



Morialta Vision

A Publication of Morialta Uniting Church

Volume 12 Issue 2 ~ April 2019

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From our Minister, Reverend Bob Hutchinson

Seeing is believing – apparently. And seeing this light display in Athelstone this Easter got me thinking that this just about covers all the Easter traditions all rolled into one front lawn experience. But which figure(s) speak to you most?



We are so blessed to be post-resurrection people, the ones who have had the scriptures handed down over time. Let's face it, we know the story. We can sit in a Good Friday service and ever so gently produce a smile or a little chuckle – because we know the events of Easter Sunday. We've read the Book, seen the movie, downloaded a youtube clip. We know what took place on Easter Sunday. But Mary didn't. John and Peter didn't. The other disciples and followers of Jesus didn't.

Whilst there is a strong emphasis on seeing and believing in the Easter Sunday drama, I invite us to keep in mind something else as well. That it's not what we bring to the tomb, but how we leave the tomb that matters. Or it's not how we come to Easter Sunday but how we leave. In other words, does Easter Sunday and the story of the resurrection change us? Are we any different because of Easter Sunday?

The Easter message is perhaps less an historical event and more a faith statement, a proclamation. The beginning of faith! The disciples felt something, they knew what they had seen, knew it to be real, but their minds could not process it, it was too much too soon. What would that be like, I wonder? Would it be like trying to understand love? We can believe in love, we can feel it, give and take it, but to fully understand it?

But we are not called to *understand* but rather to have *faith*, because believing

without proof or understanding is indeed faith, and it is trust. You can't work it out; we can't approach it the same way we would as a maths problem. We need to react to it in faith and with trust.

You see, Mary and the disciples came hoping to solve a mystery, a supposed theft of a body. They thought on the rational level as well. Yet something in their experience caused them to leave as believers.

Sometimes we have a spiritual experience and we are left with, ...well, more questions, needing time to process it, time to take hold of it or to simply step back and let it be. We know it to be real, others might not believe us, but something in us has stirred and the light has come on.

It's a big call, but I think Mary represents us, for often we seem to be doing the 'right thing', the expected thing, where we are too focused on the rational, that we miss the surprise of God in our lives. It's like when we are driving to our holiday destination, focusing on the road and thinking about the beach or the golf or the fishing, that we miss the scenery along the way. I am always fascinated by how much more I notice when I am not driving. We can be too focused and only see what we expect to see.

We are not privileged to experience the first century resurrection. We can, however, approach it with faith, faith in the witness accounts, faith in the written record, faith in the communities' experience. To believe without seeing, is faith, it is trust.

By faith in Christ's resurrection, we know, and we are assured that death is not the end, that suffering is not to endure, oppression and marginalisation will cease, because Jesus lives, because the way of Jesus lives, because the presence and legacy of Jesus lives. That is hope, that is life, that is indeed good news.

So the resurrection of Jesus is, among many things, a proclamation, it is good news to tell. The proclamation to the world is that death, violence, racism, oppression and hatred are no longer powers that would bind us. The Easter proclamation is that Jesus is risen, the grave is empty. Life lives on.

Rev Bob



Chairperson writes ...

After-Easter greetings to all, as we celebrate God's love for all people and all of creation! I did enjoy working through the *Just Earth* app that was one of our Lenten Reflection options – and I understand that other groups are equally enthusiastic about their experiences.

There's lots to talk about at Morialta just now, celebrating what's happened recently and looking forward to what's to come. We've enjoyed festivities for opening the re-surfaced netball courts, and rejoiced at the completion of the bluestone repairs on the church frontage. We've enjoyed a pleasant games afternoon and a fabulous Kym Purling jazz concert, raising \$2k for church projects. We've elected a new Church Council, and embarked on a process to decide on our mission priorities into the future. In this regard, if you still don't have your personal copy of the congregational resource document *Identifying our Mission Priorities for Moving Forward – 2019*, please ask at the office for one. It outlines the basis for some decision-making we will need to move into later in the year. We have planned an extra Congregation Meeting for Sunday 2 June, to provide an opportunity to discuss the document and the two scenarios for the future that it contains. There will be opportunities to meet with members of Church Council to ask questions and chat one-on-one between now and then – see the newsheet for details. We will also have another task at that meeting – see my article on *Presbytery Restructure* below!



Following on from the February *Vision* article about the Library, the review team appointed by Council is launching, from 1 May, a Library Survey, to gather everyone's views on the best way forward – see a separate article in this issue on that topic as well!

And another exciting new happening to look forward to! Council was delighted to be able to take up the Moderator's invitation to provide hospitality to a Muslim group needing space to gather to break their fast during the month of Ramadan. Arrangements have been made for about 90 members of the Dawoodi Bohras group to use our hall and kitchen from 4:00 to 10:00 pm on Wednesday and Thursday evenings from May 8 – 30. We feel that this fits very well with Morialta's ethos of hospitality, intercultural friendship and service to the wider community. The photo above (from our Maundy Thursday meal) was chosen to reflect the hospitality theme – even though these particular guests will bring their own food to rehear, and floor mats to sit on!

If you'd like to talk about anything I've written here, or have any questions or comments on anything Morialta-related – please be in touch by phone, by email or in person. I look forward to hearing from you!

Margaret Cargill

0439 954814

margaret.cargill@adelaide.edu.au

South Australian Presbytery Restructure – An Update

Here is an update on earlier reports, because Morialta will be making a decision on this matter soon. (I am summarising and expanding a little here on circulars sent out by the Interim General Secretary and available on the SA Synod website at <https://sa.uca.org.au/presbytery-and-synod/restructure>.)

As you may already know, it has been decided that the current UCA structure of a single Synod/ Presbytery in SA will change from 1 July 2019. From that date, there will be two presbyteries in South Australia:

- a *Transitional Presbytery of SA*, which will operate only until further decisions are taken at the Synod meeting in November 2019 (probably setting up two geographic presbyteries), and
- a non-geographic Presbytery based on particular theological positions. This will be known as the *Generate Presbytery*.

Synod is asking us to let them know our decision by 7th June, so we will be voting at the Congregation Meeting we have already called for Sunday 2 June at 10:45. We can decide to join one of the two presbyteries described above, or decide not to make a decision at this time – in which case we will be placed in the Transitional Presbytery until we make a final decision.

So – please come along to the Congregation Meeting on 2nd June, hear more about it, and cast your vote. There will be opportunities offered to ask questions and learn more between now and the meeting date – watch the newsheet for details.

Margaret Cargill

See the article at the bottom of page 9 for more information relating to presbytery restructure.



KYM PURLING AND FRIENDS

At a sell-out concert in March, Kym and his friends performed two of his "cruise ship shows" to a packed house. It was an amazing experience for all who attended, which raised \$2000 for Morialta projects as well as significant funds for Sunrise Children's Association, which works to bring a brighter future to children in need in Nepal.



Thanks to all those who played a part in making this event a success.

We are grateful to Kym for sharing his time and talents with us when he visits Adelaide!



POSITION VACANT: ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR

**Unit of Presbytery & Synod/
Congregation:**
Morialta Uniting Church

Classification:
Level 2, Year 2, Clerks Private Sector
Award

Type of appointment:
Fixed term (1-year contract), part-time
20 hours per week (0.533 FTE)

Description:

Applications addressing the selection criteria are invited for the position of Administrative Coordinator at Morialta Uniting Church.

The Administrative Coordinator position provides administrative coordination and support to the Minister, lay leadership, and activities in the mission of the church, and facilitates communication within the congregation.

The position supports the Morialta congregation in moving towards its Vision by being the point of contact with the community and providing administrative support for the church. It provides a welcoming reception and expresses and nurtures a caring environment for members of the congregation, those in the wider community, and visitors to the church.

Morialta Uniting Church seeks to be an inclusive community that holds to the way

of Jesus, expressed through love, service and hospitality. We offer, for all ages, learning opportunities, spiritual expression, action for justice, and social connection.

