



PARTNERSHIP IN PRINT



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SISTERS AND PROMISES

Poor Jacob! Seven years of hard work for his Uncle Laban so that he might be able to marry Laban's daughter, the "beautiful and graceful" Rachel. It seems like a fairly one-sided bargain, but Jacob agreed, and the wedding was duly arranged and completed. The next morning, however, Jacob was furious to discover that a switch had been made, and his uncle had instead given him his older daughter, Leah, whose "eyes were lovely" because, as Laban said "That's how we've always done things around here", or words to that effect. Laban did, graciously, allow Jacob to marry Rachel a week later, as long as Jacob promised to work for him for another seven years.



Photo by [Daiga Ellaby](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Strangely, this reading from Genesis 29 was the lectionary reading for Sunday 30th July, the day before I completed seven years of working with the Partnership. Who said God doesn't have a sense of humour?

It caused me to think...have we been working for 'Rachel' or for 'Leah'?

Our Partnership was created at a time when hope was high and energies in our Presbytery were directed towards focusing on new opportunities for mission in our communities. The Partnership, in the Profile prepared for people considering a placement here, said:

The Port Phillip West Presbytery vision of a "Regeneration Ministry" embraces and nurtures new models of missional church both within and beyond an existing congregation. Specialised ministry is provided to assist participating congregations.

(Regenerating the Church: A Strategy for Port Phillip West)

and:

Over the last year a new vision has emerged of co-operation. This is not for the purposes of rationalisation or survival. This is a new vision for change and development. It is based on the belief that more can be achieved in partnership than alone with limited resources. It is based on a shared commitment to a vision of exploring new models of church, new models of worship and mission, and a range of worship times. There is also a commitment to reviewing resources and buildings with a view to ensuring that property retained or new property sought is the most appropriate for the new approaches to being church.

This will not occur because of duress but as the Spirit leads over time, and as new missional visions emerge.

This was 'Rachel': the vision of a team of three ministers across a partnership of congregations working together intentionally to find new ways of being church in the Macedon Ranges in the 21st century. This was the call I heard in 2016 when, unlike Jacob, I didn't even know I was expecting God to open a new chapter in my life. When I did hear it, I hoped it would be fruitful. I hoped, like Jacob, that it would lead to flourishing - for the Partnership and myself. Unlike Jacob's story, I don't think anyone was trying to pull a fast one! The Partnership, even before the ministers were called, was genuinely committed to seeking flourishing through a new way of being.

And in many ways, it has! We've been on some adventures together, and been through some ups and downs. We've experimented, tried and failed, got up and dusted ourselves off, been through a pandemic together

(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 |
|--------|-------------------|--------|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| 6 Aug | Pentecost 10 (18) | G | Genesis 32:22-31 | 17:1-7, 15 | Romans 9:1-5 | Matthew 14:13-21 |
| 13 Aug | Pentecost 11 (19) | G | Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28 | 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b | Romans 10:5-15 | Matthew 14:22-33 |
| 20 Aug | Pentecost 12 (20) | G | Genesis 45:1-15 | 133 | Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32 | Matthew 15:(10-20), 21-28 |
| 27 Aug | Pentecost 13 (21) | G | Exodus 1:8 to 2:10 | 124 | Romans 12:1-8 | Matthew 16:13-20 |
| 3 Sep | Pentecost 14 (22) | G | Exodus 3:1-15 | 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b | Romans 12:9-21 | Matthew 16:21-28 |

Colours: P – Purple

W – White

G – Green

R – Red

B – Black

Gisborne Uniting Church Morning Matinee

Winter Morning Matinee: Last Chance! The third and final Muffin Morning Matinee will be held on Tuesday August 8, 10am -12 noon in the foyer

Over twenty people fell in love with an eagle at the screening of Healing. Next favourite will be the flugelhorn which features in the sadly wonderful story of a traditional coal miners' brass band (a sort of musical men's shed). Brassed Off features the wonderful late Pete Postlethwaite and the greatest brass band of all, the Grimethorpe Colliery Band.

