



# Partnership in Print



*Uniting Church in Australia - Macedon Ranges Partnership*

*Barfold - Gisborne - Kyneton - Lancefield - Metcalfe - Mia Mia - Mount Macedon - Riddells Creek - Romsey - Sutton Grange - Tylden - Woodend*

Issue No 40 - February 2019

Season - Epiphany 4 - 7

## Why do you



## still go to



## church?



## So why do you still go to church?

Why do you still go to church? A good question when you look around and see many staying away and attendances declining. Many good people with a faith in God have come to the conclusion that “church” no longer has a place in their routines.

But going to suggest the question is misleading. It presumes church is just a 1 hour worship service once each week, usually on Sunday. It carries with it a memory of “church life” involving many different things; Bible study, Sunday School, youth group, mens/womens groups, mission groups, sporting club, etc. Much of this life has declined and contracted to being not much more than one or two groups and a worship service at most.

The question has lost sight of what “church” really is. The word church is the English translation of the Greek word ekklesia. It had an original meaning of “assembly, congregation, council”, and is used in the New Testament to refer to the gathering of the followers of the Way of Jesus. It had a sense of community, a Christlike community.

Various qualities are spoken about and attributes highlighted as markers of being Christ’s church. Paul refers to gifts of the Spirit that help us grow, fruits of the Spirit that build our life together and love (agape) that binds us together. These are essentials to naming ourselves Christian, a true expression of faith.

What is interesting in this era is that religious faith and identification often does not require participation in a community. Some choose to do so but one can still attend a temple, prayers or other worship activities of many religions and not be a part of a community.

At the heart of being followers of Jesus though is the call to live faith out in community. It is to practice following Jesus by encouraging each other, loving one another and being generous to those in need. Such living uses what we have to benefit others, works together to help others outside of our community and to helps each other have better lives. It finds ways to sort through our problems so that we are reconciled to each other. It is a community that has been created and exists for others. It is a community that lives the life of God’s Spirit in what it does.

In our wider community, there are debates and challenges as to how to deal with difficult people. People who break laws. People who are rude. People who are disrespectful. People who are different to ourselves, culturally and socially. People who impose on us and people who demand our attention.

Society says boundaries and accountability are the core of good community. Breaches require consequences, even to the point of exclusion and diminution of rights. Karma or an “eye for and eye” at least but even better is to penalise so as to make the boundary breakers regret their trespass.

While consequences are important as the Bible makes clear, the foundation of being God's people is based on love; the primary expression of love being expressed in grace. Being gracious to one another, even when we don't deserve it, is central. It is healing. It is restoring. It is life giving. A young boy on a school camp kept on breaking the rules. Punishments were becoming severe but were still ineffectual. It got to the point that he was going to be sent home. He appeared to not care. The teachers decided to take a different approach. They gave ground and offered him some opportunities. He did not deserve them. It was an act of grace and offered hope. The boy responded bit by bit and finished the camp having a wonderful time. His behaviour improved and the camp benefitted everyone. He grew. I saw grace and hope in action. There was healing.

A better question is "why do I belong to church"? For me it is grace, hope and love. For me it is about belonging. For me it is about seeing the life and love of God expressed in those I meet. For me it is about community; a community with soft, open edges, welcoming and gracious.

So why do you belong to church?

*Rev Peter Cannon*

## **Gisborne's Advent Wreath**

Gisborne's Advent Wreath was different in 2018.

In place of candles, each week people brought symbols of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love to add to the wreath. For Christmas Eve and Christmas Day lights were added.



**"Ethics is knowing the difference between  
what you have a right to do and  
what is right to do."**

*(Potter Stewart, former US Supreme Court Justice)*

# Worship Services

February	Partnership service location & leader	Other Partnership Services	Notes	Other Congregational services/prayers*
Sunday 3rd February	Lancefield <b>10:45 am</b> Holy Communion Wendy Elson	Woodend - Mon 4th 11am Riddell - Wed 6th 9am Kyneton - Fri 8th 6:30 pm	Peter on leave	3rd Tylden 9am - Alison Killoh 3rd Gisborne 9:30am - Margaret Woolner 3rd Mt Macedon 10:30am - Worship Team
Sunday 10th February	Northern (Metcalfe) <b>10:00 am</b> Holy Communion Annette Buckley	Woodend - Mon 11th 11am Riddell - Wed 13th 9am	Peter on leave Wendy at conference	10th Romsey 9am - Carol Toy 10th Tylden 9am - Shirley Bowen 10th Gisborne 9:30am - Paul Gilbertson 10th Mt Macedon 10:30am - D'Arcy Wood 10th Lancefield 10:45am - Carol Toy
Sunday 17th February	Riddells Creek <b>4 pm</b> Holy Communion Annette Buckley	Woodend - Mon 18th 11am Riddell - Wed 20th 9am	Peter on leave	17th Tylden 9am - Janet Cole 17th Romsey 9am - Rev Marion Latham 17th Gisborne 9:30am - Janet Wood 17th Mt Macedon 10:30am - Adele Mapperson 17th Lancefield 10:45am - Rev Marion Latham
Sunday 24th February	Mt Macedon <b>10:30 am</b> Holy Communion Peter Cannon	Woodend - Mon 25th 11am RM Begg - Mon 25th 3:30pm Riddell - Wed 27th 9am		24th Romsey 9am - TBA 24th Tylden 9am - Robyn Zumstein 24th Gisborne HC 9:30am - D'Arcy Wood 24th Lancefield 10:45am - TBA

