



# Morialta Vision

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## From our Minister...

"The Uniting Church in Australia commits itself to the special relationship of Covenant with God and one another, that First and Second Peoples are called into together. It is in this God-inspired relationship that healing and sacred kinship may become possible. The Uniting Church in Australia recognises the deep desire of many Australians to move towards reconciled relationships between the First and Second Peoples of this land. In the act of Covenanting, Uniting Church members, both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and later-comers, share stories and hospitality, brought together to be one body around the table of Jesus Christ." <https://sa.uca.org.au/covenanting/>

And so as this edition of *Vision* comes out around NAIDOC Week, I take the opportunity to offer explanation around the use and meaning of what is called the Acknowledgement of Land. At many civic, cultural and church events one will often hear, at the commencement of the event, an Acknowledgement of Land. At Morialta Uniting Church, we have that statement on our web site ([morialtauca.org.au/](http://morialtauca.org.au/)), printed on our weekly newsletter and include different verbal versions in worship and at meetings. At times I am asked why do we say this and what does it mean? To answer those questions, I refer to the **Australians Together** web site for an explanation. I believe it to be important to have some understanding of the Acknowledgement of Land particularly around this time as we as a society acknowledge and celebrate NAIDOC week.

It is also important to remember that the Uniting Church in South Australia, in 2006, agreed to establish **Reconciliation Sunday** in **Reconciliation Week** (27 May to 3 June) annually, to be celebrated across the church, and request Church Councils to include this day in their worship calendars. In this way we can engage in a pathway toward Reconciliation. Acknowledging Land is also one way to be reminded of the Uniting Church's covenant relationship with the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (UAICC).

I invite you to take the time to read the following, which is taken from the

*Australians Together* website, which offers a wide range of information and stories, including suggestions on how community groups and churches can engage, share, listen and learn together as pathways towards Reconciliation.

*Although the practice of acknowledging the Traditional Custodians of land and seeking their permission to enter their territory has only recently begun to re-emerge in modern Australia, it's an ancient custom of great significance to many Indigenous people. While some people may see Acknowledgement and Welcome to Country as recent practices invented for the sake of political correctness, or an empty token gesture, Wurundjeri Elder, Joy Murphy Wandin, describes it as "a very important way of giving Aboriginal people back their place in society, and an opportunity for us to say, 'We are real, we are here, and today we welcome you to our land'... It's paying respect, in a formal sense, and following traditional custom in a symbolic way."*

Understanding what Acknowledgement of Country and Welcome to Country are, and their history and origins, can help us recognise the importance and power of continuing these practices in the modern Australian context.

I invite you to visit the web site <https://australiansitogether.org.au/> and take time to look around, opening up links and boxes and exploring that which is important in our nation's history and future.

And finally Professor Mick Dodson (on this web site) offers us helpful insights and explanations to the term 'Country'. He says "When we talk about traditional 'Country'... we mean something beyond the dictionary definition of the word. For Aboriginal Australians... we might mean homeland, or tribal or clan area and we might mean more than just a place on the map. For us, Country is a word for all the values, places, resources, stories and cultural obligations associated with that area and its features. It describes the entirety of our ancestral domains."

Rev Bob

## Chairperson Writes ...

Warm greetings to all in the Morialta community, and welcome to this first winter issue of *Vision*! Those of us who gather physically at Chapel St have been enjoying the effectiveness of the heaters in the hall, as well as the warmth of the welcome and fellowship, at worship and at so many other events and activities. Lots has been going on!



Morialta is part of the Synod Communications team's campaign *More Than Just Sunday* – very apt for us! A delightful team came recently to video our Wednesday activities and do some

interviews – we look forward to sharing the results with you soon, and erecting a sign to let passers-by know too.

Our ethos of openness and inclusivity was re-emphasised at our Congregation Meeting early in June, where (at least) two important things happened. We voted overwhelmingly to stay with the UCA's normal way of operating and join the Transitional Presbytery of SA when it is formed at the upcoming Synod/Presbytery meeting on 28-29 June. (If you missed the meeting and would like more information, please see the website and/or be in touch!) We also engaged in ongoing discussion about Morialta's future mission priorities, looking more deeply at the second of the two scenarios we have been considering: A Magill Village Community Centre Hub, actively welcoming folk across cultures and age-groups, and offering a range of programs, including worship. Feedback from table groups was consistently positive, and several valuable ideas for fleshing out the scenario were offered. A small group will be convened to gather ideas and take the discussion further.

Also at the meeting we affirmed with acclamation the news that our minister, Bob Hutchinson, is one of three candidates for election, at the upcoming Synod/Presbytery meeting, as Moderator of the Uniting Church in SA. We support Bob wholeheartedly as the discernment process proceeds.

A particularly important aspect of our community life together at Morialta is pastoral care. Church Council has initiated a review of current practice in pastoral care and potential developments for the future. The review team (Mary Thornley, Judith Purling and me) is keen that everyone will have input into the review process, as pastoral care affects us all. We have developed questionnaires for congregation members and for Pastoral Partners, and these will be distributed soon – see a separate article on the topic for more details. And speaking of surveys – the library survey has closed, and the data is being combined with findings from interviews and document searches. A report will be ready for Church Council soon.

I need to report another impending time away for me – from 29 June to 22 July – teaching in central China. I will be in email contact! So - 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 email until 22 July, or by phone, email or in person thereafter. I look forward to hearing from you!

**Margaret Cargill**  
0439 954814

[margaret.cargill@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:margaret.cargill@adelaide.edu.au)

## New Solar Panels



As of 2.15pm on Monday 17th June the 58 new solar panels on the roof of the hall have been producing power for our use. A few days later the new meter was installed and we started to get paid for the energy we were

producing. The total cost is just under \$18,000 of which a little over \$6,000 is covered by a Commonwealth Government grant. Given our history of electricity use, Solarspot, the supplier and installer, estimate that cost should be recouped in four years.

The Property Team thanks those who have, for a long time now, persisted in their advocacy of this purchase. At last the technology has enabled us to move beyond the causes that have previously blocked this move. It will be an asset that immediately reduces our running costs and subsequently saves us even more. It is also good to know that we are reducing our reliance on fossil fuels.

On behalf of the Property Team I thank all who have contributed in some way to this achievement.

Chris Ayles



## THANK YOU!

Many thanks to all who generously donated warm blankets for those in need, passed on to Uniting Care for distribution, and a huge pile of various goods for Packing Day.





## Pastoral Care at Morialta: A Review is planned

Pastoral Care within our community is a very important component in the life of the church. There is a need to be loved and to belong, and the gift of time is immeasurable. Recently about 30 people met to discuss Pastoral Care here at Morialta. The general feeling was that we all do that well, but perhaps some people are missing out.

Church Council has decided that we should review the present situation and give thought to the future. To that end we will invite everyone to have input.

Survey forms will be distributed to you from 7 July, and we would very much appreciate your frank feedback by 4 August. The replies will be anonymous.

