



## PARTNERSHIP IN PRINT



ISSUE NO. 88 JUNE 2023



# Welcome to the Act2 Project

Shaping the future Uniting Church.

*Grounded in our faith.  
Fueled by prayer.*

*Attentive to the Spirit.  
Discerning together.*

In 2020 the Uniting Church Assembly Standing Committee saw that we are living in a time of massive change, opportunity, and challenge. Hearing the call of the Basis of Union to consider our life afresh, the Act2 Project emerged.

Through two national surveys and in many discussions over two years, the Assembly has heard what people feel and think about the Uniting Church. As a church, we've listened to the Spirit and each other. And there is much to celebrate!

- Inclusive
- Equality
- Justice
- Covenant

A church of many nations, cultures and languages following Christ.

We also face some big challenges we can't ignore:

Threats to sustainability      Complex structures      A siloed national Church.

*The Spirit is calling*

As pilgrim people on the way, what changes are needed:

So that we may flourish,  
be a faithful witness,  
make disciples  
and nurture local communities of faith, hope and love?

72% of the people surveyed said change needs to come in the next 2 to 3 years

In May 2022, the 16th Assembly meeting affirmed the importance and urgency of this work. The Assembly Standing Committee established a national Steering Committee to help carry the work forward. From now until the 17th Assembly in July 2024, we'll be engaged in a whole Church process of discernment.

(continued on page 3)

## 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	Colour	1st Reading	Psalm	2nd Reading	Gospel
4 June	Trinity Sunday	W	Genesis 1:1 to 2:4a	8	2 Corinthians 13:11-13	Matthew 28:16-20
11 June	Pentecost 2 (10)	G	Genesis 12:1-9	33:1-12	Romans 4:13-25	Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26
18 June	Pentecost 3 (11)	G	Genesis 18:1-15, (21:1-7)	116:1-2, 12-19	Romans 5:1-8	Matthew 9:35 to 10:8, (9-23)
22 June	UC Anniversary	R	Ex 37:15-28	122	Hebrews 13:1-8	John 17:20-26
25 June	Pentecost 4 (12)	G	Genesis 21:8-21	86:1-10, 16-17	Romans 6:1b-11	Matthew 10:24-39
2 July	Pentecost 5 (13)	G	Genesis 22:1-14	13	Romans 6:12-23	Matthew 10:40-42

Colours: P – Purple

W – White

G – Green

R – Red

B – Black

*Music to make you smile*

Delight in a variety of popular and modern musical numbers presented by

*The Savoy Singers*



Highly experienced performers from stage, musical theatre and opera, featuring a show filled with music from the wonderful musicals we all grew up with

**GISBORNE UNITING CHURCH  
23 Brantome Street Gisborne**

**SUNDAY 18<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2023 at 2pm**

**ADULTS \$25 CONCESSION/STUDENT \$20**

**TICKETS AT THE DOOR OR FROM MAREE (5428 3852)**

**AFTERNOON TEA TO FOLLOW CONCERT**

(from page 1) President of the Assembly, Rev. Sharon Hollis says: "Today on Pentecost Sunday we celebrate the gift of the breath of Christ on every believer, the outpouring of the Spirit on a new community called to a new character of life,"

"Today marks the beginning of 26 days of prayer across the life of the Uniting Church. Just as the Spirit guided the very earliest church to form its life around Christ and be guided by Spirit of Christ, so we trust that we are being guided by Christ in our conversations about the future."

"As we gather for these days of prayer, may the Spirit pour out upon us, and may we dream dreams and see visions of the future that God has for the Uniting Church."

Uniting in Prayer begins the second phase of the Project - Collective Discernment - in which we will grapple with what was heard across that time and invite the whole Church to engage with some possible options and directions.

It is deliberate that Uniting in Prayer stands at the beginning of this work. Instead of the movement between phases being marked first by a report (coming in June), an intentional time of prayer prepares us for the imagination and deep discernment this next phase will demand. Before anything, we are the interconnected body of Christ placing ourselves again in the hands of God who holds the future.

For 26 days we'll be sharing prayers drawn from across our Church and our rich faith tradition, gathering for worship and prayer locally and inviting Uniting Church communities to pray for each other.

