



## PARTNERSHIP IN PRINT



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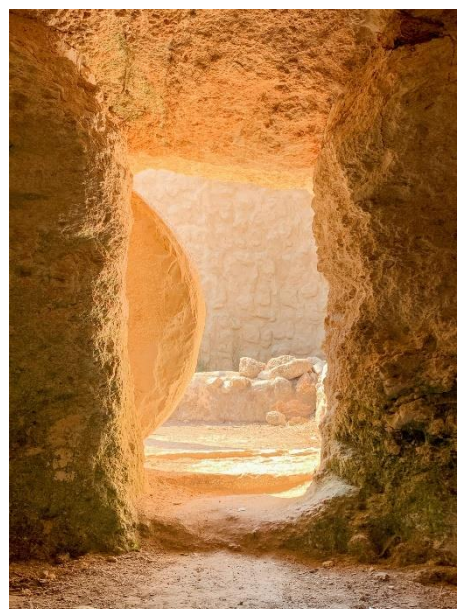


### OVERFLOWING EMPTINESS

Tangible items, to see and hold, connect us with our memories. They can transport us back in time, help us recall long-forgotten moments and people. John and I have just sold our house, and we have had to remove years' worth of possessions; ours and our three children's. We had an absolutely enormous storage space under our house, so there was a lot of stuff. There's so much space there that when our friends moved overseas for 3 years, we agreed to store some of their

possessions in 10 44-gallon drums until they returned to live here, which they never have. Around 10 years ago, on one of their trips home, they spent a day going through their stuff. My friend said it was literally having her life flash before her eyes - toys, books and clothes of their daughters', perfectly good but long outgrown, kitchenware, knickknacks...so much stuff. I know what she meant. In the process of going through the bits and pieces of our lives, I have relived whole bundles of emotions; the delight of kindergarten pictures, now yellowed and crumbling, but still showing the joy of a paintbrush in the hands of a four-year old. The first pair of shoes of each of our children, a reminder of those first, tentative steps. A small cache of things I kept to return to people if I ever managed to contact them again. The broken pieces of the pottery dragon given by a dear friend, and the memory of helplessness, watching it fall from the balcony onto the concrete below. The surprise discovery of photos I didn't know that I had, in a briefcase belonging to my estranged brother. Photos of him and I together as children, a street photo of my parents as a young couple that is hilarious in its insight into their relationship, and the two precious photos from the only time we know of when all of my siblings were photographed with our parents. A rollercoaster of emotions that was exhilarating and exhausting at the same time. It was something that couldn't have happened without those physical objects reminding me of who I'd been, who I'd hoped to be, and much that I had been gifted and what had been lost.

We have museums to help us, as a society, to remember. I can think of a few times when seeing an item in a museum had a deep impact on me. Once was in the National Space and Air Museum which houses, among other things, items from moon landings and the space shuttle Discovery. Meandering through the vast gallery, with aircraft suspended above and parked on the floor below, I turned a corner and saw the gleaming steel side of a plane proudly bearing the name 'Enola Gay'. I had a visceral reaction to seeing, in real life, the plane that had dropped the bomb on Hiroshima. I turned and hurried away, catching a tour guide telling his group how "it actually shortened the war and saved many lives". In Atlanta, Georgia, the National Center for Civil and Human Rights has a drinking fountain from the era of segregation in the South, with a large, gleaming drinking fountain for "Whites" next to a tiny grimy bowl, set lower down so its users would have to stoop, for "Coloreds". The Museum of Political History in St Petersburg has some tiny scraps of paper that were used by a prisoner in one of the gulags to write to her children. The woman had been imprisoned because her husband was suspected of being subversive. Personal articles in other places help us find our way into understanding of other people and places that would be unavailable to us without them.



(Continued on page 3)

LECTIONARY Readings Year B

Easter

The great fifty days of Easter includes eight Sundays beginning with the Easter Vigil and concluding on the Day of Pentecost. The season celebrates the Resurrection and Ascension of Christ and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Date	Day/Season	Col.	1st Reading	Psalm	2nd Reading	Gospel
7 April	Easter 2	W	Acts 4:32-35	133	1 John 1:1 to 2:2	John 20:19-31
14 April	Easter 3	W	Acts 3:12-19	4	1 John 3:1-7	Luke 24:36b-48
21 April	Easter 4	W	Acts 4:5-12	23	1 John 3:16-24	John 10:11-18
28 April	Easter 5	W	Acts 8:26-40	22:25-31	1 John 4:7-21	John 15:1-8
5 May	Easter 6	W	Acts 10:44-48	98	1 John 5:1-6	John 15:9-17