There will also be opportunities to have a chat with Margaret Cargill, Judith Purling and Mary Thornley (the review team) about any matter relating to Pastoral Care. We very much hope that everyone will participate!

*Margaret Cargill, Mary Thornley  
and Judith Purling*

## Making Morialta even more welcoming!

The excellent signage on the street front has been a good start to making people welcome, but there is yet more that might be possible, to help make visitors and newcomers feel that warm Morialta welcome.

Have you considered;

- Waving to people as they enter the property in their cars,
- Parking a little further away from the front door to leave car parking spaces closer to the entrance,
- Introducing yourself to people you may not recognise,
- Sitting further to the front to leave space for people who might arrive late,
- Opening up the 'conversation circle' to include others as they pass by,
- Inviting visitors and new-comers to join you for the time of fellowship in the hall,
- Inviting visitors and new-comers home to your place for lunch or out for a coffee?

There is nothing new in these suggestions and many of you may be doing some, or all of the suggested actions, but if you feel comfortable, please consider taking up this challenge.

If you would like to make other suggestions, or have questions or concerns, please talk to me.

*Bruce Ind for the Pastoral Care Team*

## Quilts, our loving gift of Pastoral Care

A book of photos of the 27 quilts given to members of our community has been displayed in the MUC library.



Quilts have been given to Rev Kyle Walters, to Rev Alan Biglow and to Rev Steve Thompson as well as all the people who have moved to nursing homes.

Our thanks go to Judith for her extensive quilting, to David for his photography and to those who have helped to deliver quilts. Thanks also to all who have taken the time to sign your caring thoughts on the quilts before they have been delivered. May the recipients cuddle in their quilts and know they are not forgotten for the various ways they have contributed to our Morialta family, and feel surrounded by not only ours, but the love of Christ.

We have begun a new book, starting with Boronia Bennier, and both books are displayed in the library for your interest. They are well worth looking at.

*Joan Wagner*



*Boronia Bennier was recently presented with a quilt, signed by friends at Morialta, when she moved into a nursing home.*

## Being the Stranger

We can be very good at identifying the other as stranger and being welcoming, but less good at remembering that sometimes we are the stranger, which means relinquishing control and humbling ourselves. If we could learn to sit in either role it would significantly shift power structures in our relationships. As host, Jesus gathered people, made them welcome, served them and restored dignity to outcasts. As stranger, he relinquished all status and offered himself to others.

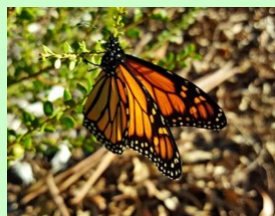
To embrace the role of stranger is to embrace ambiguity, uncertainty, surrender and vulnerability. The receiver becomes a giver as the outsider is encountered and embraced. From the moment of his birth, Jesus was a

stranger: the homeless child of homeless parents, living at the margins of civilised society and dying in disgrace outside the city walls. His own community neither recognised nor received him, but outsiders did. Perhaps that is the challenge of discipleship; to encounter boundaries of discrimination and to attempt to erase them by graciousness, vulnerability, hospitality and compassion.

It is not enough to simply welcome 'the other' into our world if we remain at the centre. We are called also to leave our own comfort and place ourselves at the edge of other people's world, to become strangers ourselves – otherwise we risk becoming gatekeepers rather than disciples who risk encounters...

*Richard Rohr – Trinity: MIA May 5, 2019*

## Butterflies and Happiness



I took this photo on my phone as I was walking in Lochiel Park. Well actually I went to get a photo and the butterfly fluttered off. I saw where it landed and moved to the spot with extreme caution and great stealth, as I didn't want to lose sight of this beauty. I was

then able to get quite close and used my phone to "capture" it! As I admired it and got ready to click the shutter, I remembered something I had heard years ago. It was on a recording by Dr Murray Banks, a Psychologist, giving a talk on the subject of **Happiness**, subtitled "What to do until the psychiatrist comes". I looked up the Internet to get the exact wording, and this is it.

"Happiness is just like chasing a butterfly. The more you chase it and chase it and chase it directly, then it will always just elude you. But if you sit down quietly, turn your thoughts to other things, then the butterfly will come, and softly sit on your shoulder."

David Purling

## The Birth of a Monarch Butterfly



My friend and class mate from university, Elizabeth Spanner, took these photos to show a monarch butterfly forming as a pupa and then hatching and crawling onto her hand.

The Editor

## Happy 70<sup>th</sup> to Morialta Netball Club

*Adapted from a speech by Jude Johnson*

The Morialta Netball Club – previously Newton Netball Club and before that Newton Basketball Club – celebrated 70 years on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2019 at a Gala Evening attended by almost 100 friends, fans and players. The evening was organised by the Gala committee made up of Katie Dansie, Emily Johnson, Lee Tremonte and Karyn Leicester and the MUNC Sponsorship Committee.

In an emotional speech of welcome Jude Johnson reflected on the many successes of the Club down the years. Even in their first season as the Newton Basketball Club, they won a premiership and now with 21 teams they are still winning premierships. Whilst Jude doesn't remember playing on the dirt courts with ditch lines, she does remember the time before coloured surfaces, when falling over meant pulling the stones and the grit out of your knees for the next week and there was no such thing as a blood rule. "When the coloured surfaces came in, we didn't get a contractor to do the work, we painted them ourselves." Back then home matches had a single umpire and they had to be fit – with eyes in the back of their heads. Newton umpires were protected and mentored by Heather Vincent, just as they are by Graham Vincent today.

For Jude it was also the friendships. "These are the girls that become bridesmaids at our weddings, godparents of our children and say the eulogies at our funerals, (hopefully a long time from now). We laugh together, cry together and talk netball together, every single day."

But it is more than the players - the Club has been lucky to have so many awesome families who stand in the freezing cold and the pouring rain, for scoring, timing, cheering, cooking the BBQ, running the canteen and for making sure that children get to training or the games on time. At

present there are 9 club families whose involvement spans 2 generations and 2 families who stretch across 3 generations.

The Morialta Netball family celebrates successes and achievements – graduations, engagements, weddings, babies – and we share the happy times and the sad ones too. We do remember those that are no longer with us, in particular our life members Bill Marwick, Gwenda Dansie (Mrs D) and Rusty Palmer – their legacies continue.

Former committee members and Life Members Graham Vincent, Helen Kreig, and Ray Clogg were also honoured for their services. Graham, after 20+ years as Chairman of the club, returned to the committee when he was needed, and at the age of 80, (almost), is still umpiring and mentoring junior umpires.

And lastly, there is the continued support from the church. Whether we were Newton, or now Morialta, the church has always been there to support us. To guide us when we need it, provide a safe place for us to train and play, and to embrace our achievements. We thank our church members for being here tonight, especially our President, Margaret Cargill.

Tonight, we celebrate 70 years of Newton/Morialta netball. I look back on how far we have come and I can't wait to see what the future holds.





## Vale Keely (21 November 2003 - 25 May 2019)

Closer than a shadow for much of that time, Keely was a constant part of my life for almost 14 years.

