

Beyond 2020 Vision

A publication of Morialta Uniting Church

April 2026

Welcome to our April edition

Our feature article this month is from our President Rev Charissa Suli who adds fairness to the long-standing debate on growth and productivity in our society.

Fr Richard Rohr reflects on our tendency to solve problems by blaming others, plus a thoughtful reflection on the meaning of ANZAC Day to current generations.

You can also read about several events in the life of MUC, with photos from the Harmony Day/Eid picnic, pre-polling at Morialta and the Morialta-Kimba worship service.

The **deadline for the May Vision will be 1st May**. Either drop your items in to the church office or call/email Colin on 0427 122 106 or snout-n-about@bigpond.com

Helena Begg, Publisher and Colin Cargill, Editor

Fairness, not just growth, is the key to productivity

Adapted from an article by Rev Charissa Suli, President, Uniting Church in Australia

If productivity is pursued without fairness at its heart, it will fail – not only economically, but socially and morally.

True productivity must be grounded in human dignity, equal opportunity, and care for Creation on behalf of future generations. Without these foundations, productivity produces growth for some while entrenching hardship for others.

Christian faith begins with the conviction that every person is created in the image of God and therefore possesses equal and immeasurable worth. The ministry of Jesus Christ is not only about personal spirituality; it is about how communities are shaped, how power is exercised, and how economies serve the common good.

Productivity is about co-operation. Inclusivity boosts co-operation by enabling as many people as possible to contribute to national prosperity and well-being. Co-operation flourishes when people are secure – housed, healthy, and able to contribute without fear or precarity. Fairness is not a barrier to productivity; it is its precondition.

Productivity is not an end in itself, but a means to improving the wellbeing of all, especially the vulnerable. Too often, productivity is measured through Gross Domestic Product per hour worked – a blunt indicator that fails to reflect social wellbeing. GDP can rise even when living standards fall.

Any serious conversation about productivity and wellbeing must begin with the unfinished business of justice for First Peoples. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have sustained this land for over 65,000 years, yet continue to experience the poorest outcomes in health, housing, education and life expectancy.

This is not the result of cultural failure, but of long-standing structural injustice. Productivity frameworks that ignore dispossession and chronic underinvestment risk repeating patterns of extraction rather than restoration.

Historically productivity growth has coincided with a sharp escalation in land prices and worsening housing affordability. Today, housing sits at the centre of our productivity challenge, driving inequality, and barriers to workforce participation.

While the Productivity Commission's recent report on housing covers construction costs and planning regulations, the price of residential land remains largely unexamined. When access to land and housing becomes distorted, people who live by their labour are denied a fair share in the life of the community.

From both Indigenous and biblical perspectives, land is not merely a commodity; it is a gift entrusted for the flourishing of all.

As policymakers consider shifting the tax burden away from labour, it is worth asking whether forms of land value taxation could support sustainable funding for essential services such as health, aged care, early childhood education and the NDIS.

Unless productivity is pursued alongside fairness, dignity, and love of neighbour, its promised benefits will remain out of reach. A society that values people over profit and justice over short-term gain will not only be more compassionate – it will be more productive in the deepest and most enduring sense.

Read the full article @ <https://uniting.church/fairness-not-just-growth-is-the-key-to-productivity/>



Easter eggs

Christians eat eggs at Easter, a reminder of the time in Northern Europe when wild birds laid eggs only in spring. Even during autumn here in the southern hemisphere, eggs remind us of new life and are (or were) luxury items. Now the chocolate Easter egg has replaced the joy of decorating and eating chicken eggs. Hollow Easter eggs also remind Christians of the empty tomb on Easter Day.

Morialta Community Day

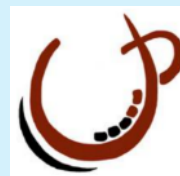
From Rev Anne

Have you ever felt your Wednesday could be brighter? Miss your church friends on Sunday? The new improved Morialta Community Day may be just what you and your neighbours are looking for!

Seriously, we at Morialta pride ourselves in being *More than Sunday*, and it seems to me the time is right to plan again some community life midweek. The Church Council and I are hoping people will come forward with their gifts in all sorts of community activities that our neighbours may be interested in.

