



PARTNERSHIP IN PRINT



ISSUE NO. 91 SEPTEMBER 2023

CHANGE, CHALLENGE AND NEW POSSIBILITIES

Change can be scary. It can be overwhelming and unsettling and anxiety inducing, but it also provides opportunity to change one's trajectory and alter the course, and provide room for challenge and growth that there was previously no room for, nor willingness to see.

One such memory of change was when Natalie and I decided to move our young family from Thornbury, in Melbourne North, to the Macedon Ranges. We had felt the pull to the country — some unspoken guidance calling us into the Macedon Ranges — for about 10 years, but suddenly the season came upon us and we knew without a doubt that it was time. On many levels it made no sense. I had just started candidating for ministry. My wife and I both had jobs, a strong community, security and support, but something was calling us to a future we couldn't yet imagine.

Being a carpenter, I had built a studio in the back yard, an extra room to accommodate our growing family, expecting another 10yrs in that house, when suddenly in a matter of months our whole trajectory changed, turning on a dime. Within 2 months Natalie had a job out at Candlebark Primary school in Romsey and within a year we were moving, packing all we had into storage while we house-sat in Cherokee for 3 months and looked for a rental to call our own in the neighbouring towns.

It was a devastating but liberating act, literally cutting our studio into pieces and packing it inside a shipping container — demolishing our dreams to make way for something different, a new dream — with no security, or plan of where we would live, work, (Continued on Page 3)



Kyneton's creation for the Daffodil Festival Scarecrow competition. This year's theme is Once Upon a Springtime - our entry is Springlocks and the 3 bears 😊

- created during Fish'n'Chips worship on Friday evening.
- above is 'before'; to the right – 'after'
- creating connections with community



LECTIONARY Readings Year A

After 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
3 Sep	Pentecost 14 (22)	G	Exodus 3:1-15	105:1-6, 23-26, 45b	Romans 12:9-21	Matthew 16:21-28
10 Sep	Pentecost 15 (23)	G	Exodus 12:1-14	149	Romans 13:8-14	Matthew 18:15-20
17 Sep	Pentecost 16 (24)	G	Exodus 14:19-31	114 or Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21	Romans 14:1-12	Matthew 18:21-35
24 Sep	Pentecost 17 (25)	G	Exodus 16:2-15	105:1-6, 37-45	Philippians 1:21-30	Matthew 20:1-16
1 Oct	Pentecost 18 (26)	G	Exodus 17:1-7	78:1-4, 12-16	Philippians 2:1-13	Matthew 21:23-32

Colours: P – Purple

W – White

G – Green

R – Red

B – Black

COCO REPORT AUGUST 2023

CoCo met at the Riddells Creek office on 5th August.

Meg led our devotions and we talked about the Spirit of Australia, the Spirit of the Partnership, and how the Holy Spirit works in our lives.

The Ministers' report included a proposed Worship Roster which will start from September. The fourth Sunday each month is to be a day of no Partnership streaming which will give the technical teams a well-earned break each month. Streaming will still be possible between congregations if desired.

Please let the Ministry Team know of your requirements for services for the Christmas period.

Annette will be on leave from 22/9 - 16/10, and Paul will be on leave from 18 - 24/9.

We had a long discussion about the implications of the Act2 report for the Partnership, and some questions that have arisen from this report. These questions are to be asked at congregational meetings in each church before our next CoCo meeting in September, so that we can effectively plan the future direction of the Partnership. After March next year we will only have one Ministry Team member, so we talked about how that might work and what options could be available for Regeneration ministry within that constraint. This could involve more lay leadership of worship, and more sharing of these services by streaming. We will wait for feedback from the congregational meetings and discuss this at our next CoCo meeting.

Even though Pastoral Care teams are working in the congregations, please keep the Ministry Team informed of all Pastoral care issues, even if they are managed locally.

Meg was thanked for all her time as a Minister-in-Association, as she will be retiring from this position at the end of August. She will be much missed as a Ministry Team member but will no doubt continue to be a very active member of the Partnership.

Congregational sharing included a BBQ at Romsey, a Film morning at Gisborne and a Frontier Services morning there on 24/9, a book nook at Metcalfe, and the Simba Sessions at Kyneton. Search the calendar in PIP for more details.

Our next meeting is planned for 2nd September at Woodend

(from page 1) or find community. It was such a big move, with so much collected over the years, that it threatened to unravel us more than anything ever had. But community came to our rescue, holding us, and helping us.

This change has helped define us and refine us more than we had ever hoped, bringing us into a warm and welcoming community beyond all expectation.

Across this month we travel through another narrative of change, challenge and growth.

Another community, another people and their self-actualisation as they stepped out from certainty and security — from systems of oppression and injustice — toward a future where each day was unknown, each step was charting new territory and each challenge a chance to prove God's faithfulness or land face down in the dirt.