From Perth to Sydney, Darwin and Broome to the Overland Track in Tasmania as well as Kangaroo Island and all over SA, Keely gave me confidence and filled a role that cannot really be described, as she guided me around many obstacles.

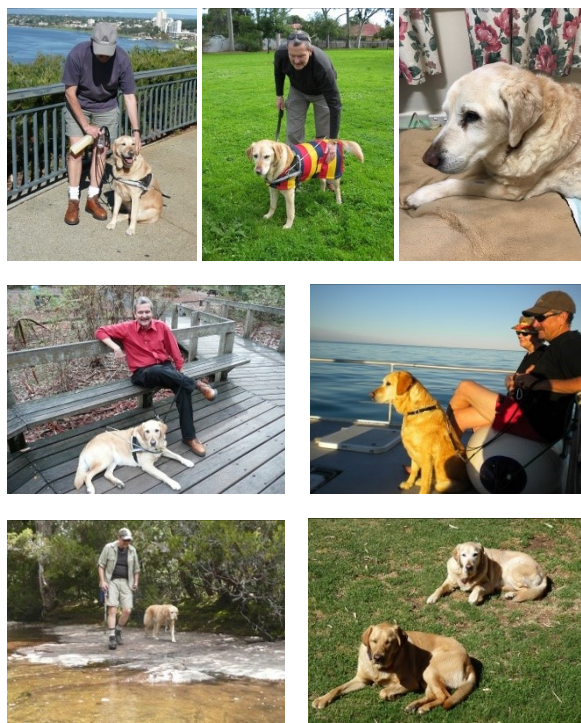
Keely's cheeky personality touched many people. She was tenaciously able to stick to her task of keeping me safe while providing companionship to me and many others who crossed her path.

Her 'Paws for Thought' items in Morialta Vision chronicled her many attempts to keep me on the straight and narrow.

Keely was much more than a dog, she was a friend and confidante. We all miss her.

Bruce Ind

**And we all say "Amen" to that - Ed**



## Volunteers

*Cynthia Story reminisces after hearing Rev Bob speak on Volunteering Sunday*

As I listened, my mind naturally went back over the years of my life that I spent volunteering.

The longest period was my time helping out in the Morialta church office, eventually doing the Church Newsletter on my own, posting it to the church website each Friday. I always loved writing and words, typing and the outreach which evolved.

In 1992, so many years past now, a grand new foyer was to be built linking the front of the church with the hall. Two large rooms were planned for office space, one opening onto the foyer. Previously, office work had been done in the smallest of imagined spaces off the old hall foyer.

When I began my stint as a volunteer office helper, and so began 25 years of building friendships and investigating difficulties, the office was completely transient as the building works progressed – with the desks, computer and ageing photocopier (I had fortunately missed the age of Gestetner copiers) squeezed into 2 tiny rooms in the vicinity of the hall kitchen, to start off with.

With the accompaniment of workmen, it was soon time for us to take our place in the old Sunday School rooms. I do remember that the walls seemed always ready to collapse

on us while we worked. We still battled with the ancient photocopier. I became proficient in setting out booklets to be printed for studies, getting the pages in the right order, the right way up.

As summer came around, we might not have survived but for the loan of an evaporative air conditioner loaned from the Howlands next door. There were some extremely hot days! But I also remember the roof leaking through the winter, and dodging appropriate buckets around the floor. Cold winds blew through tiny holes in the walls – we did a lot of laughing in those months!

Eventually the workmen finished, and the glory of the new foyer and offices was revealed. It seemed very luxurious! For many years, my Thursday and Friday mornings were spent working in this environment, I was patiently taught how to prepare the Newsletter on the computer, set out the notices as they arrived, making a complete picture of life at Morialta for the week to come.

Besides learning office skills, I got to know people who worked at different positions in the church, and how such an organisation works. Most importantly, I felt useful and fulfilled, without the pressure I had felt in regular employment.

I was doing what I loved, it was not an effort. A contribution, yes, but I was the winner!



## Stamps Needed for Sally Stamp

Thanks to those who regularly donate stamps – please keep doing so, and encourage your friends to as well!



At Morialta, you can place stamps in the box opposite the entry to the kitchen.

Proceeds go to South Pacific School Aid Inc. to purchase containers of books to send overseas. Stamp Collections that are no longer needed are particularly welcome.

Doug Hosking (8336 6010)

## A Letter from Act for Peace

On Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> March, mosques in Christchurch were filled with people who gathered for Friday prayers. They were fathers, mothers, grand-parents, daughters and sons. Each and every one of them should have returned home safe to their families. Instead, 50 people attended their last prayer.

This terrible crime on people of faith is an attack on all believers who seek to worship in safety and peace. It is also an assault on our shared humanity and our collective community is in mourning.

I'm sure many of you have been praying for those affected, particularly the victims and their families.

In the words of Jacinda Ardern *"We represent diversity, kindness, compassion. A home for those who share our values. Refuge for those who need it."*

At the heart of what happened in Christchurch is fear, intolerance and bigotry. We cannot pretend that hate speech and racism, which is becoming more normalised in our politics and in our society, has nothing to do with this attack in New Zealand.

But hate is not who we are. There may be a lot of anger in this world, but there is a lot more love. To all those who feel helpless right now: you are not powerless.

Each of us can help stop the spread of bigotry and fear. We do that by standing together, acting with integrity and compassion, and using our voice in a way that reflects those values.

Survivors of this attack have come out with messages of love for their country and fellow Kiwis. In the midst of what they're going through - the pain, loss and turmoil - their courage is incredibly inspiring.

I believe it is now our responsibility to follow their lead. So, I invite you to be brave and be active. Ask yourself, "How can I help promote understanding and unity?"

We can each play a part in stopping things like this from happening again.



We need to lead by example in our own communities. We know that most anti-immigration and anti-refugee sentiment stems from a fear of 'the other'. But by talking about the things and values we have in common - and not the things that make us different - we can help to shift people's negative attitudes.

The Asylum Seeker Resource Centre has commissioned in-depth research which can help us all to have better discussions around these issues in a way that persuades, rather than polarises. Getting on the #RightTrack is up to all of us! You can read more at <https://www.asrc.org.au/>

We also need our leaders to show moral courage, condemn hate speech and refuse to normalise racism. Urge your local MP to stand for justice, equality and fairness.

It takes all of us to say hate has no home here. Let's say it together.

Ben Littlejohn

## Persecution and disagreement - who are the persecuted?

Compiled by the Editor

Down the ages persecution has seen many minorities treated cruelly and made the victims of hate and dispossession. However, as British New Testament theologian Candida Moss points out, sometimes the language of persecution can be used by one party to gain advantage in situations of disagreement. It then has the

effect of casting those claiming persecution as saintly, and the other party as evil, which limits the prospects of moving forward.

It is a strategy that tends to be used among religious groups when they find they are in a minority over a theological or social issue. By claiming to be persecuted, those who hold a different view become the persecutors and may even go to greater lengths to reach consensus, but this seldom leads to consensus or resolution.

