



PARTNERSHIP IN PRINT



ISSUE NO. 100 JULY 2024

There are a number of people who will tell you that 'evangelism' is a dirty word in Uniting Church circles, but I recently joined a workshop run by the NSW Synod about precisely that subject. The main speakers in the workshop had very different

influence: (v) / 'ɪnfluəns/ ...to flow into

backgrounds. One was from a family that had no connection to church or faith, another from a family of church planters and pastors. Both of them had, however, spent time in groups like Youth With A Mission, doing things like street evangelism. Both had moved away from that model towards something that was more about relationships and listening. One in particular, who grew up outside Australia, noted that we have to begin with relationship in Australia, unlike some countries he'd lived in where you could just strike up a conversation about faith with people on the spot.

One of the interesting ideas was a kind of indication of where people might be on a scale of changing perceptions about and preparedness to consider faith in God - the Engel scale. There can be problems with this kind of idea, but it was really trying to describe how things are, rather than being a prescriptive model for action. In our conversation it was noted that someone might move from Step 1: "No awareness of God" to the final step: "Sharing their faith with others" in an hour, but others might take years to move from one step to another (say "Interest in Jesus Christ" to "Deciding to investigate Jesus"). The point they made in the workshop is that the real work is not ours to do: it is the work of the Spirit. Our role is to have a posture of being attentive to the movement of the Spirit in people.

It still felt a bit...transactional...to me, but was saved by the questions we were encouraged to ask; "Am I deeply listening to God and the Spirit in this encounter?" (and I would add 'the person I'm encountering' to whom I should be deeply listening to) and "Am I doing this because I want people to experience the love of Jesus?" Of course, the experience of the love of Jesus comes in many forms. To one person, it may be a gift of sacrifice or inclusion, to another it might be the opportunity to hear the gospel in a way they've never heard it before, to another it might be freedom from whatever oppression binds them and stops them being the child of God they were born to be.

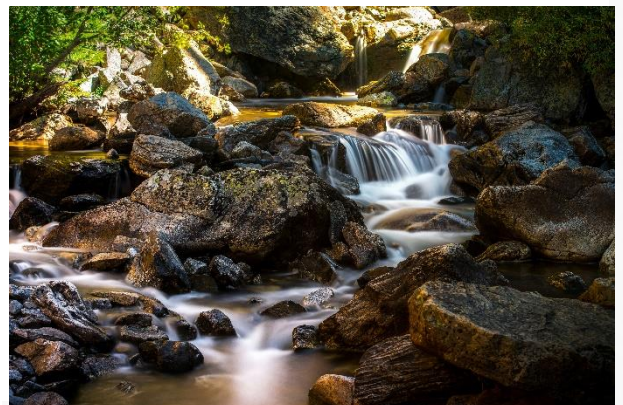
This morning I read a poem by John Roedel¹, which I can't include here because I don't have permission, but it started with not liking the word "influencer" (you can find it on his Facebook page if you're interested¹). It was about not wanting to try to force people to change their minds and behaviours, but about enjoying the journey together and listening to each other. You can imagine it was the kind of thing I might like, not being a gung-ho trailblazing kind of leader, but preferring to listen and share hopes and dreams, wonder together and nurture the possibilities in each of us.

But then I realised, we can't help influencing each other. I know it's perhaps missing John Roedel's point, but our mere existence in each others' lives has an impact, positive and negative. We can't avoid it. I know that when I lost a lot of weight a couple of years ago, even though I never told anyone else they should do the same, in fact I hardly spoke about it at all, a few other people around me

Continued on page 5

Photo by [Nathan Anderson](#) on [Unsplash](#)

1. See John's poem here: <https://www.facebook.com/johnbigjohn>



LECTIONARY Readings Year B

Pentecost

A period of time that varies in length depending on whether Easter is early or late. In this period, the church recalls its faith in the Holy Trinity. It seeks to relate its faith as a people of God to Christ's mission in the world. It commences with Trinity Sunday and concludes with the feast of Christ the King.

