

Beyond 2020 Vision

A Publication of Morialta Uniting Church

September 2025

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

Welcome to our September edition

Rev Dianne Holden, chairperson of Wimala Presbytery, reflects on what is 'the church', and we also explore bias in AI and whether it is algorithms or our DNA that produces 'silos' mentality.

We celebrate five years of live-streaming worship at Morialta with photos and words of appreciation from subscribers.

You can also enjoy other news and articles from Morialta and a mix of stories and reflections of general interest.

The **deadline for the next Vision will be 3rd October**. Either drop your contribution in to the church office or call/email Colin on 0427 122 106 or snout-n-about@bigpond.com

Go well.

Helena Begg, Publisher and Colin Cargill, Editor

Unemployment, interest rates and justice

Rev Anne Butler

Economics may be a mystery to you as it is to me. I have been watching and waiting for interest rates to come down, but as we have debated who needs to suffer to get inflation under control in Australia, economists keep referring to the rate of unemployment. You may remember many announcements that 'interest rates will remain on hold because the unemployment rate is still too low'. It started me thinking – we have to increase the number of people unable to find work so that the rest of Australians can enjoy lower inflation – and somehow that doesn't seem fair to me.

In the past year, two of our five offspring (all adults now) have been without work. One has an occupation that enables her to find another almost straight away, but the other has much more trouble finding something suitable. When it is just theoretical, 4.2% unemployment seems reasonable, but when

it is someone you love that needs to be without work for the sake of the Australian economy, that is another matter.

Some months ago, I heard Noel Pearson talk about the Voice Referendum at Pilgrim Church. Noel is an aboriginal lawyer from Far North Queensland, and he spoke at length that the requirement for higher unemployment and its effect on First Nations People. Employers in Australia are loath to employ our Aboriginal people, but it is even more shocking that we need these people to not have work so that our inflation rate does not increase.

Pawns in a mighty chess game, with a racial and generational impact. What would the Old Testament prophets say? People before profits? What must you do?

Do justice,

Love mercy,

Walk humbly with God.

The church is what we do next

Adapted from the Wimala Presbytery Chairperson -
Rev Dianne Holden

I recently watched the movie Conclave. It is a fictional depiction of the secretive papal election following the death of the Pope. The movie has been described as exploring the universal themes of faith, doubt, ambition and the challenges of maintaining tradition in a changing world as the potential candidates for being the next Pope vie for the position. (It is well worth a watch!)

The candidates represent the broad spectrum of the Catholic Church - the traditionalist, the progressive and everything in

between. In the midst of the internal fighting, one quote particularly stood out for me as one candidate focuses on the meaning of being church rather than individual beliefs and dreams. He said... we have only been concerned with ourselves, with Rome, with these elections, with power. But these things are not the church.

The church is not tradition. The church is not the past. The church is what we do next.

The church is what we do next. Let that sink in.

As we struggle at times with being church I believe we tend to turn inwards. To what was when things were going well. To what we are comfortable with personally. To what we know.

Refugee orphans found not just in Gaza!

From UNHCF

Orphaned, lost or cut off from their loved ones – refugee children are arriving in Uganda in urgent need of your care and protection.

1.9 million refugees and asylum seekers are hosted by Uganda – 51% are children. Most are from South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

There are currently 49,762 unaccompanied children in Uganda with more arriving every day.

Population of Uganda is 50 million and 60% of employed Ugandans earn about AUD\$80 / month.

These children need our help! Go to <https://www.unhcr.org/au/> to donate!



August Church Council meeting news

The full agenda of the August meeting is in the Church Council folder in the library, and the minutes will also be there once they are confirmed. In the meantime, here are some highlights! As always, if you have any questions, please talk to one of the members of Church Council.