It's a story of an unlikely leader, yet one who had many attributes in common with Jesus. Moses was a child born in curious circumstances, a child that defied death, a person who straddled cultures and traditions, one who was an outsider rejected by both the oppressive system and an outsider within his own culture. Moses is a Messianic figure, a messiah: a symbol and representative of God's liberation and salvation for his people.

I can't help but wonder what we have missed in this story? What Christianity has lost by focusing on personal salvation, and what we might stand to gain from embracing a corporate understanding of salvation as God's plan for the liberation of **all** people? This is the messianic hope that the early followers clung to. This too, was a theology of stepping out into the unknown, a step without all the details, to a future that had the potential for more hope, more opportunity, the hope of a new identity and a new way of being a Godly people. Yet this was not all as glamorous as they might have hoped as we are about to see over the coming months.

Here in the Partnership, we are being asked to make a similar step in faith. The Act2 document is asking the Uniting Church in all of Australia to reconsider its life and organisation. We are being asked to step into the unknown, to consider all we have collected over the years and to consider what new life and opportunities might be before us if we chose differently. We are being asked to leave some of our much-loved structure(s) behind and step into uncertainty with our God. We are having to face the end of a season but, more terrifyingly, also the beginning of a new one with the hope of many riches and new life in store.

In many ways we are 'ahead of the game' compared to many churches that are just starting to think about this. It is God's call to change and renewal in our church, in our partnership — what will unite us, what will bring us new hope, freedom together and new life — and it is the question that God is asking us as a country.

But in every diversion from the routine, there is creativity and life and spirit! It is the interruptions to the routine in ministry, that become the in-breaking of God in our lives and the moving of the Great Spirit in us and through us. It is not without toil and patience and work, that we cross this Reed Sea, but we cannot imagine what that might look like while we are still in Egypt. Never could Israel have imagined this story without the Exodus. Never could Israel have been able to testify to the faithfulness of God without answering the call and stepping out in faith. Never could Moses have known his gift to the world had he not taken courage enough to act.

So as we move through this story of Exodus in the coming weeks, let us hear again the words of the Torah, and listen for what challenge God may be asking of us, here in the Macedon Ranges, in our Church and what implications that may have for our country.

Paul Banks August 2023

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE CARE OF CREATION & THE SEASON OF CREATION

September is a busy month for being aware of the natural world around us. **September 1st** is known in Australia as **Wattle Day**. It is also **World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation**.

Over the past couple of months, we've been thinking about recycling our 'rubbish' as an important way to help protect the destruction of God's creation. During the week we have seen destructive fires in Hawaii and Canada as well as warnings of a bad fire season here in Australia. Yesterday we heard about the destruction of nearly 10,000 Emperor Penguin chicks as the result of sea ice melting before the chicks had grown waterproof feathers. Climate Change at its worst!

Continued on page 5

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>September 2023</h1>					1	2
					10am Prayers at Gisborne World Day of Prayer for Care of Creation Wattle Day	CoCo in Woodend
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Pentecost 14 9.30am Communion streamed from Romsey (AB)	12.30 Souper Lunch 2.30 Faith Community		9.30-1pm White Goose open Riddells Creek		10am Prayers at Gisborne 6.30pm Fish & Chips Worship Kyneton – HC (AB)	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Pentecost 15 9.30am Streamed from Northern Congregations (PB)	12.30 Souper Lunch 2.30 Faith Community 3.30pm RM Begg	10am Muffin Morning Gisborne	9.30-1pm White Goose open Riddells Creek		10am Prayers at Gisborne 7pm Simba Sessions	*PiP articles due tomorrow please
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Pentecost 16 9.30am Streamed from Tylden (AB)	12.30 Souper Lunch 2.30 Faith Community		9.30-1pm White Goose open Riddells Creek		10am Prayers at Gisborne 6.30pm Fish & Chips Worship Kyneton tbc	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Pentecost 17 9.30am locally lead worship (no streaming)	12.30 Souper Lunch 2.30 Faith Community	10am Gisborne alternative worship (tbc)	9.30-1pm White Goose open Riddells Creek 10am Minister's Munch		10am Prayers at Gisborne	

(from page 3) September is also the **Season of Creation** in many Christian Churches. Here's an extract from the Assembly newsletter:

'Throughout the month of September, Christians across the world will celebrate the Season of Creation under the 2023 theme, 'Let justice and peace flow.' This year's symbol is a mighty river, a reference to the cry of the prophet Amos: *"But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!"* (Amos 5:24). This year the Assembly will be releasing a worship resource which encourages Uniting Church congregations and communities to hold worship outside during the Season of Creation, gathering around the rivers or waterways in our cities, towns and communities.'