Date	Day/Season	Col.	1st Reading	Psalm	2nd Reading	Gospel
30 June	Pentecost 6	G	2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27	130	2 Corinthians 8:7-15	Mark 5:21-43
7 July	Pentecost 7	G	2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10	48	2 Corinthians 12:2-10	Mark 6:1-13
14 July	Pentecost 8	G	2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19	24	Ephesians 1:3-14	Mark 6:14-29
21 July	Pentecost 9	G	2 Samuel 7:1-14a	89:20-37	Ephesians 2:11-22	Mark 6:30-34, 53-56
28 July	Pentecost 10	G	2 Samuel 11:1-15	14	Ephesians 3:14-21	John 6:1-21
4 Aug	Pentecost 11	G	2 Samuel 11:26 to 12:13a	51:1-12	Ephesians 4:1-16	John 6:24-35
11 Aug	Pentecost 12	G	2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33	130	Ephesians 4:25 to 5:2	John 6:35, 41-51
18 Aug	Pentecost 13	G	1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14	111	Ephesians 5:15-20	John 6:51-58
25 Aug	Pentecost 14	G	1 Kings 8:(1, 6, 10-11), 22-30	84	Ephesians 6:10-20	John 6:56-69
1 Sept	Pentecost 15	G	Song of Solomon 2:8-13	45:1-2, 6-9	James 1:17-27	Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Colours: P – Purple

W – White

G – Green

R – Red

B – Black

COCO REPORT 1ST JUNE 2024

CoCo met at Woodend and we were pleased to welcome Rev D'Arcy Wood as our guest speaker. D'Arcy gave us the story of the progression of the Uniting Church in Australia decade by decade, since its inception. He reminded us that there are 3 important things from the Basis of Union - Worship, Witness and Service. For the local church this is seen as Worship, Nurture & Education, and for the Church in the community it is Mission and Outreach. He encouraged us to focus on the strengths and possibilities of our groups, rather than regret what we can't do because of lack of numbers.

The Act 2 outcomes will be discussed at Assembly in July 2024, please keep all those involved in your prayers.

The Act 2 report 'The Gift of the Spirit' was distributed with 2 copies for each congregation. Please read this report and return your copy so that others in your church can read it.

The decision to re-lease the Woodend Manse was discussed with various options being explored.

Annette would like to plan with us how the future might look after she finishes her ministry with us. So after the Partnership service at the end of June, we'll all have lunch together and talk about possibilities.

Updates from around the congregations were shared - seems as though everyone has something happening.

Our next meeting will be held on 3rd August.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 June	1	2	3	4	5	6
10am Partnership service Gisborne	12.30 Souper Lunch 2.30pm Faith Community Woodend 4pm Meditation Romsey		9.30-1pm White Goose Riddells Creek		10am Prayers at Gisborne	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Pentecost 7 No streaming (local distribution of HC elements on 30 June)	12.30 Souper Lunch 2.30pm Faith Community 4pm Meditation	10am Muffin Morning Gisborne	9.30-1pm White Goose Riddells Creek		10am Prayers at Gisborne 6.30pm Fish & Chips Worship Kyneton	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Pentecost 8 Streaming from Tylden	12.30 Souper Lunch 2.30pm Faith Community 4pm Meditation	10am Ministers Munch	9.30-1pm White Goose Riddells Creek		10am Prayers at Gisborne	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Pentecost 9 Streaming from Kyneton	12.30 Souper Lunch 2.30pm Faith Community 4pm Meditation	10am Gisborne alternative worship	9.30-1pm White Goose Riddells Creek		10am Prayers at Gisborne 6.30pm HC Fish & Chips Worship Kyneton	
28	29	30	31	July 2024		
Pentecost 10 No streaming, local services 10-2pm White Goose	12.30 Souper Lunch 2.30pm Faith Community 4pm Meditation		9.30-1pm White Goose Riddells Creek			

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
August 2024				1	2	3
					10am Prayers at Gisborne	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Pentecost 11 Communion Service Streamed from Romsey	12.30 Souper Lunch 2.30 Woodend Faith Community 4pm Meditation Romsey		9.30-1pm White Goose Riddells Creek		10am Prayers at Gisborne 6.30pm Fish & Chips Worship Kyneton	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Pentecost 12 Streamed from Northern Congregations	12.30 Souper Lunch 2.30 Faith Community 4pm Meditation	10am Muffin Morning Gisborne	9.30-1pm White Goose Riddells Creek		10am Prayers at Gisborne	*PiP articles due tomorrow please
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Pentecost 13 Streamed from Tylden	12.30 Souper Lunch 2.30 Faith Community 4pm Meditation	10am Ministers Munch	9.30-1pm White Goose Riddells Creek		10am Prayers at Gisborne 6.30pm HC Fish & Chips Worship Kyneton	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Pentecost 14 No streaming, local services 10-2pm White Goose	12.30 Souper Lunch 2.30 Faith Community 4pm Meditation	10am Worship at Gisborne	9.30-1pm White Goose Riddells Creek		10am Prayers at Gisborne	