## Closing the Gap - Three steps forward and one step backwards

Adapted from *Australians for Native Title and Reconciliation*

The long and short of the latest Prime Minister's "Closing the Gap" Report suggests that we have gone backwards on closing the gap in the last 12 months. One year ago, as a nation, we were on track in 3 out of the 7 targets.

This year there are now only 2 targets that can be considered on track - efforts to close the gap in early childhood education and Year 12 attainment seem to be on track but sadly, child mortality has once again slipped.

Frustratingly, after 11 years of closing the gap only two of the seven priority targets are on track. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are still at far greater risk of being incarcerated, experiencing family violence, and living with significantly reduced education and work opportunities.

Hopefully the game-changing efforts to form a genuine partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders, to determine how to fix this national strategy, will bear fruit.





## The Courage to Walk Together: Reconciliation Week Message

The President of the Uniting Church in Australia, Dr Deidre Palmer and President of the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress, Rev. Garry Dronfield, have encouraged Uniting Church congregations to work more closely with First Peoples in a joint message for Reconciliation Week.

"This week is a time for us to reflect on what reconciliation means for us as Australians and as members of the Uniting Church in a Covenant relationship as First and Second Peoples.

"This week is about our hopes – about the vision which will shape our lives together as First and Second Peoples."

The theme for this Reconciliation Week was **"Grounded in Truth - Walk Together with Courage"**.

Relationships are the key to successful reconciliation between First and Second Peoples.

"Getting around the campfire together and yarning up – that's the best way to understand each other's perspectives," said Rev. Dronfield.

"Whatever the conversation - about covenanting, sovereignty or anything else - it all comes down to relationships."

"The first step for many people, still, is to summon the courage to talk with us and to walk together."

In 2018, after extended conversations between Church leaders and the UAICC, the Church's 15th Assembly resolved to affirm Australia's First Peoples as sovereign peoples of Australia, acknowledging their spiritual connection to the land as expressed in the Statement from the Heart.

"The work of reconciliation includes a recognition of the truth of our history in Australia," said Dr Palmer.

"We acknowledge the dispossession and cultural devastation that came with the arrival of the colonisers and the ongoing pain and trauma that this has caused."

"The UCA's Covenanting Process includes our past, present and future. We are called to reflect on our past, live justly in reconciled relationships in our present, look to and begin to embody a shared future."

Reconciliation Week runs from 27 May to 3 June, spanning the anniversaries of the 1967 referendum and the High Court Mabo decision in 1993.

For more information and resources, see:

<https://assembly.uca.org.au/resources/covenanting>

<https://www.reconciliation.org.au/national-reconciliation-week/>



## NAIDOC WEEK 7 - 14 July 2019 Indigenous voices - are we listening?

Indigenous voices were the first words spoken on this continent over 65,000 years ago. They were the languages that passed down lore, culture and knowledge for many millennia.

It's that Indigenous voice that includes know-how, practices, skills and innovations - found in a wide variety of contexts, such as agricultural, scientific, technical, ecological and medicinal fields, as well as biodiversity-related knowledge. They are words connecting to country – giving an understanding of country – by a people who are the oldest continuing culture on the planet.

And with 2019 being celebrated as the United Nations International Year of Indigenous Languages, it's time for our knowledge to be heard through our voice.

**Voice. Treaty. Truth.** were three key elements to the reforms set out in the *Uluru Statement from the Heart*. These reforms represent the unified position of First Nations Australians.

The Statement was built on generations of consultation and discussions among Indigenous people on a range of issues and grievances. It specifically sequenced a set of reforms:

- a First Nations Voice to Parliament enshrined in the Constitution
- a Makarrata Commission to supervise treaty processes and truth-telling.

*Makarrata is a word from the language of the Yolngu people in Arnhem Land. The Yolngu concept of Makarrata captures the idea of two parties coming together after a struggle, healing the divisions of the past. It is about acknowledging that something has been done wrong, and it seeks to make things right.*

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people want their voice to be heard. Indigenous people have always wanted an enhanced role in decision-making in Australia's democracy but Indigenous voices were excluded from the Constitutional convention debates of the 1800's.

There were no treaties, no formal settlements, no compacts. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people did not cede sovereignty of their land. It was taken away and that will remain a continuing source of dispute.

**Australia is one of the few liberal democracies around the world which still does not have a treaty or treaties or some other kind of formal acknowledgement or arrangement with its Indigenous people. Critically, treaties are inseparable from Truth.**

Australian history does not begin in 1788, it began 65,000 years ago – it is the history of all of us, of all of Australia, and we need to own it. Then we can move forward together.

**We need to walk and work together for a better and shared future.**

## Future of Magill Inter-church Council (MIC)

In late February, the Magill Inter-church Council met with the chairpersons and secretaries of the active member churches to decide the future of the MIC. After considerable discussion three proposals were accepted by the meeting.

**Ecumenical services** – rather than have special ecumenical services, it was agreed that individual churches will invite members of the other churches to special services that they hold during the year, or to special celebrations. These would include church anniversaries, special services during Lent or Advent, or services featuring a special event or special occasion.

**Pastoral Care Workers (PCWs)** – it was agreed that the PCWs will still need pastoral support and extra financial support from local churches for special programs, as well as counselling and in-service training. After further discussion the following proposals were accepted:

- That the clergy (including retired clergy) from each church be invited to meet regularly each quarter. The PCWs will be invited to join over coffee for the last 30 minutes to share concerns, plans and dreams. This group will respond to prayer requests from the PCWs.
- Volunteers will also be sought from churches to provide HR support for PCWs as required, and to assist PCWs in maintaining links with the 5 churches in the MIC. This group will also maintain links with the Schools Ministry Group (SMG). Morning teas will be put on hold for the present.

**Finances** – Financial support for the PCWs was considered important and needs to be formalised. However, it was agreed that the group managing fund raising and financial support will not require a member from every church but that a team of 3 or 4 people, with one member acting as treasurer, is all that is necessary. The group will report quarterly to the chairperson of each parish council or church council, and will also facilitate financial support for PCWs as requested by the Pastoral support team for PCWs.

## Change of Pastoral Care Workers at Norwood Morialta High School

In December 2018 we said farewell to Daniel del Pilar, who had been our PCW at NMHS for over 3 years. The members of MIC affirmed their love and support for Daniel and our gratitude for his dedication to helping students at NMHS and his support for local churches. We also wished him success and many blessings in his new direction as he returned to full-time study and to pursue a career in youth ministry,

Daniel has been replaced by James Dunn who was previously a PCW at Unley High School. James holds a Diploma in Youth Work from TAFE SA and has had several years of retail experience before becoming a PCW. He attends Rostrevor Baptist Church. He is an avid pop-culture fan and has worked in both Comic Books and Video Games, which has helped shape how he interacts with students. He is a budding drummer and could be enticed to add to the music of local churches for special occasions.

We welcome James and look forward to him attending Morialta UC during second term to share his vision for his ministry at NMHS.