- **Medical emergency protocols and privacy issues:** Laminated copies of steps to be taken by those taking responsibility are now displayed as agreed. Council affirmed the high importance of ensuring privacy for the person experiencing an emergency situation, and agreed that a regular item should appear in the newsletter reminding all those of us without a designated role to keep right away from the scene of any emergency.
- **Batteries and a second defibrillator:** We agreed to accept the quotes received for the installation of batteries for the two student houses and the church, and to share with the netball club the cost of purchasing a defibrillator to be located close to the woodwork shed and the netball clubrooms.
- **Window display:** We endorsed the plans of the Digital Presence Group to update the text on the left-hand front window, which will read: Hope in action! Stop the occupation! Free the hostages! Peace and justice for all!
- **Rosters:** We affirmed that the roster team should ensure that everyone wanting to contribute as part of a Sunday roster has the opportunity to do so regularly.

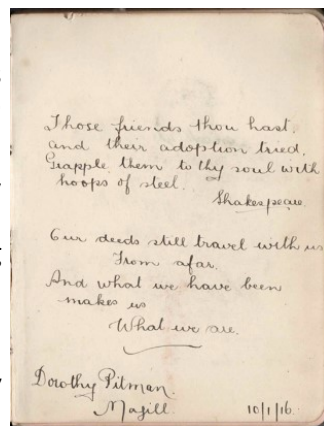
Autograph book – part of our history

Do you remember autograph books? Many of us had one as children, which we invited visitors to our home to write something in and sign their autograph.

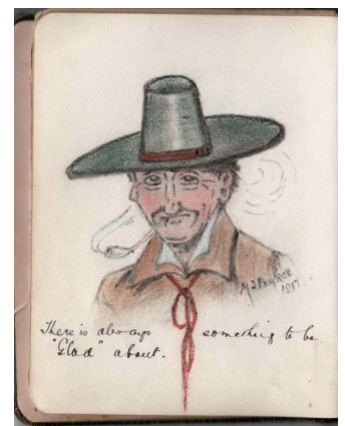
While cleaning out the photocopy room recently Jill and Bev came across an autograph book that had belonged to Ethel Bennett – a member of one of Magill Methodist's founding families.

The book is now in the church library.

Entries in the book – On the left, messages signed by Dorothy Pitman in 1916, "Those friends thou hast and their adoption tried. Grapple them to thy soul with hoops of steel (Shakespeare)."



"Our deeds still travel with us from afar and what we have been makes us what we are."



On the right, drawing signed in 1917 with the words "There is always something to be glad about."



Adelaide Male Voice Choir will hold a concert entitled "Second Time Around" at Morialta Uniting Church on Sunday 14th September commencing at 2.00pm, followed by afternoon tea. The concert will feature songs that were not popular when first released but became popular when released a second time.

Jonathan Leske – Conductor | Ed Kriek – Pianist

Please support the concert if you are able – and invite friends to join you.

The reason volunteers work hard to hold concerts at Morialta UC is to raise funds to keep our doors open. **We need your support to sell tickets** to achieve success.

Tickets \$25 (including afternoon tea) from the Morialta UC office (8331 9344), at the door, or from Trybooking <https://www.trybooking.com/DERRY>.

Welcome to the Season of Creation!

During September we will be celebrating "The Season of Creation" – an important focus in the Church year. Here is part of a message from the UCA President Rev Charissa Suli.

"As we enter the Season of Creation, I am deeply reminded of the interconnectedness of our faith, our communities, and the earth that sustains us all. Growing up as a daughter of the Pacific, I've witnessed firsthand the delicate balance of creation – how the ocean's rhythms sustain life and how, in turn, our actions impact those same waters. I recall stories from my Tongan heritage where the ocean is not just a resource but a living, breathing part of our community, a sacred gift from God that demands our respect and care.

This Season of Creation, with its theme Peace with Creation, invites us all to embrace our shared responsibility to protect and nurture the earth. The theme resonates deeply with our mission as the Uniting Church, where ecological justice and the stewardship of creation are central to our call as disciples of Christ. Romans 8:19-25 reminds us that creation itself groans in anticipation of liberation – a liberation that we are called to participate in through our prayers, actions, and advocacy."

Guess who came to lunch!

Once again thanks to Judith Purling for organising another very successful "Guess who is coming to Lunch."

