

Morialta Vision ...in the Wilderness

– by the gift of the spirit we have not lost the way!

A Publication of Morialta Uniting Church

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Welcome to Vision in the Wilderness 12 – by the gift of the spirit we have not lost the way.

Colin Cargill, Editor and Helena Begg, Publisher

Many of us continue to worship in the Church and we were even able to celebrate Holy Communion with tongs and no fingers. It is interesting that some figures available from Churches Together SA suggest a 30% increase in people who are praying regularly, as well as an increase in people worshipping since many churches went on-line.

Some Multicultural Communities are commencing every day with a short on-line worship.

We apologise for 2 errors which occurred in VitW 11 – Dorothy Mills' son is named Andrew, not Ron and in the Library Notes, we were given Dymocks as the book donors, when it should have been Dillon's.

We received 40 responses to our survey and by far the majority (85%) prefer to receive the 4-page edition every 2 weeks and 5% preferred the longer version every 8 weeks. The remainder (10%) expressed no preference as long as Vision continued. A range of names were offered, including keeping "Wilderness" in the name. Any more ideas out there?

Meanwhile, your contributions, photos and articles are always welcome – less than 300 words is ideal and hand written pieces are fine. Cut off date for the next "VitW" is 9/11 or 11th September. Do you have a memory of that day to share?

My address for a letter box drop is 34A Moules Road, Magill or call me on 0427 122 106 or email me at snout-n-about@bigpond.com.au

Go well and stay safe.



Guess Who's Coming to Lunch

Are you needing a little fun, or are you tired of eating alone?

Well the good news is that now we can have 50 people in our homes we can enjoy "Guess Who's Coming to Lunch" again. Of course you don't have to invite 50 people - just the usual 4-6.

Would you like to host a lunch or be a guest on Sunday October 11th? If the answer is yes, then please contact either Judith Purling on 8364 9362 or Rhonda Amber on 8337 4800 or reply by email to office@morialtauca.org.au or return the slip to the church office.

Who are the Community and the World and how do we embrace them?

Adapted from a reflection by Cecile Torbergson,
Episcopal Church Women of the Diocese of Louisiana

A Community is a group of people living in the same locality and under the same government. It could also mean a community of similar interests, or society as a whole. The World is a collection of communities, countries and peoples.

When we're young, community and world are family, school and church. We experience being embraced by family members, and from them learn about hospitality, respecting others and observing the Golden Rule. Neighbours, schools and churches were our long-established communities – strangers to welcome were rare. Later we learned to welcome and embrace newcomers to our neighbourhood, our church and our workplace.

In a Christian context, our faith community is where we learn to strip away our self-interest in order to serve others. We learn to share what has been given us, whether it be goods or spiritual gifts. It is also here that we learned about serving – sometimes as the foot-washers and sometimes the washees.

Community means watching over one another for good, knowing that as we serve, all of us are growing stronger in Christ. Christian communities provide workshops for prayer, worship, random acts of love and kindness and taking action for a better world. Faith communities can be models for all of humankind: love and acceptance, compassion and kindness, truth and honour.

Our baptism calls us to carry the ministry of love and reconciliation to all those around us. It is incumbent upon us to welcome the alienated, address the plight of the homeless, feed the hungry, seek justice for the oppressed.

Community is also about relationships, to help us live together in a variety of ways – ways that strengthen rather than disrupt. As we tread carefully into a world of social limitations and restrictions, where ways of social greetings have changed, we must seek a new understanding of what is an act of love and kindness and how we maintain community.

At this time Community is very important. It is to be sought and welcomed. By seeking to model Jesus, regardless of risk, we will find that the reward is to enter into life as God intended it to be lived from the beginning of the World.



Information from Church Council

There are many implications for individuals and congregations as we all find ways to cope with COVID 19 and the necessary changes to our behaviour and activity.