We already have fitness, the community garden and the shed happening, and we will be encouraging everyone to consider those, but will have plenty of room for weekly or monthly activities such as music and singing, craft, discussion, language learning, film discussion, board or card games, tricky crafts like lead light or mosaics or cooking lessons. The sky is the limit, but we will start small and build on our success.

What will join all these activities together? Sharing a simple lunch of soup and sandwiches, and a slice of cake with a cuppa. At this stage, just getting our people together to enjoy one another's company will be enough, but then we will advertise and include other people, enlarging our community. With loneliness prevalent in our society, we will be enabling others to reconnect with others, enriching their live experience.



Can you give some time? Starting on April 15th, a morning or afternoon on a Wednesday will enable us to build up a core team. It depends on your passions, and how much time you can spare. People still tell me the joys of working together at Coffee Corner or Lunch on Chapel and we are planning monthly afternoon worship for those who cannot make Sunday morning. I am hoping you will join me!

The inaugural Morialta - Kimba worship service, 29th March 2026

What a history-making occasion and what a great moment in the life of both our congregations! Sincere and heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped make it happen. Hopefully this will be the first of many more such occasions.

The photos show the technical setup at Kimba (no back room to hide in!) and members of both congregations enjoying lunch together at the Kimba Roadhouse afterwards.



News from the March Church Council Meeting

From Margaret Cargill, Deputy Council Chairperson

1. The full agenda of the March 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.
2. **Holiday Fun Day:** this exciting one-day program will run on **23 April** – see the board in the foyer for details. Jan Sillett is **seeking volunteer helpers** and for **everyone to advertise** to grandies, neighbours and friends; **please help spread the word!**
3. **Wednesday Community Days:** these will kick off on 15th April, with a lunch in the hall. See the article from Anne B above for all the details!
4. **Our Annual General Meeting, followed by a community lunch – Sunday 3 May.** Make sure to note the date, and remember to nominate yourself or others for leadership positions of interest by the cutoff date of 20 April.
5. **Warm thanks:** to everyone who helped with the pre-polling trading table, and everyone who supported the Harmony Week and Eid Family Picnic in the park with our Dawoodi Bohras friends. Funds raised were around \$1800, and community building was definitely in evidence!

Friendship Group

From Linda Johnson

Our church hall was not available for our normal Friendship Group meeting this month. Thank you so much to Rhonda Amber for kindly offering her home for our meeting and providing us with a wonderful/delicious lunch and catering for people with dietary requirements. Thank you to all who brought along morning tea, dessert and help with the morning.

Bev Tredrea talked about AKWAK which stands for Australians Knitting for War Affected Kids. AKWAK has very strong, active connections with the Uniting Church in Australia, particularly in South Australia and New South Wales. It has been operating for 7 years and was started by Liz Irwing, who is the state Coordinator. AKWAK helps refugees in camps in Syria.

Liz travelled to Syria and fell in love with Syrian people and decide to help them. Bev knitted a jumper to help these children and Liz sent Bev some photos of where the garments end up. In amongst these photos was a garment that Bev had hand knitted, so Bev decided to volunteer her help through her connections with Uniting World. Uniting World sent a notice to all UCA churches asking for help with storage space.

Churches from SA, Vic. and NSW responded and Morialta is one of these. We help store the goods and provide a space where the goods can be sorted by sex and age group. The goods include woolen garments, shoes, rubber boots and other items. On average a child gets three years wear out of a garment.

Once goods are sorted and packed – Marrakech transport trucks them free to Melbourne where they are shipped to Syria. Around 700 to 800 children at schools have been helped to date. AKWAK also supplies goods to baby hospital,s and other parcels go to orphanages.



Their system is changing this year after 3 years; it's been too much work for the few volunteers.

There has been an alteration to our Friendship Program. Schulz Café in June. Our 70th Birthday is now in August and Dutch Café in September.

Climate Action Roundtables

The church community is invited to join this year's series of roundtables equipping communities for faithful, practical climate action. The Uniting Church in Australia is committed to caring for our environment and a more sustainable future, with a commitment to reach net zero emissions by 2040. At the heart of this work is the Assembly Net Zero Emissions Steering Group, continuing to guide and resource the Church as we respond faithfully to the call for climate justice.

