

Beyond 2020 Vision

A Publication of Morialta Uniting Church

July 2023

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

Welcome to our July edition

Colin Cargill, Editor and Helena Begg, Publisher

In this issue, Vance Morgan discusses ordinary time and how we reflect on our 'ordinariness' as we travel our own journey.

There are obituaries for Boronia Bennier and Arthur Tideman, more brilliant flower arrangements from the Mother's Day service and another in our series of 'Forgotten women of history'.

We celebrate the successful concert we enjoyed with the Coruscalia Collective at Morialta and give further information about the upcoming Voice to Parliament vote.

The cut-off date for August Vision will be **Friday 28th July**. 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.

Ordinary lives in Ordinary Time

Adapted from an article by Vance Morgan
published on Patheos website

Rev Bob referred to Ordinary Time on Sunday 11th June as the day that marked the beginning of the longest liturgical season – from Trinity Sunday, celebrated in Western liturgical churches on the Sunday following Pentecost (the 50th day after Easter), through to Advent.

So, what is 'Ordinary Time' and how do we reflect on its 'ordinariness' in comparison with Easter, Advent and Christmas?



One of Michel de Montaigne's many memorable reflections that Vance Morgan remembers is "The most beautiful of lives are those which conform to the common measure, human and ordinate, without miracles and without rapture."

To some Montaigne's quote seems to be a recipe for mediocrity and a denial of the importance of miracles and ecstasy. Others – like Morgan – find much to like in it. One of his colleagues found it inspiring because it says that "a beautiful life is not to be judged by whether you get your name on a plaque in City Hall."

While Morgan agrees that this passage from Montaigne is inspirational, he is not suggesting that mountain-top experiences are unimportant; rather, he is reminding us that a beautiful life is not constructed from such experiences. There

is a reason why most of the Christian liturgical year, although seasoned with the miracle of the Incarnation and the rapture of Easter, is spent in long stretches of inwardness, waiting, and getting down to the day-to-day, week-to-week work of being a regular human being trying to live a life in the presence of the Divine. Life is what happens while we are making other plans.

Montaigne suggests that the beauty of a life is to be judged by what you are doing between the miracles and the ecstasy. Or as others suggest, it's about the 'dash' – the little line that will be carved between the two dates on your tombstone.

Morgan has written previously about his love for the closing paragraph of George Eliot's *Middlemarch*. For him it is a perfect expression of the sort of life Montaigne considers to be beautiful. Of her heroine Dorothea Brooke, Eliot writes:

Her finely touched spirit had still its fine issues, though they were not widely visible. Her full nature, like that river of which Cyrus broke the strength, spent itself in channels which had no great name on the earth. But the effect of her being on those around her was incalculably diffusive: for the growing good of the world is partly dependent on unhistoric acts; and that things are not so ill with you and me as they might have been, is half owing to the number who lived faithfully a hidden life, and rest in unvisited tombs.

Morgan finds this a description of a life beautifully lived in 'ordinary time'. He himself would love to write a bestseller. He would love to have thousands of people all over the world waiting with rapt attention for his next wise and witty blog post. But he would like most to faithfully live a life according to Montaigne's 'common measure', bringing what he has to offer into each new day with intelligence, energy, and an occasional infusion of divine humour. Miracles and rapture are fine if you get them, but at the end of the road a 'nicely done' would be even better.



Packing Day - From Margaret Clogg and Margaret Whibley

A huge thankyou to the congregation members who donated goods for the annual packing day in early June. A small group of Fellowship members sorted the donated goods into designated categories before they were transferred to Athelstone UCA to be distributed to the APY Lands, Alice Springs, Darwin and the Coastal Communities of the NT.