For some time Church Council has been considering the market and other activities that would usually take place in the life of the congregation. News about some of the concert events, scheduled for 2020, has been shared already.

It is with reluctance that the decision to postpone the 2020 Mighty Magill Christmas Market has been taken. Depending on the situation around COVID 19 in the New Year, we may look to have an Easter Market instead. Of course, some of you have probably been making and growing in preparation for the market. If so, please be assured that there will be a market sometime in the future so your efforts will not be in vain!

While the market is not going ahead Church Council felt that 'Guess Who's Coming to Lunch' should still be able to be offered. Smaller groups are manageable and people may make their own decisions about taking part. GWCTL will be held in October.

Thank you to all for your ongoing forbearance in these times.

Bruce Ind

Fellowship

From Margaret Clogg

On Thursday 20th August Fellowship held its first meeting for 6 months and celebrated this with a "Welcome Back To Fellowship" cake made by Ruth Pitt.

Margaret Cargill spoke to the group of 18 about her amazing trip to Medieval Conques Abbey in Southern France. Margaret showed stunning photos of the Abbey and the surrounding area with great detail and it almost felt as though we were there with her. It was an outstanding way to re-start our Fellowship year.

Our next meeting is on Thursday 17th September at 10 am. We will be having a travel quiz. All welcome!

Remembering 2nd September 1945

From the Editor's Brother

75 years ago, at 9.30am on 2nd September, I turned on the wireless to hear 'Kindergarten of the Air' before I started my lessons sent from Black Friars Correspondence School.

Instead of Kindergarten, I heard Ben Chifley, the Prime Minister, announce that the war was over. Mum sent me across the paddocks, about a mile, to tell Dad and the men who were digging spuds that Dad had grown as part of the war effort. They downed tools and we all got on the dray behind Daisy (the horse) and went home. We all went to town, which was an event as dad only got tickets for 4 gallons (18 litres) of petrol a month. Trips were infrequent. I think that helped me to remember the day, which is really the first thing in my life I remember. I was 6 years old.

Update:

Managing our safe return to the building!

Greetings everyone! It's been great to see those who wish to come worshipping at Chapel St over the last couple of weeks, and to hear from those at home of their appreciation of the livestreamed services or the delivered paper materials. Warmest thanks to all who have done so much to make sure it can all happen – and safely!

The SA government now requires us to have a designated and trained COVID-Safe Marshal on duty for activities open to the public – ours will be identified, front and back, by an orange ribbon sash and a badge. Certificates for successful completion of the (online) training are displayed on the large noticeboard. Please support the marshals as they work to ensure we are following our COVID-Safe Plan, especially hand hygiene, physical distancing, and filling the worship space from the piano end. It all takes practice, and we are learning more each week about how to do it better!

From Sunday 30 August we are experimenting with providing tea and coffee after worship in a COVID-Safe manner. Orders are placed at the servery, and beverages and biscuits are prepared for you to take to tables set up in the hall. The important point is that items are only touched by the server in the kitchen and the person consuming – no shared implements. Let's see if we can make this work! You can also take friends home for coffee, or to a coffee shop, as before. Catching up with friends is so important!

And a request! With new ways of doing some things, and some people still at home, we are needing volunteers to replenish our roster lists – is joining a roster something you could consider? Please check out the list of rostered duties on the back page of the newsletter, and be in touch to talk about roles you could take.

Shalom, Margaret Cargill (0439 954814)

Complainers

"Complaining about a problem without posing a solution is called whining."

Teddy Roosevelt

Everyone was gathered near the top of the hill in Wallace Street (Braidwood) and lots of people were ringing the fire warning bell, which was on a high pole opposite the War Memorial. Eventually we all marched to the Rec (Recreation Ground) where there were children's races. I remember getting 3rd in a race in which we all stood and jumped along in chaff bags.

After dark there was a bonfire and also the local firebug lit a house near where the Highway Diner now stands.