The person we are seeking will have a friendly, respectful and adaptable outlook, and strong communication and organisational skills. They will be able to prioritise effectively, and demonstrate competency in Word, Excel, Outlook and Powerpoint. It is desirable for the person to have a strong commitment to Christian faith and a good understanding of church community life.

Full job description:

Contact Morialta Uniting Church
(office@morialtauca.org.au)

Application close date:

7 June at 5.00 pm

Contact persons:

Margaret Cargill
(Church Council Chairperson)
margaret.cargill@adelaide.edu.au

Christine Secombe
(Church Council Secretary)
christine.secombe@bigpond.com

Refugees - Sorting Fact from Fiction

From Asylum Seeker Resource Centre

MYTHS

- Asylum seekers are 'illegal immigrants'
- People who arrive by boat are not 'genuine refugees'
- Asylum seekers have only themselves to blame for lengthy detention because they lodge endless appeals
- When asylum seekers destroy their documentation, they are cheating the system
- Boat arrivals might be terrorists or pose other security risks
- Boat people are queue jumpers; they take the place of refugees patiently waiting in overseas camps
- Asylum seekers don't use the proper channels — they come via 'the back door'
- Asylum seekers are 'country shoppers'; they could have stopped at safe places along the way
- Asylum seekers are 'cashed up' and 'choose' to come here
- People smugglers are 'evil' and the ' vilest form of human life'
- Australia is losing control over its borders
- If we are too 'soft' there will be a flood of asylum seekers
- Offshore processing is the solution to boat arrivals
- Onshore asylum seekers only need temporary protection visas
- Charity begins at home; we can't privilege asylum seekers over 'our own' disadvantaged
- Refugees will strain our economy and threaten 'our way of life'
- The 'No Advantage' principle is an effective response towards asylum seeker boat arrivals
- Asylum Seekers are economic migrants.

SOLUTIONS

- End mandatory detention
- Adopt community processing as the norm
- Equitably share the international refugee burden
- Invest in a serious regional protection framework
- Provide alternative legal pathways to seek asylum
- Take serious action to prevent deaths at sea
- Recognise there is no final 'solution'
- Grant asylum seekers the right to work.

More information is available at <https://www.asrc.org.au/>

THANK YOU...

... to all the volunteers who cooked and served pancakes. Their efforts and your generosity raised \$208.50 to support Uniting Communities.



The Budget – UCA response

Dr Deidre Palmer has encouraged Australians to put the urgent needs of others ahead of short-term self-interest, in her response to the 2019 Budget.

The Budget has promised \$158 billion in income tax cuts over a decade on the back of projected Budget surpluses. Despite the positive projections the foreign aid budget has again been cut, and there is no improvement for Australians relying on welfare payments, particularly the Newstart allowance.

“As the contest for hearts and minds begins ahead of this year’s Federal Election, I urge Australians to give priority to justice, compassion and inclusion. The Budget, if passed by a future government, may offer some welcome tax relief. But at what cost? The bottom line in this Budget is there is less support for the most vulnerable people in the most vulnerable nations, and less support for the most vulnerable at home.

Foreign aid agencies, NDIS lose out

Foreign aid will drop to 0.19% of Gross National Income in 2021-22 – well below the short-term target of 0.3% supported by the Uniting Church and other advocates.

National Director of UnitingWorld Dr Sureka Goringe said the Budget failed both generous open-hearted Australians and the vision of genuine regional partnership. “We need to build trust and solidarity with our regional neighbours, working together to address inequality and injustice, not just pursue a narrow self-serving agenda,” said Dr Goringe.

Dr Palmer strongly criticised a \$1.6 billion underspend on the National Disability Insurance Scheme in the coming financial year. She did however welcome a number of measures confirmed in the Budget.

- The boost for mental health and suicide prevention.
- The confirmation of \$328 million in funding to reduce violence against women and children.
- Funding set aside for a Royal Commission into the abuse and neglect of people with disability.

President of Congress, Rev Garry Dronfield welcomed the allocation of \$5m for prevention of youth suicide in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

“Unfortunately, it’s not enough to address the scale of crisis that we know exists,” said Rev Dronfield. “There needs to be funding for diversionary programs to keep our vulnerable young people from the dangers of incarceration.”

Frontier Services’ National Director, Jannine Jackson welcomed extra funding of \$5.5m over four years for mental health services for people who have been affected by natural disasters.

There’s extra money (\$137.4m) for an extension of the Landcare Program, which funds initiatives like sustainable farming, wetland restoration and protecting the habitat of threatened species. But many were disappointed that no further money will be allocated for the global climate fund. (*In fact, climate change was never mentioned*)

UnitingCare Australia welcomed funding for the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability, and also the youth mental health and suicide prevention strategy. However, UnitingCare Australia’s National Director, Claerwen Little, has queried the Government’s priorities. “A ‘surplus’ gained at the cost of allowing children to live in poverty, people with disabilities to go without the basic support they need, older Australians to die waiting for home

care packages, and homelessness to reach record levels, does not measure up.”

On the positive side, \$285m is budgeted to assist almost four million pensioners to cover the cost of their energy bills and Government is making a major investment in the vocational education and training (VET) sector of more than half a billion dollars. But those who cannot afford to buy a house will see no relief. Rent assistance is still based on rental rates that existed 30 years ago. With rental rates increasing dramatically due to the rise of house prices, many young families have fallen into tough times and even homelessness.

Uniting Church in Australia’s Vision for a Just Australia

Last month, the Uniting Church in Australia published its 2019 Federal Election resource titled “[Our Vision for a Just Australia.](#)”

Copies can be downloaded from <https://uniting.church/visionstatement2019/>

or can be made available through the office if you are unable to download the document.

The Vision Statement outlines seven broad policy areas covering First Peoples, the environment, social inclusion, wellbeing, human rights, healthy communities and peacemaking. “Our vision, grounded in the life and mission of Jesus, is for Australia to be a just and compassionate nation in a world, where all can flourish.” said Dr Palmer. “I urge all Australians to examine closely the policies on offer at the coming election, and hold those asking for their vote to account in building a just, compassionate and inclusive Australia.”

Social experiment exposes fear and racism in an Australian community

Adapted from an article by Emma Wynne – ABC Perth.

Amit Khaira is a teacher and Christian chaplain of Hindu background who normally gets around largely unnoticed in a t-shirt and jeans.

But in January 2018 he began a year-long social experiment in which he grew a beard, shaved his head and wore a kurta.

“I spent the year trying to be more intentional in taking public transport and being in the community, wearing some traditional attire and listening and observing as much as possible,” he said. “I learned a lot.”

The father of four likened the experience to “walking around holding a red flag”.

Ultimately, the experiment demonstrated how fear and first impressions get in the way of relationships and understanding. According to Mr Khaira, the biggest lesson was “how we too often allow fear to dictate relationships”.

“Fear exists because something or someone is unknown. If someone or something is unknown, are we willing to take the time and make the effort to make that which is unknown known? I think when we do that, there is some real beauty that we can find.”

Much to the relief of Mr Khaira’s wife and children, he has shaved the beard off and stopped wearing a kurta!

Editor’s note

A kurta is an upper garment for men and women, originating in the Indian subcontinent, with regional variations of form. In this case Mr Khaira wore a straight-cut kurta. This is a loose shirt falling either just above or somewhere below the knees of the wearer, and is traditionally worn by men.

(Wikipedia)



If God were process oriented

Author unknown – reprinted by Abbie Jane Wells of Juneau, Alaska, who received it from W. H. "Ping" ...

If God were process oriented, the Book of Genesis would need to be re-written. It would go something like this:

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, so God created a small Committee. God carefully balanced the Committee vis-a-vis sex, race, ethnic origin and economic status in order to interface pluralism with the holistic concept of self-determination according to adjudicatory guidelines.

Even God was impressed and so ended the first day.

And God said "Let the Committee draw up a mission statement". And behold, the Committee decided to prioritise and strategise. And God called the process empowerment.