By the Campaspe in several locations perhaps? Or a river or creek near you!



September 7th is National Threatened Species Day. There are 9,000 species critically endangered across the world; this is the last classification before extinction! Last year's quote: *"We all have a responsibility to protect endangered species, both for their sake, and for the sake of our own future generations."* – Loretta Lync.


Pandas and elephants are likely to be extinct in the wild by 2025! That's only 2 years away!!! 100 Australian species have become extinct since colonisation in 1788. This includes: 38 plants, 34 mammals, 10 invertebrates, 9 birds, 4 frogs, 3 reptiles, 1 fish and a protist.

Several Weeks ago, Birdlife Australia published a list of 3 more Australian bird species that are threatened (all small grass wrens) because of the destruction of their habitat. There's a total of 154 Australian bird species that are endangered (18 are 1 step away from extinction!) and 22 species are already extinct.

These issues are a significant reminder of the importance of **Praying** and **Caring for Creation.** Let's enjoy our Australian animals and birds while we can, and do our best to protect them and their varying habitats and climates in whatever way we can.

(Hope you enjoy the article elsewhere in PiP on the Australia's Favourite Animal sounds)

Meg



The SIMBA SESSIONS

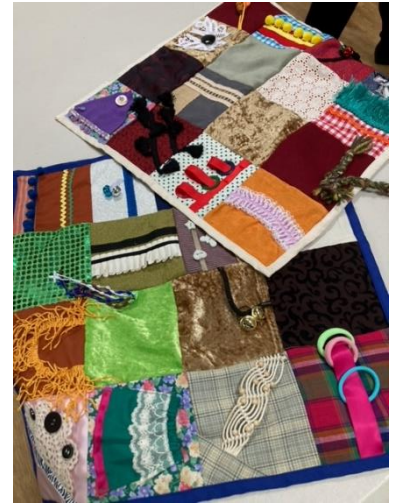
September 15th
October 20th
November 17th
December 15th
(Christmas Special)

MUSIC POETRY STORY

St Andrews Uniting Church
56 Ebdon st, Kyneton, 7pm, \$15 entry

GISBORNE MUFFIN DAY – 12TH SEPTEMBER

Tuesday September 12th is the date of our next Muffin Morning. This will be a more hands-on one than the (most enjoyable) matinees that took us through the winter months. Responding to Sandra Anstee's presentation to the congregation, we will put together **dementia mats**. These are colourful pieces of material with various forms of fiddly decorations. Over the next weeks we are looking to gather bright buttons, pretty ribbons, different material textures - indeed anything which can add colour and interest to these mats. Our very craft-skilled members will sew these together - the rest of us can assist in cutting, sorting and making coffee. For more information see Sandra or Helen.



AUSTRALIA'S FAVOURITE ANIMAL SOUNDS

The ABC recently conducted a survey of Australian's favourite animal sounds. Not sure where they surveyed - they didn't ask me! You? Here's their list. Does it match yours?

1. Magpie — melodious caroling
2. Kookaburra — 'koo-koo-koo-koo-koo-kaa-kaa-kaa'
3. Butcherbird — melodic and maniacal
4. Whipbird — whipcrack followed by 'choo-choo'
5. Lyrebird — a famous mimic
6. Black cockatoo — 'kee-ow' There are six species across Australia, but for us it's the yellow tailed black cockatoo
7. Banjo frog — 'bonk bonk' — Also known as pobblebonks!
8. Boobook — 'book book' or 'mo-poke'
9. Fairywren — high tinkering trills - for us the Superb Blue wren.
10. Cicadas — 'screeeeee'

'Really?' I thought. What about the Willy Wagtail with its chattering call? Not in the top ten? Or the beautiful coo-ing of the Spotted Dove? or the Pee-weet also known as the Magpie Lark or Mudlark? or the musical Grey Shrikethrush or Crimson Rosella or the whistling wings of the Crested Pigeon, all of which abound across the Macedon Ranges?

The list continues with more surprises:

There are eight more. I struggle to believe they are anyone's favourite Aussie sound. What do you think?

21. Koel — 'koo-el'
22. Dingo — 'oh-ool'
23. Moaning frog — 'oohhhugh'
24. Sugar glider — 'yap, yap'
25. Flying fox — squealing, squabbling and cackling
26. Possum (brushtail) — grunts and screeches
27. Yellow-bellied glider — shrieks and gurgles
28. Possum (ringtail) — squeaky chirrups.