## Gateways

**Gateways** meets regularly on the second Friday of each month, at 7.30pm. The group explores questions about life, faith, ideas, creation, spirituality, science and many other topics such as prayer. The atmosphere is always friendly and supportive and no question is out of order.

In the words of Margaret Wheatly - *This is a world of wonder and not knowing, ... In this realm, there is a new kind of freedom, where it is more rewarding to explore than to reach conclusions, more satisfying to wonder than to know, and more exciting to search than to stay put. ... Curiosity, not certainty, becomes the saving grace.*<sup>1</sup>

Discussion at Gateways is based around books and videos that challenge our thinking – selected by a small committee.

The next book that we will read and discuss is **“The Great Spiritual Migration** - *How the World's Largest*

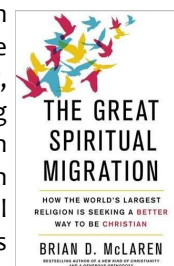
*Religion is Seeking a Better Way to Be Christian”* by Brian D. McLaren.

Brian McLaren is an internationally acclaimed speaker and an outspoken advocate for 'a new kind of Christianity'. Named one of *Time* magazine's 25 most influential Evangelical Christians, McLaren was a pastor for over 20 years. He is a frequent guest on radio and television programmes, and an in-demand blogger on faith and public policy.

### A short review of “The Great Spiritual Migration”

Many people experience Christianity as a system of belief, focused on an exclusive Supreme Being who favours some and rejects others, and is defended by a set of change-averse, self-protecting institutions. In *The Great Spiritual Migration*, Brian McLaren proposes that this conventional understanding of Christianity is ripe for a conversion: from system of belief to

way of life, from exclusive Supreme Being to the loving, healing, reconciling Spirit embodied in Jesus, and from an organised institutional religion that supports an unjust status quo to an organising movement-building religion that helps a better world to be born. Drawing from his work as a pastor, speaker, ecumenical networker and activist, McLaren issues a call and offers a plan for radical change that can shift the direction of Christian faith to be more in sync with its founder, more life-giving for individual Christians and congregations - and more of a life-giving resource for the whole world.



<sup>1</sup>Margaret Wheatley (2006), *Leadership and the New Science: Discovering Order in a Chaotic World*



## A Pastoral Prayer

Contributed by David McKirdy, with help from Andrew Dutney, Gretta Vosper & the West Hill United Church, Ontario

NOTE: David starts each prayer with an introduction to how his prayer came to be.

It was ten years ago that I read Andrew Dutney's book *Food, Sex and Death: A Personal Account of Christianity* in which he describes the shattering experience he and his wife went through as they watched their baby son die shortly after his birth. In it he has some things to say about prayer and praying that I found very helpful. By way of introduction to our prayers for others, then, I invite you to listen to Andrew's words as he reflects on what it is that we do when we pray.

"The common perception of prayer in the modern church has been to regard it as a *productive* art; a way of intervening in unpromising circumstances. Make it rain! Remove this cancer! Convert the heathen! Such invocations of God's supernatural power over nature are common .... and .... commonly misguided." Why misguided? Because "such prayers mistakenly suppose that God has power over us and our circumstances .... [They] mistakenly ignore the reality that God is the power already active within us and our circumstances."

"Prayer .... is best understood as a cooperative art, arising from a spirituality of connection. Praying .... is an active, passionate cooperation with God as the power-from-within which is dynamically present in us and the living community of which we are [part]."

Acknowledging that God is the power for good already active within us, let us now join together in thought and focus on the needs of others who are known to us:

We remember especially this morning

- absent friends who are dealing with illness or the frailty of old age

- all those isolated from their family, workmates or friends because they are consumed with resentment of one kind or another
- those who can't find a job
- those who have been passed over for promotion
- those retirees who are suffering from relevance deprivation
- those young people who will never be able to afford a home of their own
- those whose child or grandchild has an incurable physical or cognitive disability
- those residents of northern South Australia, indigenous and non-indigenous, who are confronted with the likely establishment of a nuclear waste repository on the tectonically unstable flood plain near Lake Torrens
- We remember, too, all those who as individuals have wandered off and are now, literally or metaphorically, aliens in a foreign land
- street kids and others who have dropped out of society
- the homeless Aboriginal clients of the Hutt Street Centre being unfairly targeted by local traders and residents
- the Sudanese community in Melbourne being blamed for street gang activity
- farmers who have been forced off their land and into the city by drought or falling commodity prices
- the refugees languishing on Manus Island and Nauru and in other Australian detention centres.

We have no prayer that can keep us safe. We have no prayer that can intervene in the laws of the universe and keep away illness, evil and calamity. We have no prayer that can

heal a sick child or extend the life of a loved one. We have no prayer that can change people's minds and make them understand us, or that can turn their hearts and make them love us. We have no prayer that can move mountains.

We have only ourselves, and the example of Jesus of Nazareth who showed us how to care for one another.

Because of him we choose love as our supreme value, understanding love to mean the choice to act responsibly with justice, compassion, integrity, courage and forgiveness in whatever situation we find ourselves.

We embrace a vision of peace and social justice for people of all races, ethnicities, abilities, socioeconomic situations, gender identities and sexual orientations.

We identify and resist injustice in all its forms and we strive to create, support and celebrate conditions that promote equity, dignity and community.

Finally, as we strive to be responsible, loving people empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit to encouraging and supporting one another, so that together we may work towards an inclusive future for the good of all humankind.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

### Editor's note:

*Gateways recently invited Jonathan Barker, David McKirdy and Bob Hutchinson along to an evening on prayer.*

*There was much lively, genuine and informed discussion, and as you would expect – no great announcements before the group adjourned for supper.*

*While all the speakers, as well as many of those present, left us with much to ponder, David McKirdy, as the non-theologian in the triumvirate, kindly allowed Vision to publish one of his prayers.*

**“Prayer is not asking. It is a longing of the soul. It is daily admission of one's weakness.**

**It is better in prayer to have a heart without words than words without a heart.”**

Mahatma Gandhi

## Ministry Team Reports

### Communications Team, April 2019

**Key activities** included obtaining permission from members of Church Council and Team Leaders for names and photographs to be posted on the website; trialling an electronic noticeboard at the back of the hall for people using the KOOKA facilities and a pre-worship slideshow of church community events on Sunday morning; submitting a proposal to Council to stop letterbox drops; developing a questionnaire to see who accesses social media or the church website; and seeking a grant for funds to have a permanent video screen in the foyer to display notices of events.

**The main issues of concern** include knowing well in advance when key activities are going to occur so that communication strategies can be developed, understanding how other teams communicate information, use (or non-use) of notice boards and how to use Facebook and Website more effectively.

**Over the next 6 months** the team plans to encourage people to access newsletters and Vision online and support development of the Morialta website, and other social media and exploring options for an accessible working calendar that links to the website.

### Children & Young Families Team, May 2019

#### Key Activities:

A revised structure for the Kids on Sunday program for high school age youth has been developed which allows youth to participate in worship on 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday, be involved in worship

planning and preparation on 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday and participate in worship on 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday.