And God thought that it sounded pretty good. And evening and morning were the second day.

And God said, "Let the committee determine goals and objectives and engage in long-term planning." Unfortunately, a debate as to the semantic difference between goals and objectives occupied all of the third day. Although the question was never satisfactorily resolved, God thought that the 'process' was constructive.

And evening and morning were the third day.

And God said, "Let there be a retreat in which the Committee can envision functional organisation and engage in planning, the objective." The Committee considered adjustment of priorities and consequential alternatives to programme directions and God saw that this was good.

And God thought that it was even worth all the coffee and biscuits he had to supply. And so ended the fourth day.

And God said "Let the Committee's ideas be implemented consistent with long range planning and strategies." The Committee considered guidelines and linkages and structural sensitivities and alternative implemental models. And God saw that this was very democratic.

And so would have ended the fifth day, except for the unintentional renewal of the debate on the differences between goals and objectives.

On the sixth day, the Committee agreed on criteria for adjudicatory assessment and evaluation. This wasn't the agenda that God had planned. He wasn't able to attend however, because he had to take the afternoon off to create heaven and earth and sea and plants and trees and seasons and years and the sun and moon and birds and fish and animals and human beings.

On the seventh day, God rested and the Committee submitted its recommendations. It turned out that their recommended ways – for the way things should be in the world – were nearly identical to the way God had created them.

So the Committee passed a resolution commending God for the way He has implemented creation according to the guidelines. There was however, some opinion expressed (quietly of course) that mankind should have been created in the image of the committee.

And God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the Committee.



John Bell in Adelaide 8-10 May 2019

All events at Adelaide West Uniting Church
312 Sir Donald Bradman Dr, Brooklyn Park SA 5032

Wednesday 8th May – 7.00pm-9.00pm

Songs to enliven communities of faith

Songs from the Iona Community - Singing with the global Church

Tea, coffee and biscuits provided Cost: \$20 / \$15 Concession

Thursday 9th May – 10.00am-4.00pm

A day with John Bell

10.00am-11.15am - *The place of songs in faith development*

11.45am-1.00pm - *The importance of the imagination*

2.00pm-4.00pm - *Keeping faith in an age of consumerism*

Morning and afternoon tea included, lunch optional \$15 extra

Full day \$100 / Half day \$50 (\$80 / \$40 concession)

Friday 10th May – 9.30am-12.30pm

Nurturing the Spirit

9.30-10.45 - *Exploring Celtic Spirituality*

11.15-12.30 - *The importance of grace and hospitality in liturgy*

Morning Tea included - \$30 / \$25

Bookings and info at: www.trybooking.com/BBNLH

For further information: peter.balabanski@gmail.com
or 0427733230

Supported and endorsed by Lutheran Church of Australia,
Uniting Church, Anglican Diocese of Adelaide and Catholic
Archdiocese of Adelaide.

Upcoming concerts at Morialta

After a very successful Kym Purling Concert to start our concert program for 2019, please put the following dates in your diary and start saving to buy tickets.



Sunday July 21st - 2.00-4.00pm

The Second Wind Ensemble will be performing in the Church as guests of Morialta Uniting Church. They hope to have a guest artist or group to share in the program and we will be providing final details closer to the date.

The Second Wind Ensemble is an Adelaide-based band established to give mature-aged members of the community an opportunity to take up a new instrument or resume an abandoned one. The SWE includes flutes, clarinets, saxophones, brass and a rhythm section and is led by Darryl Pope.

Sunday 29th September – 2.00-4.00pm

We welcome back the Adelaide Connection Jazz Choir under the guidance of Anita Wardell.

The Adelaide Connection is the Elder Conservatorium's premier Jazz Choir and have built a repertoire of harmonically sophisticated vocal music, both a cappella and accompanied.

Negotiations are also underway with 3 other groups to provide concerts at Morialta during 2019 or early in 2020. Watch this space!



Summary of Ministry Team Reports

Pastoral Care Team

Pastoral Care Mission Ministry Team (PCMMT) continues to oversee the pastoral needs of our congregation and community. The Card Ministry, facilitated by Cynthia Story, continues to be appreciated by recipients.

Of course, the ministry requires the assistance of all members of the congregation. Elders are asked to share information about members of our congregation with our Minister, Bob, Helena in the office, or Bruce so that a card, or other action might be taken.

Activity highlights from 2018

Over 80s Afternoon Tea - Over 40 members of the congregation and community took part in the event.

Blue Christmas - This Christmas around 30 people participated in a liturgy that was created by Bob. A time of reflection and lament provided participants with an opportunity to look towards a hope filled future with a time of fellowship afterwards. Supper was coordinated by Rhonda Amber and facilitated by members for the PCMMT.

Activities planned for 2019

The most significant role for PCMMT is to provide support for the Pastoral Partners (PP) who are the hands and feet within the community, providing pastoral care for our members and associates. However a number of long serving PPs have retired and we are looking for people to replace them.

Bruce Ind on behalf of PCMMT

Property Ministry Team

Key Activities since the last report

- Church front façade contractor was appointed, agreements signed and work commenced
- Church front facade grant application was successful.
- Preparation of Kooka room for hire.
- Undertaking various plumbing, electrical and building repairs in the hall and Kooka rooms.
- Working with the Netball Club on the completion of the courts resurfacing and associated tasks.
- Identifying the problem with the stained-glass windows and obtaining a quote to repair them.

- Attempting to fix the water leak through the foyer roof.
- Removing unwanted items from the sheds and house garages for hard rubbish collection.
- Preparing 10 College Drive for sale
- Clearing sewer pipes at the manse.
- Selecting and installing a heat shield on the north east bedroom of the manse.
- Receiving and discussing the Synod Property report.
- Transitioning the new houses from the Project Team to the POMT.

Key plans for the next six months:

- Working on the priorities identified in the Synod Property report

Items deferred to 2020 because of expense include:

- Developing a master plan to manage the range of major works required at the manse.
- Investigating the possibility and cost if installing solar panels on the hall and the new houses.
- Engaging professional help to fix the water leak through the foyer roof.
- Completing the external work around the new houses, including retaining walls, mulching, clothes line installation, fences and gates.
- Carrying out the myriad of repairs which will inevitably be needed across all our properties.
- Putting in place the necessary documentation to comply with OHS regulations.

Student housing project

The western boundary fence is finished and a contractor engaged to install the 3 retaining walls. Once completed, the garden will be mulched and quotes for the eastern fence obtained.

Most of the new furniture has been purchased and spending so far is within the allocated budget for this work.

Chris Ayles, For the Property Operational Ministry Team, February 2019



MARCH PICNIC

A good crowd gathered in the park opposite the church to enjoy a picnic and BBQ on the Adelaide Cup Holiday Monday. A relaxing lunch was enjoyed in pleasant sunshine, with dogs but no horses involved!

Community Centre Mission Ministry Team

In the past six months a number of changes for Community Centre Mission Ministry Team (CCMMT) have occurred including: the departures of the team leader, the Lunch on Chapel Convener and the Library Coordinator. However, the Student Accommodation Program houses has been completed and a review for Tuesday Playgroup announced and completed.

Bruce Ind has been appointed by Church Council and he will be meeting with Rev Bob Hutchinson.

Lunch on Chapel (LoC)

Alison Lockett has retired as coordinator, a role she had occupied for many years, and Church Council has recorded a vote of thanks for Alison. However, we are fortunate to welcome Carole Lyons to the coordination role.

The annual kitchen clean-up was conducted in late January and thanks to the volunteers who made this possible.

Library

The committee that assists in the running of the library is in the process of reviewing practices and other matters following the resignation of the Library Coordinator..

Student Accommodation Program (SAP)

One of the most significant activities that came from the 'Dreaming' process was the redevelopment of accommodation for Morialta's Student Accommodation Program (SAP). As a result of all the hard work, 8 students who were accommodated at College Drive and latterly Fox Avenue Athelstone have now moved into the new houses on Chapel Street. Anne Ind and Chris Ayles are to be commended for their efforts in bringing this project to fruition.