We went home and Bill Fletcher baby sat us while Mum and Dad went to a hastily organised Ball.



Braidwood War Memorial

1 Corinthians 13 for a pandemic

Glastonbury Methodist Church in the UK

We can have all the best technology, fantastic preachers and music that doesn't lag or jump, but if we don't love we're nothing but electronic feedback or an un-muted attempt at singing on zoom. We can talk all the good sense in the world, know all the risks and have faith enough that God will stop this virus in its tracks and he does, but if we don't love, we've got nothing. We can spend our days shopping for others, and our nights on the phone to the lonely and isolated until we're run ragged and exhausted. But if we don't love, we've got nowhere.

Love waits patiently 1.5m away in the supermarket, love is kind to those who feel forgotten, it does not envy the furloughed or take pride in its status as a 'key worker', it doesn't blame others for the virus's spread or seek to make money from other people's misfortune. It doesn't get angry at its rights being taken away nor does it keep records of its neighbours breaking lock-down. Love does not delight in our leader's failings but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

Love never fails. This virus will mutate or die. Church will change – as it has before and will do again. Scientific knowledge will move on leaving what we have now in the dust. For now, we may only see in part but that doesn't mean we have a partial gospel and one day we shall see the full picture. Before this pandemic we knew nothing of R-rates, social distancing and lock-down, now we know better and have put our past understandings behind us. For now, we see but through a screen darkly, then we will see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

Walking With Grandma

*I like walking with Grandma,
Her steps are short like mine.
She doesn't say "now hurry up"
She always takes her time.*

*I like to walk
with Grandma,
Her eyes see things
like mine do,
Wee pebbles bright,
a funny cloud,
Half hidden drops
of dew.*

*Most people have to hurry,
They do not stop to see.
I'm glad that God made Grandma
Unrushed and young like me!*



Fake News and Climate facts

From CFA, RFS, Victoria Police, BOM, NASA, ABC & Fact Check Committee on Climate Change

Arsonists start fires not climate change – Less than 1% land burned in NSW and Victoria last summer was due to arson. Most fires were caused by lightning. However, the ignition source is not the point – hot, drier conditions make fires more devastating and harder to control.

Cuts on hazard reduction burns were a major cause – Many burn-offs over winter and spring had to be cancelled due to hot dry conditions. As fire seasons become longer, the opportunity for hazard reductions is reduced.

Temperatures were way hotter when I was a kid – Wrong, 2019 was the hottest year on record.

Temperatures on earth have always fluctuated – True, but those changes took place over thousands of years – current changes are occurring over a few decades.

But now its flooding, I thought it was supposed to be hot and dry – Climate change means more extreme weather of all varieties because the atmosphere is becoming more volatile.

Even if it is real, Australia's contribution is too small to matter – Emissions for the average Australian are roughly 3 times the emissions for the average global citizen and double most EU citizens. Why should Australians be allowed a privileged life-style when it comes to emissions per capita? Is that a fair go?

The importance of faith and spirituality in decision making

From National Life Church Survey

The young and the old are more likely to make decisions based on faith and spirituality according to the latest NCLS report.

While 50% of both young people (18-34 years) and old people (65+) agreed that faith and spirituality were important in their decision making, only 41% of people aged 35-49 and 37% those aged 50-64, agreed with the proposition.

By education it was found that 48% of people with a University degree thought faith and spirituality was important in decision making compared with 45% for those with a certificate or diploma and 42% for those with no tertiary qualifications.

It seemed that the young and the old were more likely to call themselves spiritual and religious.

Fundraising:

Cumquat marmalade for sale

Available from the church office between 10am and 2pm on Tuesdays. \$5 per jar.



Front, back or centre? People want the front of the bus, the back of the church, and the centre of attention!

