

Beyond 2020 Vision

A publication of Morialta Uniting Church

July 2026

Welcome to our July edition!

Colin Cargill, editor and Helena Begg, publisher

In this edition we celebrate the 49th birthday of the Uniting Church with an edited version of a reflection on our life as church, by Assembly Secretary Andrew Johnson. The full article is available online or ask for a hard copy from the office.

There are many items of news from MUC which will help you stay up to date with what is happening. Enjoy!

The deadline for the August Vision will be 31st July. Either drop your item into the church office or call/email Colin on 0427 122 106 or snout-n-about@bigpond.com



Words, witness and the future

*Adapted from an article by Andrew Johnson,
Assembly General Secretary*

As the Uniting Church begins its 50th year, what are the competing visions of the Uniting Church? One sees our future being determined by demographics, diminishing resources and institutional decline. The other is determined by the Spirit of God, calling us to deeper discipleship, broader hospitality, courageous justice and renewed mission.

This alternative narrative is harder to uncover in our life; maybe because it is not immediately found at the centre of our life. It is a story where we have sought to extend the table to everyone, inviting everyone to courageously follow Jesus.

In 1977, we made one of our most radical declarations to the nation – we pledged ourselves to seek the correction of injustice wherever it occurs. We committed to work for the eradication of poverty and racism; to the wise use of energy and the protection of the environment – comments as relevant today as they were 50 years ago.

In 1985, we declared: ‘We are a multicultural church’ – committed to the full participation of culturally and linguistically diverse communities in our decision making and use of properties and access to resources.

In 1994, we entered into a sacred Covenant with the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress and we acknowledged our closure to the spirituality and wisdom of First Peoples. We lamented the dispossession and violence of colonisation.

In 1994, we also adopted the first Manual for Meetings which incorporated consensus decision making into our life. In so doing we recognised the inherent dignity and worth of every person called by God to participate in a council of the church.

In 2005, we published *Uniting in Worship 2* which articulated the principles of ‘Ordered Liberty’ – an ecumenical framework which embraced both freedom and order in worship. We also continued to explore a rich diversity of names and images for God.

In 2009, we adopted a Revised Preamble to the Uniting Church Constitution. In it, we confessed that many of us were complicit in injustice including paternalism and racism towards First Peoples. We also acknowledge that the same love and grace that was finally and fully revealed in Jesus Christ sustained First Peoples and gave them particular insights into God’s ways.

These are not isolated statements. They tell one unfolding story. Again and again, when the Uniting Church has faced moments of uncertainty, it has chosen openness over fear, covenant over control, reconciliation over exclusion, and hope over despair. These commitments are not peripheral to who we are; they are among the clearest expressions of our identity.

The question before us is not whether these words remain true. The question is whether we will live them. If we are true to what we have said – it will become the beginning of our future.

Please read the full article @ <https://uniting.church/words-witness-and-the-future/>

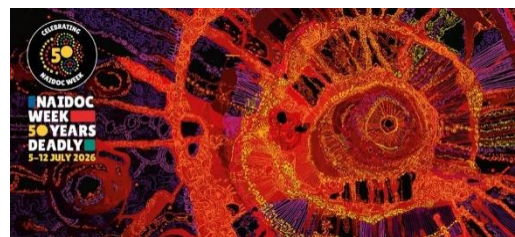
NAIDOC Week 2026

NAIDOC Week 2026 (5 – 12 July) marks 50 years of honouring the voices, cultures and resilience of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The Uniting Church, together with the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Congress (UAICC), gives thanks for this significant milestone and celebrates the enduring strength and leadership of First Nations peoples.

Over five decades NAIDOC week has become a wonderful national celebration of culture, truth-telling and hope, affirming the leadership, vision and aspirations of First Nations communities.

As we reflect on the past and look towards a future shaped by justice, healing and

reconciliation, we pray that Christ will continue to guide and strengthen us as we walk together in truth across this land. More information at <https://live-production.wcms.abc-cdn.net.au/531186ede28d52cad7a40ea293e887ce>



News from the June Church Council Meeting

Margaret Cargill, Deputy Council Chairperson

The full agenda of the June 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:

1. **Stewardship Focus:** This will be part of the services on July 19 and 26 and August 2, when we will have opportunities to consider again how we can best support the mission of the church through time, talents and money.
2. **NCLS:** Morialta will participate in the National Church Life Survey again this year: responses can be provided on paper or online. More news to come!