All members of our Church are invited to take part in a series of online roundtable gatherings being staged this year. They are designed to inform, equip and inspire practical action in our communities.

Each two-hour session will be held via Zoom and will explore a different dimension of the Church's climate response:

Roundtable 1 – The Advocacy Calling of the Uniting Church for Climate Justice

Thursday 21 May at 2pm AEST

Discover how you and your community can engage in advocacy and connect with wider Uniting Church initiatives working for climate justice.

Roundtable 2 – Practical Steps toward Net Zero by 2040

Tuesday 16 June at 2pm AEST

Learn about the concrete actions being taken across the Church to reduce emissions—and how your congregation or ministry can be part of the solution.

Roundtable 3 – Exploring First Peoples' Wisdom and Climate Justice

Thursday 16 July at 2pm AEST

Engage with the deep knowledge of First Peoples, explore what it means to care for Country, and consider how we can walk together in practical and respectful ways.

These gatherings are more than information sessions – they are opportunities to connect with others, share ideas and be encouraged in your own efforts. Whether you're just beginning or already active in climate work, the roundtables aim to support and strengthen your contribution.

Together, as a church, we are called not only to respond to the climate crisis, but to lead with hope, justice and care for all creation. These roundtables are an invitation to be part of that shared calling within your congregation, your community and beyond.

To read more and sign up for the roundtables click on <https://uniting.church/join-the-journey-to-net-zero-2026-roundtables/>

Joint Eid/Harmony Day Picnic 22nd March 2026

Eid Mubarak! The recent Harmony Week and Eid celebration showcased the spirit of inter-cultural cooperation, as we partnered with the Dawoodi Bohras community to organise a vibrant, multi-cultural, community event. This gathering marked both Harmony Week and Eid, highlighting the importance of inclusivity and collaboration within the community.

Blessed with wonderful weather, the event offered a warm welcome to all, including attendees from the broader community. This atmosphere of openness contributed to the success of the celebration, making it a memorable occasion for everyone involved.



A harmful delusion – solving problems by blaming others

Adapted from a post by Fr Richard Rohr – Center for Action and Contemplation

The human delusion seems to be this: We think someone else is always the problem, not ourselves.

Human nature always wants either to play the victim or to create victims – and both for the purposes of control. In fact, the second follows from the first. Once we start feeling sorry for ourselves, we will soon find someone else to blame, accuse, or attack. It takes away any immediate shame, guilt, or anxiety. In other words, it works – at least for a while. So, for untransformed people, there is no reason to stop creating victims or playing the victim.

If we read today's news, we see the pattern has not changed. Hating, fearing, or diminishing someone else holds us together, for some reason. The creating of necessary victims is in our hardwiring. Philosopher René Girard called this "scapegoat mechanism" the central pattern for the creation and maintenance of cultures worldwide since the beginning.

It's hard for us religious people to hear, but the most persistent violence in human history has been sacred violence, or more accurately, sacralized violence. Human beings have found a most effective way to legitimise their instinct toward fear and hatred.

We imagine that we are fearing and hating on behalf of something holy and noble like God, religion, truth, morality, our children, or love of country. It takes away our guilt. As a result, we can even think of ourselves as representing the moral high ground or as being responsible and prudent. It never occurs to most people that they can become what they fear and hate. We often justify violent and even immoral actions for the sake of something honourable like "protecting the children."

Unless scapegoating can be consciously seen and named through concrete rituals, owned mistakes, or repentance, the pattern will usually remain unconscious and unchallenged. The Scriptures rightly call such ignorant hatred and killing "sin." Jesus came precisely to "take away" (John 1:29) our capacity to commit it - by exposing the lie for all to see. Jesus stood as the fully innocent one who was condemned by the highest authorities of both church and state (Jerusalem and Rome), an act that should create healthy suspicion about how wrong even the highest powers can be. "He will show the world how wrong it was about sin, about who was really in the right, and about true judgment" (John 16:8).