On the alternate Sundays when youth participate in worship, it is expected that they will be involved in rostered activities such as, music, singing, audio, video, prayers, bible readings etc.

In general, there are 1 to 2 primary aged children most Sundays and a roster has been organised so that a program can be run on Sunday mornings for them.

A roster of volunteers from the congregation has been established to meet the Safe Church requirements.

A number of social events have been held with children and youth, and supported by members of the congregation to supervise/transport the youth. Forward planning is to hold an event about once a month.

A youth church camp run by the Corner Uniting Church held at the same time as SAYCO is being explored, as an alternative to SAYCO.

#### Issues of Concern and Key Plans for next six months:

Ongoing discernment for the best way to help children youth and young families to have a sense of belonging within our faith community and to encourage their participation in the life of the congregation. This includes ensuring children and youth are involved in worship. Building an inclusive and safe church youth program at Morialta with relevant and appropriate activities.

The CYFMT has been very appreciative of the support of members of the congregation who volunteer as Kids on Sunday program observers, and spend time with our youth by volunteering as drivers and support for the youth social program/events.

### Fellowship News

In May, Peter Cranwell (State Convenor of Packing Day) gave an informative talk about where all the donations for Packing Day actually go. Large amounts are transported to Broome and Alice Springs, the Darwin consignment is then transported to the Coastal Communities in the Northern Territories.

There was a bonus meeting on May 30th, when a group of 17 people attended Cafe De Vili at Blair Athol for lunch.

In June, Averill and Wanda from Langdon Park gave a demonstration of their craft work. This included intricate embroidery, immaculate dolls made from 'scraps', and a large collection of hand-made dolls plus cork carvings. It was a very interesting presentation.

The morning concluded with lunch.

Margaret Clogg



### Concerning Abortion

These days, when people ask me, I tell them that "I am a twenty-first century Christian", and that entails being aware, so far as I am able, of God's unfolding gifts to us.

The problem with many is they turn every issue, every challenge, into a problem, rather than an issue to think through. Doctors now have, as one of God's gifts to us, the ability to conduct abortions safely.

This gift, like all God's gifts, must be held in respect and used lovingly, carefully and compassionately.

If with careful planning, termination of pregnancy were to become available in South Australia, as in most other States, surely there wouldn't be a stampede any more than as some people argued same gender marriage would cause a flood of same gender marriages, and be the start of a downward slippery slide.

People must be careful what language they use. If they yell "Murderers" from the rooftops, misguided motives will get in the way of careful logical considerations.

I enjoy being "a twenty-first century Christian". God continues to unfold new issues for us to think through.

David Pill



## Worship and Faith Education Team - May 2019

**Worship:** Worship services continue at 8:15am (currently being reviewed) and 9:30am with combined services each 5th Sunday of the month.

Advent and Christmas 'Right Side Up' theme, including an Australian bush setting with input by a number of people whose work is much appreciated.

Lent and Easter services (again with teamwork) and a 'Journeying' theme.

Morialta UC joined with Pilgrim UC again this year for the Ash Wednesday service.

Palm Sunday congregation's generously donated blankets have been given to Uniting Communities for distribution.

Open Church Open Heart did not attract any comers. This will be reviewed.

SP@CE Event, an alternative gathering at 5:50pm curated by Rev Bob, continued on the first Sunday of the month. SP@CE joined an ecumenical service and supper at Pilgrim Lutheran Church on 2<sup>nd</sup> December. Pilgrim Lutheran Church was also the venue for World Day of Prayer on 1<sup>st</sup> March.

Rhonda Amber continues to coordinate monthly worship at Milpara (including Holy Communion).

W&FE appreciate the work of John Drew and John Secombe and the AV team and note that Birchip UC has joined up for Beyond our Walls worship services.

## Lenten Reflections:

**Just Earth app** an initiative of The Environmental Action Group with 40 days of reflection for individual use has been accessed by some Morialta folk during Lent and is suitable for reflection at any other time.

Chris Ayles led reflection with '**Christianity and Other Religions**' a DVD during Lent.

'**All will be well**' by Sharonne Price was led by our Rev Bob at the Hibernia Café.

'**Why Indigenous sovereignty should matter to Christians**' by Chris Budden was led by Christine Garner in Gateways by Day.

**Gateways** continues to meet fortnightly in the Kooka Rooms and is reflecting on 'God Ethics and the Secular Society' by John Gunson, as well as recently reflecting on the topic 'Prayer'.

## Planning for next six months:

'Break the Silence Sunday' - a worship resource which is an initiative within the churches to open up conversation about rape and sexual assault is being planned.

Advent and Christmas - The Centre for Music, Liturgy and the Arts Resource Showcase will be hosted at Morialta on Tuesday 29th October 2019.



## Dawoodi Bohras come to Morialta

Together with several other churches around Adelaide, Morialta provided a venue for members of the local Dawoodi Bohras to break their fast during Ramadan. Previously the community met in the home of one of their members, but they now need to use a larger space. Morialta's kitchen and hall provided the perfect venue so we invited them to use it whenever it was free in the evenings.

In return, the Dawoodi Bohras community invited members of the various host churches to join them for breakfast at the start of Idul Fitri, which is the celebration at the end of Ramadan. Those who attended not only enjoyed an amazing variety of tasty dishes, but a warm friendly atmosphere of being neighbours and enjoying getting to know each other. As is their tradition, the men did the cooking and served and cleaned up after the meal.

The Dawoodi Bohras are a sect within the Ismā'īlī branch of Shia Islam who follow a line of Shia Islam as propagated by the Fatimid Imamate in medieval Egypt. They pray five times a day, fast in the month of Ramadan, perform Haj and Umrah and give Zakat.

The largest populations of Dawoodi Bohras reside in India, Pakistan, Yemen, East Africa and the Middle East. There are also significant numbers living in Europe, North

America, South East Asia and Australia. Most sources put the worldwide population at around one million.

They are extremely conservative in matters of prayer, dress, physical comportment and even tend to avoid financial interests. However, they also adopt aspects of modern or Western culture that are not specifically forbidden. They exhibit greater gender equality than most communities of the subcontinent and have used the Internet to unite their members into a worldwide cyber congregation.



## Travellers' Tales from the UK 2019



Well, here we are in Weston Super Mare, staying in the house of a couple who've gone on holiday to Mexico, and were extremely worried about leaving their fur babies behind for the very first time. We've already had emails and a phone call from Mexico, checking on the animals' welfare, so I just hope that when they return, their 'fur babies' – two opinionated cats and one elderly Havanese dog - are all as well as they were when the couple left!

We are once more doing a 'house-sit with animals to look after' and this time we are in the North Somerset area of Weston Super Mare. When we first arrived in the UK we stayed in the Berkshire town of Crowthorne, which seems ages ago, despite the fact that we only left there about ten days ago! The dog that we looked after in Berkshire couldn't be more different from the one that we have now. The first dog was only 18 months old, a beautiful, undisciplined but loveable Irish setter that just couldn't be walked enough. A 7 kilometre walk for us was probably at least twice as far for him as he ran non-stop until we got back to the house. Irish setters are indefatigable. This present dog is 14-years-old, has health problems and can rarely be persuaded to walk much further than the back garden! Nevertheless, she is a lovely (but incredibly nervous) little dog. The two cats are even more nervous and taking their time to get used to us. One cat allows me to pick him up but the other scoots for the safety of a tree whenever I approach. However, I hold the balance of power in my hands with the cat food, so they are never too far away!