From Church Council re the proposed Voice to Parliament

Since its inception, the Uniting Church has been a leader in matters related to Social Justice, at national and state levels and more locally. For example, around 15 years ago, there was significant debate that finally led to the adoption of a Preamble to the Uniting Church's Constitution which acknowledges the place of First Nation people in the Uniting Church. That decision has enhanced the relationship of the Uniting Church and the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress. Even those most vehemently opposed to that decision must concede that the decision has yielded positive outcomes. Our Church's support of the Voice to Parliament is a current example.

The National Assembly of the UCA and the Synod of SA have both decided to support the 'Yes Case' for the upcoming referendum. As part of the UCA, Church Council considered our local response to the referendum at its April meeting.

Council considered two proposals related to the 'Voice to Parliament'. Given the proximity of a planned Congregation Meeting to its discussion, it was decided to consult the congregation. Following that consultation and further discussion, Church Council discerned that we should follow the lead of Assembly and Synod and advocate for the 'Yes Case'.

Accordingly, resources are now available on our website for interested individuals to use in familiarising themselves with the issues related to this decision. Also, there is now a 'Yes' Banner over the entrance so that passing traffic might be encouraged to think carefully about this important decision.

In every community there is a range of responses to any situation requiring decision. Church Council recognises there will be members with strong opinions at each end of the spectrum on the matter of 'The Voice to Parliament' too. Diversity is a hallmark of the Uniting Church. It brings strength to our denomination and helps in the discernment process. Whatever way you finally decide to vote in the referendum later this year, we hope that you will have taken the opportunity to become fully informed with matters relating to the question asked in the referendum.

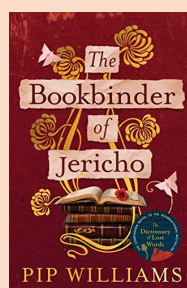
If you don't know yet what your response to the referendum will be, please seek out information without relying on hearsay. There are significant resources available on our website, as well as other platforms, for you to consider as you arrive at your decision.

Warm greetings from your library!

It has been pleasing that so many people have borrowed books in our cold days and we really appreciate those who have donated their personal books and DVDs for others to enjoy. We also appreciate the gifts of homemade jams, pickles, sauces etc. that have been donated, as well as the lovely assortment of cards, the sale of which support the library funds. These gifts are on the stand in the foyer beside the library door.

We always welcome newcomers. This year people from the community who attend Tai Chi on Monday and Art Circle on Friday have borrowed books. If you would like to borrow as a newcomer, please enter your name and contact details into our outgoing book, as well the newcomer's book, so that the information can be entered into our computer records.

Some new additions that may interest you are:

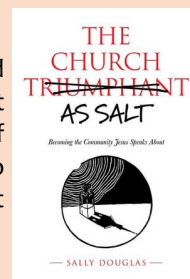


***The Bookbinder of Jericho* by Pip Williams**

This is the companion to the international bestseller 'The Dictionary of Lost Words'. Pip explores another little-known slice of history seen through women's eyes. Evocative and rich with unforgettable characters.

***The Church as Salt* by Sally Douglas**

Is the church dying? In this profound and joyful book Sally argues that we are not suffering through a period of decline but of great opportunity. The church is called to bring out the best in the world just as salt seasons a meal.



Happy Reading with loving blessings from your Library Team, Joan, Miranda and Jill.

Enjoying winter on Sydney Harbour



Sydney put on perfect winter weather for Christine and Peter Garner's Golden Wedding Anniversary.



Coruscalia Collective at Morialta UC

Around 70 people attended MUC on Sunday 2nd July to enjoy music played by the Coruscalia Collective.

The Collective chose a mix of works from a number of Australian contemporary composers, utilising flutes of all sizes.

After the music patrons enjoyed tea and coffee in the hall, augmented with Judith Purling's delicious scones smothered in jam and cream.

Thanks to all who helped make it such a successful afternoon and to those who came along to support MUC programs.

It was a very pleasant Sunday afternoon, which also increased MUC's bank balance by over \$800.