3. **Revised Goals and Responsibilities for our teams and task-groups:** Council endorsed the revisions, and set the next review for 2028. A copy will be available with the minutes in the library or from the office on request.
4. **The Sunflower Logo:** Council agreed that we will display the logo and information posters and undertake awareness training on hidden disabilities and neurodiversity. See a fuller article below for more information.

As always, if you have any questions, please talk to one of the members of Church Council: Bruce Ind (Chairperson), Margaret Cargill (Deputy Chair), Helena Begg (Secretary), Anne Ind and Leonie Brown (Co-treasurers), Rhonda Amber, Chris Ayles, Michele Bennier, Anne Butler, Austin Phoenix, John Secombe, Jan Sillett.

The Sunflower Logo: For awareness of hidden disabilities

by Margaret Cargill

Morialta aims to be inclusive of and hospitable to all people. Acting to follow up recommendations from Anna Wilson, the SA Synod's Disability and Advocacy Officer, Council has endorsed a plan put forward by your Worship and Faith Education (W&FE) Team which aims to improve our awareness and knowledge of hidden disabilities and to provide a supportive environment for people identifying with them. The sunflower logo is a well-recognised symbol for this awareness and supportiveness.

The Sunflower Logo will appear on our website, on our front glass near the rainbow logo, and on our email signatures. Inside, we will display posters with summary information about

the campaign, and listing the various kinds of hidden disability and the logos that represent them.

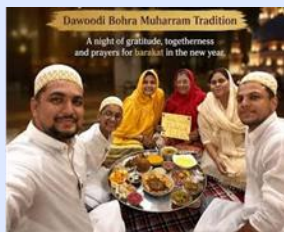
We learned during the recent election period that some people need quiet spaces to be able to participate in activities such as voting; we provided our library for this while we were a pre-polling station. In a similar vein, we plan to equip the area that was previously our 'crying room' with frosted windows, comfortable furniture and volume-controllable speakers to enhance participation in worship if required.

Special awareness training will be available for volunteers who welcome us on Sunday mornings, for members of the Pastoral Care and W&FE teams, and for anyone who would like to join in. Watch the newsletter for start dates and how to join in.



Muharram 1448 UH (2026)

From Dawoodi Bohras and Islamic websites



Our Dawoodi Bohra friends are celebrating the sacred month of Muharram.

Muharram is the first month of the Islamic calendar which arrives not with noise but with reflection and renewal. It is a month the Prophet called the sacred month of Allah, a

time to reset the heart and begin the year with intention.

The first day of Muharram was 17th June in Adelaide and marks the beginning of the Islamic New Year (Al-Hijra). It will end at sunset on Thursday, 16th July 2026. This marks the end of the first month of the Islamic lunar calendar and the day prior to the start of Safar.

The most significant observance in this month is the Day of Ashura, which was 26th June (10 Muharram 14 AH).

AH stands for Anno Hegirae - Latin for "in the year of the Hijra" and marks the years since the Prophet Muhammed's migration from Mecca to Medina – the starting point of the Islamic lunar calendar

For the Dawoodi Bohra community, the Day of Ashura marks the climax of Ashara Mubaraka (the "Blessed Ten"), an annual 10-day period of mourning and reflection at the start of the Islamic New Year (Muharram). It is dedicated to remembering the martyrdom of Imam Husain, the grandson of Prophet Muhammed, at the Battle of Karbala. It is a significant Islamic observance marked by fasting, charity, reflection, and deep mourning.

It appears to date from when the Prophet Mohammed arrived in Medina and found the Jewish community fasting on the tenth of Muharram. They explained it was the day Allah saved Prophet Musa (Moses) and the Children of Israel from Pharaoh by parting the sea. Out of love and reverence for Prophet Musa, the Prophet Mohammed fasted also and encouraged Muslims to do the same. He later recommended fasting an additional day, the ninth or the eleventh, to distinguish the practice.