Colours: P – Purple

W – White

G – Green

R – Red

B – Black



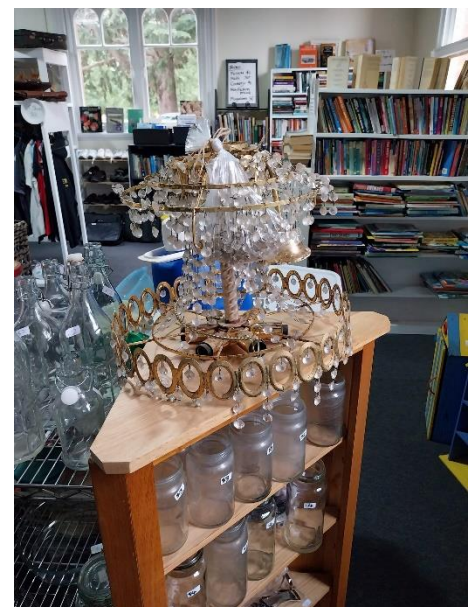
Enid and Dot have mastered our new Square payment device, another improvement in our little shop

**KYNETON UNITING CHURCH OP SHOP**

The Hall at the Kyneton Uniting Church has begun a new life as the Op Shop. The way in which the Op Shop Crew along with their families and friends, our Church Community and members of The Men's Shed have worked together and pitched in, in so many different ways during the new year, has been wonderful. This cooperation and hard work culminated in the Hall being transformed in readiness for the Twilight Opening on Tuesday Feb 13". The rain clouds parted, the sun came out and there was a queue waiting for the door to open!

Business was brisk and we received

many compliments on the layout of our new space. It looks great. Staff are getting the hang of the new eftpos set up and we must give special thanks to Pip for his ongoing efforts with that. The delicious pancakes that Paul, Annette, Lyn, Pip and Jenny had on offer at the church for Shrove Tuesday added to the cheerful atmosphere and there was even some music from the band practice as well. A very positive start for our Op Shop in 2024!





(from page 1) As I write this, we are deep in Lent, and the Easter story hovers on the horizon. I'm thinking about the stories of the empty tomb, the first sign to Jesus' disciples that something unexpected had happened. All of the gospels say that Jesus' garments were disposed of, the guards casting lots to decide how to divvy them up between them under the Cross. Only John's gospel mentions the linen burial cloths. I wonder whether there was anything tangible left for Jesus' followers to hold, to carry the memories they shared. Later traditions, mostly from medieval times, claimed that there were relics existing, such as the Shroud of Turin and the Holy Grail, that were connected to Jesus' life on Earth. There is little evidence that any of these are genuine, but their existence and veneration (in some instances) shows the desire that people have to connect with our stories through physical objects.

But the tomb of Jesus was empty of whatever might enable his disciples to connect his memory with something physical. No item that might reinforce the story for his early disciples, or us. Nothing that anyone could see or hold that would take us on a rollercoaster of emotions. All that is left in Mark's gospel is the emptiness and the mystery. To be reminded, Jesus' disciples needed to gather, to retell the stories they shared, remember the experiences they cherished, recall Jesus' words and deeds that lived in their memories.

Perhaps the emptiness and mystery have a purpose. They set us on the path to faith: "the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen" (Heb 11:1 NRSVUE). We can be uncomfortable with mystery, and we too often rush to flesh out that which needs to hang as a question mark for us and the world. As Jesus' early disciples lived in the mystery and experienced the emptiness of his loss, they found that life after the Resurrection was somehow strangely different. His life-giving presence was still with them, without the need for artefacts. And so, they began to share the story with others...

Beyond the realisation that I have just way too much stuff, the need to let go of so many things has made me wonder...what else do I need to release? I don't think I ever will repair that dragon. Perhaps there are other images of myself that need some re-examination. Where am I being called to emptiness and mystery? I'm heading off on leave in the weeks following Easter, and I hope to have some 'empty' time, to remember how to sit in mystery and wait for the light to slowly dawn. My hope and prayer is that when you find yourself sitting in the sometimes frightening places of emptiness or mystery, you will recognise there the One who calls you into Resurrection life.

Annette Buckley

April 2024



## ROMSEY THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Sunday February 25th 2024

The Romsey Congregation enjoyed a very special Service on Sunday, our first Harvest Thanksgiving Service where we all got involved, just as we used to do, pre the Covid era.