A 'Welcome' Barbeque will be held. In mid-March to introduce some of the 'Church people' to new and continuing residents and the family members who attend.

Tuesday Playgroup

A review of Tuesday Playgroup has been announced following Carole Lyons' relinquishing the coordinating role of the management committee. It is hoped that the Team Leader will be able to meet with the committee in the next few weeks.

Other Programs

Other programs include *Coffee and Chat* and *Art Circle* complement the *Wee-Care* group that meets at the church on Friday. *Coffee and Chat* provides an opportunity for unstructured conversation and hospitality. *Art Circle* is an opportunity for members to explore and express their Creative. Side.

A small group of people participate in group activities after Lunch on Chapel and there are a number of irregular activities that have been scheduled in the past that will be explored.

Bruce Ind, Team Leader, Community Centre Mission Ministry Team March 2019

Administration Operational Team

Key activities

Pastoral Care Database

Updates have been purchased and installed to bring the information it holds up to date. This work has been carried out by John Secombe with support from Helena Begg and the Pastoral Care Mission Ministry Team. The most recent worship roster was drawn from the database and as expected a few errors in the rules came to light and have been fixed.

IT Support

Still seeking a manager

Office Computer

The 2019 budget accommodates purchase of a new computer for the office and several questions are being investigated.

Facilities Hire

The Facilities Hire Group (FHG) became aligned with the AO Team at the January Council meeting, supplementing the FHG of Helena Begg and Carole Lyons with four members of the AOMT.

An Art Therapy class has started in Kooka, a yoga class will start soon, and funding has been withdrawn from the Uniting SA group that has been meeting here.

The Family Cook's business has expanded such that it has become necessary for her own fridge to be installed in the photocopy room.

Human Resource Management

• Office

The AOMT provides a safe place for conversation about workload issues and AOMT would wish to highlight to Council Helena's significant contribution to Morialta's ministry.

• Cleaner

The cleaner was brought on board as an employee rather than a contractor towards the end of last year and this seems to be working out well.

• Other

Following the review of Tuesday Playgroup, the Position Description for the Playgroup Coordinator is being updated, and Margaret Cargill is investigating workplace health and safety practices and policies in other places to inform Morialta and update our paperwork.

Archives

Following the resignation of the Archivist AOT has decided to leave this matter in abeyance until the second half of the year.

Issues of concern

- future-proofing the office to succession planning
- training a pool of office volunteers in general office and finance functions
- office Coordinator's workload, noting that the FOMT review of the move to the CBU and the pending appointment of a new Treasurer may change the expectation around the finance functions
- keeping up to date with our knowledge of and compliance with policies and procedures required by legislation and by the Synod.
- Archives - seeking clarity about expectations on a congregation of what should be kept and for how long.
- Storage - there never seems to be enough storage space.

Christine Secombe, for the AOMT

Full reports available from the Office or individual team leaders.

Fellowship News

We had a fascinating tour through Ronald McDonald House in March. This organisation provides a "Home away from Home" for seriously sick children, and their families, who live in the country.



The two houses depend on a large number of volunteers to provide the care that is given to the families. Fellowship members donated goods for their use.



Following the tour, the 22 members had lunch at The Hackney Hotel.

In April 17 members toured the Christmas Pageant Warehouse (Stardust Castle) and observed the enormous amount of planning and care that is required to provide Adelaide with our

wonderful Christmas Pageant every year. There is year-round work behind the scenes on floats, costumes, etc., and much of this is done by volunteers.

There are over 1500 volunteers required to run the pageant each November – plus all the people on the floats. It was a very informative and interesting tour.

This outing finished with a lovely lunch at the Payneham Tavern.

Margaret Clogg



LIFE, PAIN AND HEALING

Recently I suffered a time marked by pain. Hurt had been niggling for weeks while I'd tried to ignore it; hoping it might just disappear of its own accord. Fat chance! After a sudden explosive escalation of agony, I had to seek medical aid. While I was holding tight to my straight jacket of misery, my mind raced ahead with all the possible outcomes. I'd had plans for the coming weeks and suddenly they were being torn apart. My world was being submerged under pain, frustration and fear – and I was impotent to make it stop.

Fortunately my GP rapidly passed me on to a specialist, via X-rays and ultrasound, and within a day the problem was identified and dealt with. What I had assumed would mean an operation and weeks of incapacitation, was mercifully dealt with by injections and within ten minutes, the pain had diminished to a twinge. Nothing short of a miracle as far as I was concerned!

Later I was talking to a friend and trying to describe what the pain had been like but found myself unable to clarify, as the difference between being 'in pain' and 'pain-free' was such a transformation that my mind had almost wiped the memory clear. All I knew is that when the pain suddenly decreased, the relief was overwhelming and my world changed from suffering to delight in an instant.

It occurred to me afterwards that this is the converse of what it is like when we are hit with grief. Sorrow is life changing and turns our world upside down. The unhappiness may be because we are mourning the loss of a life; a job; a relationship or any one of a million other ways that joy can be torn asunder, but the transition from delight to distress is uncontrollable and instantaneous. When we are in the grip of mental torment – for that is surely what deep unhappiness really is – we can never recall the exhilaration of feeling pleasure before sadness hit us. All we feel is our heartache and we can see no way ahead.

Wise men say that the way to deal with sorrow is to be still and stay focused, and I'm assured that composure and serenity is the best way to deal with such a burden. However, few have the ability to keep distress totally under control. We want to cry, shout and curse, begging to be relieved of the suffering. Much as I felt with physical pain.

It's always heartening to know that others are concerned for us when life gives us the short straw to pull, but others are of little help in alleviating the agony of something so awful that it can't be expressed. We just want someone to remove the pain – and no matter how great our faith, nothing, apart from time, can ever relieve us of that burden.

A cousin lost one of his sons last year. Our nephew was a handsome young man and until the accident everyone believed that a golden future stretched before him. The cousin had brought up his two sons alone after the unexpected death of his

wife when the boys were youngsters, so the death of this son was a second cruel twist of fate.

He wrote to me soon afterwards and explained his emotions by saying that when he'd been growing up he'd always had a vague idea of how his life was going to work out; meet a lovely girl, get married, have children and live happily ever after. His life had begun that way - following an unwritten script in his head - was how he explained it. Unfortunately his script had been torn apart by tragedies and he was now left with a blank piece of paper to fill with 'other plans'. However, he believes that the happiness in our lives is dependent on the quality of our thoughts and is determined to rewrite his life's script. For a while he withdrew a little from everyone; staying quiet and giving himself space; finding a place where special memories could be treasured and letting his heart and soul find ways to protect him from further bruises.

He's now back into the fray and beginning to compose a different story for his future. He's trying to find the balance between forging ahead while staying true to the ragged memories still cutting him badly; precious memories that can't be cast adrift and only grow more priceless with time.

He's a pragmatist who's been through grief before and found ways to reach the other side, so he knows that time will help soften sorrow and he's working towards solace. One day he will laugh aloud at something without feeling any guilt, and when he does, he might look back; shed a tear for his youngest, loved and cherished son and be grateful the passing days have blurred some of the ache. It will be a long time – perhaps never – before his situation is hurt-free but to find that pain even passably bearable will be an improvement on what was felt previously, and is the first step towards real healing.

Lyndon B Johnson said *'Yesterday is not ours to recover, but tomorrow is ours to win or lose'*.

Life –

It comes for a limited time only. It's rationed to one per person and subject to change without notice.

It's provided 'as is' and without guarantees, but is non-transferable and the sole responsibility of the recipient.

Damage may occur through use or misuse. Any additional parts are sold separately; are costly and should be considered carefully before purchase. They may not improve the original which is unique.

Mileage may vary and other undisclosed restrictions may apply.

While you have it, enjoy the privilege and talents it brings, be kind to others and have fun with this wonderful gift.

