

Beyond 2020 Vision

A Publication of Morialta Uniting Church

May 2023

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

Welcome to our May edition

Colin Cargill, Editor and Helena Begg, Publisher

In this issue Karl J Forehand discusses the importance of compassion, especially with people who may irritate us.

There is a Mission Projects update, obituaries for Averil Nash and Brian Corrigan, a reflection on “Enfolding Love” from

Alison Lockett, photos from the lunch with the Dawoodi Bohras, the results of our Vision survey and much more!

The cut-off date for June Vision will **28th May**. Either drop a copy in to Nicole at the Office or call/email Colin on 0427 122 106 or snout-n-about@bigpond.com

Go well.

The importance of compassion

Adapted from an article by Karl J Forehand published on Patheos Website

Occasionally people irritate me. When they don't do things the way I think they should, or if they treat me (or others) differently to how I think they should. It sometimes causes me to react negatively toward them. Once when I asked another pastor how I should handle this dilemma, he suggested that I have compassion for them like Jesus.

That was not what I wanted to do. I wanted to find a way to punish them or tell them what I thought. Sometimes, I would talk to a friend and brew up some common-enemy intimacy as we talked about how wrong they were. But ultimately my pastor friend was right – what my “enemies” really needed was my compassion.

I understand compassion to be a form of empathy. When I try to understand what someone else is going through, it helps me have compassion for them as a person. It may not automatically change my actions, but it will help me take a breath before responding and it may help me act in a more responsible way.

But compassion is not just for other people like the multitude that Jesus observed and had empathy for. Compassion is also essential for us and the wounded parts of us that sometimes desperately need it. Our sense of an inner child and inner critic both need our empathy to heal the shame and woundedness we all experience.

For compassion to be implemented, we must first take a pause. When we take a breath between stimulus and response, we are more able to consider the other person's situation (even when the other “person” is a part of us). We are often our own worst critic.

Compassion is not a soft skill. It does not cause us to be weaker – it actually makes us stronger. Empathy and compassion are essential for us to effectively navigate the difficult terrain ahead of us. It may even be a key to approaching our political and religious differences.



Unfortunately, compassion and empathy don't seem to be our defaults. However, I suspect that when we go inside and understand ourselves better, we will begin to understand others as well. When we understand ourselves

and others better, we can direct our compassion toward them. Compassion is possibly the most essential key to healing!

We need to remember that compassion is for all the people not just the ones we agree with. Maybe we could see beneath the surface reactions people have and have compassion and empathy for the child and critic within them. It won't be easy, but it's possible. But be where you are, be who you are, and be at peace.

Karl Forehand is a former pastor, podcaster, and award-winning author.



Giving love

Author and lecturer Leo Buscaglia once talked about a contest he was asked to judge. The purpose of the contest was to find the most caring child.

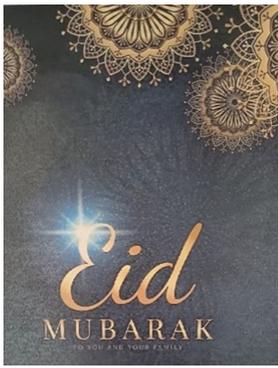
The winner was a four-year-old child whose next-door neighbour was an elderly gentleman who had recently lost his wife. Upon seeing the man cry, the little boy went into the old gentleman's yard, climbed onto his lap, and just sat there. When his mother asked him what he had said to the neighbour, the little boy said, “Nothing, I just helped him cry.”

Rural communities

Adapted from ‘The Kiwi Post’ in *The Veterinarian*, February 2023

“Rural communities are the nation's grandparents – safe, secure, overlooked, sometimes quirky, often loved but usually not acknowledged. They provide stability and security that allows everyone else to behave badly. Their hard work has provided the benefits everyone now enjoys, but their ways are neither modern nor trending on twitter.”

“Like our grandparents, many rural communities have seen better days. But the love, sense of purpose and wisdom keeps flowing. Every day they get up, unfold their arthritic knees and get to work, while the cities are busy tweeting about it.”



Dawoodi Bohras lunch

Eid Mubarak to you and your family!

Before Sunday 23rd April, for many at Morialta, the Dawoodi Bohras were people who came in the night. Now we have eaten their delicious food and enjoyed each other's company, we know them as our friends.