11. Humpback whale — squeals, whistles, rumbles
12. Bush stone-curlew — 'weer-lo'
13. Barking owl — 'woof woof'
14. Koala — grunts and bellows
15. Green tree frog — 'crawl-crawl-crawl'
16. Galah — 'chi chi'
17. Tasmanian Devil — 'raaaach' (no, I can't believe this is anyone favourite sound!)
18. Raven — 'ah-ah-ah-aaaah' (really???)
19. Gang-gang cockatoo — 'creak, creak'
20. Sulphur-crested cockatoo — 'raa-aach'

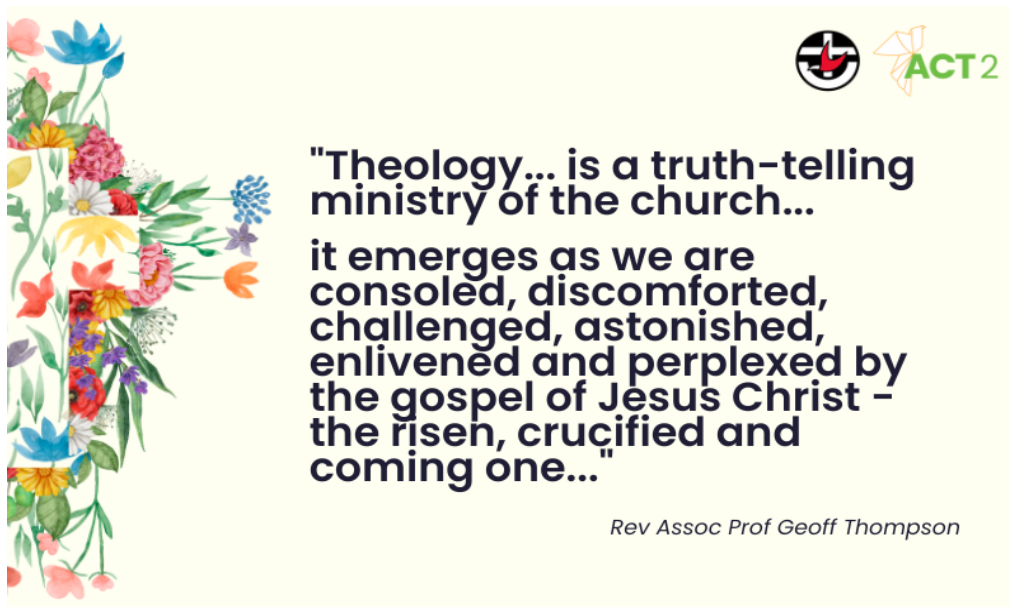


What's your favourite? It may not be on the list at all. Let's see if we can find the favourite Aussie sounds of the MRP.

Noel Pearson and Shireen Morris joined UCA President, Sharon Hollis in a Webinar on the Referendum on The Voice. In the week preceding the Webinar Noel delivered the Meanjin Lecture in Brisbane. Here is a quote from that Lecture. A recording of the Webinar is available - contact Annette or Meg for the Link if you're interested.

In the Meanjin oration delivered on Monday night, (14th August 2023) Noel Pearson speaks about the long and arduous pathway toward recognition for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples that has led to the referendum. What is needed now is 'radical hope', says Mr Pearson. The same radical hope that is expressed within the Uluru Statement for the Heart and the proposal for constitutional recognition through a Voice. Hope for all Australians.

"At the referendum, the question is not about which political tribe you belong to. At the referendum, there's only one tribe. The Australian tribe," says Mr Pearson in his address.



In September the ministry team will lead the following services:

Sunday 3 rd	9.30am	Holy Communion, streamed from Romsey (AB)
Friday 8 th	6.30pm	Fish & Chips Worship – Communion (AB)
Sunday 10 th	9.30am	Streamed from Northern Congregations (PB)
Sunday 17 th	9.30am	Streamed from Tylden (AB)

On Sunday 24th September local churches will be lay lead. There will be no streamed service on this day.

If you are unable to attend a church on Sunday morning and wish to join in on-line with streamed services, please contact Neil Moorhouse or the ministry team before Sunday to get assistance to join the live-stream.

Usual Sunday worship times around the Partnership are 9.30am at Gisborne, Tylden and Romsey; Kyneton has a service at 9.30am on 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month.

Faith Community continues to meet on Monday in Woodend for Souper Lunch – please come and join, followed by our informal prayer and worship time together at 2.30pm.

Gisborne prayers also continue at the Church every Friday at 10am. All are welcome.

A reminder that Paul is taking annual leave from 18th to 24th September. Annette is taking 2 weeks annual leave and 1 week study leave from 22nd September to 15th October

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

Do you have something to share? Are you interested in saying something about your life in Christ at this time? Help us to celebrate life with God in this place and share with the rest of the Partnership. Please send me your additions for PiP by (yes it gets earlier and earlier!) **17th September 2023.**

Robyn (zumstein@mmnet.com.au)
Photos in this issue of Partnership in Print are from Lyn, Meg, Annette and Robyn

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