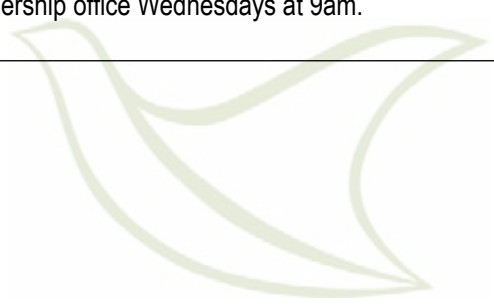
\* Other congregational services/prayers take a variety of forms, depending on the congregation. Some are choosing to have full services, others are having a prayer time together and others are choosing to meet over a cuppa to support each other with some then proceeding to the designated Partnership service.

## Partnership services trial

Through the trial of weekly Partnership Worship Services, as listed on the previous page, many congregations are continuing with weekly Sunday services, led, mostly by lay leaders.

Listed below are the alternative Sunday and weekday worship opportunities throughout the Partnership. Partnership members are encouraged to take part in any of the worship times listed.

Kyneton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have agreed to have less Sunday Worship services at St Andrew's Kyneton.</li> <li>• During February there will be no UC Sunday Worship services in Kyneton. Members are encouraged to attend Partnership services in other townships.</li> <li>• However there will be a monthly Communion service, led by a member of the Ministry Team, on each 2nd Friday commencing at 6:30pm over a meal to share. In February this will be Friday 8th. All Partnership members welcome.</li> <li>• A monthly Worship service is also held at Ray M Begg, Kyneton Aged Care, at 3:30pm on the 3rd Monday afternoons led by Wendy Elson.</li> </ul>
Tylden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Tylden congregation have decided to keep the Tylden Uniting Church open on all Sundays, with a service of some description every week at 9:00am. These are mainly run by lay leaders taking a variety of styles. We thank the Woodend Congregation for their support &amp; leading of services during the year. We also enjoy a large amount of time spent in fellowship &amp; caring for each other over a lovely morning tea. We welcome anyone who would like to join us for these days. We shall be joining with Kyneton on Friday 8th February for a fish &amp; chip night (please organise your own) for our communion service during February.</li> </ul>
Romsey and Lancefield	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will attend Partnership services at Romsey, 9am, 2nd Sunday of odd months and Lancefield, 10:45am, 1st Sunday of even months.</li> <li>• All other Sundays, services will be held at both Romsey and Lancefield. Worship Leaders organised by a combined Worship committee. Each leader, mostly local lay, will conduct both services.</li> </ul>
Mt Macedon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will have a worship service each Sunday at 10:30am.</li> </ul>
Gisborne	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will have a worship service each Sunday at 9:30am.</li> </ul>
Woodend	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has a weekly worship service at 11am each Monday morning.</li> </ul>
Riddells Creek Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weekly devotions at the Partnership office Wednesdays at 9am.</li> </ul>



## Around the Partnership

### Prayer & Worship

#### Weekly Prayer & Meditation

There are a number of weekday opportunities to be involved in worship, prayer or meditation within the Partnership. You are welcome to attend any of these occasionally or regularly.

Prayer for Peace every Monday morning at 11am at Woodend. Followed by lunch. The community are warmly welcomed to this but we really encourage Partnership members to be involved. No gathering on Monday 28th January due Australia Day holiday.

The Lancefield Church is open for private Prayer and Meditation every Wednesday 11am - 3pm.

An Ecumenical Meditation Group meets by arrangement. Contact Wendy for details.

Labyrinth walk at Riddells Creek is available at any time if you wish to walk on your own.

Prayer Meetings are held at Gisborne Church at 2pm on Tuesdays and 10am on Fridays.

#### World Day of Prayer 2019

The World Day of Prayer service for the Romsey Lancefield area will be at St Mary's Catholic Church at Romsey on Friday 1st March.

To prepare for the service a planning meeting will be held at St Mary's, Main St, Romsey, on Friday, 1st February at 10:30am. Representatives from each congregation in Romsey and Lancefield are asked to attend.

#### Worship Planning

A Planning meeting for the Romsey and Lancefield Worship Committee will be at the Lancefield Church on Thursday 28th February at 7:30pm.

## Clubs and Groups

#### White Goose Book Exchange

The White Goose Book Exchange is open each Wednesday 9:30am - 1:30pm at Riddells Creek. Come for a book, to read the papers, a cuppa or just for a chat with our friendly volunteers.

#### Stitches in Rhyme

We are sewing Boomerang Bags for the Riddells Creek Community on Wednesdays, at The White Goose at 1pm, now being called Stitches in Rhyme - sewing and poems & stories.



#### Cuppa @ Cookies

Each Monday – 2pm

Coffee get together at

Cookies Cafe in Main St, Romsey.

Note - Cookies Country Cafe will be closing down at the end of February. After a few months break they will reopen in one of the new shops at the northern end of the shopping strip. Information next month about where we will have our cuppas in March



#### Gisborne Friends Group

The Gisborne friends first gathering for 2019 is on Friday, 1st February commencing at 6:30pm.