Over 30 Morialta folk were guests of the Dawoodi Bohras for lunch at 'our place'. But it is no longer only 'our place', it is also 'their place' and as they assured us it feels like 'home' to them. After watching a video of their worship and how they celebrate breaking their fast each day during Ramadan, we understand why they appreciate having a 'home'. Some Morialta folk are even sporting henna designs on their hands!

Thanks to Carole, Zulfikar and all involved.

You can see more photos on the noticeboard in the breezeway between the hall and foyer.



Congratulations...

... to Christine, who recently celebrated her 80th birthday, with her husband, Peter. She was delighted to receive a surprise visit from her son Alex, from Melbourne, and daughter Olivia, from Brisbane.

Beyond Morialta Mission Projects

Many thanks for your generous gifts. We were able to forward \$1500 to Congress at Oodnadatta and \$1500 to Uniting World for their project in North India. We have received a thank you from Uniting World.

Our projects for this year are to again support Frontier Services and to support Uniting World's work with the Methodist Church in Sri Lanka. They are working through a program with 'Deaf Link'. This centre is committed to providing access



Deaf Link
Methodist Church, Sri Lanka

to education for children with disabilities and occupational training for adults with a disability. With the current financial crisis in Sri Lanka, 'Deaf Link' have been delivering dry ration packets to rural families who need assistance.

We look forward to your support.

Beverley Tredrea
for Beyond Morialta Mission Projects Team

Fellowship news

At our April meeting Beverley Tredrea showed photos and told us about her experiences when attending the Oberammergau Passion Play. The play is produced by the town's people every 10 years and is well attended by world-wide visitors.



For our May meeting we will visit the Mary MacKillop Museum and have lunch in the adjoining café afterwards. Watch for details in the newsletter.

Members are now collecting clothing and other relevant goods for 'Packing Day', to be sent to the Northern Territory.

Creation through Kurna eyes

The Kurna Aboriginal view of the creation of this land is complex. The earth and the life on it are seen as inseparable.

The Kurna people believe that the hills surrounding Morialta Gorge represent part of the body of a huge Dreaming Ancestor, who was killed on the Adelaide Plains.

Originally the surface of the earth had no watercourses, Fourth Creek did not exist. Nganno (Nar-na) created it so he could live on yabbies and fish.



Vision survey results

Thirty-five people completed the survey and the majority (86%) read Vision regularly. Another 14% read Vision sometimes. These results are encouraging and affirming for the Vision team.



Most receive (71%) Vision on-line and 37% receive a hard copy. (Some receive both versions).

The majority were happy with the print size (86%), while the remainder had no opinion. Almost 95% find Vision useful for communicating information to members of MUC and a majority (75%) of respondents felt positive about Vision. The other 25% were neutral.

A large majority (83%) are happy with a monthly edition, while 20% would be happy if it was published less frequently.

Of the various topics listed, social justice, reflections, obituaries, and humorous articles were ticked by 89% of respondents, followed by general interest articles (86%), environment (80%), Indigenous issues (79%), interviews with members of our community (74%), prayers (71%), and articles adapted from theology websites (69%).

Most recipients read longer articles, either always (40%) or sometimes (40%).

The majority of respondents (71%) were happy to stay with eight pages while 17% would be happy with fewer pages. Fortunately, no one suggested increasing the number of pages!

Three quarters of those who responded were happy for local Morialta events to be advertised in Vision, but a number felt they should be publicised in either Vision or Newsletter, but not both. Just over 50% agreed with advertising Synod events but fewer than 50% ticked advertising events for the wider church and multifaith communities. Fewer than 50% also wanted to see news from Synod (49%), Assembly (40%), Ecumenical (37%) and Multifaith (40%).

Few people share Vision with family (9%) or friends (20%) but 74% believe Vision is one vehicle that could be used to connect with those who worship with us on-line. However, several thought this will require more discussion as to 'how we communicate with our on-line friends'.

Thanks to all those who completed the survey - your thoughts will help us to keep Vision interesting.