Progressive Christianity

Adapted from Jim Burklo in "Water in the Desert: Progressive Christianity for the Spiritually Thirsty", The Progressive Christianity Network in SA and Gateways Group

Progressive Christianity is a term widely used in many churches across the world. But what exactly is a progressive Christian?

"Progress" reflects the recognition that the faith has, from the beginning, evolved and adapted to changing circumstances while preserving its spiritual foundation in agape love. Progressive Christianity moves from a literal, factual, legalistic understanding of the Bible towards cherishing it as the rich language of our faith, to be employed creatively in our time. Progressive Christianity celebrates the aspects of scientific discovery that have led to true progress in human thriving, while being vigilant against the serious downsides of technology. It embraces and promotes the changes in society that represent real progress, such as racial equality and full equality and rights for LGBTQIA+ people. It embraces structural and political changes that represent progress for the health and well-being, and dignity and opportunity of all.

The Progressive Christianity Network in SA has no statement of belief (which would be an absurdity), nor of disbelief. Rather, we seek some space to fold into our faith our evolving lived experience and be free to raise a quizzical eyebrow to the claimed certainties that underpin and characterise traditional Christianity.

A kindred organisation in the USA has a website, progressivechristianity.org which has evolved a list of "core values." Our SA Network is comfortable with these, while not nailing them to our mast as if they were in some sense doctrinal – for a movement that values diversity and openness that would be distinctly "un-progressive."



By calling ourselves Progressive Christians, we mean we are Christians who:

1. Believe that following the way and teachings of Jesus can lead to experiencing sacredness, wholeness, and unity of all life, even as we recognize that the Spirit moves in beneficial ways in many faith traditions.
2. Seek community that is inclusive of all people, honouring differences in theological perspective, age, race, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, class, or ability.
3. Strive for peace and justice among all people, knowing that behaving with compassion and selfless love towards one another is the fullest expression of what we believe.
4. Embrace the insights of contemporary science and strive to protect the Earth and ensure its integrity and sustainability.
5. Commit to a path of life-long learning, believing there is more value in questioning than in absolutes.

Placing these core values beside the "I believe" statements of traditional Christian creeds highlights the dilemma many of us feel when invited to stand and repeat creedal certainties in some worship services.

Is there space in today's Christian community so the "questioning" can coexist with the "certain" in mutual respect and grace?

Wrapped up in balloons!

From Cynthia Story

To trundle or walk – venture, saunter through trees of Autumn gold up the Parade. It's one of my favourite things to do – the outside and freshness of the day is so inviting. The birds sing their measured songs, always very present but not visible at all. Each tree is well grown, tall with magnificent great heads of foliage – stretching in utter precision to mark the way.

One of the first things I wrote about was the cars. The sight of silver flashing along my edge of sight, annoying intrusion to my concentration! The inevitable din of traffic – engine noise of a single car, then one or three or five...

I remember I no longer have the protection of a car body around me, that was total security from the world out there, disconnected from THE NOISE! Doesn't seem that there is any option, to not be in the noise!

One other mention is the roughness of pavers, concrete slabs, where tree roots have succeeded in pushing uneven solid waves into the material that is the footpath.

As well, I need to be wary of sudden unbidden holes of unknown dimension... everyone takes these outrageous disturbances to a once safe way of perusal as something that just happens! Just look out for steps, holes in the bitumen, in and out of the bright sun's shadows ...

I have made my opinion known about the noise of the continuous Parade traffic. Always seeming to be practically on top of me, so close to me as they roar by in a monotonous pitch... and deafening.

However, last week after venturing out in my usual manner, on the way home I suddenly saw all these noisy vehicles as contained in giant balloons, lifted high off the roadway. The noise became like a faraway circus, and I finished my journey home feeling greatly satisfied, with joy in my heart, and a smile on my lips.



It was a sort of a solution ?????!!

Live streaming review

From Church Council

Live streaming has been a regular part of our worship life at MUC for over 5 years. While we are fortunate to have committed people to undertake the various tasks required to stream our services, we cannot assume their ongoing participation.