Unfortunately we only have photos from 4 of the lunches - the missing groups dined at Judith's and Susanne's homes.

Many thanks to all our hosts for their generous hospitality!



At Margaret and Colin's home



At Rhonda's home



At Rev. Anne and June's home



At Margaret and Ray's home

Springtime memories

From Jenny Swanbury

I was visiting the Yunta Hotel folk when a man rushed in in great excitement. He had been driving down the Arkaroola to Yunta Road and suddenly came across the lovely sight of Sturt Desert Pea flowers blooming. I went back there with him and I was stunned too. They were blooming in all their glory and it seemed to me that it did not matter to them if no-one saw them. I was moved by the experience and the overwhelming joy of the man – a stranger to me.

So, when I recently came across this on my computer I thought 'This is a springtime experience and the next Vision will be springtime.'

In this drought land ...

Jenny Swanbury

I met a man in a remote community
he was breathless with awe:
'I have seen the desert blooming red
up the track'

On this first day of spring
long after the summer flood
not seeking an audience
the Sturt Desert Pea massed

*'The wilderness and the
dry land shall be glad,
The desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus it shall
blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and
singing'*

And in this drought land
we glimpsed
the glory of God

Prayer:

Dear God of awesome creation,
the earth, sky and waters cry out your glory
while the earth, sky and waters cry out their alarm.
'Listen,' says Jesus the Christ, 'Listen'.
May we listen with ear, eye, heart and deed. Amen.



Celebrating 5 years of live-streaming at MUC

A short history

Beyond our walls, known as BOW, was our first venture into providing an opportunity for others to join in our worship remotely. It commenced in 2013 and continued once monthly until COVID arrived in 2020. BOW services were recorded live and the recordings made available to individuals and other churches - Woomelang, in western Victoria, being one of the first along with Mannum.

During COVID, while the church was closed, individuals came to the church to record prayers, readings and the sermon, and these were pieced together into a service which was streamed on Sundays. Once the church re-opened, the entire service could be streamed live from MUC to the world. So began 'Live-streaming' from MUC.

Message from Rev Christine Garner

What amazing people we have in our audio-visual team. Apart from the wonderful job they do every Sunday, they also assist with other activities: funerals, concerts and other events. I have particular reasons to give thanks when members of the team have given me extra assistance.

In October 2022 I was planning a Sunday service when I came down with COVID. I learnt how to video myself so that the Focus Time and the Sermon could be included in the Sunday worship. This involved a team member coming around to collect the USB and incorporating the video into the live streaming. That was a big learning curve for me.

Twelve months later my sister died in England and my nephew asked me if somehow I would be able to do the final committal. Her funeral was to take place in her local parish church in the morning, and then later in the afternoon, family members would accompany her body to the crematorium for the committal. How to do this? I could have tried to do something on my computer, but I decided that if I were to do it, I had to do it properly and that meant in the church. With the permission of the church council and the help of the audio-visual team it all came together. I prepared the liturgy which included two video songs, a reading, prayers and a personal message for my family in England. Because I didn't want to do it in an empty church, I invited Peter and a small group of friends to be present to support me.

Thank you to those people – I couldn't have kept things together without you. Thanks also to the members of the AV team who took the time to help record, edit and send it to the funeral director.

A week later in the early hours of the morning, Australian members of the family in Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide were able to watch the whole thing, including the entrance of the coffin, followed by family members, a photo tribute, my nephew reading eulogies from my son, daughter and myself, and then my segment and the final farewells. It was an extraordinary experience.

It was also a first for the funeral directors and the staff at the crematorium.

Message from Helen Drew

I have been a major "consumer" of live-streaming since its

inception in 2020. It has been a great blessing to me to worship online. At first, like the rest of the congregation, it meant watching the preacher, worship leader and bible reader in an empty church.

Later when the congregation returned to church, I continued to worship online as I had a paralysed vocal cord. I could no longer be a Bible reader or sing in church. I could not speak well enough to be understood in the church environment. I therefore chose to watch the service online while John went to church and was part of the live-streaming process.