Jan Thornton

Prayers of connection and disconnection

Adapted from an article by Gillian Bouras published in *Eureka Street*, March 2019

Novelist E. M. Forster famously instructed people to 'only connect'. These days most of us spend large parts of our lives in an effort to obey him, but in ways he never dreamed of. He would be amazed to know that many people have to make a conscious and disciplined effort to do without their iPhones for a day, let alone for a longer period.



However, some people disconnect in radical ways, or manage a balancing act between connection with society and disconnection. The recently deceased Sister Wendy Beckett was one such. From 1970 onwards, she lived in a caravan at the Carmelite monastery at Quidenham in Norfolk. Solitude and contemplation were the main focuses of her life, but she was also possessed of a formidable intellect and a passionate interest in art.

Fortunately her art notes were discovered and passed to the *Catholic Herald*. From there the BBC took an interest, and Sister Wendy became a star presenter of masterpieces and lesser-known works. But she always believed her time was for God, so her usual routine consisted of bed at 6pm – sleep until 1am then prayer. She considered this the best time for prayer and contemplation.

Contemporary with Sister Wendy is Brother Harold Palmer, who has lived in a caravan on a hill in Northumberland, known as Shepherd's Law, since 1971. Like Sister Wendy, Brother Harold has not completely withdrawn from society, as he has visitors every couple of weeks and also possesses a mobile phone.

Brother Harold began as an Anglican friar, but converted to Catholicism in the 1990s. For many years his aim has been to heal the divisions in Christianity: he sees himself as sitting on the divide between Catholic and Anglican. He believes healing can take place through prayer, so he spends many hours in the recitation of offices, which are a combination of Anglican, Catholic and Orthodox prayers.

He has also influenced many people, including Father George Guivre, Superior of the Anglican Community of the Resurrection (established in West Yorkshire in 1892). Father Guivre says he owes the writing of his book, *Company of Voices*, to the example of Brother Harold, who taught him that prayer didn't necessarily have to be a personal,

emotional experience: it is simply work, in that you keep on at the daily services regardless of your inclination. The discipline, he argues, eventually sets you free.

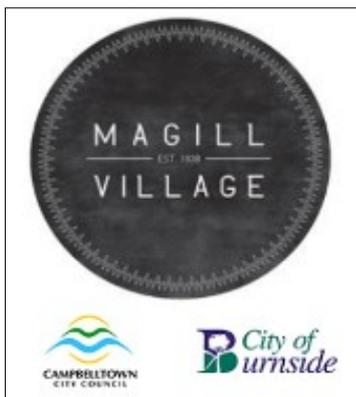
Sometimes just listening is a discipline as well. 'A Prayer of Intercession that lasts 35 minutes is simply too much for flesh and blood to endure,' complained my paternal grandfather of an enthusiastic Presbyterian minister; much later I heard a devout Anglican thank God that her flock was spared the practice of extemporaneous prayer. My radically evangelical maternal grandmother attended a prayer meeting twice a week for many years, little caring that my mother writhed with embarrassment every time Nana prayed aloud.

As well as intercession there are other kinds of prayer: praise, blessing, thanksgiving, and petition. Realistically prayer means different things to different people.

GATEWAYS will be having an open discussion on prayer at their gathering at 7.30pm on 10th May. They will be joined by Jonathan Barker, David McKirdy and Bob Hutchinson. Everyone is welcome to come along to ask questions, share experiences or just listen.

Gillian Bouras is an expatriate Australian writer who has written several books, stories and articles, many of them dealing with her experiences as an Australian woman in Greece.

Magill Village Project



Morialta Uniting Church is in the area covered by this joint project between Burnside and Campbelltown Councils.

You may have noticed work has commenced along Magill Road to place power cables underground and improve the streetscape for residents, visitors and businesses.

More information is available at

<https://www.campbelltown.sa.gov.au/mvp>

Towards an inclusive vision for new presbyteries

Being the Church of the twenty first century

The following seeks to express an unapologetic inclusive vision for the life and mission of the Uniting Church in South Australia at this moment in its history.

It espouses the recognition of both the evangelical and reformed streams within the church as well as noting the many affirmations in the Basis of Union which emphasise a "unity of faith and life in Christ" (BoU#2).

It is good never to forget the ecumenical movement's inspiration to respond to God's call to unity for the sake of the Gospel, which inspired the framers of the Basis of Union.

This unity needs to be reflected in all councils of the Uniting Church. The following affirmations are submitted as possible characteristics which may help to shape the identity of renewed Presbyteries within the Synod of South Australia.

More details under each of the following headings are available at this website:

<https://lookingahead.unitingchurch.org.au/>

- **Geo-social Reality** - Affirm the missional vision of serving the world
- **Inclusive Grace** - Celebrate the radical inclusiveness of the gospel of grace
- **Wholistic Evangelism** - Respond to the wholistic gospel imperative
- **Justicing Love** - Commit to a just, peaceful and reconciled society
- **Servant Leadership** - Expect empowering servant ministries
- **Revitalised Presence** - Espouse a uniting presence for all towns and suburbs
- **Diverse Narratives** - Rejoice in diverse narratives which express the reality of the Christ event
- **Interior Depth** - discern the presence of God as interior call and external demand

Extracted from an article by Reverend Jonathan Barker.

From the National Church Life Survey

Spiritual growth and wanting community - the priorities of churchgoers

Adapted from a report by Sam Sterland, Ruth Powell and Kathy Jacka Kerr (2017) for NCLS.



Church attenders were asked what they thought their local church's priority should be in the next year. They were given 12 options to select from.

'Spiritual growth (e.g. spiritual direction, prayer groups)' and 'Building a strong sense of community within this local church' were most commonly selected responses, chosen by a third of churchgoers (~32%). The third most common response was 'Worship services that are nurturing to people's faith'.

These three top priorities clearly display a spiritual fervour amongst those who attend church. It could be argued that these desires reveal the primary purpose attenders hold for going to church: to be spiritually nurtured and fed as part of a worshipping community. In fact, these three priorities align with the NCLS Internal Core Qualities which focus on the inner life of churches: Faith, Worship and Belonging. Do attenders have an alive and growing faith? Do they experience vital and nurturing worship and do they feel a strong and growing belonging? These 'internal' core qualities are regarded as foundational to church life. This is a reminder of the main qualities of church life that church attenders value, enjoy, and see as most central to their experience of church.

Also ranked were: Encouraging people's gifts 22%; including new people 21%; ministry to children and youth 21%; clear vision for the church 17%; growing into larger churches 16%; encouragement to share faith and living 15%; supporting social action and aid 13%; encouraging new approaches 11%; start new church or mission venture 9%; other 2%; don't know 9%

Believe or belong, which comes first?

Overall there were differences between age groups with those aged younger than 60 choosing spiritual growth as their highest priority and building community as their second choice. Those aged 60 and over gave highest priority to building community, followed by nurturing worship and third, spiritual growth.

Attenders in different denominations also varied in their priorities. Attenders in Uniting and Lutheran churches chose nurturing worship first and spiritual growth second. Catholic

attenders most commonly highlighted building community first and then spiritual growth. Attenders in Pentecostal groups strongly endorsed spiritual growth as their first priority with 'encouraging people's gifts' as their second priority.

Of interest was the lower priority given to social action and new approaches. Does this reveal an internally focussed attendership? That is one that wants to develop and grow the internal life of their church, spiritually feeding people, bringing people into the congregation and empowering them to contribute and belong. Whether that comes at a cost of losing an outward focus into the local neighbourhood is open for question.

<http://ncls.org.au/news/spiritually-hungry>

Generations X, Y and Z want to be more involved at church

Adapted from a report by R. Powell, M. Pepper, K. Jacka, & S. Sterland for National Church Life Survey (2019).



In a 2016 NCLS asked Australian churchgoers whether they were as involved as they would like to be at their local church.