Growing Well-Being: Decent Jobs for People from the Pacific on Australian Farms

From Justice and Mission Cluster

– Victoria/Tasmania Synod of Uniting Church

And you are to love those who are foreigners, for you yourselves were foreigners in Egypt. Deuteronomy 10:19

Unemployment is a major problem for our Pacific neighbours due to limited opportunities for economic development. Being able to go overseas to work and send money back to their families is vital to address poverty in the Pacific.

Australia has established a program to allow people to come from the Pacific and work on Australian farms for up to nine months at a time. To date 51,000 work visits have been made by Pacific Islanders.

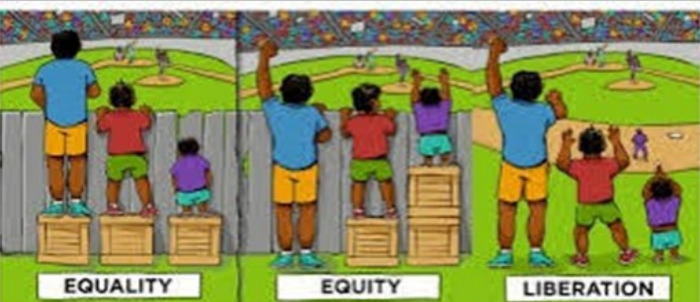
Vic/Tas Synod works with the Department of Education, Skills and Employment to put groups of workers in touch with churches and community contacts in Australia. The local churches seek to arrange with the employer for a local church representative to meet with the workers shortly after they arrive at their work location and to build friendships with the workers. Because the majority of employers treat workers justly, workers make good incomes.

But a small number of workers are exploited on the program by over-charging on accommodation and transport, and making direct deductions from the workers' wages. In one case 15 people lived in a five-bedroom home in Red Cliffs at \$100 per worker per week for a weekly total of \$1,500.

Workers are reluctant to report illegal, exploitive or abusive behaviour by employers for fear of being unable to return to Australia for future placements.

What can we do?

We can write a polite and respectful letter to the Minister for Industrial Relations acknowledging the Government's support for the Seasonal Worker Program, but expressing concern that in a small number of cases workers are subject to exploitation. To know more and take action click on <https://justact.org.au> - then click on Newsletter and open Letter Writing page for Pacific Islander workers.



Worship with us in person, or online



As of Sunday 16 August 2020 Morialta Uniting Church has been **Live Streaming** the 9:30am Worship via YouTube.

From Thursday each week the link for the next Sunday will be available on the Morialta website. You are also encouraged to subscribe to our [YouTube Channel](#), to easily find current or past live streamed services. You can find the link to our YouTube live streaming Channel, below:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjQHYwXCbctjQ686GKWTaFA>

If you access the link before 9:30am on Sunday you will see a static picture with a timer countdown to the start time of the stream. At 9:30am that will change to a live video stream of our 9:30am worship service.

If you join after 9:30 and before the end of the service you will default to the current time in the service, but you are able to manually start the playback from the beginning or any time up to real time.

If you join after the end of the service you will start at the beginning of the service just like any other YouTube video. The link will remain available well into the future.

Twelve things we can do right now to help the world

From Reset – Digital for Good

The climate is changing - but are we? Changes in the way we live our life - both big and small - can help us reduce our own personal carbon footprint, and also encourage policy makers to act for the good of the planet.

Many people feel that the issue of climate change is just too vast for individual actions to really make a difference. We at Reset don't agree, so we have come up with twelve simple tips on how we can reduce our carbon footprint.

Over the next several editions of VitW, we will bring you some easy things we can do right now to help fight climate change. Here are the first two.

Switch to 100% green power

Around two thirds of global greenhouse gas emissions are linked to burning fossil fuels for energy to be used for heating, electricity, transport and industry. By converting to green-electricity you support the phase-out of coal and directly reduce CO2 emissions.

Save energy

It might sound like the most original-sounding tip around, but it's as relevant as ever. Saving energy not only saves you money - it also helps to cut emissions too.

More information is available at <https://en.reset.org/about>