In 2023 I shared a number of live-streaming services with Christine Secombe who was too ill to attend services. That was a very special time, sharing with her in her family room.

Also in 2023, I had a vocal cord implant which meant my voice was becoming stronger and I started attending some services and could return to some level of communication.

Things changed for us again in 2024 when John underwent treatment for rectal cancer. For about half of the year we watched the online services together. And for about half of the year we both attended in person, with John doing audio again for the live-streaming. He was very pleased to be able to do the audio for funerals of a number of dear friends. I was very happy to be able to watch some of these online. It was a wonderful opportunity to say goodbye and feel like one of the congregation.

I also had the privilege of being one of a small group who gathered in the church while Christine Garner conducted a committal service for her sister in the UK. This service was recorded by the AV team for sending to the UK.

John and I are now both pretty regularly at the church for services, but, like many of the congregation, there are times when health prevents us from attending and we can avail ourselves of the live streaming.

I am very grateful for the inspiration which brought live-streaming into being, the dedication and time put into the preparation and execution and the high quality of what is produced.

It is an amazing outreach. I thank all involved.

Other stories

We have been told stories of families who sometimes find the theology at their local church challenging, but who value being part of a local community and the friendship and support it brings. So, rather than drive to another town for worship, they watch Morialta during the week for nurturing their spiritual life.

Live-streaming is truly an amazing mission that members of MUC provide for those "Beyond our Walls."



*The Orroroo Uniting Church
who are part of our
live-streaming community*

... continues on next page



The AV Team

The current AV team from left: Sharon Mackenzie, Ray Clogg, Margaret Cargill, Sam Colegrove, Peter Thornley, Colin Cargill, Pam Ayles, Chris Ayles, Leonie Brown, John Secombe, Joan Morrison and John Drew. (Graham Vincent – retired, David Purling and Colin Sampson – deceased)



Christine Garner used our AV system to participate in her sister's commital in the UK



Worship as viewed at home on Jenny Swanbury's laptop



Friends at Kimba UC joining us online for worship



Cristine Nancy Daulby (1941 - 2025)

Christine was the daughter of Flo and Bert Daulby (both deceased) and a beloved friend of Lorna Stuart (deceased). She was also a much-loved sister and sister-in-law of Roger and Helen Daulby and aunt of Susan, Mark and Lyn, Jane and Mike, and Sally and Troy. She was a great aunt of Emma, James, Sarah and Thomas, Megan, Hayley and Sophie, Ben and Will and Katie and Charlie and a great, great aunt of eight nieces and nephews. Cristine was also a great friend to the late Mary Barry of our community.

Her funeral was conducted by Rev Anne Butler at MUC on 8th August.

Cristine was a member of the MUC community and attended the 8.00am service regularly for many years. Following the closure of the 8.00am service, and during and after COVID, Cristine continued to participate in worship remotely until she became less able to manage.

Born in 1941 Cristine contracted polio at age 10 but thankfully recovered and continued on to complete high school. Following school she studied nursing, having a long and successful career, becoming Director of Nursing at several major hospitals in South Australia.

Cristine was loved and respected by her family, friends and colleagues. Vale Cristine Nancy Daulby!

Friendship Group

From Margaret Clogg

On Thursday 21st August, the Friendship Group met for a quiz titled "Where in the world was this photo taken?".

There was quite a bit of chatter amongst the group of 17 as they endeavoured to guess the correct locations. The winners were Anne Butler, June Searle and Beverley Tredrea all within a point of each other.

Our next meeting will be on **Thursday September 18th** at 10.00am. Robert Davies from the RFDS will be speaking to us about this vitally important organisation for the people in Australia's outback. All are welcome!