#### Tylden UCAF

Tylden Uniting Church Adult Fellowship (UCAF) AGM is Tuesday 5th February at 10am, in the Tylden Church Hall. All welcome, especially new members. Come and enjoy some great fellowship, fun & outreach into the local community.

#### Mt Macedon Men's Group

The Men's Group will have their first meeting of the year on Tuesday, 5th February at 10am at the Mt Macedon Church. All Men Welcome.

#### Muffin 'n' More

Muffin 'n' More will meet for the first time in 2019 on Tuesday 12th February from 10am until 12 noon.



## Romsey UCAF

The Romsey Uniting Church Adult Fellowship will commence 2019 with a meeting on **Wednesday 13th February** at 1:30pm in the meeting room.

## Delightful Diners

The first dinner for the Delightful Diners for 2019 is on **Thursday 21st February** at 18:15 or 6:15pm, at the Carlsruhe Road House. Following the late night opening at the Woodend Op Shop, which will be open until 5:30pm. All are welcome, we love to see new faces join us for an enjoyable night together, we also welcome back those who have been before. We will discuss the program for the year & any ideas you may have to make these nights even more enjoyable. So come along & share with us.

## Kyneton Chat'n'Chew

Kyneton Congregation's monthly Chat N' Chew, on the fourth Friday of the month, continues at Kaddy's Cafe & Eatery, High Street between midday-1.30pm.



The February gathering date is **Friday, 22nd February** @ midday! All welcome! No need for bookings. Inquiries: Jenny Elston

## Mt Macedon Thistle Club

Thistle Club starts for 2019 on **Wednesday, 27th February** at 2pm at the Church. We will share a time of commitment & catch up.

All Welcome.



## Film Club



Film club will recommence on **Thursday 28th February** at 7:30pm at Riddells Creek. The film, "Sweet Country", is an award-winning period western by director Warwick Thornton and tells the harrowing story of an Aboriginal stockman tried for the murder of a Northern Territory white station owner in the 1920s.

## Meetings

### CoCo

The first Partnership Co-ordinating Council meeting for 2019 will be at Kyneton on **Saturday 2nd February** at 9:30pm.

### Romsey Church Council

The first meeting for 2019 for the Romsey Church Council will be at the home of David and Sandra Strack on **Wednesday 6th February** commencing at 6pm with a meal.

### Woodend Op Shop AGM

Woodend Op Shop AGM is **Wednesday 13th February** at 10am. In the Woodend church hall. All volunteers and interested parties welcome & invited. Come along to air your suggestions & help us to improve our support & outreach into the Macedon Ranges area & beyond.

### Mia Mia-Kyneton Church Council

Mia Mia-Kyneton Church Council meets at Kyneton on **Wednesday, 20th February** at 7.30pm. Agenda items wishing to be included by the Partnership's ministry team, Church Councilors, and members of the Barfold, Kyneton, Metcalfe, Mia Mia & Sutton Grange congregations, should be submitted to Doug McIver, Secretary by 13th February.

The Annual General Meeting of the Church Council is due on Wednesday, 20th March at Metcalfe.

### Tylden Congregation AGM

Tylden Uniting Church AGM is **Sunday 24th February** at 10:30am, following our Sunday Service & morning tea. All welcome, especially any Woodend folk who would like to come along & share ideas.

## Fund-raising

### Garage Sale

Garage Sale @ St Andrew's, Ebdon Street, Kyneton, **Saturday, 9th February**, 8.30am-12.30pm (Kyneton Market Day).

Items received, & setting up, on Friday, 8th February from 9am. Pre-loved goods & items are recycled to assist the frequent monthly Mia Mia-Kyneton Garage Sale fundraisers.

The support of all who participate in these UCA fundraisers is welcomed and much appreciated.

Inquiries: Joan Mills

### Tylden Car Boot Sale

Advance notice for the Tylden Uniting Church Car Boot Sale to be held on **Monday 11th March** commencing at 9am. We have a variety of stalls including cake stall & white elephant table on this day as well as a BBQ and Devonshire tea/coffee available. If you would like to book a site please call Glenda on 54248218.

Pop this on your calendar for a great day out.

## Pancake Day Events for your diary

### Gisborne

Once again members of the Gisborne Church will toss pancakes in the Shopping Complex outside the IGA Supermarket on **Saturday, 2nd March**, between 9:30am and 12:30pm, with proceeds going to UnitingCare.

Do come along and support the cause and have some fun!



### Romsey

Members of the Romsey Congregation invite Partnership members and friends to join with them for the 5th annual social pancake tea from 6pm on **Tuesday, 5th March**.

Bring a small amount of a savoury or sweet pancake topping to share. Batter supplied (gluten free too). Donation to 'Uniting'.

## From Les Hartshorn's 'Witty, Wise and Otherwise' - Jan 2019

Australia Day dates back to 1915, with a series of World War 1 fundraising activities, but the date then was not January 26 – a date as divisive then as it is now – but rather July 30. Subsequently, it was held on Friday 28th July 1916; Friday 27th July 1917; and Friday 26th July 1918. It was the days of cash pay packets handed out on a Thursday, and one can assume Fridays were the best days to collect pledges and donations. With the usual Australian pragmatism, the date changed to whatever best suited the cause...