Jay Brooks prepared and led a very inclusive service during which, we brought forward various items and gave thanks for their use and help in our everyday lives.

As well as the home made and home grown produce and crafts, we gave thanks for the gifts of resourcefulness, shelter, science, medicine and our beautiful natural world and environment.

If you look carefully at the photo you will see a token offering from all these areas, as well as extra produce to share with our local community food bank. It was wonderful to focus the time we spent together on Sunday in giving thanks, through hymns, prayer and a reflection which focused on being grateful, giving thanks and valuing all the good things we share with each other in our lives. As we left church to have a morning tea, where we shared the fresh produce with each other, we had a wonderful surprise.

A car arrived and David and James Clement had brought their dad John to visit us.

This indeed was another special gift to be thankful for, the gift of friendship.

Thankyou Jay and the Romsey church family for making this a very special time for us all.

Jenny Elliott

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 March	1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>Easter Sunday</b> 10am Partnership Service Gisborne	<b>Easter Monday</b>		9.30-1pm White Goose open Riddells Creek		10am Prayers at Gisborne	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
<b>Easter 2</b> 9.30am locally led worship, no streaming	11am Woodend Faith Community 12.30 Souper Lunch	10am Muffin Morning Gisborne	9.30-1pm White Goose open Riddells Creek		10am Prayers at Gisborne 6.30pm Fish & Chips Worship Kyneton	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
<b>Easter 3</b> 9.30am Streamed from Romsey 9.30-1pm White Goose	11am Faith Community 12.30 Souper Lunch		9.30-1pm White Goose open Riddells Creek	<b>Delightful Diners</b>	10am Prayers at Gisborne 7pm Simba Sessions	<b>*PiP articles due tomorrow please</b>
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
<b>Easter 4</b> 9.30am Streamed? TBA	11am Faith Community 12.30 Souper Lunch		9.30-1pm White Goose open Riddells Creek		10am Prayers at Gisborne 6.30pm Fish & Chips Worship Kyneton	
28	29	30	<h1>April 2024</h1>			
<b>Easter 5</b> 9.30am locally led worship, no streaming. Tylden BBQ breakfast	11am Faith Community 12.30 Souper Lunch	10am Worship at Gisborne				

# The Gondoliers



The Romsey Uniting Church  
Invites you to join us for an afternoon of  
music, fun and laughter from Gilbert & Sullivan's  
The Gondoliers  
performed by the Singularity Choir  
Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May, 2024 at 1:30 PM  
in the Romsey Uniting Church Hall  
25 Pohlman Street Romsey  
Cost: \$20.00 Concession \$15.00

RSVP By 21<sup>st</sup> April 2024

Carol Toy – 0419350139 | [cajotoy@hotmail.com](mailto:cajotoy@hotmail.com)

Name and Phone Number to be supplied.

Payment may be made on the day.

Afternoon tea will be provided.



The  
**SIMBA**  
SESSIONS

March 15th  
April 19th  
May 17th  
June 21st

MUSIC POETRY STORY

St Andrews Uniting Church  
56 Ebden st, Kyneton, 7pm, \$20 entry

## SIMBA SESSIONS

**Simba Sessions** has a great line-up for Kyneton Uniting in April! You are warmly invited to join at 7pm on Friday April 19<sup>th</sup> at 56 Ebden St, Kyneton. \$20 entry.

## LEAVE

Annette will be taking leave in April, from Monday 1<sup>st</sup> (Easter Monday), returning on Monday 29<sup>th</sup>. Sunday services during this time will be covered by our usual roster system, with local services on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> (as usual following a Partnership service), streamed services from Romsey on the 14<sup>th</sup>, Northern Congregations on the 21<sup>st</sup> and local non-streamed services on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

Please contact your elders for any pastoral care concerns

## ROMSEY MEDITATION

Christian Meditation will recommence at the meeting room in Romsey Uniting Church on Monday March 25<sup>th</sup> at a new starting time of 4 pm. An earlier starting time will make it easier for travellers outside of Romsey to come in daylight without having to drive home in the dark once daylight-saving ends and also make it safer with the current state of our roads not being up to a consistent standard. All are welcome.