A letter for us all:

A lot has changed in the six years since War On Waste first aired, but the fight is far from over. Craig Reucassel – passionate planet advocate and professional prankster – is back on the front lines with a new three-part season that dives deep into Australia's waste crisis.

Premiering Tuesday 25 July at 8.30pm AEST on ABC TV and [ABC iview](#), the [new season of War On Waste](#) is sorting the facts from the PR green-spin, meeting Australia's new generation of waste warriors and delivering home-grown solutions to help stem the waste tide. Join Craig as he goes undercover with GPS trackers to chase down wayward landfill, tackles the [fallout from the collapse of REDcycle's soft plastics recycling scheme](#), and even undergoes scientific testing to explore the plastic polluting our insides.

There's a lot to uncover in the new season of War On Waste. New challenges for corporations, councils and communities. New behaviours to unpack from a world slowly recovering from the pandemic. New everyday solutions, driving small changes and big results.

As Craig Reucassel himself puts it, "We've taken some steps forward. Sadly, in some ways we've gone backwards as well. We've got some big questions to answer. We can't just keep making stuff and using it once or twice and burying it forever. How do we reduce our waste? How do we properly recycle it, and how do we stop thinking of it as waste? We got some big changes on the way. So, join us as we continue the **WAR ON WASTE!**"

(from page 1) and emerged from the other side. We've all got a little older, and hopefully wiser. We've learned together things about God we hadn't imagined, we've learned new skills (who knew anything about Zoom a couple of years ago?!), we've learned about each other. We've lost some dearly loved people along the way, and gladly welcomed new friends. We're still finding new ways to listen to our communities and join with them in discovering where God is at work.

During this time the 'way we have always done things' has taken significant blows, and sometimes it's left us bruised and battered. Our worship services today, for example, are vastly different from how they were seven years ago, and perhaps not in ways we all appreciate or enjoy. But I still think we need to be reminded regularly of the vision that brought us together and to ask how it can continue to lead us into new life in God.

One of the issues with stories like the one of Leah and Rachel is that we know very little about the women in the stories. They are fleshed out a little later on, mostly in descriptions over their rivalry around the issue of child-bearing. They come to an agreement at one point that leads to flourishing for both of them. In a brilliant 1997 novel, Anita Diamant reimagines the characters, and the others around them, more fully, picturing Leah as a resourceful and equal partner with Jacob in his farming activities, and creating a more complex dynamic between the sisters than mere squabbling over their husband's affections.

Rachel was given to Jacob a week after his marriage to Leah, and then he had to work for another seven years. What would it look like for us to follow that story? To recognise this as the time that we need to go "the full Rachel" and embrace what that might mean for our future? Jacob didn't abandon Leah in the process, as her retinue of children shows, but he regrouped and started on the next chapter of his story. What might be the next chapter of ours?

I'd be interested to hear your thoughts!

Annette Buckley
August 2023



Referendum 2023: Ensuring safety of our local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community

Dallas Widdicombe (Dharug), Bendigo District Aboriginal Cooperative CEO
Rodney Carter (Dja Dja Wurrung and Yorta Yorta), Dja Dja Wurrung Group CEO
Narlinga Morgan (Yorta Yorta), co-chair Bendigo NAIDOC Week Committee
Nicola Perry (Ngarrindjeri), co-chair Reconciliation Committee

Later this year, all Australians will vote whether to recognise the First Peoples of Australia by establishing an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament in the Constitution.

We understand that the wider community will have conversations about this, and we welcome informed, respectful and sensitive conversations about a better future for our people.

Irrespective of how individuals in our community choose to vote, the debate in the lead up to the referendum and the outcome will have a profound impact on our people.

The wellbeing of our local Aboriginal community is our primary focus during this time. In recent weeks there have been several verbal racist attacks in public on members of our local community.