About 1930, the oddly named Australian Natives' Association (ANA) advocated the adoption of 26th January, but clarified that celebrations should be held on the closest Monday – so as

to make a long weekend at the end of January. Some records call it ANA Day – the Australian Natives' Association was open only to Australian-born white men. So, the white men in charge in our national capital and state parliaments put up resistance until 1935. Australia Day was just three years old when the first Indigenous protest occurred, with the instigation of the Day of Mourning in 1938 – the same year crowds gathered in Sydney for the unpronounceable sesquicentenary of the arrival of the First Fleet. On the Day of Mourning, Indigenous Australians and their supporters marked the impact of colonisation, demanded full rights as citizens and mourned the loss of life experienced in their communities.

*(Wesley Enoch – emphasis added)*



## Special Events

### Gisborne Chaplaincy Movie Night

We are proposing to have a movie night to see *Green Book* on **Monday 4th February** at Readings in Sunbury, 6:30pm for 6:45pm, \$20.00 includes Supper.

Tickets are available from Snapshot Photos – cash only please, or by phoning Helen 0407 686 708 or Bronwyn 0417 028 605.

The movie is based on true events – in 1962 a world class African American pianist is about to embark on a concert tour of the deep south & needs a driver & protection. He recruits a

tough-talking bouncer from an Italian neighbourhood in the Bronx & they set out on their journey. They rely on the “green book” to guide them to safe establishments in the segregated



south. An unlikely duo who defied convention to forge a friendship that would enrich & expand their worlds forever.

### Time for slowing down?

For most of us, January is a slow-down time. But it doesn't last! By the end of the month we are full-steam ahead. Is it possible to maintain some slow time throughout the year?

Someone who has thought a lot about this is Clare Boyd-Macrae



who works for the Uniting Church Synod in Melbourne.

She will come to Gisborne on **Monday 25th February** to give the annual Peter Barcham

Lecture at the Gisborne Church at 7:30pm. Clare has entitled her talk “*Prayer and contemplation in 21st century suburbia*”. The lecture is free and all are welcome not only to listen but to engage with Clare. One of her books of reflections is called

*The Whole Shebang* (in the Gisborne church library). She also writes columns for “*The Age*” and blogs regularly.

More information from Janet or D’Arcy Wood.