Royal Flying Doctor Service

There's a turning taking place

Brian McLaren contributed by Gaynor Hallows

"There's a turning taking place. I don't think we're at a tipping point yet, but we could be sooner than many people think. This would be a turning toward seeing religion, and as a Christian, I'm thinking of Christianity, being 'born again' - so that our purpose isn't reduced to an evacuation plan for getting souls to heaven after we die, but rather, our purpose is to form genuinely Christ-like people who join God in the healing of the world. In that spirit, we organise to seek the common good... of all people, and of all creation, including generations yet unborn."

Gun control in Australia

Adapted from an article by Vivien Clarke, Adam Gottschalk, Olivia Chollet and Alice Grundy, published on The Australian Institute website



Chatgpt

Despite Australia's significant gun reforms following the 1996 Port Arthur Massacre, there are now over four million guns owned by civilians nationwide – an increase of 25% since 1996. This equates to one firearm for every seven Australians.

NSW and Queensland have the most guns, with over 1 million registered firearms in each state. Tasmania and the NT have the highest firearms per capita, with one firearm for every four people. Two individuals in inner Sydney own over 300 firearms each – which under the law is legal. In some states and territories, it is impossible to obtain firearms data without contacting the government directly and except for NSW, firearms data is not published with a geographic breakdown.

There is no evidence supporting the common perception that firearms are predominantly located in rural areas for animal and pest control. There are large numbers of firearms in metropolitan areas where they are used for recreational purposes.

Four in ten (41%) NSW firearms licensees live in major cities, and one in three (34%) firearms in NSW are registered to individuals living in major cities. Almost half (46%) of firearms in Western Australia are located in metropolitan areas.

Most Australians support stricter firearms regulations. Over 70% think it should be harder to buy a gun and 64% think Australia's gun laws should be strengthened.

The National Firearms Register, which Australian governments are currently developing, provides a key opportunity to improve the quality and transparency of firearms data. This will ensure the Register is comprehensive, national and provides regular updates to the public.

Full report - <https://australiainstitute.org.au/report/gun-control-in-australia/>

Editor's Note: The issue of gun control was raised at Church Council recently and the Council decided to write a letter to the Australian Institute in support of their advocacy. The Institute is requesting Governments to revisit gun laws and gun ownership in all jurisdictions across Australia. This response is in keeping with MUC's social justice ethos and our support for non-violence.

The Australian Institute currently has a petition to ask the Federal Government to act with urgency on a national firearms register.

https://nb.australiainstitute.org.au/australia_needs_a_national_firearms_register

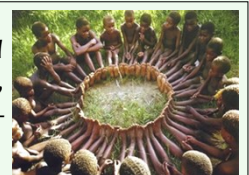
We cannot be self-made

Adapted from an article on Ubuntu published on the Center for Action and Contemplation website by Mungi Ngomane – learned from her grandfather, Bishop Desmond Tutu (1931–2021).

Ubuntu is an ancient African word meaning 'humanity to others'. It is often described as reminding us that 'I am what I am because of who we all are'. If we are able to see ourselves in other people, our experience in the world will inevitably be a richer, kinder, more connected one. If we look at others and see ourselves reflected back, we inevitably treat people better.

This is ubuntu.

An anthropologist proposed a game to the Zulu children. He put a basket of fruit near a tree and told them that the first one to the fruits got them all. But they all held each others' hands and ran together, then sat together enjoying the fruits. When he asked them why they acted that way – they said "Ubuntu – how can one of us be happy if all the other ones are sad".



Ubuntu shouldn't be confused with kindness, however. Kindness is something we might try to show more of, but ubuntu goes much deeper. It recognizes the inner worth of every human being – starting with yourself...

Ubuntu tells us we are only who we are thanks to other people. While we have our parents to credit for bringing us into the world, there are hundreds – if not thousands – of relationships, big and small, along the way, which teach us something about life and how to live it well. Our parents or guardians teach us how to walk and talk. Our teachers at school teach us how to read and write. A mentor might help us find fulfilling work. A lover might teach us emotional lessons, both good and bad – we learn from all experiences. Every interaction will have brought us to where we are today.