We will hold before God the deep and wide range of things being felt across our Church at this complex moment of our life. In all of this, we come together to give thanks for God's faithfulness in our past and present, affirm our hope in Christ and seek new paths under the leading of the Spirit.

You can participate by:

Hosting a worship or prayer gathering in your congregation

Praying for other Uniting Church communities through the national prayer chain

Praying together at home

Praying with us daily

Praying online with others from across the national UCA



There is a significant amount of information available, along with invitations to participate, on the website: **act2uca.com** Those who sign up for Uniting in Prayer at **<https://www.act2uca.com/unitinginprayer>** will receive daily resources from the Assembly. If you don't have easy access to the internet, please contact Annette or Paul to arrange to have the resources passed on to you.

Please contact **Annette or Paul** if you would like to be part of **Uniting in Prayer** in your home at a regular time each day, and we will try to arrange people to pray 'together apart'. If you would like to arrange something regular in your congregation, please let us know if you need any resources.

In June, Worship services will be streamed from the following churches:

- |                  |                       |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| 4 <sup>th</sup>  | Tylden (no communion) |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> | Kyneton               |
| 18 <sup>th</sup> | Romsey                |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> | Sutton Grange         |

If you are unable to attend a church on Sunday morning and wish to join in on-line with these 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 on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of the month. The Northern churches have a 10am service, preceded by a cuppa at 9.30am. If there is a partnership service (usually 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday) it will be at 10am. Alternative service times – Kyneton at 6.30pm on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Friday. Faith Community 2.30pm Mondays in Woodend

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>June 2023</h1>				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<b>Trinity Sunday</b> 9.30am Tylden	2.30 Faith Community 5.30pm Romsey Meditation		9.30-1.30 White Goose Riddells Creek		6.30pm Fish & Chips Worship Kyneton HC	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
<b>Pentecost 2</b> 9.30am Kyneton	5.30pm Romsey Meditation	10am Muffin Matinee Movie at Gisborne	9.30-1.30 White Goose Riddells Creek		10am Prayers at Gisborne	<b>*PiP articles due tomorrow please</b>
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
<b>Pentecost 3</b> 9.30am Romsey	2.30 Faith Community 5.30pm Romsey Meditation		9.30-1.30 White Goose Riddells Creek 10am Minister's Munch	<b>UCA Anniversary</b>	10am Prayers at Gisborne 6.30pm Fish & Chips Worship at Kyneton (lay lead)	
25	26	27	28	29	30	
<b>Pentecost 4</b> 10am Sutton Grange	2.30pm Faith Community 3.30pm RM Begg 5.30pm Romsey Meditation	10am Alternative Worship Gisborne	9.30-1.30 White Goose open Riddells Creek		10am Prayers at Gisborne	

Romsey news: Here are a few photos from Romsey. A Pancake evening was held in February – a happy night with congregation members and friends gathering together in friendship and enjoying a delicious meal with a savoury pancake for main course and a sweet one for dessert. Photos from Jenny Elliot



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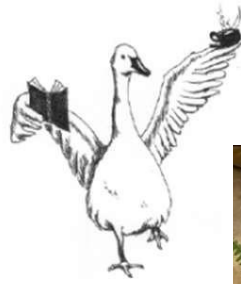
Page 5



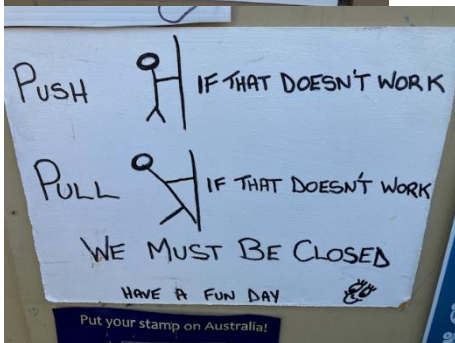
(above) The Fungi Town Caravan that artist Kathy Holowko is taking around the Macedon Ranges is an interactive art installation on wheels. It provides a tactile experience for people of all ages to learn about environmental and community resilience. These photos were taken in Riddells Creek at the farmers market where children were invited to make their own fungi. The forest diorama is quite amazing. You can learn more at [mrsc.vic.gov.au/fungi-caravan](http://mrsc.vic.gov.au/fungi-caravan) if these amazing creations fascinate you.