# February 2019

## 3 Epiphany 4

**10:45am - Partnership Worship at Lancefield**  
(cuppa at 10:15am)

**9am** - Worship at Tylden

**9:30am** - Worship at Gisborne

**10am** - Worship at Barfold (cuppa at 9:40am)

**10:30am** - Worship at Mt Macedon

## 4

**11am** - Prayers for Peace  
at Woodend

**12noon** - Woodend lunch

**1pm** - OpShop sorting

**2pm** - 'Cuppa@Cookies'  
Romsey

**6:30pm** - Gisborne Chap-  
laincy Movie Night

## 5

**10am** - Mt Macedon  
Men's Group

**10am** - Tylden UCAF  
AGM

**2pm** - Prayer at Gisborne

**2pm** - Uniting Lentara  
Forum at Gisborne

## 10 Epiphany 5

**10am - Partnership Worship at Metcalfe**  
(cuppa at 9:40am)

**9am** - Worship at Tylden & Romsey

**9:30am** - Worship at Gisborne

**10:30am** - Worship at Mt Macedon

**10:45am** - Worship at Lancefield (cuppa at 10:15am)

## 11

**11am** - Prayers for Peace  
at Woodend

**12noon** - Woodend lunch

**1pm** - OpShop sorting

**2pm** - 'Cuppa@Cookies'  
Romsey

## 12

**10am** - Muffin'n More at  
Gisborne

**2pm** - Prayer at Gisborne

## 17 Epiphany 6

**4pm - Partnership Inter-generational Worship**  
at Riddells Creek

**9am** - Worship at Tylden & Romsey

**9:30am** - Worship at Gisborne

**10am** - Worship at Mia Mia (cuppa at 9:40am)

**10:30am** - Worship at Mt Macedon

**10:45am** - Worship at Lancefield (cuppa at 10:15am)  
Items for PiP due

## 18

**11am** - Prayers for Peace  
at Woodend

**12noon** - Woodend lunch

**1pm** - OpShop sorting

**2pm** - 'Cuppa@Cookies'  
Romsey

## 19

**2pm** - Prayer at Gisborne

## 24 Epiphany 7

**10:30am - Partnership Worship at Mt Mac-  
edon**

**9am** - Worship at Tylden & Romsey

**9:30am** - Worship at Gisborne

**10am** - Worship at Mia Mia (cuppa at 9:40am)

**10:30am** - Tylden Congregation AGM

**10:45am** - Worship at Lancefield (cuppa at 10:15am)  
Printed copies of PiP available

## 25

**11am** - Prayers for Peace  
at Woodend

**12noon** - Woodend lunch

**1pm** - OpShop sorting

**2pm** - 'Cuppa@Cookies'  
Romsey

**7:30pm** - Peter Barcham  
Lecture at Gisborne

## 26

**2pm** - Prayer at Gisborne

<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
		<b>1</b> <b>10am</b> - Prayer at Gisborne <b>10:30am</b> - WDoP planning at Romsey RC <b>6:30pm</b> - Friends Group	<b>2</b> <b>9:30am</b> - CoCo at Kyneton
<b>6</b> <b>9am</b> - Prayer at Riddell <b>9:30-1:30pm</b> - The White Goose <b>1pm</b> - Stitches in Rhyme <b>11-3</b> - Lancefield Church Open <b>6pm</b> - Romsey Church Council	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> <b>10am</b> - Prayer at Gisborne <b>6:30pm</b> - Meal & HC at Kyneton	<b>9</b> <b>8:30am-12:30pm</b> - Kyneton Garage Sale
<b>13</b> <b>9am</b> - Prayer at Riddell <b>10am</b> - Woodend Op-Shop AGM <b>9:30-1:30pm</b> - The White Goose <b>1pm</b> - Stitches in Rhyme <b>1:30pm</b> - Romsey UCAF <b>11-3</b> - Lancefield Church Open	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> <b>10am</b> - Prayer at Gisborne	<b>16</b>
<b>20</b> <b>9am</b> - Prayer at Riddell <b>9:30-1:30pm</b> - The White Goose <b>1pm</b> - Stitches in Rhyme <b>11-3</b> - Lancefield Church Open <b>7:30pm</b> - Mia Mia/Kyneton Church council	<b>21</b> -> <b>5:30pm</b> - Woodend Op-shop late opening <b>6:15pm</b> - Delightful Diners at Carlsruhe Road House	<b>22</b> <b>10am</b> - Prayer at Gisborne <b>12noon</b> - Chat'n Chew at Kaddy's at Kyneton	<b>23</b>
<b>27</b> <b>9am</b> - Prayer at Riddell <b>9:30-1:30pm</b> - The White Goose <b>1pm</b> - Stitches in Rhyme <b>11-3</b> - Lancefield Church Open <b>2pm</b> - Mt Macedon Thistle Club	<b>28</b> <b>7:30pm</b> - Film Club at Riddells Creek <b>7:30pm</b> - Romsey & Lancefield Worship planning meeting		

# Lentara - Uniting Vic.Tas - & the Macedon Ranges

There may be opportunities for the congregations of the Macedon Ranges Partnership to 'join forces' with Lentara (Lentara Uniting Care) to provide a broad range of support services to our communities.

Lentara is a member of Uniting, a community services organisation formed in 2016 from twenty-one UnitingCare agencies, including Lentara UnitingCare, and Wesley Mission Victoria. The Lentara component had its beginnings in Sunshine and Broadmeadows many years ago and is now interested in providing support, in conjunction with the Macedon Ranges Partnership, well beyond its traditional boundaries.

It is now up to us to decide on the support we would like to provide with help from Lentara.

To help explore the possibilities there will be a forum in Gisborne on Tuesday 5 February 2019, beginning at 2pm – see the attached flier – which seeks to -

- hear what Uniting Church congregations are currently doing in their local areas and their hopes and visions for the future
- hear about the work of Uniting and how this organisation might collaborate in service

together to respond to community needs

I would be most grateful if each congregation can give thought to the sorts of things Lentara could assist with.

Currently, Lentara provides a broad range of support services including -

- Asylum seekers
- Brimbank Men's Shed
- Communal Justice Program
- Communities for Children
- Early Learning
- Emergency Relief
- Financial Counselling
- Integrated Family Services
- No Interest Loans
- Sunshine Community Lunches
- Sunshine Drop in Centre
- Bargain Centres

For more details, see <http://www.lentarauc.org.au/page/1/about-lentara-unitingcare>

The forum will be preceded on the same day by a quick trip around the Macedon Ranges Partnership by the Lentara 'team'. This does not necessarily mean a visit to each church or Op-Shop but can be included if you wish.

## Forum: Making a difference in the Macedon Ranges Come along

To discuss, to dream, to plan.

This is an opportunity for the congregations of the Macedon Ranges Partnership to come together with key Uniting people:

- To hear what Uniting Church congregations are currently doing in their local areas and their hopes and visions for the future
- To hear about the work of Uniting and how we might collaborate in service together to respond to community needs

### Date

Tuesday 5th February, 2019

### Time

2 - 4pm

### Venue

Gisborne Uniting Church  
23 Brantome Street  
Gisborne



# Uniting

# Thriving Ministry Leadership

**Lessons from a duck,  
an echidna,  
a caterpillar and  
a tree**



**ANDREW McDONOUGH,  
BEST KNOWN AS THE AUTHOR  
AND ILLUSTRATOR OF THE LOST SHEEP BOOKS,  
IS COMING TO VICTORIA!**

Drawing on his wide experience in ministry, including working as a pastor amongst the homeless, supporting people struggling with addictions and advocating for refugees, Andrew will be facilitating a series of workshops entitled Thriving Ministry Leadership: lessons from a duck, an echidna, a caterpillar and a tree.

Focused on those in ministry leadership, such as ministers, deacons, pastors, chaplains, lay preachers, church council members and those with specific responsibility for children, young people and families, these sessions will be immensely inspiring, encouraging and practical.