The eSafety Commission has recently reported an increase in complaints that centre on material posted online in reference to the referendum that seeks to denigrate, insult, threaten or otherwise abuse Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

This public commentary and abuse has a detrimental impact on the social and emotional wellbeing and safety of members of our community.

We write this statement jointly as Aboriginal leaders, to ask our non-Aboriginal friends and broader public to join with us in helping to ensure the safety of local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members.

You have the power to ensure racial violence under the guise of political and social debate is not tolerated.

If you see or hear behaviour and words that don't sit well with you against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, please stand up and calmly call it out.

Elevate the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in conversations relating to the constitutional recognition and the Voice to Parliament.

Ensure that conversations you are part of are respectful, informed and not spreading misinformation.

Above all, please remember that the rights, wellbeing and future of our Elders and our families are being discussed.

While non-Aboriginal Australians have a choice to not engage or to walk away from conversations, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people cannot as the debate and the outcome will have a profound impact on our community.

Please walk with us to ensure our community remains safe. (an open letter shared from the Midland Express)

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|--|---|----------|---|-----------------------------------|
| August | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| | | | 9.30-1pm White Goose open Riddells Creek | | 10am Prayers at Gisborne | |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| Pentecost 10 9.30am local services, no streaming | 12.30 Souper Lunch 2.30 Faith Community | 10am Winter Morning Matinee Gisborne 6.30pm Under Cover | 9.30-1pm White Goose open Riddells Creek | | 10am Prayers at Gisborne 6.30pm Fish & Chips Worship Kyneton | |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| Pentecost 11 9.30am Tylden (streamed) | 12.30 Souper Lunch 2.30 Faith Community | | 9.30-1pm White Goose open Riddells Creek | | 10am Prayers at Gisborne | *PiP articles due tomorrow please |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| Pentecost 12 9.30am Gisborne (streamed) | 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 7pm Simba Sessions | |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 2023 | |
| Pentecost 13 9.30am Kyneton (streamed) | 12.30 Souper Lunch 2.30 Faith Community 3.30pm RM Begg | 10am Gisborne alternative worship (tbc) | 9.30-1pm White Goose open Riddells Creek 10am Minister's Munch | | | |

Recycling Part 2

What does your community recycle?

The Macedon Ranges Shire Council's website has an **A - Z of recycling**. This sets out in great detail what products go to which bin or to a Resource Recycling Facility (once a Transfer Station)

Riddells Creek Neighbourhood House assists with the Recycling of:

- Plastic bottle and jar lids of all sizes (tetra packs, milk bottles, Vegemite jars etc.)
- Pens, textas and such like
- Colgate toothpaste tubes and all dental hygiene products
- X-Rays
- Corks
- Printer ink-cartridges (all sizes)
- Mobile phones
- Nespresso and other aluminium coffee pods - must be aluminium.
- Tablet foils
- Plastic bread tags (cardboard ones into recycle bin in paper envelope)

Place the Takeaway coffee **LIDS** in your normal recycling bin (Yellow lid); (**Bio-cups** go in FOGO bin, **all others** in red rubbish)

Glass bottles and jars in purple glass bin.

Broken glass of any kind, wrapped in thick newspaper or a closed box and put in red rubbish bin.

Plastic bottles (lids separated) into recycle bin.

What can your community add to this list to stop this picture??



Narrated by Margot Robbie and sharing the often secret lives of an eclectic group of women across Australia, **UNDER COVER** shines a light on the devastating reality that women over 50 are increasingly experiencing homelessness in the country. Their moving but optimistic portraits reveal the struggles these women face, and lay bare the flaws in our society, as well as our economic fragility in the modern world.



We are a small community
coming together to
nurture the creative spirit
in all of us.
This is a place for inspiration
A place of music,
storytelling and poetry.
A place where the
little voices matter,
A place our weary heads may rest a time.
Come join us
for some candle-soaked sounds
on the 3rd Friday of the month.