**White Goose**

Pictured are some of the Sunbury UC's Quiet Day group at their favourite meeting place: The White Goose at Riddells Creek - their 'home away from home'. This quarter's worship focus is on the right. So simple and effective. They're planning to return in August!



Some signs found on Meg's travels in Tasmania recently



Patrick, Paul and Valley Road from the **Simba Sessions** at Kyneton UC – see page 8 for more information



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## HIGHLIGHTS FROM SACRED EDGE shared by Meg, Paul and Lyn

**Catching up with My Tribe** - the Deacons. Seven of us were there, one even drove from Sth Aus. We only meet nationally once every three years and this hasn't happened since Covid, so it was wonderful to be with other likeminded people whose heart strings play and pull together.

**The Sunday Morning Gathering** - A celebration with the Spirit that held us together in music, poetry, art, song and storytelling.

The wonderful music of Didjeridoo and Harp played together. The talented Biblical storyteller and Irish poet.

**The joy of Sophia Spring** - the sacredness and interconnectedness of all things in creation - an eco-feminist community meeting regularly together.

**The Sudanese Women Resettled in Australia** - Their journey to Cairo, to Sydney, to Geelong. Their joy, their care and concern for others and work with women in prison and the publication of the stories of many other women.

**Kinja** - a music group with a First Nation didjeridoo player, singer and story teller and his Celtic violinist, singer wife - a joyful fun-loving, yet at times poignant duo.

Hearing people from the most vulnerable places of our society talk about 'how welcome and safe they feel' in a community created by Christians.

Hearing a challenge to the use of the word church, questioning its safety for others, and discussing how meaningful it is to name radical spaces like Sacrededge a new vision of church.

Seeing my kids so at home in the community of strangers; seeing my Jewish wife excited by spiritual community; seeing an agnostic friend from outside the church excited and talking about feeling changed.

Hearing the challenge of a gay man speaking from the lectern, saying that he would never be part of a community that had an in group and an out group.

Witnessing tension and hurt held in love.

Sacred Edge is a special place of inclusion and acceptance. And a safe place to listen and learn and participate. There are so many things I took away from this weekend, but my highlight was the Gathering in the church on Sunday morning

- the beautiful music made as the Harp and the didjeridoo joined together to welcome us into the space.
- the singing of the 'Call to worship'
- the telling of the story of the Good Samaritan by a very special magician
- the statement made by a person of faith that they would never become a member of the club that is the church. Because that is how we appear to those who aren't members.

And as I thought through this statement, all the things that follow, such as

- we don't use inclusive language; we assume that everyone who walks through our doors will understand how the liturgy works in a service.

- how many closed doors do people have to walk through to enter our buildings? How daunting must that be if you are a 'first timer'?

- the Bible doesn't tell us to build churches everywhere, but rather Jesus gathered the community around him, often over a meal, and they just talked and learned. Jesus taught by allowing others to question.

- and then 'go and do likewise'!! He sent them out into the community, and as most of us are involved in the community in some way, how can we make this church for us, but more importantly, for others?

Tylden tidings: The Opportunity shop at 37 Forrest St is freshly renovated, well-stocked and looking fabulous. Tylden UC folk have shared some cold Autumn weather over breakfast for a Sunday morning BBQ in the Tylden hall shelter recently.



