send our prayers to you all from Woomelang and again thank you all.

Our warmest regards

*Jan and Robert*

## Fellowship News

We will start the year with a Picnic in the Park at Felixstowe Reserve, Langman Grove, Felixstowe on Thursday 18 February at 6pm. Please bring your own food, drinks and chair.

At 8pm we will go to McDonalds, Payneham Road Felixstowe for coffee. (This may change if McDonalds Covid Safe plan changes).

Subs for the 2021 year are now due at \$6.00 each.

Everyone is welcome.

*Margaret Clogg*



This delightful knitted nativity scene was finished just in time for Christmas, by Anne Ind!

## Childhood memories

*Joan Wagner*

Recently I was deeply moved to read an article by Australian author Di Morrissey. She had been a small child, almost 10, when on a sunny afternoon her father struggled in the water searching for his 18-month-old son on Pittwater, N.S.W. They both died and life changed forever for her mother and herself. She felt alone and books were her friends and family, a safe place to retreat. She hated to be pitied and felt helpless faced with her mother's grief and her own. Donations made it possible to move to San Francisco to live with family there for a time, returning back at high school age. She felt like an outsider and without money for university, she left school at 15 and eventually started as a copy girl with The Australian Women's Weekly. The world of words made up in her head as an only child became her lifeline, not an escape but a safety net.

I too had some sad memories with my father dying when I was 4 and my mother having a nervous breakdown. I was separated from her for 2 years. I recall each night my prayer would be 'please God don't let me be an orphan'. But later on, I want to share treasured memories of us by our big, open fireplace in the sitting room, curled up in big armchairs reading books. Mum would put a saucepan of milk on the bricks to make milk coffee and we would eat navel oranges off our trees. She was 83 when she died and I value that this gentle, encouraging lady inspired me to be a reader.



## Solar panels

You may have noticed the new solar panels on the student houses, but you have probably not noticed those on the manse too.

They are generating power for use in the houses already, thus reducing electricity bills, and will be connected to the grid in the very near future, at which point we will see an even better return on the investment.

Late last year Church Council approved their purchase and installation. They are being paid for out of the surplus fund generated after building the two new houses and selling the one at College Drive. There is a requirement that these funds be used to improve our properties and not be spent on ongoing maintenance, so this was an ideal project to meet those criteria.

On the subject of solar panels, those on the roof of the hall have now been operating for 18 months and in that time have saved us \$5,600 by generating 47 megawatts of electricity. We have saved the planet 25 tons of CO<sub>2</sub>, the equivalent of driving 166,000 kilometres, or planting 640 trees.

*Chris Ayles*  
Property Team



## Barbara Wittenberg (1929-2021)



Barbara was born Barbara Pengilly and grew up in St Morris, attending St Morris Primary and Norwood High. After finishing school, she took up an apprenticeship in hairdressing, which led to a 50-year career. After working with various salons, Barbara set up her own business at the rear of her home.

Her family had regularly holidayed in Port Noarlunga and it was here that Barbara met her first husband, Jim. While Port Noarlunga was always one of her favourite places, no one was sure if it was fond memories of holidays, or the romantic association that lived on.

Jim and Barbara married after Jim qualified as a teacher and their first appointment was Cowell on Eyre Peninsula. It was here that both Andrew and Jane were born.

Sadly, Jim died at a young age and Barbara was left with a family to care for. Later she met and married Doug Wittenberg.

One of the memories her family have is that Barbara was “a hostess with the mostest” and was very particular about table settings, as well as the food she served. They quickly learned that there were dinner serviettes and afternoon tea serviettes!

After Doug died, Barbara found great strength through her interest in sport, her love of opera and her beloved Crows. Barbara was an avid swimmer, excelling in backstroke. Some thought that she chose backstroke as she was not keen on diving head first into the pool.

Her swimming led Barbara to travel, first within Australia and later to Singapore and New Zealand. Buoyed by these latter trips, Barbara decided to visit family in the UK and combined a family visit with her love of flowers – attending the Chelsea Flower Show.

Barbara was a keen walker and combined walking with two other loves – meeting friends in cafes and shopping. Living near the Norwood Parade was ideal. Later she replaced walking with her gopher.

Barbara also loved painting, both oils and water colours, and designing lamp shades, and making teddy bears and smock dresses. She was also an avid reader, which gave her a great vocabulary and made her a successful “crossworder”. She was also a keen Mahjong player at MUC every Wednesday.

Barbara’s house was not only filled with flowers, but music as well, from her tenors, to opera, to musicals, jazz and even Abba, occasionally.

Remembered as a loving and caring mother, grandmother and friend with a wicked sense of humour, Barbara was known to many of us, through the 8:15 am congregation and Lunch on Chapel.