Church Council has considered terms of reference for a review and two people have been chosen to lead it. Rev. Diane Bury, known to many, will assist the consultation with her ministerial experience, while Mr Andrew Pill (who ran a workshop for congregational members on AV at MUC earlier this year) will be more particularly involved with technical matters.

Church Council would like to know which things people feel are going well, as well as hearing about things that could be improved.

Groups and individuals will be given an opportunity to contribute by responding to a number of questions, as well as

an opportunity to make comments if they wish. A program of times for these opportunities will be published once the schedule has been developed.

The consultants will spend time with members of Worship & Faith Education and Audio-Visual Leadership Teams, as well as any other formal groups and individuals from both the MUC congregation and those worshipping online. The review will happen over about four months.

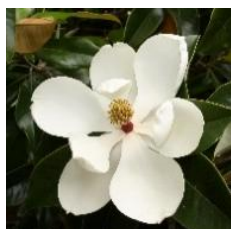
If you wish to find out more about the review you can chat with Bruce, our minister, or John Drew. You can also talk with the review team or send a written communication. Details on how to communicate directly with the reviewers will be provided shortly.

This is an exciting opportunity to review our practices and improve our responsiveness to those who participate in the live streaming as well as providing an opportunity for those who share as worship participants.

An invitation to meditation

From Steve Begg

Meditation is a skill for consciously relaxing the body and calming the mind. It starts by shifting attention from thinking to the direct sense experience of the body, by focussing on an "object" – often the breath, movement, or visualisation (but you can meditate on a flower, piece of chocolate or glass of wine!).



People practise it for many reasons. Many simply enjoy it and leave a session feeling more relaxed and mentally settled – our natural state. Others develop a regular practice that, over time, helps them live more skilfully, by using it as a tool for quickly and deliberately achieving a state of calm and clarity.

If you are new to meditation and curious to try, have tried but not felt you "succeeded", or have experience but find it is easier when guided, Steve Begg (who has been meditating for 20 years and has formal training in guiding it) will lead a session at the church at 11.00am on Wednesday 23rd July, lasting about 45 minutes.

The session will begin with some gentle physical exercises – it's hard to meditate if your body is not relaxed. All exercises can be adapted to suit your comfort and any physical limitations. We will then do several different meditations: some short "spot" meditations, and one or two as long as 10-15 minutes. As you do them, thoughts will naturally arise. That's normal, even for experienced meditators – so don't think you are "failing"! When you notice your attention has wandered, simply acknowledge it and gently return your focus to the meditation - this "returning" is the practice! If you need to cough, stretch, adjust your position or leave the room, don't fret, just do so.

We will be seated comfortably in chairs for the majority of the time (and you can just "sit out" or modify when we are standing). Wear loose, comfortable clothing and, if you are comfortable doing so, shoes you can take off – you may care to check your socks for holes! 😊



An afternoon of music with Višnja and Emma

What a magnificent afternoon it was – not just beautiful sounds coming from harps and piano and voice – but the joy with which it was presented.

Just under 60 people came along to enjoy the music, as well as a sumptuous afternoon tea and conversation. As a result, MUC's bank balance has increased by \$961.87 plus another \$134.00 from the raffles making \$1,095.87.

Sincere thanks to all those who helped sell tickets, set up and pack up the church and hall, cook and serve afternoon tea. Special thanks to John Drew and Ray Clogg whose talents were fully tested providing audio support, and to Linda for organising and selling raffle tickets. A truly team effort all round.



The Paradoxical Commandments

Dr Kent M. Keith, *The Silent Revolution* (1968)
– contributed by Rev Anne Butler

People are illogical, unreasonable, and self-centred.

Love them anyway.

If you do good, people will accuse you of selfish ulterior motives.

Do good anyway.

If you are successful, you will win false friends and true enemies.

Succeed anyway.

The good you do today will be forgotten tomorrow.

Do good anyway.

Honesty and frankness make you vulnerable.

Be honest and frank anyway.

The biggest men and women with the biggest ideas can be shot down by the smallest men and women with the smallest minds.

Think big anyway.

People favour underdogs but follow only top dogs.