The Wirrarninthe Interpretive Trail

The trail is a tranquil walk through the Wirrarninthe (or Park 23) in Adelaide's south west parklands. The educational trail meanders through a young urban forest, flanked by sculptures and carefully crafted engraved rocks. Previously known as Wirranendi until 2013, Wirrarninthe, or Park 23, lies between Sir Donald Bradman Drive and the West Terrace Cemetery.



It takes around an hour to walk through the area which has been restored with local flora and fauna. Wetland areas are populated with wandering wood ducks.

The interpretive trail has four elemental themes – earth, wind, water, and fire – each having their own area in the park. Sculptures and other public artworks reflect the theme of each area.

At its centre is seating adjacent to Poem Rock, on which is inscribed:

*Walk the Wirranendi Trail
look up into silhouettes of branches
where magpies sing tidings
cross the dry plain
Travel between rocks
witness the abyss
follow yourself in
close your eyes
still your mind for a while
moon floats high in a white sky
swallow memory and learn
The wind chases spirits through here
Kimberley Mann*

Kimberley Zeneth (nee Mann) is a writer and poet. Her first book was Awake During Anaesthetic. Her projects include poetry installation Skin of the Text for Adelaide Fringe and Wirranendi Sculpture Trail commissioned by Adelaide City Council. She works as a counsellor and lives in the desert with her beautiful wife.

Averil Lillian Delean Nash (1933-2023)

Averil was the second daughter of Barbara & John Delean. She was raised on the family farm at Kulkami, along with her elder sister Enid, her younger sister Lola and brother John, known as Derry.



At that time Kulkami was a small community comprising a General Store and School House, situated about 40km northeast of Lameroo in the Murray Mallee. In the 1930s, there was a daily train service from Adelaide to Pinnaroo, and one telephone at the Post Office.

Farming included pigs, cows, and chooks, as well as grain. The family also took on the local Post Office in 1940 while still maintaining the farm.

Early school was at Kulkami until grade 7, then a year boarding in Loxton, and finally completing school at Lameroo Area School. After her father died suddenly in 1946, the family sold the farm and moved to the city, settling at Colonel Light Gardens.

Averil started work in 1948 in the Invoice Office of Harris Scarfe Department store in Grenfell Street, where she established lifelong friendships over the next 10 years. In 1950 Averil met the dashing Kevin Eric Nash and after a 5-year courtship they were married at Colonel Light Gardens Methodist Church in 1955.

They lived with Averil's grandmother for 18 months, while Kevin built their house at 73 Shakespeare Ave with the help of friends and family. Kevin and brother-in-law Derry even made their own bricks.

Debra Jayne arrived in September 1957, the twins Gayle Averil and Brenton John in June 1959, and Peter Wayne 2 years later. Averil settled down to the quiet, relaxing life of motherhood, while Kevin went off to work at AW Balderstone Construction Company each day.

Averil also helped in the canteen at Hectorville Primary, where the children went to school. In her spare time she tended the garden, made preserves, sewed clothes, darned socks, patched scraped knees and also worked part-time with a transport company.

The family loved camping holidays – exploring the Flinders Ranges, NSW, and Victoria; progressing to a pop-up camper before visiting Queensland, and later upgrading to a caravan.

With her sewing abilities, Averil expanded the single-room tent to a luxurious 2-room “glamper”, which sadly didn't keep out flooding rains.

The whole family was involved in Boy Scouts and Girl Guides and Averil was rewarded after 40 years with a Girl Guides service medal.

From a young age their social group was based around church. They were involved with College Park and Rostrevor Congregational Churches and later Magill Uniting Church. Averil was always totally committed to others whether through the Church, school activities, or special needs of children.

The Nash home was also “home” to boarders over many years, with several students including Sarah Heatley, Averil's niece Heather Johncock, and two Zambian students in 1974. Two Japanese car salesmen also stayed with them, one becoming a lifelong friend. Later their children also provided opportunities for travel within SA and NT, and eventually to America to visit Peter.

After Kevin left AW Baulderstone, they bought Bettina's newsagency on the Norwood Parade where they both worked until retirement in 1996.

After retirement they continued their adventures throughout Australia, particularly with their long-term friends Helen and Kingsley Stephens, whom they met in their teens. Not content with caravanning around Australia, they visited Peter and Boshia in America and travelled around the USA, Canada, Mexico and Europe. After Kevin's sudden death in 2011, Averil continued to travel and her last overseas trip was in 2014.