### Barbara Wittenberg remembered

*Margaret Whibley writes...*

“I was sorry to hear about Barbara Wittenberg. She lived in the next street to us when we were growing up and cut my Mum's hair regularly. Barbara went out of her way to wash and set my hair for our wedding, and came over to wish me all the best when Dad and I left for the church.”

### Blessing song

*Words and Music by Miriam Therese Winter*

May the blessing of God go before you  
May her grace and peace abound  
May her spirit live within you  
May her love wrap you ‘round  
May her blessing remain with you always  
May you walk on holy ground.

## Two Indian Experiences

*From Ruth Dunning*

In April 1990 Bruce and I were on an organized tour of India and in Agra we were taken to the Kohinoor emporium to see a collection of tapestries and priceless jewels. Standing near the front of the group I was excited to be invited to try on the \$3,000,000(1990) emerald necklace and an emerald ring surrounded by diamonds, valued at \$800,000. Richard Burton had tried to buy the latter for Elizabeth Taylor but had been told it was not for sale. In the Kohinoor brochure the necklace is described as consisting of nine emeralds and two rubies the size of finger joints.



They are not faceted stones but have merely been smoothed by tumbling and it is believed the necklace is from the Mogul period as this is the kind of jewellery they had.

*Ruth wearing the emerald necklace and ring*

Later, in Delhi, I decided to go to the hairdresser in our hotel's basement. I was greeted by two pleasant fellows resplendent in their orange and lime green turbans. They asked if I would like a massage and I was hardly settled on the couch when suddenly I was shot forward and receiving a pummelling up and down my spine! This was alternated with my arms being gently massaged through the towels.

Next my head was massaged at length with warm coconut oil and then a steaming process took place after a sort of colander had been placed on my head. Steam poured out of it and I must have looked on fire!

At last followed endless applications of shampoo until finally a third, equally pleasant, fellow gave me an excellent cut and blow-wave. I was very happy - and all this for \$22 Australian.

Back in the waiting area I was amused to see Bruce looking a little embarrassed, with his feet in a bowl of water!

## How to stay cool in a heatwave

Adapted from an article by Alison Branley, based on studies by Sydney University's Thermal Ergonomics Laboratory (ABC News App)

If you turn down the air conditioner to 18 degrees, eat salad and spend the day sucking on ice blocks during a heat wave, you may be wasting your time.

The advice from the scientists is to turn air-conditioning up to 26 degrees, set the fan at medium, and you achieve the same cooling effect as 18 degrees. Moving air increases heat loss and it saves money.

Sydney University now has a state-of-the-art climate chamber that will allow them to test the impacts of heat on human beings. Researchers can connect test subjects to medical equipment and watch how their body responds.

Research includes looking at what types of clothing keep people the coolest, the temperature at which children's sport should be cancelled and whether immersing feet in cold water aids cooling.

It seems much of the advice available from health authorities

is unproven. For example, WHO recommends that when the temperature tops 35 degrees, people turn off fans because of a belief that once air is warmer than our body temperature, fans are just pushing hot air around. But in fact, the group have found that fans do not accelerate body heating until the temperature reaches 45 degrees.

A review of the public health advice provided by state governments found most was based on common sense like staying indoors, turning on air-conditioners and fans, wearing loose clothing and staying hydrated. However, advice also includes sucking on ice cubes, putting your pillowcase in the freezer before bed and avoiding high-protein foods.

The most vulnerable to extreme heat events are the elderly, the socially vulnerable, people who cannot afford air-conditioning and people with chronic illnesses.

By 2030, extremely 'hot' will be the new normal, so we need sustainable, accessible cooling strategies that we know are effective.

But for the present the best advice is "keep your skin moist and the air moving".

 **ICAN AUSTRALIA** 2017 NOBEL PEACE PRIZE The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (PNW) entered into force on Friday 22 January 2021. Starting on that date, nuclear weapons are officially unlawful. Remarkably, it is the first ever global ban on a class of weapons that threaten people and all living things.

The story started here in Melbourne Australia, 14 years ago, when a handful of people founded the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN).

Together they have grown to become a significant people-powered movement with members in more than 100 countries. In 2017 they were awarded the prestigious Nobel Peace Prize.

The PNW will mean that not only chemical and biological weapons and landmines are now banned, but nuclear weapons as well.

86 states have signed the treaty in endorsement, and over 50 states have shown great leadership by ratifying and committing to the treaty. Australia has not signed or ratified the treaty and the UCA is committed to changing that.

If you are concerned about nuclear weapons, you are invited to contact your MP calling on them to make Australia nuclear-free, which includes ratifying the nuclear weapons ban treaty.

Click on <https://icanw.org.au/celebrating-eif/> to open, then scroll down and click on **Email your MP**.