Photo: Andrej Lišakov - Unsplash.com

Letter to my loved one

From Cynthia Story

I know you are not physically with me anymore – but to me you are in sight, in sound, really here ... you are never very far away.

When I have something which needs to be said, it is always your figure I look for.

Today was a perfect golden day – sun streaming down all around us, but not too hot. There have been times when my days were much too hot!!

I guess today is early autumn, a very lovely day.

Also a State Election-day; I am not so interested. There has been wonderful music to listen to, fascinating documentaries on tv – and the tinkling sound of children’s laughter from outside.

When I came to look at and plan my time, my foremost thought was that how powerful the arthritic pain was in my left wrist and hand. Then the pain in both ankles, feet and legs - I took an hour or so to look at other things.

My original plan was to visit a friend in a residential home by taxi. After a little consideration this was negated ... My heart had become cold and I was sad.

The afternoon passed quickly, but not totally advantageously... The sadness cloud grew to greater depths and darkness,

The day is drawing to its close, and I need you by me, to hear the description of a day’s failure. But the light you bring warms me, the pain retreats little by little, and I see the tears in your eyes – for me.

For those others I love, who need solace and togetherness, also in a dark place - my heart begins to warm, and so Love begins its task - in voicing my fears and anxiety - that Love will go far.



New batteries

Cynthia Story is excited to have had new batteries for her power chair delivered on 29 February. The batteries were received with grace, but this was tempered by the length and injustice of long and slow paper work and everything costing so much – unbelievable!



Jim reaches a century!

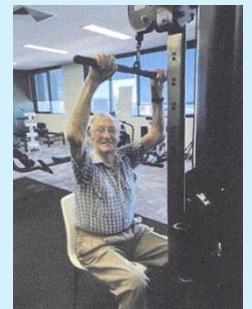
Congratulations to Jim Miles who celebrated his centenary recently in Victor Harbor.

Jim and wife Melva were members of Magill Methodist Church even before it became Magill Uniting Church.

Jim is one of life’s gentlemen and has supported many people and groups on his life journey.

Cynthia Story sent Jim a beautiful card from his friends at Magill Methodist/Morialta Uniting Church.

In Jim’s words, “It’s better to be the oldest in the gym than the youngest in a nursing home!”



Thank you...

... to Austin, who does a great job of keeping our front windows interesting for those passing by, and for people who come into the church for various activities!



Is dark chocolate healthier than milk chocolate?

Adapted from an article by Lauren Ball, The University of Queensland and Emily Burch, Southern Cross University published in the Conversation

As you work your way through your Easter chocolate haul, here is some information that is probably too late to save you!

It seems that dark chocolate has gained a reputation as the “better” choice because it usually contains more cocoa and less sugar than milk chocolate. But is it?

All chocolate contains cocoa (or cacao) bean. Cocoa beans are the seeds of the Theobroma cacao tree, a tropical plant native to Central and South America.

Chocolate is made from cocoa solids, cocoa butter and sugar. Milk chocolate also contains milk powder or condensed milk. Dark chocolate typically contains a much higher proportion of cocoa solids, usually 50–90% compared with 20–30% in milk chocolate. The remaining bulk is made up of milk ingredients and sugar.

As dark chocolate contains more cocoa solids than milk chocolate, it provides slightly higher amounts of certain minerals, such as magnesium, iron and zinc. It also contains noticeably more caffeine (but far less than in a typical cup of coffee). Milk chocolate has more calcium and more added sugar.

Cocoa is naturally rich in plant compounds called polyphenols which act as antioxidants helping to protect the body’s cells from damage. Dark chocolate contains roughly five times more flavanols (a type of polyphenol) than milk chocolate. In fact, cocoa contains around 17 times more catechins (another type of polyphenol) per serving than black tea. It also contains around three times more than red wine.

The bottom line is that cocoa does contain beneficial plant compounds but the chocolate most of us enjoy is not a health supplement.

However, choosing dark chocolate doesn’t automatically make it the healthier option. Some dark chocolate contains surprisingly high amounts of sugar. While dark chocolate has a nutritional advantage over milk chocolate, this depends on the cocoa percentage and how it’s been made.