**Andrew will also highlight his latest book  
Jesus was a refugee.**



## Dates

Thursday	February 21	2pm	Geelong
Sunday	February 24	2.30pm	Surrey Hills
Monday	February 25	10am	Ballarat
Monday	February 25	7pm	Bendigo
Tuesday	February 26	10am	Shepparton
Tuesday	February 26	3.30pm	Wodonga
Wednesday	February 27	7pm	Mitcham
Thursday	February 28	10am	Murrumbena

Cost: \$20

Duration: 2.5 hours

Register and pay on-line:

<https://ucavt.goregister.com.au/thrivingministryleadership>

Registrations appreciated by Friday February 22

More information or off-line registration:

**03 9340 8800 or [ann.byrne@victas.uca.org.au](mailto:ann.byrne@victas.uca.org.au)**

### Addresses:

Geelong (Western Heights Uniting Church)  
Surrey Hills Uniting Church  
Ballarat Central Uniting Church  
Bendigo (St. Andrew's) Uniting Church  
Shepparton Uniting Church  
Wodonga Uniting Church  
Mitcham (Mountview) Uniting Church  
Murrumbena Uniting Church

31 Douglass St  
Cnr Canterbury Road & Valonia Avenue  
Cnr Lydiard South & Dana Streets  
26 Myers Street  
Cnr Fryers & Corio Streets  
Cnr Beechworth Road & Nilmar Avenue  
Cnr Maroondah Highway & Doncaster East Road  
117 Murrumbena Road

HERNE HILL  
SURREY HILLS  
BALLARAT  
BENDIGO  
SHEPPARTON  
WODONGA  
MITCHAM  
MURRUMBEENA

These events are supported by funding from the Jean & Farquhar Gunn Fund.



equipping Leadership for Mission



Uniting Church in Australia  
SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA

# Report of Open Coco Meeting held on Saturday 1st December 2018 at Romsey UC

Chairman Colin welcomed us to this last meeting of Coco for 2018. He was particularly pleased to have Rev. Jeane Beale, our new Presbytery Minister with us, also good to have, Jenny Elliott & Lorraine Tweddle.

Annette led us with a thought on the New Year of the Church – we are constantly on a journey with God. Life is about the everyday happenings, encounters with people. Annette had us select blocks to symbolize laying foundations for the way forward and how we each perceived the way ahead. Some chose a solid block as a firm foundation, some with an arch to see the way ahead, some chose people as the building blocks.

The Minutes of the November Coco Meeting were discussed. Some changes to these were sought. After much discussion it was decided some changes would be implemented and brought to the February Meeting to consider.

Colin suggested we concentrate on the way forward for 2019 and 2020. Discussion re other worship options during the week will be provided, in consultation with the Congregations. It seemed that most people prefer to worship in their own Churches each week but still support other Partnership events when possible. Peter again said that Worship resources are available by email or various websites. Also possibility of live-streaming between churches. Also need to continue to consider ways for connecting with communities. Many suggestions for this. Please support this period of change. Proposed this will be reviewed at 3 months and 6 months. Need to quantify and analyse how this is working at that time. Please talk to your Coco Reps or Ministry Team members for more details if required.

Wendy wrote the Ministry Team Report for this Meeting – many happenings around the Partnership and opportunities for community outreach.

Please read Wendy's Report at your Churches. Neil reported on the Woodend UC Missional Hub – Caddick Designs measured up the site and the existing buildings – report about to be ready. Will endeavour to maximise space available to allow optimal use of the property. Funding of \$150,000 from Synod plus some other funds soon to be available to hopefully cover the cost of the work needed.

Also reported that it is hoped the work at Riddells Creek UC will commence in late December or early January. This facility may be used in the school holidays by the Neighbourhood House for story telling and movies.

Pastoral Care – still a work in progress.

Banners should be available in each Church by the time you read this.

Treasurer reported all well financially – congregations making prompt payments.

Resources Team - Meeting soon.

Reports from the Congregations – many good things happening. Of special note is the Woodend Op-Shop distributing \$12,000 to various charities. Preparations for Christmas Services and special events well underway. Check PIP and Peter's emails for details.

Letter needed to renew Jay's permission to conduct Communion.

Mention of need for Op-Shop people to have a voice in the way the Woodend Hall is set up for Op-Shop use. This will definitely happen.

Vote of thanks to Chairperson Colin and Secretary Fiona for the great work they do to administer the Partnership. Also to Paul and Lyn for taking care of the financial side of things.

Thanks to Romsey for hosting the Coco Meeting. Our next Meeting will be 2nd February 2019 at Kyneton UC.



# Same-sex Marriage

In recent years the Uniting Church, nationally, has had a long discussion about same-sex marriage. Then, in July 2018, the Assembly decided to recognise that there are two quite different views sincerely held in the Uniting Church but that ministers can conduct same-sex weddings if they wish to do so.

Following the Assembly, this decision was challenged constitutionally and the permission given to ministers to conduct same-sex-weddings was suspended while that matter was resolved.

The following letter from the President, Dr Deidre Palmer, explains that the July decision is now reaffirmed and same-sex weddings can take place in Uniting churches if the celebrant chooses to do so and if the local Church Council has no objection.

*Rev Dr D'Arcy Wood*

## **Pastoral Letter - Post Fifteenth Assembly Update**

To all Congregations and Faith Communities

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Greetings in this new year, that brings fresh opportunities, as we serve Christ together as the Uniting Church in Australia. I am greatly encouraged by the ways the Uniting Church is engaging in mission and exercising ministry through our local churches, Presbyteries, Synods, our Agencies, schools and the Assembly.