## Agreeing to talk about Race

From All Together Now



Conversations about race and racism can only begin with a genuine willingness to do so, and an acknowledgement of what you do not know. An understanding that conversations about race create anxiety and conflict amongst different cultural groups is the starting place. White people believe that these conversations stir up old hatred. People of colour perceive conversations about racial problems from a distance as someone else's to deal with. What then is required is an agreement to talk about race. The book "Courageous Conversations About Race", provides 4 points for agreement.

### 1. Staying engaged

Don't switch off if what you hear isn't what you may have been expecting. Remaining in the room without engaging in the dialogue is pointless. You need to remain morally, intellectually, emotionally and socially involved. Remembering

that conversations about change, especially racism, are extremely complex and challenging to have.

### 2. Experiencing discomfort

It is about accepting differences and preparing to feel uncomfortable. The honest and truthful way to have the race discussion is to address our differences versus blindly accepting that we are all the same.

### 3. Speaking the truth

Truth is the sole reason for your participation in this conversation – that should over ride all other inhibitions such as telling people what they want to hear. Instead, be upright and speak your mind, share honest opinions, thoughts and attitudes. We know it is easier said than done - but remember the common goal is reconciliation.

### 4. Expecting and accepting non-closure

The final agreement is knowing and accepting that there will not be a solution at the end of this discussion. Questions will remain unanswered and several points not agreed upon. Sharing views different from our own will ensure an end to the stigma associated with complex race conversations.

## Coconut Theology

From Rev Dr Sione 'Amanaki Havea – “South Pacific Theology”



Rev Dr Havea with UC Volunteers (1988)

The Good news was already in the Pacific before the missionaries arrived. They only came to make known what was already there. While Jesus lived and appreciated his Hebrew world, his God was not a Jewish (regional) God, but a universal God.

If he had grown up in the Pacific, he would have used the coconut and the hibiscus, not goats and wheat, to illustrate his parables. Jesus could have added another identification of himself – I am the Coconut of Life.

The tree itself has many uses, as drink, food, housing, shelter, fuel, mats, etc. Once it bears fruit it continues to bear fruit every year. The fruit is round and it has a tendency to roll to the lowest possible level. It provides food, drink, husks, shells, money and industry. Sometimes it falls into the ocean and floats to another island; to take food and establish new growth. It has a protective shell and a soft kernel. It has eyes, a mouth and features like those of a human head. When one drinks from it one draws nourishment.

There are many Biblical concepts in a coconut. The fullness of time (kairos) is there. No one can change the time when it will ripen; only at the fullness of time will it fall. With “coconut time” it does not matter whether one is early or late. The important thing is that the task is done and the mission fulfilled.

The full Christology can be seen in the coconut. The full potential of new life is in the coconut and when it is ready (fullness) the new life breaks through – sprouts shoot into the air and roots dig into the soil. There are glimpses of death and resurrection; "a seed must die in order to live."



At the crucifixion, the authorities forced Christ to the earth's womb, intending to keep him there and to say the end had come. But instead of the end they had expected, the shell cracked and resurrection took place. A new full-grown coconut came into its own.

When we think of the Eucharist, the coconut is more relevant than the bread and wine. In the Hebrew context, they used the unleavened bread and wine, because they were simple to make and within their means to use. But, for the people of the Pacific, bread and wine are foreign and expensive to import. The wheat and the grapes are two separate elements. The coconut has both the drink and the food, like the blood and flesh from the one and the same body of Christ.

I am convinced that if Christ had grown up and lived in the Pacific, he would have used the coconut to represent the body which was bruised and crushed, and the juice for the blood as elements of the Holy Eucharist.

During Lent the Worship & Faith Ed Ministry Team and Gateways will be offering a study, *A Voice in the Wilderness – listening to the statement of the heart*. It is an opportunity to explore the universality of the theology underpinning Indigenous culture, Pacific culture and our own culture.

In the words of Rev Dr Havea, “when Christ was born in Bethlehem and crucified at Calvary, when the Holy Spirit descended on the earth that day in Jerusalem, the effectiveness of these events was immediate and simultaneous to every part of the world.”

## Fallacies propagated in COVID commentary?

Adapted from an article by Rachael L Brown, Australian National University, published in the Conversation December 2020

Throughout the pandemic we have experienced conspiracy theories, pseudoscience and outright lies. But to a philosopher like me, the most vexing has been disinformation due to sloppy reasoning in public discourse. One of the most common fallacies was thinking that everything happens for a reason.

The ancient Greeks blamed unexpected bad outcomes in their lives on Tykhe, the goddess of chance, and the Romans similarly blamed Fortuna. In our largely secular modern world, however, we typically assume a bad outcome is a sign of failure.