The majority of each age group was happy with their current level of involvement (Builders 80%; Boomers 69%; Gen X 60%; Gen Y and Z 56%). Around 10% of each generation were unsure and 2% wanted to be less involved.

However, some 31% of Generation Z (youth/ young adults), 32% of Generation Y (young adults) and 27% of Generation X (mid-life adults) said they would like to be more involved at their local church.

This is far greater than the percentage of older age groups who expressed a desire to be more involved – Boomers just 17% and Builders 9%.

If three in ten young adult churchgoers are willing and eager to contribute more to church life, church leaders may be wise to capture this dynamic energy and enable younger attenders to contribute their gifts and skills at church.

<http://www.ncls.org.au/news/generations-xyz-more-involved-at-church>

GATEWAYS BY DAY FOR LENT

Why Indigenous Sovereignty Should Matter to Christians

by Chris Budden

During Lent, a small group met to discuss the ideas put forth in this book. Divided into three parts, the topics covered were: The Story that Sustains a Nation; Asking some Questions about Claims to Sovereignty; The Church's Story in the Midst of Colony; God, Covenant, Creation and Icon; The Promise of Salvation; Learning about Life from Jesus; and, Some Things we can do.

The ideas presented, opened us up to thinking about Sovereignty and Treaty, but we still had questions. We did not agree with everything in the book and felt that it was quite repetitive in places.

However, we became more informed about the historical background of our nation, and how the land was seized, and the consequences that have flowed from that action.

Some of us had not been aware how much our identity as white Australian or British born citizens influences our outlook. We were also challenged about how the theology of the Doctrine of Discovery influenced those who colonised this land. (This has been repudiated by the Uniting Church in the Preamble to Constitution in 2012.) We felt that some sort of Treaty with the Indigenous people is a positive and necessary step for all Australians to be able to move into the future in this country.

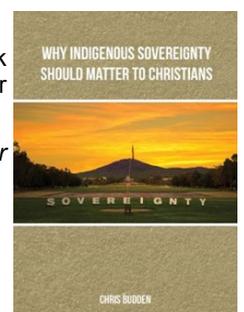
In 2017, a gathering of leaders from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander

tribes met at Uluru for a National Constitutional Convention. Together they issued "A Statement from the Heart" calling for the establishment of a First Nations Voice to be enshrined in the Australian Constitution.

This document offers a way forward and we were at a loss to understand why our current government has been so dismissive of it.

A copy of the book is in the Library for borrowing.

Christine Garner



A nap a day – Is it good or bad for you?

Adapted from an article published in the Conversation April 2019

Sometimes (often?) we feel the need to have a bit of a lie-down. It may be because of a busy day, broken sleep the night before, or for no particular reason – we just feel like a nap.

But is it good for you? The Conversation asked five experts if we should nap during the day and here are the answers.

Dr Kathleen Maddison – While there is evidence to suggest being sleepy is an early indicator of a sleep disorder or poor health, naps can be beneficial for many people. Naps reduce feelings of sleepiness and increase alertness but also improve performance in areas such as reaction time, co-ordination, logical reasoning, memory consolidation, symbol recognition, mood and emotion regulation.

There is also evidence that daytime naps may decrease blood pressure in some individuals. But there are a few caveats: 1) If you are napping to catch-up on poor quality night-time sleep then this needs to be resolved; 2) Limit the nap to ten to 30 minutes to reduce the risk of suffering from sleep inertia (feeling groggy); and 3) Avoid napping later in the day as it may prolong the time it takes to fall asleep at night.

Dr Michelle Olaithe – Napping can be very beneficial and can, in part, make up for sleep lost due to work, kids, or wild nights. Short naps can improve alertness, mood, and memory. Aim for around ten to 30 minutes to avoid a deep sleep so that it won't interfere with your night-time sleep routine.

Seven to nine hours sleep in a 24-hour cycle is essential for optimum immune and brain function, to reduce your risk of car accidents, and decrease your risk of a range of chronic health problems. Napping is an established practice in many parts of the world and when you nap, you'll be joining 51% of people around the world who enjoy a day-time siesta.

Dr Raymond Matthews – If someone asks if they should have a nap, the answer should usually be “yes”. The best countermeasure for tiredness is sleep. There are consequences however as it decreases the drive for sleep. If you need to perform well after a nap, keep it under 30 minutes. If you are not especially tired or noticing cognitive impairment, napping is not essential in daily adult life.

Dr Shona Halson – Many individuals are sleep deprived, and a chronic reduction in sleep is related to reductions in physical and mental well-being. Sleep deprivation has been linked to cardiovascular disease, diabetes, obesity, memory loss and anxiety and depression.

Using naps to ‘top up’ on sleep can be an effective means of increasing total sleep in a 24 hour period and has proven benefits for performance, efficiency, mood and alertness and can reduce fatigue and accidents. Ideally do not nap late in the day or for too long. If you get enough sleep at night, you probably won't need to nap during the day.

Dr Jennifer Zaslona – Agrees that if we are getting enough sleep at night on a regular basis there should be no need to take naps during the day. In fact there is some evidence regularly napping for more than an hour may

negatively impact on your health. However, naps can be very useful if you are unwell or your sleep has been of poor quality. This is more likely to occur for older adults or shift workers. In these cases, short naps will help boost your alertness. If you must nap the early afternoon is the best time when our internal clock provides a slightly reduced signal for alertness.

It seems that “a nap a day is really ok” but it is important to listen to your body. If you feel sleepy, it's usually because you need more sleep.

Dr Kathleen Maddison works as an academic and research officer at the Centre for Sleep Science, University of Western Australia and West Australian Sleep Disorders Research Institute, Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital

Dr Michelle Olaithe is a Research Associate, Faculty of Science, School of Psychological Science, University of Western Australia

Dr Raymond Matthews is a sleep and fatigue researcher at the University of South Australia's Behaviour-Brain-Body Research Centre.

Shona Halson is an Associate Professor in the School of Behavioural and Health Sciences at Australian Catholic University.

Dr Jennifer Zaslona is Post-doctoral Fellow at the Massey University Sleep/Wake Research Centre.



Paws for thought...

I hope they had a good time, but Anne and Bruce left us at home to look after the house and Diane while they went to China.

Almost every other time they go on holidays we go along for the ride. Don't get me wrong, it's hard work looking after Bruce, so a break was good, but it was really quiet and there wasn't much to do.

And, of course, as soon as they get home it's all about the trip. Sure they made a bit of a fuss about us when they got home, but I think that was because they felt guilty about leaving us.

Anyway they're home again, safe and sound, and I don't think they are going away again for a little while. However, I am disappointed that they brought home gifts for the grand kids, but nothing for us!

Keely



W: That's them, isn't it?

K: Just stay there. Remember, we didn't miss them!

W: But, we did!

K: I know, but, it does them good to feel a little guilty.



David John Prosser

Born in North Adelaide and christened David John Prosser, he was “John” to everyone who knew him.

The youngest of four sons, his early life was spent in North Adelaide, then briefly in Magill where he started school, but mostly in Wallaroo. The highlight of his childhood in Wallaroo was diving and swimming off the Wallaroo jetty, or scrambling over the docked sailing ships and grain ships. This cemented in him a life-long love of all things nautical.

As a teenager he worked as a grocery delivery boy, driving a horse and cart around Wallaroo – a job that was mirrored later in life when he drove a smallgoods delivery truck around regional Victoria.

As the youngest son, John watched his older brothers leave home to pursue work and during the war years, to join the Navy. While he was at home alone with his parents he became fascinated with his mother's early life in Switzerland prior to meeting and marrying his father in London. He developed a deep interest and emotional connection to the country to which he felt he belonged.

At age 16 he joined the South Australian Railways and initially trained as a fireman on steam locomotives but due to a shortage of drivers as a result of the war, he was fast-tracked to sit the exams that qualified him as a driver. At the age of 23 he was the youngest driver in the Railways and this promotion saw him transferred to Mount Gambier, where he stayed for over 40 years.