The
SIMBA
SESSIONS
MUSIC POETRY STORYTELLING

August 25th
September 15th
October 20th
November 17th

The Simba Sessions are next on August 25th 7pm \$15 entry at Kyneton Uniting Church
With Bec Sykes, Saint Ergo and Stephanie Bernabe

Under Cover - The problem of Homelessness in the Macedon Ranges

Tuesday 8th August at 6.30pm, Kyneton Town Hall

Film Screening of the Australian documentary and discussion panel of local experts in this field exploring the extent and nature of the problem of homelessness and solutions for the Macedon Ranges.

The Panel includes:

- Bernie O'Sullivan (CEO Macedon Ranges Shire Council)
- Robert Pradolin (Housing all Australians)
- Josephine Falzarano (Rotary)
- Lenka Thompson (President MRSG)
- Annie Smithers (Du fermier)
- Kate Weston (Sunbury and Cobaw Community Health)
- Justine Maher (Sunbury and Cobaw Community Health)

Facilitated by Jane Monk.

Cost: Free; Registration required [link here](#)

Light supper will be provided



COCO REPORT JULY 2023

We met by Zoom for our CoCo meeting on July 1st.

There was much discussion centred around the Act 2 report - 'In Response to God's Call' and its relevance to the Partnership. It prompted a wide-ranging discussion about the future of the Macedon Ranges Partnership in light of the challenges for UCA communities across Australia which were identified in the report:

- Ageing and declining community of faith
- Administration and compliance work
- Decline in volunteer capacity and skills
- Convolved, time consuming wider church processes
- Tired and burnt out leaders and volunteers
- Effort and cost in maintaining buildings
- Decline in finances

All of these areas had relevance around the congregations, and for the Partnership, and raised the question about what changes will need to be made for the future.

Paul Banks offered the possibility of a weekly worship team meeting, which would give support to those who are leading worship in the next week.

The Partnership's financial position was discussed and more detailed information about each congregations' financial position is required as we look at our future ministry options.

A discussion on the place of The Voice and a possible public forum was explored, with the awareness of the need to offer a bipartisan approach in such a meeting, along with the position of the Uniting Church.

Our next meeting will be by Zoom on 5th August

| 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>Op-Shop Contact:</u> Fiona Armour |
| <u>RIDDELLS CREEK</u> | | <u>Craft Group</u> - Lynette Bucknall |
| <u>GISBORNE</u> | <u>Prayer Ministry/F & C</u> - Glennis Speed <u>Pastoral Care/F & C</u> - Bev Gilbertson <u>Social Justice</u> – Nola Anderson <u>Worship & 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> - Keith Hallett <u>Treasurer</u> - Paul Gilbertson | <u>Finance Committee</u> Chair - Paul Gilbertson, Lyn Ward, Colin Chapman |

Reminder from Romsey: Christian Meditation is having a winter recess this year. We will recommence at the beginning of September, date to be confirmed – stay tuned to PiP!

In August, Worship services will be streamed at 9.30am from the following churches:

| | |
|------------------|-------------------------|
| 13 th | Tylden – Holy Communion |
| 20 th | Gisborne |
| 27 th | Kyneton |

On 6th August 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. If you are aware that Partnership in Print has the wrong dates for your services – please get in touch with Robyn for the next issue!

Alternative service times – Fish'n'Chips service at Kyneton at 6.30pm this month on 11th August and the second August date is to be confirmed – please pay attention to your local church notices.

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.

Presbytery of Port Phillip West has a website full of resources and information: <https://ucappw.org.au/>

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 annettebmrp@icloud.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

| 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? Wondering why PiP is a bit empty this month? Interested in saying something about your life in Christ at this time? Help us to celebrate life with God in this place and share your story with the rest of the Partnership.

Please send me your additions for PiP by **19th August 2023**.

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

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