Fight for a few underdogs anyway.

What you spend years building may be destroyed overnight.

Build anyway.

People really need help but may attack you if you do help them.

Help people anyway.

Give the world the best you have and you'll get kicked in the teeth.

Give the world the best you have anyway.

Wimala Presbytery News

At a recent meeting of Wimala Presbytery, Rev Dr Robert McFarlane presented his review report. His presentation offered thoughtful affirmations of the strengths and positive aspects of our shared ministry, while also highlighting areas that invite further growth and reflection.

In addition to these affirmations, Dr McFarlane outlined several challenges facing the Presbytery, encouraging us to consider how we might respond faithfully and creatively. His recommendations provide a valuable framework as we continue to discern our priorities and direction.

The review process and gathering was a significant step in the flourishing of our Presbytery! Next steps will include:

- responding to the review recommendations to the Presbytery Standing Committee,
- providing a plan for the larger pieces of work, and
- ensuring we are prepared with proposals at our October Presbytery Meeting.

If you would like to read the report, or wish to comment, please contact Colin Cargill or Bruce Ind.



Participatory Hope

Adapted from a post by Father Richard Rohr on Centre for Action and Contemplation

I believe we must be free to say “yes” before we say “no.” But mostly our first response is dualistic, negative, and probably even fear based. We often respond initially with something like: “I don’t trust that. I don’t like that. I don’t want that.” The word “yes” before “no” allows for some enthusiasm (en-theos in Greek), which means “filled with God.” I’m encouraging an enthusiasm that is based on intelligence, wisdom, and the great gift of hope.

Hope has nothing to do with circumstances or events going well. It can even thrive in the midst of adversity and trial. True faith, which always includes hope and love, is a predisposition to “yes.” I would go so far as to say that a foundational “yes” is the most distinguishing element between an ego- and fear-based agenda and a Spirit-guided one. As Paul writes of Jesus, “With him it was always ‘yes,’ and however many the promises God made, the ‘yes’ to them all is in him” (2 Corinthians 1:19–20).

Deconstruction comes naturally to most of us, but deconstruction is rather useless without reconstruction and a positive vision. It’s the easiest thing in the world to stand on a pedestal of superiority and point out who and what is wrong – without doing anything positive or becoming a positive answer ourselves. After we criticize and deconstruct, what are we actually for?

Many activists on the left and reactionaries on the right have no positive vision, nothing they believe in, no one they are in love with. They are just overwhelmed with what’s wrong and think that by eliminating the so-called “contaminating element,” the world will be just, peaceful, and right again.

The book of Proverbs (29:18) says that without a positive vision the people will perish. The gospel gives us a cosmic and positive vision, inside of which the soul can live safely. That’s the only place from which lasting change ever comes. Jesus’s term for that totally positive vision – not against anybody or expelling anything – is the reign of God.



Congratulations to Brian Pillar

Brian celebrated his 90th birthday at church on 7th June and we wish Brian many more happy moments in the years ahead. May he and Yvette continue to catch fish and enjoy their retreat on Yorke Peninsula.

Brian shared one of his earliest memories with us, which was when his father suddenly rushed out of the house and fired both barrels of a double-barrel shotgun. However, he was not shooting birds, but was celebrating the announcement of the end of World War II.

David remembers – from the editor

Brian's memory of the end of WWII is something few of us can share as most of us were either too young or not born. However, his reminiscence reminded me of some words my older brother David wrote on 15 August 2915.

"70 years ago today at 9.30am I turned on the wireless to hear Kindergarten of the Air before I started my day doing my lessons sent to my mother from Black Friars Correspondence School. But instead of my usual program 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 & the men who were digging spuds that Dad had grown as part of the war effort. They downed tools & 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 18 gallons of petrol a month so trips were infrequent. I think that helped me to remember the day which is really the first thing in my life I remember. Everyone was gathered near the top of the hill in Wallace Street and lots of people were cheering and a man was ringing the fire bell which was on a high pole opposite the War Memorial. Eventually we all marched to the recreation ground where there were kid's races. I remember getting 3rd in a race in which we all stood in chaff bags. After dark there was a bonfire & also the local firebug lit a house near where the Highway Diner is today. We went home and Bill Fletcher babysat us while Dad & Mum went to a hastily organised ball. I was 6 ½ then."