Before we got to this house we stayed for one night in a hotel in Weston Super Mare which was like stepping back into the 1950's. In fact the singer that the hotel employed to entertain us was probably trying out Brylcreem, to hold

up his Tony Curtis quiff, in the late 1950s. When we saw him last week his shiny pate had no further need of anything other than a polish! However, his voice was amazing and he held the crowd in thrall. During the evening many people were up on the dance floor and revisiting the music of their youth, when an elderly couple walked on; she was shuffling and holding her cardigan tightly across her chest, while he followed closely with a hand on her shoulder. It looked as if they were going to try a slow waltz to a Buddy Holly song, but within minutes everyone was spellbound as the couple launched into a rock and roll performance that they must have practised for 50 years! The woman's shuffle changed into nifty steps and her face was a picture of animation and delight as she and her husband effortlessly synchronised each move. It was breathtaking and deserved the applause from the crowd that greeted them at the dance's end.

Buoyed with their success, the couple entertained us again and again, while folk who could have been their grandchildren looked on with admiration and envy. At the end of the evening I had a conversation with the dancing man and he told me that his wife has dementia and hadn't danced for years. The Buddy Holly sound stirred up a memory for her and the years fell away as she revisited a special time of her youth. He said that her condition had recently got much worse, so he was trying to give her as many holidays as he could while she was still able to enjoy them. His eyes were suspiciously bright as he said, "And she certainly enjoyed tonight." He also told me something else that was humbling. The shuffling old lady who turned into the 'dancing queen' was born in the same year as me - just one more reminder to make the most of our days.

I must tell the cat that the next time he runs away!

Jan Thornton



## Working Bee

Thanks to all the workers who turned out in mixed weather one Saturday morning in May to clean windows, tidy up the church and it's surroundings and spread two large mounds of mulch around the front and rear of the student houses. Our boots got very muddy, but the job was done with good humour and made the garden areas much tidier.

Thanks, too, to those who provided and served the delicious morning tea to the workers on the day!





# Morialta Magpie



## CONGRATULATIONS...

to Bob who received his Graduate Diploma in Ministry from Adelaide College of Divinity.

Members of Morialta UC celebrated with him at his graduation in May.



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



Happy 70th birthday to Alison!

## WEDDING CELEBRATION

James and Whitney Brown celebrated their wedding at Morialta in June. (James is Leoni's son and grew up here).

David Purling officiated and Morialta folks provided afternoon tea for the occasion.

We wish James and Whitney joy and happiness in their life together.



## HAPPY BIRTHDAYS!



Gil and Dale both celebrated their birthdays recently.

## CONCERTS

### The Second Wind Ensemble

The Adelaide based Second Wind Ensemble will be performing at Morialta on 21<sup>st</sup> July from 2.00 to 4.00pm, with a 30-minute intermission, to raise funds for MUC projects.



The Ensemble was established to give mature-aged members of the community an opportunity to take up a new instrument or resume an abandoned one. The group includes flutes, clarinets, saxophones, brass and a rhythm section.

They will be led by guest conductor Dave Winnall.

Wine, tea and coffee will be available during intermission – plus pop-up stalls.

Tickets are \$20 and available from the church office or online at <https://www.trybooking.com/BDSSS>

### Adelaide University Connection's Jazz Choir

The students will return to Morialta on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> September for an afternoon concert. Please put the date in your diary.



## BOOJUM!

Katrina is excited to be making her debut in a principle role with State Opera of South Australia as 'Alice' in their production of **BOOJUM!** on Friday 5 & Saturday 6 July, 2019 at the Dunstan Playhouse.

A contemporary Australian opera, *Boojum!* is based on Lewis Carroll's poem *The Hunting of the Snark*, and explores the world of 'nonsense and truth' around Lewis Carroll and his true-self, Rev. Charles Dodgson.

*Boojum!* is described as 'a meandering, quirky, beautiful feast of words and music'.



## Mary Tugwell (1921 - 2019)

*Based on an article written  
in 2010 by Ruth Dunning*

"I've just had an ordinary life – I just like helping people". So began the conversation I had with Mary Tugwell in 2010.

Mary (nee Gordon) was born in 1921 at Gladstone, where her father worked for the railways. Later the family moved to Caltowie and then to Wolseley.

Mary's first job was at the Wolseley Railway Station Refreshment Rooms, which was a hive of activity, especially when trains arrived from Mount Gambier and Adelaide. Mary loved the work and it was here that her expertise as a champion pasty maker developed. Starting at age 19, she worked there for six years commencing at 11pm on three nights each week and at 12.30am on the other days. Mary recalled "I was not the least bit nervous living in the station house alone and thought nothing of walking down the dark road to the station to begin work".

Mary married Bill Tugwell, a guardsman on the railways, in 1942 in the Wolseley Methodist Church. After 18 months they moved to Cummins, then to Adelaide in 1945 where their son Reg was born in 1946.

Mary first attended church at St Morris Methodist Church, where she was a Sunday School teacher. She moved to Newton Methodist Church in 1969 and then to Morialta Uniting Church, where worshiped until moving from the area.

An avid Crows supporter, Mary was always a keen sportswoman and played basketball and hockey in her younger days. Latterly she played bowls and was a member of the Trinity Gardens Bowling Club for over sixty years.

She was Ladies Vice President and Chairperson of the selection committee for both indoor and outdoor bowls, as well as coaching and officiating as a bowls umpire for 62 years.

Mary was also heavily involved with the catering for social functions at the Bowls Club, and turned out a vast number of pasties over the years. She was awarded Life Membership of the Club in 1994.

Husband Bill, who died in 2003, was also a bowler. After he retired, Bill took up square dancing and every four years they travelled interstate for square dancing conventions. The ladies designed and made new costumes to

wear at each convention and Bill and Mary won a number of awards for their achievements.

Mary was involved in Meals on Wheels for 35 years, being a staff officer for the first 21 years.

Mary was awarded "The Citizen of the Year from Campbelltown Council in 1991" and "The Commonwealth Award for Seniors in 2000".

Mary may have been a petite and gentle lady, but she was a real gem and powerhouse in her contributions to her community.



Mary Tugwell receiving her  
Citizen of the Year Award  
from Mayor Max Amber on  
24 January 1991

**Several Morialta folk attended Margaret Martin's funeral in June. A eulogy will appear in the August Vision.**

## About A Song

*"I come to the garden alone, while the  
scent is still on the roses"*

This old song/hymn is from "Alexander's Hymns" or "Sankey's"? I cannot remember – the memory of the song is deep – very far back.