Jenny Elliott



## SMALL GROUP EXPO - RIDDELLS CREEK

Riddells Creek Neighbourhood House facilitated this annual event. Last year the **White Goose** display, along with all other group's marques, books, pamphlets & chairs were blown away (literally) by a huge wind storm!! This year we sat in the relative comfort of the school's Performing Arts Centre while the wind blew outside!

Along with boxes of books of variety of genre, our most popular item was the basket of lucky dips for Primary School and younger readers.

Unfortunately, we forgot books for older primary and young adult readers - encouraging though that this group is keen to read. We won't forget next year!

It was a great time of making contact with other community groups and a wider demographic of the Riddell population. [photo somewhere]

Also at the Expo was the **Giant Zucchini Growing Competition** for children where we found Donna and Janet measuring width, length, circumference and maybe weight of each zucchini! They also had the responsibility of judging the Best Dressed (decorated) Zucchini - an unenviable task!

Janet also did a shift on the White Goose Display while Lyn and Meg tried the delights of curly potatoes and coffee (and arancini balls to take home for a late lunch!!)



Janet and Donna judging the giant zucchinis (left)

Lyn and Meg at the book store (below)



## WHITE GOOSE NEWS

It seems to have been a busy month for The Goose, with an increasing display of Best Loved Books and Authors (according to a large Book Shop chain) and an increasing number of return and first-time visitors. These hot summer days people seem to have stayed inside and cleared out their bookshelves so we have an increasing number of donated books!

You're welcome to come along and join us or get your book supply ready for the coming cooler autumn days.

Remember: Wednesdays 9.30 am - 1 pm and the 4th Sunday 10 am - 1 pm

📖 📖 Happy Reading 📖 📖

## GISBORNE NEWS

### Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April - Muffin Morning

Join the Autumn Festival: The Macedon Ranges is well known for the beauty of its autumn colours and its fresh produce. On Tuesday morning April 9 we'll celebrate a special Muffin harvest. Bring along your great grandmother's even green tomato chutney. Of course, it would help if you could also bring along some of the finished product for tasting. This might be your last opportunity to share zucchini slice!

### AMBULANCE VICTORIA day in Gisborne



In March we had a wonderful morning with 3 delightful ladies from Ambulance Victoria who demonstrated the correct way to do CPR and how to use the Defibrillator. Sixty people from the Church and community attended and everyone had the opportunity to practice on dummy bodies. These days we do not need to breathe into the patient, just keep the rhythm going on CPR. It was a very worthwhile experience. (Thanks for the photo and demonstration Maree!)

## LENTEN STUDIES

On Monday 8<sup>th</sup> and possibly even on 15<sup>th</sup> April, at 11am in Woodend we will be finishing the last 2 chapters of the book "The Last Week" – Yes, it's now after Easter, but we weren't quite finished! You are still invited to join us, also for lunch from 12.30pm.

## 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION MOUNT MACEDON UNITING CHURCH

An invitation is extended to a special service to celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the **re-opening of the Mount Macedon Uniting Church** after the **Ash Wednesday** bushfires. It is being held **on Sunday afternoon 7<sup>th</sup> April at 2.30pm**. We particularly reach out to those individuals and congregations who contributed in any way, through the planning, building, donations of furnishing and/or money.

Forty years ago, over 500 people attended the celebration of the re-opening. We gratefully remember the massive efforts of so many who made it happen in just 14 months.

Rev Dr D'Arcy Wood will officiate and the Moderator-elect of the Uniting Church in Victoria/Tasmania, Rev Salesi Faupula, will preach.

Afternoon tea will follow the service. Please RSVP to [nettel@iinet.net.au](mailto:nettel@iinet.net.au) or 0488 001 336 to assist with catering.