Perhaps Desmond Tutu put it best when he said: A person with ubuntu is open and available to others, affirming of others, does not feel threatened that others are able and good, for he or she has a proper self-assurance that comes from knowing that he or she belongs in a greater whole and is diminished when others are humiliated or diminished.

Our planet cannot survive if we define our identity only through competition. Rather than reinforcing competitive ways of knowing self, Ubuntu offers a way of discovering self-identity through interdependence. It can be argued that my very salvation is dependent on yours.

Infinite God, Infinite Life

*Adapted from Father Richard Rohr
from the 'Center for Action and Contemplation'*

Understanding God as Creator impacts how we treat creation.

If Christianity had paid attention to the teachings and example of Jesus and St. Francis, our planet would perhaps be much healthier today. But it took until the 21st century for a pope to write an entire encyclical, *Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home*, making this quite clear and demanding.

Saint Francis, faithful to Scripture, invited us to see nature as a magnificent book in which God speaks to us and grants us a glimpse of creation's infinite beauty and goodness. "Through the greatness and the beauty of creatures one comes to know by analogy their maker" (Wisdom 13:5); indeed, "His eternal power and divinity have been made known through his works since the creation of the world" (Romans 1:20).

We have not honoured God's Presence in the elemental, physical world. We made God as small as our own constricted hearts – saying "Oh, God is really only in my group, in baptized people, in moral people" and so on. We pretended only we

deserve God, and that God is not for other groups, religions, animals, plants, the elements, Brother Sun, and Sister Moon?

God loves everything that God has made! God proclaimed all created things "good" (see Genesis 1:9–31 and Wisdom 11:24–12:1). Human love is conditional. We have difficulty imagining Infinite Love, Infinite Goodness, or Infinite Mercy.

We don't come to the God Mystery through concepts or theories; we come by connecting with what is – with the Creator's immediate, embodied presence which is all around us. Notice that almost all of Jesus' common stories and examples are nature based and relationship based – never once theology or academic theory.

We have not recognized the one Body of Christ in creation. Perhaps we just didn't have the readiness or training. First of all, there is the seeing, and then there is the recognizing; the second stage is called contemplation. We cannot afford to be unaware any longer. We must learn to see, listen, or touch and to recognize how broad and deep the Presence is if we are to truly care for our common home.



AI free from bias and ideology is a fantasy

*Adapted from an article by Declan Humphreys,
University of the Sunshine Coast in the Conversation*

Humans struggle to organise information about the world without distorting reality.

Take cartography, it reflects the natural world so we would expect it to be accurate. But flattening a globe onto a two-dimensional map means maps necessarily lie, distort reality, and can be tools for political propaganda.

Think of the Mercator projection classic world map – it converts the globe into a cylinder and then lays it flat. Africa and Greenland appear the same size, yet Africa is 14 times larger. Arno Peters argued Mercator's distortions contributed to a skewed perception of the inferiority of the global south.

Such distortions could be an analogy for the current state of AI. As Monmonier wrote: *a single map is but one of an indefinitely large number of maps that might be produced for the same situation or from the same data.*

Similarly, a single large language model's response is one of an indefinitely large number of responses which might be produced for the same situation or from the same data.

Think of the many ways a chatbot could formulate a response when prompted about something like diversity, equity and inclusion.

Other historic attempts at organising information have shown the bias of their designers and users too.

The widely used Dewey decimal classification (DDC) system for libraries, published in 1876, has been known to be racist and homophobic. LGBTQIA+ books have been categorised under Mental Derangements, Neurological Disorders, or Social Problems.

Under Religion, roughly 65 sections out of 100 are dedicated to Christianity because the library where the classification was developed had a strong focus on Christianity. While Islam has only moderately fewer followers than Christianity, in the DDC, Islam has only a single section.

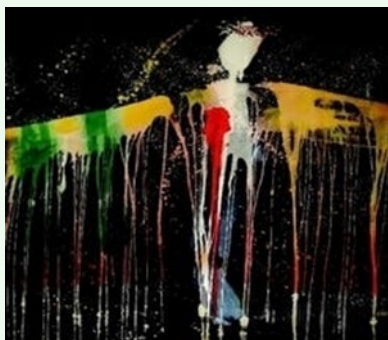
The large language models that power AI chatbots are trained on countless pieces of text, from historical works of literature to online discussion forums. Biases from these texts can unknowingly creep into the model, e.g. 1930s negative stereotypes of African Americans.