As the large family home became more difficult to manage, Averil moved to a nearby 3-bedroom retirement unit with a garden full of roses and lavender and room for family gatherings and overnight stays.

In February 2020, Averil moved into residential care in the Glynde Lutheran Homes complex where she was well cared for and was happily involved in activities and friendships. Averil never complained and always had a smile – recently celebrating her 90th Birthday.

We will miss her smiling face, her care for others, and her devotion to her family, friends and her church.

Editor's Note: If you missed Averil's funeral service you can view it at <https://digiflix.com.au/live-streams/averil-nash-funeral/>



Mother's Day – May 14th

This is a day to honour mothers and grandmothers for their contributions to our families, communities and society.

It was first observed in Australia in 1924 and was originally associated with gift giving. Sydney woman Janet Heyden was inspired to collect charitable gifts for lonely, elderly mothers in hospital who had lost husbands and sons during World War One.

Nowadays it is more of a family event, when many families join together for a special Sunday lunch.



Enfolding love

From Alison Lockett – originally published in *Vision* 2017



After talking with a nurse from Yorkshire not so long ago, an almost forgotten episode sprang into my mind with great clarity. We were staying in the quaint little village of Hutton-le-Hole on the edge of the North York Moors. As we emerged from the local pub, fully sated after our evening victuals, we were assaulted by the very loud, very insistent, indeed very intrusive baa-baa-ing of a sheep as she wambled slowly along the narrow roadway. Now moorland sheep are a familiar sight in the centre of Hutton-le-Hole. In fact they're billed as a tourist attraction, as they make the most of the grassy banks that gently drop away from the roadside to the stony-bedded Hutton Beck gurgling it's modest way through the centre of the village. Yet I confess I couldn't help feeling quite annoyed that this selfish sheep should have the effrontery to so violently disturb the still, crepuscular evening that had settled so beautifully upon us.

But as we ourselves joined this woolly pedestrian on the road back to our lodgings, my resentment slowly began to crumble. The bleating that had initially sounded so crude and aggressive began to take on a different tone, an anxious tone. Notes of desperation, then yearning, then distress overlaid each other. The cries that had earlier tumbled out one over the other were now a piteous bleating, broken up by moments in which a sense of despair was palpable.

Suddenly, out of the gathering gloom came another cry, an octave higher cry, and up from the darkened depths of the village green came a young lamb, bounding, leaping, baa-baa-baa-ing in relief and happiness. At last they came together, a mother ewe and her lambkin, joyously bouncing and jiggling around each other, before, light of heart, they continued on side by side to their evening's rest. At least, that's what it looked like to me, give or take the rhetorical flourish!

A mother's love, and love reciprocated, could scarcely have been more poignantly illustrated. This was mother love unfettered by the complexities that can sometimes compromise its expression in we humans. This was simple, yearning, steadfast, forgiving, embracing love.

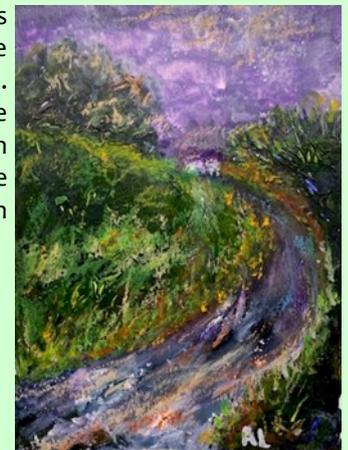
Such "mother love" is a facet of the Divine that is evoked throughout the Bible. From God as majestic mother eagle who "stirs up her nest and hovers over her young," to God as the more humble mother hen who "gathers her brood under her wings," from God giving birth to creation from the womb, to the compassionate God who comforts as a mother comforts her children: all are powerful Biblical maternal images.

I love the reading from John 15 in which Jesus says: "I am the vine, you are the branches ... Abide in me as I abide in you." While not overtly a mothering metaphor, on reflection one can see many points of connection: the life-giving force that animates us, that feeds and nurtures us, that by turns encourages and supports, the wellspring of our very being. I especially love the word "abide". To me it speaks of a place in which our true self can be expressed and can thrive. It's a place in which we can rest in the fullness of God's love, but also a "home" from which we can go out, nourished and invigorated, to speak and live the Gospel.