As a general rule, aim for 70% cocoa or more. With higher-quality dark chocolate, the ingredients list will appear with cocoa first: cocoa mass, cocoa powder, cocoa butter, sugar, vanilla. If sugar is listed first, it’s the largest ingredient by weight.

But the real health benefit of Easter chocolate is the enjoyment of sharing it.



Picture from Wikipedia

Why I forgot to buy milk!

Adapted from an article by Catherine Offord in 'News from Science'

In a study published in Nature, scientists show how a bacterium that is particularly common in older animals can drive memory loss. This microbe makes compounds that impair signalling along neurons connecting the gut with the brain, dampening activity in brain regions associated with learning and memory.

In another study young mice given old-mouse microbiomes performed worse on memory tests than untreated mice, and giving them antibiotics appeared to restore performance, suggesting microbes from the old mice were responsible. Old mice given antibiotics were also less forgetful, according to the study.

Multiple studies have also identified differences in microbiome composition between healthy people and those with cognitive disorders such as Alzheimer’s disease.

Of the many bacterial species that become more abundant in the mice with age, is *Parabacteroides goldsteinii*. Feeding it alone to animals that had had their normal microbiomes wiped out caused a drop in memory compared with controls; giving microbiome-free animals one of several other bacterial species did not.

While this kind of research cannot establish cause and effect, only an association, it is good to know that we can blame our microbiome when we forget to buy milk!



Shucks I forgot the milk!

Picture from Unsplash.com



What’s the catch of the day?

Joseph Travis and David Reznick – Abstract: Science Vol 391, Issue 6790 pp. 1102-1103

Warming oceans and evolution make fish less likely to be on the menu. The inexorable warming of Earth and its oceans will upend many biological systems on which humans depend.

A large question looming on this horizon is what food will the world’s oceans and rivers provide in a warmer world. Aquatic systems supply protein to billions of people, and this need is projected to grow as the human population increases. Can the world’s aquatic systems sustain their present level of protein production, let alone meet its anticipated increase in demand? Increasing temperatures cause the average body sizes of harvested fish, and therefore fishery yields, to decline.

An ANZAC Day reflection

Adapted from Dawn Service Darwin
2018 – Department of Veterans' Affairs

ANZAC Day is a day of stories. There are stories about the battles, but there are also stories about much more than just the military. There are stories about individual people who served as nurses, pilots, mechanics, medics, clerks, engineers, firefighters, police, chaplains, planners, teachers, drivers, warehouse workers, forklift drivers, administrators, managers, physical trainers, refuelers, and so much more.

The stories are about people who were someone's husband, wife or lover, someone's mum or dad, someone's son or daughter, someone's brother or sister, someone's neighbour, someone's best friend. Someone, just like us.



That is what makes the ANZAC story so powerful. It connects with our head, our heart, our spirit because it was someone just like us. Someone who was able to demonstrate the values that we as Australians hold dear. Mateship, moral courage, teamwork, loyalty, professionalism, creativity, innovation, a sense of humour, freedom of speech, and equality. The values that those first ANZACs demonstrated were formed in their families, their schools, their faith communities, their neighbourhoods, their workplaces, their sporting teams, and their friendships.

As we remember the sacrifice of those who served, and their loved ones who endured alongside them – we reflect on what ANZAC values we are teaching, demonstrating, and accepting in our family, our school, our faith community, our neighbourhood, our workplace, our sporting team, and our friendships.

May God, the source of all courage and peace, connect with our head, our heart, and our spirit, and bless us. AMEN



Pre-polling station at Morialta UC

Thank you to everyone who provided hospitality, helped provide goods to sell, and made our hosting of the pre-polling station at Morialta UC a success. It was good to have thousands of people coming through our doors and to be able to show them a little of what we are about!

Special thanks to all who dealt gracefully with the disruptions around the premises due to this, the use of our premises for Ramadan, scaffolding on the eastern transept door, and more!

Spirituality and religious views of students in Christian schools

From NCLS

Students from Australian Christian schools were invited to select terms that best described how they understand their faith identity. They were allowed to select more than one option.

Around 14,500 high school students participated in the survey: 59% were male with 39% female; 88% were born in Australia and most were younger high school students (Years 7-10).