Neil Tweddle  
Congregation chairperson

Contacts Other Groups		
<u>SUTTON GRANGE</u> <u>MIA MIA</u> <u>BARFOLD</u> <u>METCALFE</u>	<u>Congregation Chair</u> - Dot Smith <u>Elders - North</u> Dot Smith Marge Townrow	<u>Elders- Kyneton</u> Helen Aldridge, Pip Elston, Jenny Elston, Brian Lauder, Andrea Strack
<u>KYNETON</u>	<u>Church Council</u> Chair – Pip Elston Sec – Helen Aldridge, Helen Carey and elders (as above)	<u>Congregation Chairperson</u> Roy Gibbs <u>Congregation Secretary</u> Helen Aldridge
<u>ROMSEY</u>	<u>Church Council/Elders</u> Noel Shaw      Jay Brooks Jeni Clampit      Jenny Elliott      Carol Toy	<u>UCAF</u> Pres/Sec - Jeni Clampit Treasurer - Carol Toy
<u>TYLDEN</u>	<u>Elders</u> Shirley Bowen, Joy Evans Max Hinneberg	<u>Worship Team Co-Ord</u> Janet Cole, Shirley Bowen <u>Op-Shop Contact:</u> Fiona Armour
<u>WOODEND</u>	<u>Editor Partnership in Print</u> – Robyn Zumstein	<u>Poperty Committee</u>
<u>RIDDELLS CREEK</u>	<u>White Goose</u> - Meg Evans	
<u>GISBORNE</u>	<u>Prayer Ministry</u> – D'Arcy Wood <u>Pastoral Care</u> - Bev Gilbertson <u>Social Justice</u> – Nola Anderson <u>Worship &amp; Education</u> - Paul Gilbertson	<u>Fellowship &amp; Community</u> – Kerrie Birch – Wendy Hallinan - Helen Hallett
<u>CoCo</u> - (Co-ordinating Council)	<u>Chair</u> - Colin Chapman <u>Secretary</u> - Keith Hallett <u>Treasurer</u> - Paul Gilbertson	<u>Finance Committee</u> Chair - Paul Gilbertson, Lyn Ward, Colin Chapman

Address label

**Partnership in Print** is a monthly magazine produced by the Uniting Church in Australia – Macedon Ranges Partnership and is available on the last Sunday of each month, except December

Macedon Ranges Partnership is part of the Port Phillip West Presbytery of the Uniting Church in Australia.

<p><u>MINISTERS:</u>                  Pastor Annette Buckley                  Ph 5429 5351 or 0457 608 539                  annettebmrp@icloud.com</p>	<p>Annette is on leave in April. Please contact your church elders for any pastoral care concerns. Annette will return on 29<sup>th</sup> April and we hope she enjoys her break!</p>	<p><u>OFFICE LOCATION AND POSTAL ADDRESS</u>                  Wurundjeri Country                  3 Sutherland Rd                  Riddells Creek 3431</p>
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<p><u>OFFICE PHONE</u>                  (03) 5428 6920</p>	<p><u>PARTNERSHIP EMAIL ADDRESS</u>                  macedon.ranges.partnership@hotmail.com</p>
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**PARTNERSHIP WEBSITE** [www.macedonrangesunitingchurch.org.au](http://www.macedonrangesunitingchurch.org.au)

CONGREGATION DETAILS	CHAIRPERSON	SECRETARY	TREASURER	PROPERTY	CoCo REPS
<p><u>SUTTON GRANGE</u> - Church Access Rd  <u>MIA MIA</u> - Matheson Rd  <u>BARFOLD</u> - Heathcote-Kyneton Rd  <u>METCALFE</u> - 3 Metcalfe-Kyneton Rd  <u>KYNETON</u> - 54 Ebdon St (PO Box 892)</p>	Pip Elston	Helen Aldridge miamiakynetonu c@outlook.com	<p><u>Finance Committee</u>                      Helen Carey (Treas)                      Roy Gibbs                      Jenny Elston</p>	Church Council Executive	<p>Marge Townrow                      Dot Smith                      Pip Elston, Lyn Ward,                      Helen Aldridge(alt)</p>
<p><u>ROMSEY</u> - 25 Pohlman St                      (PO Box 264, Romsey, 3434)</p>	Noel Shaw	Jeni Clampit	Roger Baker		Noel Shaw, Jeni Clampit, Jay Brooks (alt)
<p><u>TYLDEN</u> - Trentham Rd                      (c/o Tylden General Store, Tylden, 3444)</p>	Max Hinneberg	Janet Cole	Dawn Hinneberg	Max Hinneberg	Bronwyn Hewitt, Dawn Hinneberg
<p><u>WOODEND</u> - 37 Forest St</p>					
<p><u>GISBORNE</u> - 23 Brantome St</p>	Bev Gilbertson	Colin Chapman	Paul Gilbertson	Neil Moorhouse Rob Dunstan	Colin Chapman, Keith Hallett, Paul Gilbertson

Today I am putting out a call for a front-page story – or photographs for the next edition of PiP. What stories can you tell? Where have you seen God in your life? What is your story? I would love you to share with the Partnership what is going on for you. Please help by getting any PiP additions to me before 21<sup>st</sup> April so I can put them into Issue #98 for May 2024

Robyn 😊

zumstein@mmnet.com.au

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