As in life, this love is a two way relationship. It is about knowing that we are encircled by a deep, abiding, accepting and boundless love. It is about us reciprocating that love, deeply and devotedly, in silence and in action. Yes, such mothering connection is just one part of the infinite complexity and mystery of our Divine connectedness. If, however, we do not recognise this most intimate strand of faith understanding, then we place ourselves at a distance from the fullness of God's grace.

May we not find ourselves adrift, broken away from the circle of God's "mother" love. Rather may we find assurance and courage for the journey, in the sure knowledge that we ourselves abide in love within God's enfolding arms.

Painting by Alison Lockett



Commandments for seniors

Contributed by Wayne Curtis

1. Talk to yourself. There are times you need expert advice.
2. Style is the clothes that still fit.
3. You don't need anger management. You need people to stop annoying you.
4. Your people skills are just fine. It's your tolerance for idiots that needs work.
5. The biggest lie you tell yourself is, 'I don't need to write that down. I'll remember it'.
6. On time is when you get there.
7. Even duct tape can't fix stupid, but it sure does muffle the sound.
8. It would be wonderful if we could put ourselves in the dryer for ten minutes, then come out wrinkle-free and three sizes smaller.
9. Lately, you've noticed people your age are so much older than you.
10. Growing old should have taken longer.
11. Aging has slowed you down, but it hasn't shut you up.
12. You still haven't learned to act your age and hope you never will.

Brian Corrigan (1927-2023)



Born in Auckland, New Zealand in 1927, Brian was the son of a Kiwi lover of prose and a Canuck signwriter. He was baptised in the Anglican church and after his confirmation he became a server, a role he remained in until he left Auckland.

Growing up in a time of economic hardship and challenge, Brian learned to find enjoyment in going for walks, playing outdoors with his little dog Woggles, helping his mother grow veggies, and stamp collecting. As a boy Brian's two main hobbies were building one valve radios (self taught from a radio parts catalogue), and taking photos with his Box Brownie which he got for his 10th birthday. At age 15, he built an enlarger from an old bellows camera and taught himself how to develop and print his own films. This helped him to gain his first job with Kodak in their printing department.

Brian always carried a camera wherever he went and Mordialta was a happy beneficiary of his expertise, particularly in his contributions to Mordialta Vision and our display boards. He also used his photography to connect with others, especially granddaughter Amy, by sharing via text and email. He was very savvy with technology.

When Brian learned that the Royal NZ Airforce was hiring recruits to be trained as electronics and radio technicians he signed up. This also introduced him to travel as his role took him to Fiji, Malta and Cyprus, parts of Northern Africa and various Mediterranean European states.

In 1955 he left the Air Force and joined TEAL (now Air New Zealand) as a Licensed Aircraft Maintenance Engineer looking after radio, radar and navigational equipment on Solent flying boats.

In 1958, a friend of Brian's invited him to a party and it turned out that the late John Grooms (long-time member of MUC) had been invited too. John brought his new girlfriend Kay and her sister Dale. Dale caught Brian's eye, and the rest, as they say, was history!

Not long after their meeting, Dale moved to America with her family and when Brian's mother died shortly after, he followed. They were married in October 1959, with Kay as bridesmaid and John Grooms as best man.

In 1960, they moved to Vancouver where Brian worked as Assistant Radio Manager with West Coast Air Services, working once more on flying boats. However, they decided to return to the warmth of Santa Monica for the birth of eldest son Drew.

After extensive travel around the USA, Brian and Dale decided to move to Australia. They arrived with Drew at Outer Harbour on the 5th January 1964, when the temperature was 105°F! Leigh was born later in October 1964 and in 1967, the family settled into their home in Rostrevor. Sean was born in 1968.

Brian joined Philips to write handbooks for mobile radios and base stations but when his division was relocated interstate, he worked as a freelance photographer before joining Sturt College of Advanced Education (now part of Flinders University). He retired in 1992.

But Brian was not idle in retirement and with Dale he joined The Australian Red Cross and Mordialta Probus Club. He edited the Club's magazine for 8 years, produced their Certificates of Appreciation and took his turn at being President.