Given four options, two thirds (66%) describe themselves with religious or spiritual terms (including Christian). Of this 66% of students, 82% described themselves as 'Spiritual', 73% as 'Religious' and 48% nominated themselves as 'Christian'.

Around half (52%) of students affirmed the importance of spirituality. Some 21% said it is very important and 31% said it is important.

Some 32% said that spirituality was of little importance and 16% said that spirituality is not important at all.



When shall we learn...?

"When indeed shall we learn that we are related one to the other, that we are all members of one body? Until the spirit of love for our fellow men, regardless of race, color, or creed, shall fill the world, making real in our lives and our deeds the actuality of human brotherhood – until the great mass of the people shall be filled with the sense of responsibility for each other's welfare, social justice can never be attained."
(Helen Keller, 1880 – 1968)

Forced to the bottom: Squeezing Indonesian fishers and oceans for profits

Adapted from a report by Greenpeace SE Asia and UCA
Vic/Tas Synod

The Indonesian tuna fishing fleet is a major supplier of tuna to premium markets, such as Australia. However, the sector is thriving at the expense of environmentally destructive fishing methods and abusive labour practices, including deception and debt bondage.

A 2025 Greenpeace Southeast Asia investigation, done in collaboration with UCA Vic/Tas Synod found that 25 fishers onboard 17 Indonesian tuna fishing vessels, supplying the Australian market, allegedly experienced forced labour based on ILO standards. Most frequently encountered abuses were vulnerability (56%), debt bondage (56%), and deception (40%).

Vulnerable people from rural areas of Indonesia are being channelled into situations of labour exploitation and/or forced labour. Fishers are lured with promises of big salaries and flexible advance loans, then charged illegal and inflated fees for travel, training, and documents. Documents and personal belongings are withheld at port to ensure that the fishers remained under total control once deployed to sea.

Fishers report working 15-18 hours a day, often without proper rest, pay, or access to communication. Some of them were out at sea for 10 to 18 months without a port visit. In both distant water and territorial fleets, profit-sharing schemes and wage systems are unjustly designed to suppress the income of fishers.

The situation is exacerbated by illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing. Fishers are pushed to engage in banned practices, such as shark finning and deploying illegal fish aggregating devices. The link between labour abuses and environmental crimes underscores an extractive system that externalizes human and ecological costs to sustain profit margins.

In order to bring justice to fishers and oceans, Greenpeace Southeast Asia and UCA Vic/Tas Synod demand that:

- The Indonesian government enforces decent work at sea policies in line with international standards, including ethical recruitment and fair wages that protect Indonesian fishers' rights;
- The Australian government prohibits seafood products linked to labour exploitation and forced labour from entering Australian markets;
- Indonesian and Australian seafood companies conduct human rights and environmental due diligence within their supply chains.

Unless both Indonesian and Australian regulators enact and enforce binding due diligence and labour protections, the true cost of tuna will continue to be borne by those at the very bottom of the chain, which are the Indonesian fishers trapped in debt and stripped of their rights. Both governments to establish more accountable, transparent and effective partnership by ensuring the meaningful participation and collaboration with fishers, unions and other key stakeholders in addressing forced labour at sea.

Read the full report @ <https://www.greenpeace.org/southeastasia/publication/68291/forced-to-the-bottom-squeezing-indonesian-fishers-and-oceans-for-dirty-tuna-profits/> and support the fishers by contacting your MP or Senator.



New at Morialta UC Chair Yoga

For Seniors on Tuesdays from 9.30 to 10.30 am
in the MUC hall

The sessions are sponsored
by Community Aged Care Australia

Entry is by gold coin donation

Bookings @ 08 7094 3155 or info@acac.au

Holiday Fun Day Dates 2026

Thursday April 23rd 9:30am-3:00pm

Cecil the Lost Sheep 



Thursday July 16th 9:30am- 3:00pm

The Gardener and the Vine

Thursday 8th October 9:30am- 3:00pm

Echidnas on Everest 

Our Holiday Fun Day is a Faith based programme.

Please talk to Jan Sillett if you are able to help
out at our April session – see the noticeboard in
the church foyer for more information.