Part of the attraction of Mount Gambier was a young woman named Elva who

sang in the Methodist Church Choir. The relationship proved to be for life – starting just before Elva's 16th birthday and continuing for 70 years until his death.

As John's work in the Railways involved a lot of shift work and days away from home, he resigned to take on various jobs with the Vacuum Oil Company, Davis Brothers' and Borthwicks Smallgoods. He joined the “Mutual Hospital Association” in 1963 as its District Manager and he stayed with them until he retired.

John and Elva were both “joiners” and became heavily involved in their community through the church and groups such as the Mt Gambier Choral Society. They built 2 homes in Mt Gambier, both on very steep sloping blocks of land, so John became an expert in terracing and building retaining walls from recycled dolomite. Half the original National Bank building in Mt Gambier ended up as walls in the garden of Jardine Street.

Besides family John's other great passion was music. A gifted musician, he was able to play any instrument he chose, which included the piano accordion, banjo, euphonium and classical guitar. But his best gift was a beautiful tenor voice which he used as much as possible through his involvement with the church choir and the Choral Society. He was frequently asked to sing at weddings and concerts, but a particular love was the Choral Society's annual production of a Gilbert and Sullivan operetta. Even in the last years at the Lutheran Homes, he continued to lead the singing, sometimes conducting as well.

His talents were not confined to music and his artistic abilities saw him design stage sets and create back drops for the Choral Society's operettas, and commercial art and signage for local businesses and community groups.

Being a “Man with a Plan” he always had a project on the go. Whether it was baking the perfect loaf of bread, creating leadlight windows for the house, building furniture for the family or making toys for the grandchildren, there was always a new skill to be mastered and a problem to be resolved. It was only when he took up Yoga that he learned the art of meditation and relaxation – incorporating it into a daily routine.

Another love was photography and camping in the Flinders' Ranges, which later evolved into a pop-top caravan and spending months travelling the country – meeting new friends and catching up with old ones – and even cruises in the Pacific and to New Zealand and Bali, a place that is held dear by all the family.

The highlight of their travels was two European trips and spending time in Switzerland. John loved to wear a beanie and slippers emblazoned with the Swiss flag – gifts from his family.

In 1998 John and Elva moved to Victor Harbor and once again joined the church choir and threw themselves into the community. John joined the Victor Harbor Brass Band and became a “Telecross” volunteer at the local Meals on Wheels. Their last move was to Glynde Lodge where John gained a reputation as a bingo champion and was pretty good at bowls!

The music for John's funeral was chosen to represent various aspects of his life and his taste in music:

-The Welsh music played at the start recognised the Prosser heritage

-The hymn “Love Divine” was one that John often performed and loved

-The Swiss music that was played during the PowerPoint was a recording of a choir that John witnessed in Switzerland and also featured a piece played on an Alphorn

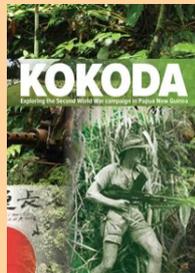
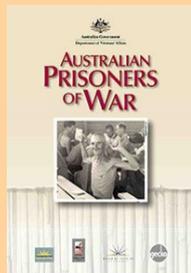
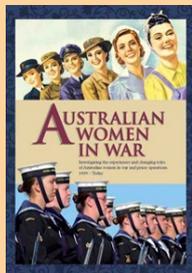
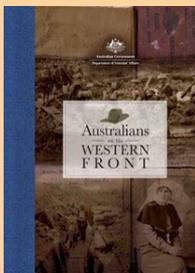
- Classical guitar music played at the end of the service represented his talent and commitment to mastering the many instruments that he played.

John will be missed deeply by his family and wide circle of friends – new and old.

The little speech he made when we met to consider calling Steve Thomson to ministry at Morialta will live on in the hearts of many. “Steve is a good minister and an even better nurse”.

John was a gregarious, creative man who was always seeking to learn ... and he could sing like no one else!

ANZAC DAY 2019



*They shall grow not old,
as we that are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them,
nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun
and in the morning
We will remember them.*

Morialta Magpie



David, Anne and Matthew performed with the Adelaide Harmony Choir on their China tour.



Bruce and Judith also travelled with the group!



Thanks to Casey for sharing her musical talents with us in worship on flute and piano!



Congratulations to Aileen on her goth birthday!



Happy 25th birthday to Katrina!



Congratulations to Barb on her goth birthday!



Happy birthday to Aileen!

Victorian women poets of WW1: Capturing the reverberations of loss

*Adapted from an article by Kevin Brophy,
University of Melbourne, published in
the Conversation April 2019*



This poem by Nettie Palmer was written in 1916 as a love song from a wife to a soldier-husband,

At morning, when white clouds like leaves drop down
Filling the hollows,
And make vast, milk-white lakes and silence follows,
There on a stump some laughing jackass clown
Stillier than wood thought all the world his own.
But all the world was ours! The birds were ours,
Because we knew them,
The trees were ours, because our love passed through them,
And every dome of cloud and all the flowers
And mountain mists that built our silent bowers.
Enough, we had been jubilant too long,
The gods have judged us,
Such vital joy their tranquil eyes begrudged us.
You fight in France: here when the thrushes throng
How can I bear alone to hear their song.



Elwyn Dunstan Penna (1928 - 2019)

Elwyn Dunstan Penna was the son of a railway worker. He was a second twin and the last of four children. Despite his humble beginnings, he succeeded academically, went to university, married a wonderful lady, and reared four children, who all went on to tertiary studies.

However, despite his achievements and successes, he remained a humble, devout and passionate man throughout his life, faithful to the end. His whole life was built on the confidence that God was made visible in creation and embodied in Jesus. He didn't use the term, but *What Would Jesus Do* was his compass for living.

Elwyn was deeply committed to servant leadership and understood that Christian faith is brave in the face of danger, strongest when it is weak, right when it is just and true when it loves beyond the barriers.

Elwyn's faith developed at a very young age and was greatly influenced by his father, Norman, who had been a Methodist Home Missionary in his younger years. He nominated for the ministry while working as a bank teller, and entered Wesley College and studied at the University of Adelaide, graduating in 1953, after completing a very happy probationary period at Black Forest and Vermont. During this time he had met a young woman named Valmay Ayles who, after a six year courtship, and lots of discussions about theology (!), became his wife and mother of his four children and later partner in ministry. (Although Valmay was very definite that congregations didn't get two

for the price of one –she was always 'a strong, supportive, and independent partner in his ministry.)

Married life began at Yacka and then proceeded on the nomadic existence of the Methodist preacher moving successively to Balaklava, West Hindmarsh, Chaplaincy at the Memorial Hospital, Port Lincoln, Westbourne Park, Brighton, and Wagga Wagga in a regional education role. They returned to South Australia and provided supply ministry at Clare during daughter Helen's illness and ended their full-time ministry at Newton and Rostrevor Uniting Churches.

Elwyn always preferred to work behind the scenes, helping others to grow while training them to carry out the work. Because of this many of his initiatives continued to thrive long after he moved on. One such initiative was the "Opp Shop" in Port Lincoln, which was a forerunner of the "Salvos" or "Vinnies" and has raised large sums for the work of the church over the years. His initiative and contribution were still remembered half a century later when he was very pleased to be invited back to the 50th anniversary.

While at Newton-Rostrevor, Elwyn played a major role in bringing together four churches to form Morialta Uniting Church. The community centre was one of his visions for Morialta UC, and his ability to recognise gifts in others led him to whisper in Lesley Tideman's ear as she entered retirement. The rest is history and Morialta Community Centre, with programs such as Lunch on Chapel, is a big part of who we are almost three decades later.

Elwyn was well suited for parish ministry, and providing pastoral care to the parishioners and their families. He helped establish Hallett Cove parish during his years at Brighton and it was here that he and Valmay found a home when they retired after Morialta. However he continued to be very active in retirement and preached until in his mid-80s. He was a Minister-in-Association at Malvern; supported the minister in Port Lincoln on several occasions; and provided adult fellowship and bible-study leadership until the last couple of years.