Patrons enjoying a Devonshire afternoon tea

Imagining a Safer World



Churches Together invites you to:

Imagination, Friendship & Spirituality

Sunday 23rd July 2.00 - 4.00pm

St John's Anglican - 379 Halifax Street, Adelaide

Speaker: Dr Anglo Pizzey (via video)

Devonshire Tea provided

Tickets \$15 – RSVP to <https://shorturl.at/gyPW4>

An afternoon of "Imagining a Safer World"

Sunday 13th August 2 – 4.00pm

Prospect U.C. - 174 Prospect Road, Prospect

Peter Prove, Director International Affairs,

World Council of Churches (via video)

Allam Behm, Head International and Security,

Australian Institute (via video)

Sen Barbara Pocock AM, South Australia (in person)

Tickets \$15

RSV to <https://form.jotform.com/231580974087869>

or email CTSA @ admin@churchestogethersa.org.au

Do I stay Christian?

from "Do I Stay Christian?: A Guide for the Doubters, the Disappointed and the Disillusioned" by Brian D. McLaren

There once was a bird who lived in a tree. The bird was named Faithful. From the time she was a tiny hatchling, her parents used to sing a song every morning. The song was called 'Home', but Faithful thought Home was the name of her tree.

Even after her siblings fledged and flew away, Faithful never ventured far from the nest. It was all she had ever known through the spring and summer of her life. To her, it was Home.

Autumn came. The leaves changed from green to amber, rust, and scarlet. 'Home has never been more beautiful!' Faithful thought. 'I'm so glad I stayed.'

One day, gusty winds blew and cold rain fell. One by one the leaves flew off the tree. After the storm, Faithful became worried. 'Home has never been so ugly,' she said. She looked up and saw other birds flying. She wondered if she should join them. Would it be safe? Would her tree survive without her? Would she survive without the tree? What would her parents think, after providing such a beautiful nest in this tree called Home? To stay or to leave . . . it felt like the biggest choice she would ever make.

One morning, one of her brothers, Adventure, flew in and perched on a branch beside her. 'I've been looking everywhere for you,' he said. 'It's time to migrate.' 'I don't know what to do,' Faithful said. 'I don't know if I should stay Home or leave.'

Adventure cocked his head. 'Faithful, I think you're confused,' he tweeted. 'Home isn't the name of your tree. Home is the name of your song. Wherever you sing your song, that is your home.'

For many of us, Christianity is the name of the tree in which we were raised, or it is the tree in which we sought refuge later in life. But the season has changed. The tree has changed. We have changed. The longer we stay, the more disappointed, disillusioned, frustrated and even trapped we feel.

Perhaps we need to discover that Christian faith wasn't meant to be our tree. It was meant to be our song. Wherever we sing with love, joy, peace and patience, wherever we sing with kindness, gentleness, generosity and justice, there we manifest what being human means to us. Our song is our gift to the world.

Arthur Frederick Tideman (1931 - 2023)



Arthur was born in 1923 and lived his early years on the Galway Estate (later called Netherby) just down the hill from the Waite Institute. He grew up as part of a caring extended family, which included the community at Malvern Methodist Church. He attended infant and primary school in Unley and then Prince Alfred College. It was here that he started to develop his interest in agriculture.

Although he grew up in an urban environment Arthur's family had close connections with rural life and his close friends at PAC were from the country. Hence the many school holidays he spent on farms influenced his career choice. In his final year at PAC Arthur took up the agriculture course offered by the school.

He went on to study Agricultural Science at the University of Adelaide at the beginning of 1949. At university Arthur represented the Agricultural Science faculty on the university newspaper, he played hockey for the university and continued to play tennis for his church. During this time, he became involved with the Student Christian Movement making life-long friends with people from other faculties. His involvement with SCM had a significant effect on his spiritual journey

At the end of his second year at university he was granted a cadetship with the Department of Agriculture which gave him 100 pounds a year. It also required him to work with people already employed in the department during university breaks. After graduating in 1952, Arthur spent 3 years based in Jamestown with the Soil Conservation Branch.