Brian and Dale cared for others in many ways, particularly with the Red Cross, and the Mordialta Fellowship and Social Justice Team. Brian organized the Mordialta team for the annual Christmas Bowl street appeal for more than a decade and together they prepared communion and washed up after; a job that requires regular commitment.

Although Brian's fiercely independent spirit met with a variety of challenges in his latter years, he maintained a positive outlook until the end. This enthusiasm for enjoying life, despite significant challenges, enriched both Brian and those who journeyed with him.

If you were unable to attend Brian's funeral service it can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EhVgsjeAKfU>

Why the Uniting Church is serious about reaching Net Zero

Adapted from 'How can the Synod reach net zero?'

We cannot look away from our commitment to stand with our First Nations siblings in Christ in their struggle for justice. First Nations people living in harmony with the natural environment was disrupted by European colonisation. Furthermore, we must work with not just our First Peoples, many of whom live on country that is already being rocked by changing climate, but also with our Pacific neighbours.

As Rev James Bhagwan, General Secretary of the Pacific Conference of Churches, has written:

Within the context of climate change, we need to start asking our partners, our sisters and brothers, to really lift up this issue, not just from the Pacific perspective but from the integrity of creation.

So how do we as a church family raise these issues with our national governments and with our cities and businesses? This really needs to be front and centre. How do we work together as the body of Christ?

I promised one good word. Here it is. Love. If we love one another as we are called to do by Jesus, then everything else becomes very simple.

Love is not complicit, through apathy, in the destruction of people's lands and oceans and homes. Love is faith with her sleeves rolled up. Love is calling power to account.

Love is all of us, together, with our first peoples and our theologians and our children and our scientists, doing all we can, with all we have, to defend God's glorious creation for everyone.

I give you a new commandment that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.
John 13:34

The Voice to Parliament and MUC

At the meeting of the congregation on 30th April Chris Ayles reported on the points discussed by Church Council in response to requests from two congregation members that Morialta UC provide public support for the Yes vote in the forthcoming referendum on the “Voice to Parliament”. Following the meeting Chris was asked to provide the substance of his report for publication in Vision. Council discussed the proposals at length and the points raised were as follows.

The UCA National Assembly has considered the issue and is supporting the Yes case. It has made YES banners available for purchase.

Should Council adopt the National Assembly position as a matter of course?

Or, should Council consider both YES and NO cases before making a decision?

And, should Council canvass the opinions of the Congregation before making a decision?

Is this YES or NO question a purely political decision in which Council and the church should not become involved?

Or, Is this a moral and ethical question which requires Council to fulfill its obligation to provide leadership?

Council encourages all congregation members to inform themselves thoroughly of both the YES and NO cases.

Council should post summaries of both cases when they become available.

At the beginning of worship and meetings we acknowledge the first nations people and commit to advancing reconciliation. Which of the YES or NO positions comes closest to promoting reconciliation?

Putting aside the extreme ends of both cases it is probable that both sides want to advance Aboriginal wellbeing. The question then becomes how best to do that. The YES case has been developed through extensive consultation with Aboriginal people. While its origins go back a long way it gained momentum with the writing and promotion of the Uluru Statement from the Heart. MUC has conducted studies/discussions on the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

Are the NO advocates promoting a consistent, coherent alternative plan for enhancing Aboriginal wellbeing? Or simply saying no to this proposal? Will a win for the NO vote bring benefits for Aboriginal people or be a setback for their cause, possibly even taking it off the government’s agenda for many years to come?

The two requests which prompted this discussion remain open and will be revisited at our next meeting. If you have

any wisdom or insights on the question please make Council aware of them as it continues to consider this matter of national and local importance.



ACT FOR PEACE
CONFRONTING INJUSTICE TOGETHER
THROUGH THE **act**alliance

Peace Mail from India

Dear friends,

My name is Florina Xavier and I have been working in the refugee space for over 20 years. It all started when I was completing my Master’s in Social Work; living in India and observing Sri Lankan refugees living in the state I was in.

When I visited the camps, the first thing I witnessed was that these families were without a country, without citizenship and not belonging.

I began work as a volunteer with the Organisation for Eelam Refugees Rehabilitation (OfERR) around that time. All these years later, I am still supporting this incredible local, refugee-led organisation in my role as Regional Return and Reintegration Advisor with Act for Peace.