Congratulations to Christine and Peter Garner



At the recent meeting of the Uniting Church in Australia Synod of South Australia, the Rev Christine Garner was awarded a "Recognition of Ordination for exemplary service within the Uniting Church in Australia". A wonderful tribute to Christine for her preaching, her social justice advocacy and her care and support for people.

Mary Watson with her 'signed quilt'

Margaret and Ray Clogg delivered a signed quilt to Mary Watson at Malvern Resthaven. Mary has settled in well and was delighted with the gift. She sends good wishes to all her friends at MUC.

We are greatly indebted to Judith Purling for her 'quilt ministry' over many years. Mary is the 50th person to receive a 'Morialta signed quilt'. Thanks Judith, for your care and love.



Friendship Group

From Linda Johnson

The Friendship Group June meeting was cards, board games morning/afternoon tea, soup and crusty bread. Game choices included Cluedo, Connect 4, cards and Rummikub with 16 people present. Everyone seemed to have enjoyed themselves with 4 of us staying on and playing Rummikub when others left.

Thank you to everyone who brought the soups, crusty bread rolls, morning/afternoon tea and those who helped with lunch and cleaning up afterwards – making it an enjoyable meeting.

The group will meet again at Shulz Café, Glynde, on Thursday 16th July at 11.30am, for lunch at 12noon. See Joan Wagner if you would like to attend, for catering purposes.

70 years of Friendship Group

From Margaret Clogg

On Thursday, August 20th 2026 Friendship Group will be celebrating 70 years of Fellowship and Friendship at Morialta Uniting Church (previously Magill, Newton and Montacute Methodist churches, Finchley Park Presbyterian and Rostrevor Congregational).

The celebration will begin at 11.30 and lunch will be served at 12 noon. If you have ever belonged to the Fellowship groups, and it doesn't matter how long ago, you are very, very welcome to join in this celebration.

A donation to Uniting Communities for their Christmas Appeal would be appreciated.

RSVP to Margaret Clogg by Sunday August 9th - 0419 891 312



The Cross

The cross being admired by Marie and Jenny was originally donated to the church by (the late) Kingsley and Helen Stephens. It is now being used at services held at Milpara Rostrevor Residential Care Home on St Bernards Rd. The cross will be stored at MUC and taken to Milpara for their regular services.



Intercultural Sunday

On Sunday 19 July, Uniting Church communities across Australia will celebrate Intercultural Neighbouring Sunday, a special opportunity to give thanks for the rich cultural diversity that shapes our life together and to deepen relationships across cultures in our churches and neighbourhoods.

Now in its fourth year, Intercultural Neighbouring Sunday continues our journey towards becoming a truly multicultural, cross-cultural and intercultural church. This year's theme, "Belonging: One Body, Many Members", invites every congregation to reflect on what it means to ensure everyone can truly belong.

As we continue learning from one another, we discover more fully who God is calling us to be.

Faithful advocacy at the heart of Climate Action Roundtable

From UCA National Update

The Uniting Church's first Climate Action Roundtable of the year encouraged participants to engage in climate justice through informed, practical and collective action

More than 80 people from across the Uniting Church (including our Minister and the Vision Editor) gathered online in late May for the first Assembly Net Zero Emissions Steering Group Roundtable of 2026, exploring how faith communities can strengthen their advocacy for climate justice. The roundtable focused on practical ways church members, congregations and communities can engage with wider Uniting Church initiatives and campaigns working towards a more just and sustainable future.

President Rev Charissa Suli opened the gathering and the keynote presentation was delivered by Rev Meredith Williams, President of the Australian Religious Response to Climate Change (ARRCC). Rev Williams highlighted the strong connection between faith and action, noting that climate advocacy is deeply aligned with the Uniting Church's commitment to confronting injustice and standing alongside vulnerable communities.

Particular attention was given to the impacts of climate change on First Peoples and Pacific Island nations, many of whom are already experiencing the devastating consequences of rising sea levels and increasingly severe weather events.