1956 was a big year for Arthur. He married Ruth, joined the Shell Chemical Company and moved to Clare. Three years later with his experience in weed control with chemicals, Arthur returned to the Department of Agriculture as leader of the new Weed Science Unit. He was later promoted to Principal Agronomist, and then Chief Agronomist. During this time, working with local government, he was instrumental in establishing Animal and Pest Plant Boards and Soil Boards. At the time of his retirement, he was Director of Plant Services. In the course of his work Arthur had significant overseas travel experiences including in 1978 as part of the Australian Governments first Agricultural Science Mission to China.

Arthur married Lesley Jacobs in 1980. Lesley worked with rural women's groups and provided support to the Agricultural Bureau in South Australia. Together they continued to make

significant contributions to agriculture and rural communities across the state.

As leader of the Overseas Project Unit of the Department of Agriculture Arthur had many trips to Libya, Algeria and Jordan. In 1984-85 Arthur, with Lesley, accepted the challenge to manage a dryland farming project for the South Australian Government in northern Iraq. The contract included training Iraqi and Kurdish agricultural graduates and farmers.

Although Arthur 'retired' in 1991 he continued his interest in agriculture, helping to establish a group to record the history of agriculture in South Australia and develop a website. He had a full and varied retirement. He learnt and became a very skilled wood carver, was a regular participant in the Shed Group at Morialta and was actively involved in a Probus Club, participating until recently in their weekly walks.

But Arthur was not just an agriculture scientist with an amazing CV, he was first a family man. Jill was born in Clare in 1957. In 1959 twins Philip and Sally joined the family followed by Robin in 1964. Arthur also loved being a grandfather and great grandfather and was so proud of all eight grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren – soon to be 3. He involved himself very much in their lives, sharing holidays, providing a taxi service to sport and attending Grandparents Days.

Arthur was keen on outdoor activities – camping with friends, roaming the Adelaide Hills on his bike with his mates, bushwalking in Tasmania with his uni friends and later taking his family on wonderful camping trips both in Australia and overseas. His love of the outdoors was manifested in family activities focused on gardening. He loved it.

In 1959 when Arthur's work commitments brought him back to Adelaide with his young family, he became part of the Magill Methodist Church. Over the next 60 years Magill Methodist/ Morialta Uniting was a significant part of his life. He held many leadership positions but above all he valued the fellowship of the church community as he continued to explore his spiritual journey.

As we at Morialta can attest he was a leader, a good friend, neighbourly and a peace-maker with a great sense of humour. The words 'wonderful service' sum up perfectly what he has given us, his family, his friends, his church, his career, his community and the environment.

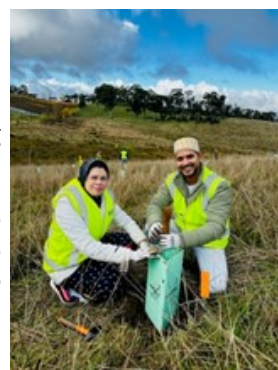


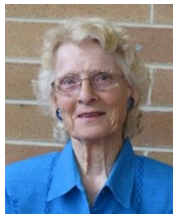
The Dawoodi Bohras join with Conservation Volunteers

The Dawoodi Bohras recently joined with Conservation Volunteers Australia and participated in a tree planting day in the Mount Lofty Ranges near Lobethal.

The Billy Goat Hill area was impacted by bush fires recently, and our friends from the Dawoodi Bohras community assisted in planting a massive total of 1710 seedlings.

Congratulations on a wonderful achievement!





(Florence) Boronia Bennier (1929 - 2023)

Boronia was born in 1929, the third child of Florence Maud and John Cecil Gunner Cooper, who was a malt brewer. She was named Florence after her mother and Boronia

because a friend arrived with a bunch of boronia flowers soon after her arrival.