(continued from page 1) decided to take up a healthier way of being for themselves. We see people around us behaving in a particular way, and it sometimes gives us permission or encouragement to do similar. Am I glad I'm more healthy now than I was 5 years ago? Yes! Would I hope that other people might get to feel that same sense of wellbeing? Of course! Do I go around telling people how they should live? Not in a million years! If anyone ever asked me how it happened, I'd tell them, but *only* when I was asked.

Am I glad that I'm part of a community of faith that follows Jesus? Yes! Would I hope that other people might get to feel that same sense of wellbeing? Of course! Do I go around telling people how they should live? Not in a million years!

So how do we have the kind of influence we'd hope to have in our world? Part of the answer is that we have an impact on people that we will never know about. It doesn't necessarily happen deliberately, sometimes it's just because people notice. Hopefully, our bearing in the world is a reflection of our values as followers of Jesus, and people respond to that. The other part is to keep being attentive to the movement of the Spirit in people. Including in ourselves. Where are we being presented with opportunities to really listen to someone and share deeply ourselves? And then, where do the opportunities arise that answer the questions that come in response?

And it's not just as individuals that we ask these questions, is it? Our congregations and our Partnership need to keep asking the questions: "Are we listening deeply to God in this encounter?" and "Are we doing this because we want people to experience the love of Jesus?" If those questions pervade all of our life together, we will find the surprising ways that the Spirit is leading us into new life.

Annette Buckley July 2024



Lyn and a young friend enjoy decorating a wrapping from a lucky dip book.

Our Volunteers would love to welcome you there and share a cuppa and/or a chat and show you around.

Meg, Lyn and the Team.

Part of our vast collection of children's books: picture books, young readers, middle & upper primary as well as a collection of books for Young Adult readers. (right)

WHITE GOOSE NEWS

Calling all Parents; Grandparents; Aunts and Uncles and Older Siblings: **Do you know** that we have a huge collection of books suitable for babies, toddlers, kinders, pre-schoolers, primaries of all ages and stages, young adults and adults of all ages and interests. SO, why not come along and find a book or three for every member of the family.

Remember; we're open at the White Goose (at 3 Sutherlands Rd, Riddells Creek) every Wednesday 9.30 am - 1pm (including the School Holidays) and the 4th Sunday of every month from 10am - 2pm.



CELEBRATION AND LAMENT



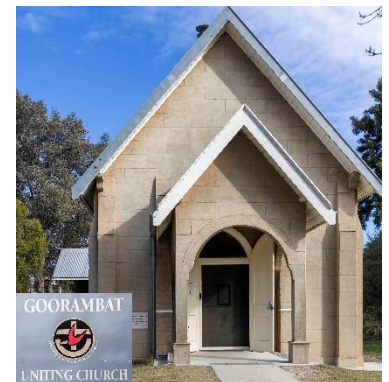
In June, Gisborne's regular Muffin Morning celebrated the joining of three denominations into one on June 22, 1977. D'Arcy, who was there from the beginning, gave us a short history of the challenges, struggles and hopes of the process which led to that joyful day. Then attendees told their own stories of voting, uniting and, in some cases, sadly leaving their local church if there's been a negative vote. And of course we cut a cake.

Our lament is for the death of Uniting Church minister and spiritual leader, the Rev Djiniyini Gondarra. He was much loved and revered in the Northern Territory for his leadership of his indigenous people and across the Uniting churches for his deft guidance of the UCA on its way to recognition of and reconciliation with indigenous peoples. (more on page 9)

submitted by J Wood



Many people are interested in visiting the growing number of Silo Art sites around the country. In mid June, Jay and Peter Brooks travelled to Yarrawonga on a Seymour Heritage Railway train trip. We were able to disembark the train on 2 occasions to see the silos at Goorambat and Devenish. At Goorambat there is also a painting inside the Uniting Church which is titled 'Sophia'. 'Sophia' is a transliteration of the Greek noun meaning 'wisdom'. In the Old Testament (especially Proverbs 3 & 8) wisdom is personified as a woman.