On Friday, 19 May, Kyneton Uniting Church was aglow with candles, lamps and fairy lights. There was a buzz in the air as 40 people from near and far slowly filtered through the doors into the warm atmosphere, arriving to smells of warming Curry and an array of drinks, to fill any hunger or quench any thirst. The night was started by a poem of welcome that invited people of all intersections into a space of reflection and introduced the tone and theme of the night: 'take my chances'. We were blessed by the sparky and passionate strength of Kate Lucetta, the soft melting melancholy of Patrick Lionel, and the country folk of Kyneton and Castlemaine's own Valley Road, stunning us all in solemn duet with stories of love and loss. Between sets, Paul Banks hosted the evening and read poetry relating to moments where he had taken new chances and stepped beyond what is comfortable to grow and be challenged. Each of the artists shared stories from their life and work that touched on the theme and brought their work to life in illuminative ways. A standout performance was delivered by Kate Lucetta with her song 'Priorities' that shared the dying wisdom offered by her favourite uncle, calling us to rethink our priorities and the way we choose to use our time and energy. The night was finished with an Irish blessing by John O'Donohue. **"The Simba Sessions"** has had various manifestations in Clifton Hill, Fairfield, and Northcote. The night is a celebration of music and poetry, through reflection and storytelling. It is a place of safety for people beyond the gathered community and a chance to find belonging in an intentional community without pressure of religious commitment or affiliation. It is a place for seekers or lovers of music and art story to reflect on their own stories through the stories of others, where all are welcome. This evening was a raging success with many people voicing their praise and intention to return again next month. The next Simba Sessions is on 16th June, doors open at 7 pm, \$15 entry, food and drink available.







Rev. Dr. D'Arcy Wood will explore a phenomenon that began with the large open-air rallies held by the Wesley brothers in the mid-18th century and developed into the stirring tunes and expressions of devotion that became the bedrock of congregational singing in the nineteenth century. 5<sup>th</sup> June is your opportunity to sing along with a guest choir to the accompaniment of pianist Bruce Macrae. A link for more information is on page 9.

(pictured is Pleasant St Ballarat in the 1950's from K Hallett)

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>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/F &amp; C</u> - Glennis Speed <u>Pastoral Care/F &amp; C</u> - Bev Gilbertson <u>Social Justice</u> – Nola Anderson <u>Worship &amp; Education</u> - Paul Gilbertson	<u>UCAF</u> - Maree Clarke <u>Craft Group</u> - Linda Moorhouse <u>Friends Pizza Night</u> - Ron Hebbard
<u>CoCo</u> - (Co-ordinating Council)	<u>Chair</u> - Colin Chapman <u>Secretary</u> - <u>Minute Secretary</u> – Keith Hallett <u>Treasurer</u> - Paul Gilbertson	<u>Finance Committee</u> Chair - Paul Gilbertson, Lyn Ward, Colin Chapman

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# Springtime for hymn singing

Congregational singing blossomed in the 19<sup>th</sup> century

 Join in singing at Auburn Uniting Church 

 Introduced by Rev Dr D'Arcy Wood

Pianist Bruce Macrae and guest choir

Attend live or email for a link to [ken.barelli@bigpond.com](mailto:ken.barelli@bigpond.com)

81 Oxley Road, Hawthorn

 Sunday 4 June 2.00pm | Free event – all welcome 

*VicTas Uniting Church Historical Society*

For more information follow this link: <https://www.historyvictoria.org.au/event/springtime-for-hymn-singing-the-growth-of-congregational-singing-in-the-19th-century/>

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.

<u>MINISTERS:</u> Pastor Annette Buckley Ph 5429 5351 or 0457 608 539 annettebuckley@ucaromsey.com	Mr Paul Banks Ph 0450 436 285 pjbanks1@gmail.com	<u>MINISTER IN ASSOCIATION</u> Rev Deacon Meg Evans Ph 0439 492 245 marevans@bigpond.com
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**PARTNERSHIP WEBSITE** [www.macedonrangesunitingchurch.org.au](http://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, Janet Cole, Dawn Hinneberg
<u>TILDEN/WOODEND OP SHOP</u> - 37 Forest St, Woodend	Shirley Bowen	Fiona Armour	Glenda Fleming	Partnership	Paul Gilbertson, Colin Chapman
<u>GISBORNE</u> - 23 Brantome St	Bev Gilbertson	Colin Chapman	Paul Gilbertson	Neil Moorhouse Rob Dunstan	Colin Chapman, Keith Hallett, Paul Gilbertson

Thanks to all the contributors for this month's PiP. Do you have a photo from an event in your congregation or news from your church or even from your life? How is your journey with Uniting in Prayer going? 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 **18<sup>th</sup> June 2023**.

Robyn (contact details at bottom of Contact list under Z 😊)