Boronia had a happy childhood growing up at Tusmore Avenue and Victor Harbor during school holidays. She was a natural at backyard cricket with her brothers, where she was an excellent batter and overarm bowler. She could also kick a football. Like her sister Joan, she also learned to play the piano.

Boronia loved school, where she made life-long friends. She attended Lyndwood House, a small one-teacher school held in the Tusmore Presbyterian Church before moving to the Presbyterian Girls', now Seymour College. She did well academically but also loved sports, especially tennis. She played in the PGC A Grade Tennis team from 1945-47; PGC A Grade Basketball (now known as Netball) Team; and elected as a prefect for her last 2 years at school. She won the under 18 Girls' Singles SA Hard Court Tennis Championship, the under 18 Doubles Hard Court Tennis Championship (with Beth Treasure) and was also the under 18 SA Girls' Singles Grass Court Tennis Champion.

After leaving school Boronia played tennis for the Eastern Districts Tennis Association and played at Memorial Drive for a time. She was invited to go to Wimbledon, but "amateurs" were expected to pay their own way and the funds were just not available.

Boronia would have liked to go to university to become a teacher, but she was told that as the boys had to be the breadwinners for their future families, their university tuition must come first. So, she worked for several years at a variety of businesses, including 'Rigby's', as a bookkeeper.

Her brother John had a close friend and rowing buddy named Donald Bennier. When Donald bought an Austin 10 roadster, he drove to Tusmore to show it off to John. John wasn't home but Boronia was – vacuuming and singing at the top of her voice. Although very embarrassed, Donald convinced her to go for a drive in his new car and the rest (as they say) was history.

They were married on 22 October 1955 at Scots Church in Adelaide, and moved to Clifton Street, Prospect. Michele arrived in December 1956, Robin in November 1959, Jacky in December 1961, and Rachel in October 1965.

Boronia was always resourceful and one of Michele's childhood memories was watching her mum starting the car with a pair of scissors because she couldn't find the keys. All she said was "Don't tell Dad!"

In 1967, the family moved to Fourth Street Tranmere, where they spent many happy years. Boronia would never refuse a genuine request for help and could see when a person was struggling. She also loved animals, especially cats and dogs, including one much loved border collie called Blackie.

Wonderful holidays were spent at Yilki on Encounter Bay in a tiny house in Petrel Avenue, as well as in the caravan at Meningie, Port Lincoln, and the Flinders Ranges.

Boronia was excited about the arrival of her grandchildren, Nicholas and Joshua, Stephen and Kirsty, and Ian, Scott, Eric and Tamara, and enjoyed being a grandmother.

She faced all of life's challenges with quiet stoicism, determination, and strength. Challenges included two bouts of unrelated cancer, and caring for Donald when he developed pancreatic cancer. She was kind to everyone and didn't like conflict – always trying to smooth things over or find solutions to problems. She fixed things, she glued broken things back together, and she spent time talking with her children if things weren't right.

Boronia kept up an interest in science programs like 'Towards 2000' and 'Beyond 2000'. She learnt Japanese at CAE and was ahead of her time environmentally – avoiding using aerosols for fear of damaging the ozone layer, and being an early adopter of recycling.

Boronia was musical and wrote both music and lyrics and loved her involvement in Finchley Park Presbyterian (later Uniting) and Morialta Uniting. She was a dedicated volunteer being involved in many rosters, including Coffee Corner. She preferred to be behind the scenes, usually washing dishes. In earlier days she was a Sunday School teacher, as well as cleaning, doing flowers, welcoming people at the door, serving tea and coffee, and more.

"Seashells remind us that every single life leaves something beautiful behind."

Fellowship News

From Margaret Clogg

Our June meeting was a lively quiz and poem day which allowed all the members to participate. A huge variety of questions tested our knowledge and the morning concluded with further fun and fellowship over lunch.