But in a pandemic, not only can relatively small differences in situations lead to large differences in outcomes, these small differences often come down to dumb luck. This is especially true when talking about very small numbers of cases, as we have in Australia.

It is easy to interpret any jump in case numbers as indicating a failure of the public health measures in place. But this overlooks the role of other factors: whether a COVID-positive person lives with one other person or six; whether they work in aged care or from home; where they shop; whether they developed symptoms and self-isolated or not. Their situation and behaviour determine how many others they are likely to infect.

This doesn't mean we shouldn't be concerned by a sudden spike in cases, and it doesn't mean we can't ask questions about what went wrong. But it also doesn't mean it necessarily warrants any shift from our current public health measures.

It's an uncomfortable thought, but luck is a huge part of where we find ourselves today, and where we could be in the future.

## Four climate resolutions for 2021

*Adapted from the Climate Council*

Australians are already feeling the effects of climate change, and we need governments and big business to take significant action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and transition more quickly to renewable energy.

However, we all need to commit to helping reduce Australia's emissions and pressure decision-makers to take climate action seriously. Here are our five top suggestions:

### 1. Get your news from credible, reliable sources.

Think about where your news comes from, what vested interests or personal bias may be influencing the stories, and whether the claims can be fact-checked.

Our top picks for climate, energy and extreme weather news include the ABC, the BOM, CSIRO, Renew Economy and Climate Council.

### 2. Make your home more energy efficient

Electricity generation is the biggest contributor to climate change in Australia because most electricity comes from fossil fuels like coal and gas. Australians are among the biggest emitters of greenhouse gases on the planet (both in total and per person), so reducing our energy consumption will make a difference

*Heating and cooling* - check out "How to stay cool in a heatwave" on page 4.

Appliances make up around 69 percent of the energy used in the average Australian home.

- Buy energy-efficient appliances – the more stars, the better.
- Wash clothes in cold water (uses around 80 percent less than a warm wash).
- Switch appliances (including laptops) off at the power point.
- Replace halogen lights with LEDs (80 percent less energy and last 10 times longer.)
- Make the most of natural light in the daytime.

### 3. Talk about climate change with relatives and friends

Sit down with family, neighbours and friends to talk about how climate change is affecting them. For example, do they like heatwaves?

Talk about renewables – are they creating good jobs for Australians, lowering power bills, and helping to solve climate change.

Phasing out fossil fuels is inevitable, makes economic sense, and is happening.

### 4. Send an email to your MP expressing your concerns about climate change

Parliamentarians like to know what you are thinking and what concerns you. That helps them represent their electorate. The more letters and emails they receive, the more an MP will be influenced.

## A history of Presbyterianism in South Australia

*Adapted from the SA History Hub.*

Presbyterianism arrived in South Australia in 1839. Like the Methodists, the Scots brought their religious differences with them and between 1839 and 1851 three varieties of Presbyterianism were established – the Church of Scotland, the Free Presbyterian Church and the United Presbyterian Church.

The three united in 1886 to form the Presbyterian Church of South Australia, organised into three presbyteries with a state General Assembly.

Presbyterians have always been a minority in SA. Small congregations and a shortage of churches and ministers meant that many members joined other denominations. The congregations in the South East were stronger and were part of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria from 1863 to 1950. From 1925 to 1967, Presbyterian Churches in SA were financially supported by Victorian Presbyterians.

Despite being small, they showed great missionary zeal. From 1882 they funded a missionary (an ordained minister with elementary medical training) to the New Hebrides (Vanuatu). In 1894 Rev. Robert Mitchell began the Smith of Dunesk Mission, based at Beltana, using money originally intended for Aboriginal missions. An itinerant ministry, nursing hospitals and other welfare services were provided mainly to white settlers. Under John Flynn it became the Australian Inland Mission (AIM) and Royal Flying Doctor Service. Since the

establishment of Ernabella Mission in 1937, income from the Smith of Dunesk was divided between the AIM and Ernabella.

When the Presbyterian Church of Australia was formed in 1901, the General Assembly of Australia assumed responsibility for Aboriginal and overseas missions.

Scotch College (for boys) opened in 1919 and Presbyterian Girls College (now Seymour College) in 1922. In 1947 a small private hospital was purchased, which became St Andrew's Hospital. Homes for the aged were opened at Malvern, Goodwood and Elizabeth in the 1950s and 1960s.

Presbyterians, with Baptists and Congregationalists, and later Methodists, formed Union College in 1872, which concentrated on theological training until it closed in 1887. From 1913 until 1952 the same four denominations ran a joint mission to residents along the railway to Kalgoorlie, and (without the Baptists) to Marree in the Far North, from 1945 until 1968.

While there is still a Presbyterian Church of South Australia, most members took their heritage into the Uniting Church in 1977.



Scots Church, Adelaide