On this Sunday the 13th of January, six months will have passed since the members of the Fifteenth Assembly gathered in Melbourne to discern prayerfully the national priorities and directions of our Church.

### **Decisions of the Assembly**

During this time, members of Synods, Presbyteries, Congregations and Faith Communities have heard about and discussed the decisions we made in Melbourne. In many parts of our Church, our members are living out the hopes and vision that relate to our decisions on domestic and family violence, sovereignty of First Peoples, care for creation, access for people with disabilities, and support for seasonal workers.

### **Our Decision on Marriage**

In respect to our recognition of two statements of belief on marriage, there have been a vari-

ety of responses. Across our Church, there are many people who have embraced the decision as a wise way of moving forward as a Church, respecting the different views we hold on marriage, and giving freedom to Ministers and Congregations to hold to a view of marriage, that they believe is faithful to the Gospel of Christ. Leaders in our Church have journeyed alongside those Uniting Church members, Congregations and Presbyteries, who have difficulty in living with the decision of the Assembly.

In 2009 an additional Clause 39 (b) was approved by the Assembly, which allows Presbyteries and Synods to ask the Assembly to reconsider a decision it has made.

Clause 39 (b) of the Uniting Church Constitution states:

- (i) *If within six months of a decision of the Assembly, or its Standing Committee, at least half the Presbyteries within the bounds of each of at least half the Synods, or at least half the Synods, notify the President that they have determined that in their opinion*
  - *a decision includes a matter vital to the life of the Church; and*
  - *there was inadequate consultation prior to the decision*

*the President shall notify the Church that the decision is suspended until the Assembly has*

*undertaken further consultation.*

Six Presbyteries chose to exercise their right to notify me as President, that, in their opinion, the matter was “vital to the life of the Church and there was inadequate consultation prior to the decision.” There were five Presbyteries in Queensland and one Presbytery in the Northern Synod. On Saturday the 5th of January 2019, the Presbytery of South Australia met, and decided that the majority of members did not support the proposal that the Fifteenth Assembly marriage decision was a “matter vital to the life of the Church and there was inadequate consultation prior to the decision.”

This means that the threshold for the suspension of the Assembly decision has not been reached.

As a result, the Assembly decision on marriage stands, and will continue to be lived out in our Church, in various faithful expressions.

At this time, I would like to acknowledge with deep gratitude, the many Uniting Church members who have listened to one another with open hearts, and who have entered into challenging conversations, as you have responded to the Assembly decision and what it means for your particular community - and in many cases for your families and friends.

During this first six months as President, I have had many opportunities to meet with Uniting Church members, Congregations, Presbyteries and leaders of National Conferences and listen to their concerns and their hopes for our Church. Some of our conversations have focused on Assembly decisions, including our decision on marriage. Our broader focus has included the ways we can witness to God’s reconciling love, which is beyond measure and has power to transform people’s lives and the life of our society.

I know that there are Uniting Church members who have been hurt and have felt distress – either by the decision on marriage, or the possibil-

ity of the suspension of the decision. Let us remain conscious in the weeks and months ahead that this is a time for us as a Church to pastorally support one another, to act compassionately toward one another, and to hear Christ’s invitation to love each other, as Christ loves us, with grace, healing and hope. This call for us to love as Christ loves is at the heart of God’s mission.

### **A Prayerful and Loving Community**

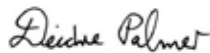
After the Fifteenth Assembly, I noted that I was proud of the way our Assembly members modelled a loving Christian community, by holding together and caring for each other as they exchanged strongly and faithfully held views from different theological and cultural perspectives.

In the months ahead, I pray that we will reflect the marks of the Christian community that Paul speaks of in his letter to the church in Philippi: “encouragement in Christ, consolation from love, sharing in the Spirit, compassion and sympathy.” (Philippians 2:1-3).

I invite you to pray for the Uniting Church, and for each other, that we may faithfully embody the Gospel of Christ in all we do and say. I have included a prayer for our Church, that I invite you to pray in your congregations and faith communities.

May we all know God’s abundant grace and liberating hope as we seek to journey together, shaped by God’s reconciling love.

Grace and peace.



Dr Deidre Palmer  
President Uniting Church in Australia Assembly  
11 January 2019

*If you wish to see the prayer, written by Deidre Palmer, please ask your congregation secretary or one of the Ministry team for a copy.  
It is not reproduced here due insufficient space.*

Directory removed  
for privacy

N - Northern, SG - Sutton Grange, B - Barfold, MM - Mia Mia, M - Metcalfe, K - Kyneton, L - Lancefield, R - Romsey,  
T - Tylden, W - Woodend, MtM - Mount Macedon, RC - Riddells Creek, G - Gisborne, P - Presbytery

## Lectionary Readings Year C

### After Epiphany

*A period in which the church reflects on the manifestation of Christ to all people. The Baptism of the Lord is the first Sunday of this period. On the last Sunday, we hear the readings for the Transfiguration of the Lord. The length of this period varies depending on the date of Easter.*