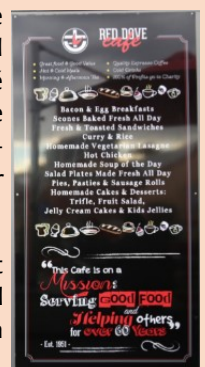
At our next meeting on Thursday July 20th at 10am, Ray and Margaret will show photos of their 2022 Silo Art Trail in Western Victoria. All are welcome to join us.



Red Dove Cafe volunteers needed!

There are just under two months until the Red Dove Café for 2023 at the Royal Adelaide Show. Money raised from this café goes to mission in South Australia. The organisers are seeking people to fill 800+ shifts for the period 1st – 10th September this year.

If you are interested, please contact Volunteer Coordinators, on email volunteer.rdc@gmail.com or call Janet on 0432 271 757.



Is race mentioned in the Australian Constitution?

During the debate about 'The Voice to Parliament', claims have been made that "Race is not mentioned once in the 144 pages of our Constitution. All Australians are treated equally under law."

But the claim that race is not mentioned once is false. The constitution refers to race several times, with Sections 25 and 51 (xxvi) specifically on the matter. Both sections have been enshrined in the Australian Constitution since 1901.

Section 25 of the Constitution talks about the States banning people of any race from voting in State elections. This section says that if a State chooses to ban a racial group from voting, it would have an effect on the Australian Parliament.

Section 51 (xxvi) The Parliament shall, subject to this Constitution, have power to make laws for the peace, order, and good government of the Commonwealth with respect to:

... The people of any race, other than the aboriginal people in any State, for whom it is necessary to make special laws.

The Australian Constitution is also not 144 pages long. According to Professor Twomey, that while there may be different paginations, the standard copy was just 36 pages. The Parliament of Australia online pdf version contains 50 pages.



Sea of Hands – Reconciliation Day at the National Arboretum, Canberra

Forgotten women - Joice NanKivell Loch

Adapted from an article published in Wikipedia



Joice NanKivell Loch, MBE, was an Australian author, journalist and humanitarian worker who worked with refugees in Poland, Greece and Romania during and after World War I and II.

She was born in 1887 on a sugar cane plantation in Ingham where her father acted as manager of the plantation, part owned by her wealthy grandfather, Thomas NanKivell. When Kanaka labour was abolished, her parents walked off the property virtually penniless. Her father, George NanKivell, took a job as manager on a run-down property in Victoria where Joice grew up. She had wanted to become a doctor but the family was unable to pay university fees and so she helped on the property until she was 26 years old. After the death of her brother during World War I, her father abandoned the farm and Joice went to Melbourne where she worked for the Professor of Classics at the University of Melbourne and reviewed books for the Melbourne Herald.

She met her husband, Gallipoli veteran Sydney Loch, when she reviewed his fictionalised autobiography 'The Straits Impregnable', which told of the horrors of Gallipoli. The book had been banned by the military censor – fearful that if the truth about the slaughter were revealed, young men would stop enlisting to fight in France.

Joice and Sydney Loch went to Poland as aid workers for the Quaker Relief Movement and were awarded medals by the Polish President for their humanitarian work. The Lochs then worked as aid workers in Greece in a Quaker-run refugee camp on the outskirts of Thessaloniki. After 2 years they were given a peppercorn rent on a Byzantine tower tower by the sea in the refugee village of Ouranoupolis.

To help the villagers, Loch purchased looms so that the women could work as rug weavers; she designed Byzantine

rugs, one of which is now on display in the Powerhouse Museum in Sydney. She also acted as a medical orderly and held regular clinics for the villagers. The couple were awarded medals by the King of the Hellenes.

Later during World War II, Joice was among a civilian humanitarian group that planned the escape of thousands of Polish Jews to Cyprus with the approval of British authorities. As part of the effort, these 1,000 women and children were entrusted to Joice.