Church members, congregations, agencies, schools, Presbyteries and Synods were encouraged to support the Fossil Fuel Treaty campaign and contribute to movement for climate action.

Participants then heard from Thuy Linh Nguyen and Rev Moni Taumoepeau, who introduced advocacy approaches developed through the VAKA training program held earlier this year.

Central to the VAKA approach is the importance of building relationships and strengthening community connections.

Participants then shared stories of climate justice initiatives taking place in their own contexts and explored possibilities for future action. Discussions revealed a diverse range of activities already underway across congregations and cultural communities, with many participants expressing a desire to continue building momentum and keeping climate justice visible within church life.

The annual Season of Creation, celebrated by churches around the world each September, was identified as a significant opportunity for congregations to combine prayer, worship and advocacy.

Leigh Newton from South Australia shared insights into the work of the Rising Tide movement their commitment to non-violent action aimed at securing a phase-out of fossil fuels and upholding the goals of the Paris Agreement.

In the final presentation, Deepthi Mathew focused on the importance of sustaining one another in what can often be demanding advocacy work. Deepthi highlighted the need for mutual encouragement, shared learning and opportunities to connect with others engaged in climate justice ministry.

VAKA 2026: *Journeying Together for the Common Good*
<https://www.nswact.uca.org.au/calendar/vaka-2026-journeying-together-for-the-common-good/>

An alternative consciousness - contributed by Gaynor Hallows

"The words of the Gospels create an alternative consciousness, solid ground on which we can really stand, free from every social order and from every ideology. Jesus called this new foundation the reign of God."

Coffin Club – begins July 29th

All things come to an end - including our earthly life. Are you prepared? Do you know what you need to know to make life easier for those left behind, or your death more in tune with your beliefs? One way to put your heart and mind at ease is to join in a Death Café, or a Coffin Club. When I was minister at Port Elliot Church, we gained a grant from the Presbytery to hold a Coffin Club, and invite people in the wider community to share their hopes and fears, and to leave a little wiser. You just don't know what it is you don't know. However, we never got around to building a coffin! Even running coffin club numerous times, no one has been brave enough, yet...

Our western society removes death from the family, and out-sources it to 'experts' – hospitals, nursing homes, funeral

parlours, and often people feel that it may be illegal to deal with matters themselves. The best time to deal with your preferences for the time of your death and afterwards is now. There has never been a better time.

Coffin Club runs over 6 sessions, from fears about death to the afterlife, from music at your funeral to how to talk about death with children. What happens to your online presence, your passwords? It is not at all morbid, just a realistic, even optimistic plan for what is surely coming. Have your say now, while you can. A light-hearted look at living, dying and what comes next. Held once a month on Wednesday mornings as part of Community Day – stay for lunch and games if you are free. Cost \$30 for a resource book.

Speak to Anne B to book your place - 0416 295 607.

Amy-Jill Levine

We were privileged to be able to host AJ – a world class scholar of the New Testament who is also a Rabbi in the United States. Amy-Jill delighted us with her rapid-fire speech and pithy observations. She spoke about Jesus the Rabbi, and Paul the Pharisee, reminding us that Jesus never parted from the Jewish faith, but insisted his followers keep the Law even more strictly than his compatriots. We were fortunate to have her speak, and a fitting thank you goes to those who worked the AV and those who fed us at afternoon tea, all on short notice – the dish washers and chair stackers were also much appreciated!



Thank you!

Grateful thanks to the intrepid bunch who braved wet, muddy conditions to tackle the weeds around the premises in early June. The area around the church looks much tidier although the weeds continue to grow!

There were about 12 of us in action, including those who provided a delicious morning tea.



Amazing facts

Adapted from Space Daily

Every year, between 180 and 200 million tons of particulate dust gets picked up from the Sahara Desert by trade winds.

Around 28 million tons of this dust crosses the Atlantic Ocean and settles on the Amazon rainforest, delivering roughly 22,000 tons of phosphorus, which is the exact amount of phosphorus the rainforest loses to runoff. This means the world's most productive forest is fertilised, year after year, by the slow erosion of the planet's largest desert thousands of miles away.