Just having raw information is not enough. Language models must be trained how to retrieve and present this information in their answers. One way to do this is to have them learn to copy how humans respond to questions. However, studies have found it also makes them align with the beliefs of the trainer.

AI chatbots also use system prompts – instructions that tell them how to act – but the system prompts are defined by human developers.

For all their innovation and wizardry, AI language models suffer from a centuries-old problem. Organising and presenting information is not only an attempt to reflect reality, it is a projection of a worldview.

For users, understanding whose worldview these models represent is just as important as knowing who draws the lines on a map.



A provisional creed

Geoff Boyce – *Radical Musings*

The heart of God is hospitality.

Hospitality expresses itself in creation.

The hospitality at the heart of God expresses itself in the creation of free space.

The role of the host in hospitality is invitation into created free space.

The act of creation of free space is a gift of grace.

The friend of hospitality is provisionality.

The partner of hospitality is vulnerability.

The vision of hospitality is like the hope for a rose bud to blossom.

The cost of hospitality is self-sacrifice.

The enemy of hospitality is fear.

The intent of fear is to close down space.

The friend of fear is certainty and control.

The symbol of hospitality is the open arms of Jesus on the Cross.

Is polarisation on social media part of our DNA?

By Hannah Richter - freelance science journalist
– published in *Science News*.

Simulations with a scaled-down platform populated with virtual users generated with artificial intelligence (AI) may have revealed why social media tends to become so polarized. The simple platform had no nuanced algorithm designed to feed users posts that would appeal to them and keep them online the longest. Yet it still split into insular communities. The results suggest that just the basic functions of social media - posting, reposting, and following - inevitably produce polarization.

Maybe polarisation is part of our DNA and not because of algorithms. Others caution that cliquishness may have been baked into the AI-generated users.

Read the full article at

<https://www.science.org/content/article/don-t-blame-algorithm-polarization-may-be-inherent-social-media>



Reaching the forgotten in West Papua

Uniting World – adapted

Along the far north coast of West Papua Province, Indonesia, people are facing an intensifying struggle to survive on lands and seas that have sustained them for generations.

Travelling to the remote Tamberau region in the far north of West Papua, it's not just poverty or the lack of services, it's the sense of being left behind as the world changes around them.

In 2011, more than 70% of Tamberau was declared a conservation zone – the designation was a hard-won victory for Indigenous leaders over mining and logging. But while most of the forests became protected on paper, the people were not. Development stalled. Poverty deepened. Climate impacts worsened.

According to our church partner, the GKI-TP, it is the lack of economic opportunities that is the main challenge in the area. People are so poor that there's no market to sell crops to other families. People must travel a long way to sell, so there's little incentive to grow any more than a family needs. When a crisis hits – a sick child or a garden washed away by floods – they don't have money to pay for the long trip to a hospital, or

to even cover the cost of food when their crops get wiped out. They currently face the highest levels of deprivation in Indonesia across key measures of well-being, including malnutrition, stunting, education, sanitation and basic living conditions.

In the mountains and along riverbanks, illegal and unsustainable logging has triggered flash floods and landslides, destroying homes and lives. On the coast, rising seas and king tides are eating away the land, flooding crops, and leaving families struggling to feed their children. Even endangered turtles no longer recognise the beaches where generations have hatched their young.

The situation has created a paradox trapping the people: either protect the nature they depend on or exploit it to survive.

Pitting people against the environment is a zero-sum game and Uniting World is supporting a new kind of response. With GKI-TP, UW is hosting an extensive community consultation and climate analysis to identify the drivers of poverty and produce sustainable development – long-term food security without destroying the forests. If the approach works here, it can be used as a model to adapt for communities across Papua.