With your backing, OfERR helps Sri Lankan refugees living in camps across Tamil Nadu to prepare to return home. This involves helping them get the documents they need to prove their identity, reclaim their land, and access essential government services like hospitals and schools.

On returning to Sri Lanka, OfERR Ceylon continues to assist returnees with accessing their land and providing building materials for temporary shelters. They’re also helping with securing livelihoods in agriculture, fishing and animal husbandry as well as helping them access government services such as health and education.

As you know, the global food crisis is making many communities around the world vulnerable to food insecurity and famine. In Sri Lanka, there is a food shortage, fuel shortage and a price hike. Particularly for people living in the capital, Colombo, the cost of cooking gas has become a big problem. Locals took to the streets to protest, but they are still awaiting long-term solutions.

The Government of Tamil Nadu said they could provide some relief packs to returned Sri Lankans but didn’t have the resources to carry out the transportation and distribution. OfERR were asked to help with the delivery process. They delivered food packages to about 25,000 people, including many returnees who would be more vulnerable to job and food insecurity.

There’s no denying that challenges lie ahead for this refugee community, but what keeps me going is the joy of seeing people return home and settle down in their own home. It feels like together, we have really done something.

Warmly,

Florina



Aussies Knitting for War-Affected Kids (AKWAK) – crocheters, sewers, quilters and more

AKWAK's aid for Syrian children was distributed in late December 2022 following a long voyage from Australia.

This year, as each year, we were very pleased to contribute significantly to the children with some 2,500 huge winter packs for them containing complete winter knits beautifully hand-knitted by members, additional bought clothes, toys, stationery and enrichment items, blankets and quilts and gum boots. Our aid was distributed in 2 schools, 4 IDP (Internally Displaced People) camps and a neo-natal hospital.

Our deepest thanks go to everyone who contributed so meaningfully to these children, keeping them warm and clothed and warding off the winter harshness, and giving them play and development toys, which no child should be without. Many people must come together to make this level of aid and support happen, from all the makers and crafters, donors, through to everyone who helps with managing our considerable logistics.



Our appreciation and thanks, as always, go to the Australian Syrian Association Victoria and Rahma Humanitarian Foundation for sending the container and ensuring our cargo reaches these precious children safely. The care and generosity of everyone makes a very great difference to these young lives which have so tragically been shattered by war.

Morialta is now providing space in the Kooka rooms for AKWAK to store and sort items they collect. For more information about the organisation talk to Bev Tredrea.

Hidden women of history: Cecilia Payne



Cecilia's mother refused to spend money on her college education, so she won a scholarship to Cambridge. She completed her studies, but Cambridge wouldn't give her a degree because she was a woman, so she moved to the United States to work at Harvard.

She was the first person ever to earn a Ph.D. in astronomy from Radcliffe College, with what Otto Strauve called "the most brilliant Ph.D. thesis ever written in astronomy."

Not only did Cecilia Payne discover what the universe is made of, she also discovered what the sun is made of (Henry Norris Russell, a fellow astronomer, is usually given credit for discovering that the sun's composition is different from the Earth's, but he came to his conclusions four years later than Payne – after telling her not to publish).

Cecilia Payne is the reason we know basically anything about variable stars (stars whose brightness as seen from earth fluctuates). Every other study on variable stars is based on her work.

Cecilia Payne was the first woman to be promoted to full professor from within Harvard, and is often credited with breaking the glass ceiling for women in the Harvard science department, as well as inspiring entire generations of women to take up science.

Although she discovered the composition of the universe, she has been forgotten since her death in 1979. Her newspaper obituaries do not mention her greatest discovery. Every high school student knows that Isaac Newton discovered gravity, that Charles Darwin developed the theory of evolution, and that Albert Einstein discovered the relativity of time. But when it comes to the composition of our universe, the textbooks simply say that the most abundant atom in the universe is hydrogen. And no one ever wonders how we know!

Farewell Wallace (16 May 2011 - 27 April 2023)

A faithful companion who will be sorely missed by many. We share our sympathy with Bruce and his extended family at this sad time. Birthday celebrations will not be the same at Morialta without Wallace!