A description of the incident in MamaMia read: "To most who boarded the train in Bucharest, nothing would have seemed out of the ordinary. The dozens of women and children dotted throughout the carriages appeared to be on an excursion to the seaside. Some were carrying beach bags and the little ones were chatting excitedly to each other as the train rocked through the Romanian countryside towards the resort town of Constantza. No one could tell that many of these women had what little jewellery or valuables they still owned secreted inside the hems of their dresses. No one could tell they were fleeing."

The group, mostly refugee wives and widows of captured Polish officers, was joined by 400 more at the seaside resort town. Together, they boarded the ferry to Istanbul, clutching their travel documents – either forged or black-market.

Subsequently, the Lochs ran a refugee camp for Poles at Haifa. In 1953 they returned to Greece and their tower home and re-established the Pyrgos rug industry in Ouranoupolis.

Today, Joice is considered one of Australia's most unsung heroes with 11 medals from Australia, Greece, Poland, Serbia, Romania and Britain. In 1972 on the recommendation of the Australian government she was appointed a Member of the Order of the British Empire for "international relations". Joice Loch remains Australia's most decorated woman.

She died in her home in Ouranoupolis on 8th October 1982, aged 95.

Flowers evoke memories

Jan Sillett and members of the flower roster

Flowers evoke different feelings and memories based on their colours and scents. Each week, members of the flower roster provide flowers to awaken your senses and convey the love of God. Here is a sample of flowers presented on Mother's Day to enhance our worship and understanding of the role of women in the Bible.



Christine Garner's arrangement reflects the strength and leadership of Lydia.



Joan Wagner's arrangement focused on the apple tree, a symbol of fruitfulness, love and strength. It represents rare beauty.



Arlene Lomman's arrangement focused on Miriam. A refreshing and revitalizing shade, the green used is symbolic of new beginnings.

Proposed change to Sunday service time

Members of the Morialta Uniting Church community will already have received an email or printed detail about proposed changes to our Sunday service time.

Following representation from a number of sources, Church Council will implement a change to our service time from 3rd September.

Members of the community are encouraged to provide feedback about this proposal by contacting our office or Bruce Ind.

If you have any questions or concerns about the information provided please contact Bruce at your convenience.

Members of Gateways enjoying a "5th Friday" meal together at Taste of Nepal restaurant.

(Photo by Anne Ind)



Are you getting old?

Contributed by David Purling

Here is a quiz to test your memory and to decide if you are old, older or ancient. Only count the ones that you remember and not the ones you were told about – OK!

- Headlight dip-switches on the floor of the car
- Ignition switches on the dashboard
- Trouser leg clips for bicycles without chain guards

- Soldering irons heated on a gas burner
- Using hand signals for cars without turn indicators
- Sweet cigarettes
- 'Milk bars' especially juke boxes
- Home milk delivery in glass bottles
- Party lines on the telephone
- Newsreels before the movie
- TV test patterns overnight
- Peashooters
- 33 rpm records
- 45 rpm records
- Hi-fi's (not high 5's)

- Metal ice trays with levers
- Blue flashbulb
- Cork popguns
- Wash-tub wringers

How did you go?

If you remembered 0 - 5 you're still young;
if you remembered 5 - 10 you are getting old;
If you remembered 10 - 15 you are getting older;
If you remembered 15 - 19 = You're positively ancient!



Try telling a Tuvaluan that climate change is not real!

From the Guardian and <http://www.psp-ltd.com>

Tuvalu, a tiny country in the Pacific Ocean, is expected to be one of the first in the world to be completely lost to climate change. It faces challenges to its natural environment which will be exacerbated by climate change: coastal erosion, saltwater intrusion and increasing vector and water borne diseases due to sea level rise.

Subsistence farming and fishing are the primary economic activities and government revenues largely come from the sale of stamps and coins, fishing licences and worker remittances.