When my sister and I were young, we always played and sang these well-known pieces. Together with everything in the Community Song Books, 1,2 and 3 we found treasures such as "Little Brown Jug", "I don't want to play in your yard" - it was a unique time, never to be forgotten.

I knew the words to these songs by heart, I loved the warmth of the simple

tunes and the care and assurance in the words. There were promises! My sister Beverley, always 6 years older, could really make the piano play! I sang my heart out.

But as the years passed, those wonderful songs of promise faded to the back of my memory. They were replaced by Bach, Handel and Brahms (and many more), the works were more difficult to learn, sweeping away my childhood joy .... I sang in different choirs, on a stage, looking out to audiences that stretched into darkness, always striving for harder and more complex studies.

It was into this world that trauma invaded my space, came very close.

Mum was admitted to hospital; we didn't talk about when she might come home.

When I was driving to the hospital to visit each day and night, I felt a heaviness in my heart, and a tune began to play in my mind, and then I heard what it was -

*"And He walks with me and He talks with me, and He tells me I am his own -"*

So every night then, I sang this song to myself and to my heart, on the way there and back.

Simplicity and faith from my childhood reached out of the past, to hold me close.

Cynthia Story, 25<sup>th</sup> May 2019



## WELCOME TO MORIALTA UNITING CHURCH COMMUNITY LIBRARY HUB

### Is a Church Library still Relevant?

Original article contributed by Joan Wagner  
and adapted by the Editor

In an article written by Luanne Blackburn, almost a decade ago – excerpts of which were published in *Christianity Today* (August 6454) – Luanne puts the case that with the right plan, a church library can deliver a helpful ministry in tough times.

In her experience, church libraries are a treasure chest full of goodies. Bible study materials, family-friendly movies, the latest and greatest Christian fiction, a Veggie Tales for the kids, all free and available for checkout any time the building is open.

While some pastors see libraries as "old school," choosing to discontinue them

or to replace them with bookstores, church libraries can still be vital and relevant ministries. In fact, the tough economic times of the past couple of years (2008-10) have made this more evident than ever.

In Luanne's view the main purpose of a church library should be to support the mission of the local body. The library is not just a place, however. It is also a ministry that requires dedicated volunteers with a heart for people, not just a love of reading. People dealing with the difficult experiences of life, like the loss of a spouse or a wayward teen, often will read a book before they seek counsel. As librarians, we often hear their heartbreaking stories as they explain what kind of book they are looking for. On many occasions, we provide kind words and hugs before leading them to the appropriate shelf.

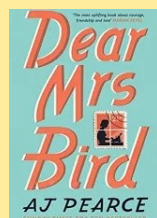
The right book with a Biblical perspective may help people through a bumpy part of life's journey, and it might just help them see their need for pastoral care.

Tight personal budgets don't allow families the discretionary funds to purchase all the books, CDs, and DVDs they used to buy. Church libraries can fill the void.

A church library is a storehouse of materials that reinforces a church's message or aids people who want to dig deeper. Libraries have also become a place where individuals and families can find entertainment that uplifts spirits and enlightens minds instead of assaulting their values.

*Luanne Blackburn is co-leader of the library ministry at Traders Point Christian Church in Indianapolis, Indiana.*

### BOOK REVIEWS by Jan Thornton



#### Dear Mrs Bird by A J Pearce

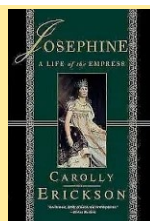
I can't applaud this book any more if I tried. It's an irresistible debut novel set in London during World War II and very reminiscent of the style used in *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society*. However, the author, A J Pearce, is not the same writer.

With a blend of light hearted prose Pearce transports us to wartime London and shows the heartbreaking reality of wartime, when keeping a 'stiff upper lip' was considered essential.

I loved Emmy and all her friends and was bereft when the last page was turned. This warm, funny, yet moving tale of love and true friendship depicts social standards that were once the norm and really makes the reader feel as if 1940 is today.

This is an easy study; funny and light at times, but sad and horrifying at others. Inspired by the author finding an old magazine and reading the 'problem page and all the answers', this is a wonderfully heartfelt read that I thoroughly recommend. It seems to be all fizz and froth until shockingly, it isn't. The emotions get a thorough workout with roller coaster rides from 'laugh out loud' to choking sorrow.

Pearce possesses the gift of making us believe that the story is happening now. The individuals are charming and the language is brilliant, with great dialogue between the characters. What a delight. I can definitely recommend it.



#### Josephine A Life of the Empress by Carolly Erickson

I thought I knew a little about Josephine and Napoleon before I began this tale but it was only when I began to read that I realised just how small my knowledge really was. It was fascinating to learn how little Rose Tascher from Martinique became Rose Beauharnais, Viscontesse de Beauharnais, before finally becoming Josephine Buonaparte, Empress of France. What a journey her life took from an impoverished childhood to becoming the first lady of France, and yet few would envy her the unhappy relationships, illnesses and imprisonment that she endured along that journey.

Josephine lived on her wits and, though never considered a beauty, she had charm and social skills and was in possession of a fascinating grace that captivated men. And she had need of all her ploys and charisma when dealing with the brusque, difficult Napoleon who would eventually divorce his alluring creole woman. Theirs was not the straightforward love story I had imagined.

When I first opened this book, I thought it was historical 'faction' because it reads like a novel, however Erickson is a prize-winning historian and portrays an unforgettable picture of what life was like for the complex, nervous and ever-alert woman who survived by her wits and charmed many.

Erickson is a fine writer who maintains focus and pace in recounting an amazing life. She combines a sympathetic angle with solid research and has given us a rich story about survival, which is nothing short of miraculous. How to explain the power of a book to lift, transform, delight and excite?



### You were in this place

Paintings seen on the rock face,  
footprints left in the sand,  
campfire next to the river,  
songs that rise from the land:  
signs that seem so elusive,  
shadows just out of view.  
You were in this place—  
but we never knew.

Jesus, open our senses,  
help us see you today  
in the person beside us,  
as we work, as we play.  
While we love you and serve you,  
may it never be true:  
you were in this place—  
but we never knew.

© 1987 Words and music: Robin Mann  
*All Together Whatever*



## Diary Dates

Sunday 30 June 5.00pm	Pot Luck Tea Colin Cargill's visit to Jordan
Thursday 18 July 9.45am	Fellowship "Travelling with the Corrigan's"
Sunday 21 July 2.00pm	Second Wind Concert
Tuesday 23 July 7.30pm	Church Council Meeting
Sunday 28 July 5.00pm	Pot Luck Tea
Sunday 4th August	Mission Sunday Meeting of the Congregation
Sunday 18 August 12.30pm	Guess Who's Coming to Lunch
Saturday 24 August	Morialta Quiz Night
Sunday 25 August	Refugee & Migrant Sunday Pot Luck Tea
Tuesday 27 August 7.30pm	Church Council Meeting
Thursday 29 August	Fellowship Bonus Meeting

### Acknowledgements

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## Living Streams ~ Giving Life



**Deadline  
for the next Edition**

**1 August**

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