(Photos by Peter Brooks, submitted by Jay)

Advance notice: Season of Creation is every year from 1st September to 4th October. You can find many resources here if you'd like to prepare in advance for the Season of Creation.

Resources: Season of Creation [website](#) (Season of Creation Celebration Guide) and the Pilgrim worship resources [website](#).



KEEP THE FIRE BURNING! BLAK, LOUD AND PROUD

7-14 JULY 2024

Not to repeat a publication but to refer you to another good read: if you don't already have access to it, ***The Westerly*** is a combined newsletter of the Presbytery of Port Philip West and Presbytery of Western Victoria. See the link below or ask your presbytery representative to forward it to you.

This month's newsletter has been summarised by Marie (PPPW Administration support Officer) as follows:

The Westerly Newsletter No. 60 NAIDOC Week

Rev. Karen Eller writes on the UCA 30 years of Covenanting.

NAIDOC week was founded by Indigenous Christian Leader William Cooper as a week of prayer.

Rev. Kaye Renolds states that UCA Chaplains are doing groundbreaking pastoral research into Moral Injury.

Aitken College 5-star efforts in being more sustainable.

Narana Creation closes the door so that another door opens for the Wathaurong Co-Op.

Education & Events for everyone

Newsletters – Presbytery of Port Phillip West (ucappw.org.au) <https://ucappw.org.au/resources/newsletters/>

The Macedon Ranges Shire Council has events on for NAIDOC week – you can find out more information at this web address <https://www.mrsc.vic.gov.au/naidoc>

Shared by Uniting Church Australia on Facebook this week, thanks to Meg for referring it to us. The following is a statement from the President of the Uniting Church Assembly Rev Sharon Hollis.

"Rev Dr Gondarra OAM was instrumental in the founding of the Uniting Aboriginal Islander Christian Congress and provided visionary leadership to Congress, the Uniting Church and the global church for over four decades. He was the first and only Indigenous Moderator in the Uniting Church. He served on the World Council of Churches Central Committee and was a pioneer of Indigenous theology both in Australia and around the world.

Rev Dr Gondarra OAM was a tireless advocate for his people and their right to sovereignty and self-determination. He showed us how Indigenous culture and spirituality can inform and enliven theology.

His writing and teaching was my first introduction to Indigenous theology and I give thanks for this gift.

My spirit is grieved at this profound loss. I pray for his family, his community and all who grieve his loss. May his life's work continue to inspire us to learn from Indigenous people and work for the recognition of the sovereignty of First Peoples."

*The ACT2 Report: The Gift of the Spirit is available to read or download online:

<https://act2uca.com/report/gift-of-the-spirit/>

There are limited printed copies available in each congregation, please share them around.

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> Pip Elston, Jenny Elston, Helen Aldridge Andrea Strack
<u>KYNETON</u>	<u>Church Council</u> Roy Gibbs, Helen Carey Chair – Pip Elston Sec – Helen Aldridge	<u>Congregation Secretary</u> Jenny Elston <u>Congregation Chairperson</u> Roy Gibbs
<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>RIDDELLS CREEK</u>		<u>Craft Group</u> - Lynette Bucknall
<u>GISBORNE</u>	<u>Prayer Ministry</u> – D'Arcy Wood <u>Pastoral Care</u> - Bev Gilbertson <u>Social Justice</u> – Nola Anderson <u>Worship & Education</u> - Paul Gilbertson	<u>Faith & Community</u> – Kerrie Birch – Wendy Hallinan - Helen Hallett
<u>CoCo</u> - (Co-ordinating Council)	<u>Chair</u> - Colin Chapman <u>Deputy Chair</u> - Keith Hallett <u>Minute Secretary</u> - Keith Hallett <u>Treasurer</u> – Lyn Ward	<u>Tylden Woodend Op Shop CoCo members</u> Paul Gilbertson, Nola Anderson, 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.

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PARTNERSHIP WEBSITE www.macedonrangesunitingchurch.org.au

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

Well, another month passes and we're half-way through the year again! The calendar is rather empty this edition. I have provided a page for August for you to fill in yourselves with church family events. Keep an eye out for emails from Annette during this time. I'm looking forward to the Partnership Service on 30th June – perhaps someone will volunteer to put out Issue #101 for August!

Robyn (zumstein@mmnet.com.au)

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