The three coral islands and six atolls that make up Tuvalu have a total land mass of less than 26 sq km. At current rates of sea level rise, some estimates suggest that half the land area of the capital, Funafuti, will be flooded by tidal waters within three decades. By 2100, 95% of land will be flooded by periodic king tides, making it essentially uninhabitable.

About a fifth of Tuvalu's population have already moved away. There is no higher land on which to rebuild, but many Tuvaluans do not want to leave their ancestral home. Work is under way to reclaim land, along with attempts to preserve the country's culture and history online. Ground breaking plans could make Tuvalu the first wholly digitised nation in the metaverse.

That proposal is part of Tuvalu's Future Now Project, designed to preserve its nationhood, governance, and culture if the worst happens. The government is examining how to use augmented and virtual reality to allow displaced and future generations of Tuvaluans to continue to exist as a culture and a nation, complete with ancestral knowledge and value systems. Some are excited about the idea of a "digital twin", while others remain unsure.

Sea levels have risen more than 15cm in the past century, and even if we stopped producing greenhouse gases today, a very unlikely scenario, the water will still keep coming.

The message from Tuvalu is one of resilience and action in the face of this global emergency, and casts light on a corner of the world Australians rarely see.

What can we do be a good neighbour? Live in ways so that help others may survive!

<https://borgenproject.org/how-to-help-people-in-tuvalu/>



A new disease discovered in birds

From an article by Julia Gardiner published in the Veterinarian

With the prevalence of plastic waste, and the widespread threat plastics pose for ecosystems globally, it is perhaps unsurprising a new disease linked to plastic has been identified. Scientists have found the declining health of many seabirds is due to extensive scar tissue within their stomachs caused by ingesting plastic. Dubbed plasticosis the disease develops when plastic has repeatedly injured the birds' soft tissues after being consumed. Similar fibrotic disease was not found in birds that consumed natural abrasive materials, such as pumice, which highlights plastic's unique pathological properties when ingested by birds.

The researchers included marine scientists and students from around the world who study 'all things adrift in the ocean'. In this case they studied Lord Howe Island's flesh-footed shearwaters.

The species is known to be highly impacted by plastic ingestion, with up to 90% of chicks found with plastic in their digestive tract. The scientists found that in severe cases many of the chicks with high plastic burdens starve to death.

When plastic is consumed, it can impact aspects of the birds' physiology, as well as blood chemistry. It can cause inflammation and tissue damage in several major organs. These changes can make the birds weaker and less likely to adapt to a changing environment.

The study's findings show plastics can penetrate most organs since they are able to cross cell membranes, and potentially damage tissues and intracellular structures. Microscopic plastics can also cross the blood-brain barrier and the placenta.

In addition to causing fibrosis, the ingested plastic is also damaging vital digestive glands. During digestion, small fragments can break off and become embedded in the tissue causing further inflammation and damage.

Of even more concern is that a recent study published by CSIRO shows that plastics and their additives are present at a range of concentrations not only in birds and fish but in many products including meat, chicken, rice, water, take-away food and drink, and even fresh produce.

Here are a few actions you can take to reduce plastic pollution:

- Refuse plastic whenever possible. No straws, lids, plastic bags, or plastic takeaway containers. Carry your own utensils to avoid using plastic utensils.
- Boycott restaurants and cafes that use straws and plastic packaging – take your own containers for left overs.
- Use reusable water bottles, coffee mugs, and take your own bags when you shop.
- Tell your local supermarket that you will not buy produce wrapped in plastic. Purchase loose fruits and vegetables.
- Bring your own glass container or mesh baggies and buy grains, nuts, and other items in the bulk section. Avoid items wrapped in excess plastic.
- Use alternatives made from natural materials (bamboo toothbrushes, glass jars, wooden toys).
- Whenever you see plastic in nature, collect it and recycle it or put it in the trash can.
- Talk trash with your friends, family, and colleagues!