His attitudes on social issues were firmly based on a sense of justice. He was an avid reader of current affairs articles and books, as well as religious and devotional books and papers. Long before the World Methodist Conference declared racism a sin, Elwyn confronted the League of Rights and supported the dignity, rights and recognition of Australia's First People. He marched against Vietnam and importantly he was active in energising others to take up social justice issues. He played a significant role in developing an emphasis on social justice in the formative years of Morialta UC that has continued. One of the stories he told was about how he organised the Ministers' Fraternal at Port Lincoln to write to the Prime Minister in 1967 to raise concerns about the unemployment rate hitting 3%. At the time he told us the story (1993); unemployment was over 10%. To the end, whenever Elwyn met friends, colleagues and family, he was keen to discuss current affairs and issues that concerned him, and encourage us to action.

Although he was a very deep and serious thinker, he had a great sense of humour. He could always laugh at himself. Even when his son John had coffee with him a couple of weeks before his death, and despite being barely able to breathe, he was still joking with the staff and passers-by in the foyer of Resthaven.

He could also be a stickler for what he liked. As daughter Rosemary shared with us – his coffee was "a flat white, no froth". If it had froth it was returned.

Elwyn was much loved by all those who walked with him on his life's journey, as well as those who cared for him in his final months. We were all so much the richer for our meeting.

Thanks Elwyn for the continued encouragement, the care and understanding, the compassion and love, and the humour and sense of well-being that you brought to so many of us.

*Adapted from eulogies by his children
John, Rosemary and Brian
with contributions by
Chris and Pam Ayles and the Editor*

Compassion

My work is about working out how to live in this world, it's about compassion and empathy but also anger and resistance.

Through it I hope to push compassion to the front of national debate.

Ben Quilty, Australian artist

Certainty

One of the painful things about our time is that those who feel certainty are stupid, and those with any imagination and understanding are filled with doubt and indecision.

Bertrand Russell (1872–1970)

Found in a French Church

When you enter this church, it may be possible that you hear the "call of God."

However, it is unlikely that he will call you on your mobile – thank you for switching off your phone.

If you want to talk to God – enter, choose a quiet place and talk to him.

If you want to see him – send a text message while driving!

Submitted by Jill Thompson

WELCOME TO THE MORIALTA UNITING CHURCH COMMUNITY LIBRARY HUB

How to explain the power of a book to lift, transform, delight and excite?

*(Readers describing what books mean to them)
From the Sydney Morning Herald*

Dear Person Reading This,

A writer can fit a whole world inside a book. Really. You can go there. You can learn things while you are away. You can bring them back to the world you normally live in. You can look out of another person's eyes, think their thoughts, care about what they care about. You can fly. You can travel to the stars. You can be a monster or a wizard or a god. You can be a girl. You can be a boy. Books give you worlds of infinite possibility. All you have to do is be interested enough to read that first page...

Somewhere, there is a book written just for you. It will fit your mind like a glove fits your hand. And it's waiting.

Go and look for it.

Neil Gaiman

Neil Gaiman is an English author of prose, poetry, film, comics, song lyrics and drama.

Dear Reader,

We wouldn't need books quite so much if everyone around us understood us well. But they don't. Even those who love us get us wrong. They tell us who we are, but miss things out. They claim to know what we need, but forget to ask us properly first. They can't understand what we feel - and sometimes, we're unable to tell them, because we don't really understand it ourselves. That's where books come in. They explain us to ourselves and to others, and make us feel less strange, less isolated and less alone. We might have lots of good friends, but even with the best friends in the world there are things that no one quite gets. That's the moment to turn to books. They are friends waiting for us any time we want them, and they will always speak honestly to us about what really matters. They are the perfect cure for loneliness. They can be our very closest friends.

Yours,

Alain

Alain de Botton is a Swiss-born, London-based author of more than 15 books and is a founder member of The School of Life, devoted to emotional education with branches in 10 countries.

take our survey



Launching a survey about the future of Morialta's library

You can now have your say about the future of our library! From 1 May till 5 June, a survey will be available for you to complete – on paper, online, or via a face-to-face meeting.

You will have read in the February *Vision* about interim plans for keeping the library functioning in caretaker mode, and the help we have received from Burnside Library through the regular gifting of surplus books to Morialta. Church Council is now conducting a review to determine what will happen next – and the survey will provide us with information about the views of the congregation and other users of the library.

How can you complete the survey?

- Collect a paper copy of the survey from the table in the foyer on Sundays, or from the office or the library table during the week; fill it in at your leisure and return to the labelled box on the office ledge.

OR

- Access and complete the survey online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GBZGWJC> - or follow the direct link from the Morialta website.

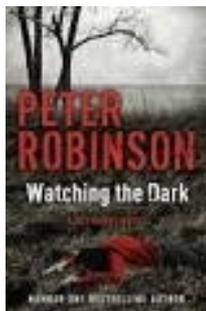
OR

- Make an appointment to fill in the survey with a member of the review team – phone Margaret on 0439 954814.

What is the due date? Please return your completed survey by 3:00 pm on **Wednesday 5 June**.

Margaret Cargill and Helen Drew (the library review team)

BOOK REVIEWS

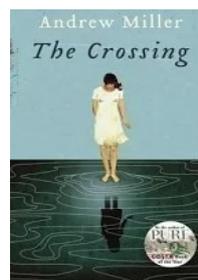


Watching the Dark by Peter Robinson

Another book in this series featuring DCI Alan Banks by this best-selling British crime writer.

It is classic Robinson – a well devised plot complicated by deftly drawn characters. If you are already a devotee, enjoy! If you are meeting Alan Banks for the first time, you will be drawn into his world of well told crime investigation.

Reviewed by Jill Kerr



The Crossing by Andrew Miller

Andrew Miller is a well-known author, and has won several literary awards for his writing over the years.

This rather hypnotic novel is about Maud, a magnetic, yet inscrutable young woman who meets Tim. As a daughter, girlfriend and mother she defies expectations and evades explanation to family and friends in her life.

Then in the wake of tragedy, she embarks alone on a dangerous boat voyage across the Atlantic, not knowing where it will lead her.

Andrew Miller writes beautifully with a “poet’s ear”, and I found this story as magnetic and intriguing as the character Maud.

Reviewed by Jill Kerr

The Meaning of Easter?

That every hill has a cross on it?
 That every garden is a tomb?
 That every dawn is a rising?
 That no word spoken is ever truly lost?
 That every life ends and goes on?
 That even corroded hopes can be polished fine again?
 That life can find a way even through great horror?
 That even the feeblest song can have new verses written?
 That poems said in the day can be remembered in the night?
 That no damage can finally undo everything?
 That bonds forged in hopefulness are not so easily broken?
 That stories have each their own life and power?
 That every end is also a beginning?
 That love always finds a way?
 That living and dying are dying and living?
 That life goes on past even the darkest day?
 That death kills nothing in the end?

*Paul Turley
 (Minister at Clayton Wesley UC)*



Diary Dates

Sunday 5 May 5.50pm	SP@CE Curated worship
Saturday 11 May 8.30am onwards	Working Bee
Sunday 12 May	Mothers' Day
Thursday 16 May	Fellowship Packing Day Talk
Sunday 19 May 11.00am	Pastoral Partners Seminar
Sunday 26 May 5.00pm	Pot Luck Tea
Tuesday 28 May 7.30pm	Church Council Meeting
Thursday 30 May	Fellowship Bonus
Sunday 2 June 10.45am	Meeting of Congregation
Sunday 2 June 5.50pm	SP@CE Curated worship
Monday 10 June	Queen's Birthday Holiday
Sunday 30 June 5.00pm	Pot Luck Tea

Acknowledgements

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Living Streams ~ Giving Life



**Deadline
 for the next Edition**

1 June

To discuss ideas for Vision articles contact the editor, Colin Cargill