Date	Day/Season	Col	1st Reading	Psalm	2nd Reading	Gospel
Sunday 3rd February	Epiphany 4	G	Jeremiah 1:4-10	71:1-6	1 Corinthians 13:1-13	Luke 4:21-30
Sunday 10th February	Epiphany 5	G	Isaiah 6:1-8, (9-13)	138	1 Corinthians 15:1-11	Luke 5:1-11
Sunday 17th February	Epiphany 6	G	Jeremiah 17:5-10	1	1 Corinthians 15:12-20	Luke 6:17-26
Sunday 24th February	Epiphany 7	G	Genesis 45:3-11, 15	37:1-11, 39-40	1 Corinthians 15:35- 38, 42-50	Luke 6:27-38

Directory removed  
for privacy

## 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      Helen Aldridge Joan Mills      Andrea Strack Doug McIver
<u>KYNETON</u>	<u>Congregation Chairperson</u> Roy Gibbs	<u>Congregation Secretary</u> Jenny Elston
<u>LANCEFIELD</u>	<u>Elders</u> Peter Fraser,      Ian Kennedy Judy Stammers,      Rita Vandervalk	<u>Classical Music Group</u> Ian Kennedy
		<u>Organist</u> - Rita Vandervalk
<u>ROMSEY</u>	<u>Church Council/Elders</u> Noel Shaw,      David Strack Jeni Clampit,      Sandra Strack Jenny Elliott,      Jay Brooks John Laing,      Carol Toy	<u>UCAF</u> Pres/Sec - Jeni Clampit Treasurer - Carol Toy
<u>TYLDEN</u>	<u>Elders</u> Shirley Bowen,      Joy Evans Max Hinneberg,      Jean Lucas	<u>Worship Team Co-Ord</u> Janet Cole
<u>WOODEND</u>		
<u>MT MACEDON</u>	<u>Elders</u> Fiona Armour,      Anne Fyfield      Lyn Ward David Liebich,      Neil Tweddle	<u>Thistle Club</u> President - Shirley Cross Secretary - Anne Fyfield <u>Organist</u> - George Fyfield
<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> - Wendy Hebbard <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> - Fiona Armour <u>Treasurer</u> - Paul Gilbertson	<u>Finance Committee</u> Chair - Paul Gilbertson, Lyn Ward, Colin Chapman & Bronwyn Hewitt <u>Property Committee</u> Chair - Ian Kennedy Paul Gilbertson, Noel Shaw, & George Roberts
	<u>Editor Partnership in Print</u> - Jay Brooks	

# 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.

Printing donated by  
  
 Copy for the next Edition is due by  
 Sunday evening 17th February 2019

Rev Deacon Wendy Elson      Rev Peter Cannon      Pastor Annette Buckley      Minister in Association  
 Ph 5427 2761 or 0400 042 076      Ph 9746 3454 or 0418 570 013      Ph 5429 5351 or 0457 608 539      Rev Deacon Meg Evans  
 Ph 0439 492 245  
 elsonwendy@gmail.com      revpeterc@gmail.com      annettebuckley@ucaromsey.com      marevans@bigpond.com

OFFICE PHONE      OFFICE LOCATION AND POSTAL ADDRESS      PARTNERSHIP EMAIL ADDRESS      PARTNERSHIP WEBSITE  
 (03) 5428 6920      3 Sutherland Rd, Riddells Creek, 3431      macedon.ranges.partnership@hotmail.com      www.macedonrangesunitingchurch.org.au

CONGREGATION DETAILS      CHAIRPERSON      SECRETARY      TREASURER      PROPERTY      CoCo REPS

SUTTON GRANGE - Church Access Rd      Mia Mia - Matheson Rd      BARFOLD - Heathcote-Kyneton Rd      METCALFE - 3 Metcalfe-Kyneton Rd      KYNETON - 54 Ebdon St (PO Box 892)

LANCERFIELD - 9 High St      ROMSEY - 25 Pohlman St (PO Box 264, Romsey, 3434)      TYLDEN - Trentham Rd (c/o Tyden General Store, Tyden, 3444)      WOODEND - 37 Forest St (PO Box 34, Woodend, 3442)      Mt MACEDON - 684 Mt Macedon Rd      GISBORNE - 23 Brantome St

Joan Mills      Doug McIver      Finance Committee      Joan Mills (Chair)      Marge Townrow

Janet Cole      Helen Carey (Treas)      Roy Gibbs      Pip Elston (Kyn)      Dot Smith

Neil Tweddle      Peter Fraser      Jenny Elston      Marge Townrow (N)      Helen Aldridge, Pip Elston

Fiona Armour      Roger Baker      Peter Fraser      Ian Kennedy, Rita Vandervalk

Paul Gilbertson      Lyn Ward      Max Hinneberg      Dawn Hinneberg      Bronwyn Hewitt, Janet Cole

Neil Moorhouse      Rob Durstan      Max Hinneberg      Ian Kennedy, Rita Vandervalk

Colin Chapman      Neil Moorhouse      Rob Durstan      Colin Chapman, Keith Hallett

Paul Gilbertson      Neil Moorhouse      Rob Durstan      Colin Chapman, Keith Hallett

Paul Gilbertson      Neil Moorhouse      Rob Durstan      Colin Chapman, Keith Hallett

Paul Gilbertson      Neil Moorhouse      Rob Durstan      Colin Chapman, Keith Hallett

Paul Gilbertson      Neil Moorhouse      Rob Durstan      Colin Chapman, Keith Hallett