

# 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 19 - March 2017

Season - Lent 1 - 4

# A CELEBRATION OF BIBLICAL PROPORTIONS

**Bible Society's 200th birthday - 7 March**



**BIBLE SOCIETY**  
1817-2017



## Towards Lent

Several members of the Partnership attended the Gisborne Chaplaincy fundraiser recently, where we saw the movie *Hidden Figures*. It tells the story of the African-American women, focussing on three in particular, who played a significant role in the mathematical and engineering departments of NASA in the early days of space exploration. After the movie, which was an inspiring story of hope, resilience and achievement, I couldn't help but feel sad. Perhaps it was the notion that so many other people like these women might live richer and more fulfilling lives, and might contribute enormously to society, but are denied the opportunity to do so because of the circumstances into which they are born. Or perhaps it was the casual racism, the way a room full of professional white men fell silent when a black woman walked in to claim her place. The way one of the characters was denied the promotion and pay she deserved for the job she was doing. The silent introduction of the coffee pot for 'coloreds', not filled as the other was, into the workroom newly blessed by the presence of the brilliant African-American mathematician. Looking back from 2017 it seems almost unbelievable that Katherine Johnson and her colleagues were treated that way. Surely we live in more enlightened times?

The Presbytery has recently undergone a 'cultural audit'; a process of having someone from outside critique the way the Presbytery operates. It can be very helpful, occasionally, to stop and take stock and to have an outsider's view of how a group is operating. We are all blind to the cultural influences on our lives, except, perhaps, those who have travelled widely or lived for extended periods of times in a different culture. The influence of our culture can blind us to what is obvious to outsiders, can make us feel comfortable with the way things are. It's especially dangerous when churches and Christians are not able to fully live out the values of the kingdom of God because they begin to equate the values of their own culture with those of the Church. I'm sure the people who treated Katherine Johnson and her colleagues with such disdain were good, church-going people, but that was just how things were in the 60s in the US. People didn't usually act with what they would have recognise as hatred, it was quite reasonable within their culture to treat others that way. There were few white Christians who were able to step outside their inherited beliefs to question the status quo of their community.

If we were to ask someone to do a cultural audit of our congregations, I wonder what we'd find. There would be much to be commended: faithful people generously, courageously, humbly, resolutely living out their faith in changing and sometimes difficult times and circumstances. But I wonder what the 'areas for improvement' that an outsider would identify, to which we are blind, might be. Those of us who are part of the church as it is, even though we might be critical sometimes, are generally well catered for by the current status quo. Lent approaches, and we are invited once

more by the rhythms of the Church year to pare back, to focus on what is important in our lives and what is superfluous. During this Lent, I wonder if we can try to see ourselves as an outsider might see us. We spoke at the Partnership service in January about hearing the gospel from 'underneath'. Are there ways in which we unwittingly close the door to others who might not quite fit in with the church culture in which we are comfortable? Just how much are we prepared to move to encourage others to take their seat at the table? During Lent, perhaps we can prayerfully ask God to show us what is vital to our life as congregations, and what we can let go of in order to prepare ourselves for the new life that the Spirit is already stirring in our midst.

*Annette Buckley*

## Around the Partnership

### News

#### **Dorothy Smith - Senior Citizen of the Year Australia Day Awards - Mount Alexander Shire**

Along with running the Metcalfe Post Office for 30 years, Dorothy (Dot) Smith has been an active community member since the 1960s. A passionate and effective fundraiser, Dot worked tirelessly to source funds for the local primary school, and raised money to help establish the first church building in Metcalfe. She also raised money to rebuild it when the weatherboard building was destroyed by a mini cyclone in 1981.

Dot was Communications Officer for the local fire brigade for more than 25 years and has also been treasurer of the Metcalfe Hall Committee and Senior Citizens Club for many years. Dot remains very active in the community coordinating weekly lunches, trips away and a monthly film afternoon. Her afternoon teas are legendary, with many people saying they are the best in the shire!

A great contributor to the annual Seniors Festival, Dot has also been involved in the Kyneton Probus Club and Mia Mia Kyneton Uniting Parish. She is also a singer in Auld Spyce, a senior

singing group who regularly perform at aged care homes and hostels. Dot is renowned in her community as a reliable, passionate and committed individual, who works tirelessly to make her part of the world a better place.

*from Mount Alexander Shire website*

#### **News from Tylden St Andrews UC**

We held our Annual General Meeting during February. The following people have filled our Executive positions: Chairman Max, Secretary Janet, Treasurer Dawn.

We catered for the funeral of Mr Ron Clowes, a long time member of the Tylden Uniting Church and previously a member of the Presbyterian church. He was an elder for many years, who worked tirelessly for the church and local community before he retired and moved north because of ill health.

We are currently undertaking a review and audit of the church rolls, and members of the church will be visiting those whose names appear on the rolls to gauge their interest in remaining members.

We wish Shirley & George a safe, restful and enjoyable trip to Tasmania to recharge their bat-

teries. We also wish Jan all the best for a successful operation and healthy recovery.

We would like to extend our thanks to the local

community for all their donations of goods to the Op Shop and all the volunteers for their many hours of hard work spent helping with tasks.



## Thank You

This is just a catch up on what has been happening in the David and Sandra Strack household.

Dec 2014 Sandra went to hospital to have a dislocated hip repaired and caught an infection that would not leave. Consequentially she spent most of 2015 and half of 2016 in hospital, coming home now and then for a week or so then back again for a couple of months. In the mean time David felt left out, so in August 2015 he needed a shoulder operation, an overnight procedure. He went to our daughters' home for a few days. But on the first night there he suffered a severe stroke and spent the next six and a half months learning to walk and talk again (this he has achieved fairly well). We both managed to get home by May 2016 but Sandra needed to go back to hospital in July to get a new hip. There was too much infection in the joint so the Doctor took the hip joint out, now she has no right hip at all and can only walk with crutches, or if she wants to go faster a wheelchair. All is well now we are back home together at our beautiful

Hesket, slow but happy.

David was very close to death when he had his stroke and Sandra died twice over the 18 months, but I think that God still has things for us to do. Without our children, their families and our extended Church families and friends we would not be where we are now. You have supported us at all times with practical support, visiting us in both hospital and home or phone calls but most of all with prayer. We would not be where we are today without the constant prayer support that has carried us through. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts. You have all been a comfort when needed, a shoulder to cry on and hand to hold when feeling alone .

David and I have had what seems to have been a bad time, but it has been a time of love, support and a realization of how blessed we are. Each and every one of you have blessed us and we THANK YOU.

*David and Sandra Strack*

## Prayer & Worship

### Ash Wednesday

There will be three short Ash Wednesday services across the partnership this year on Wednesday 1st March:

#### **9 am at Riddells Creek**

The worship will follow the usual Wednesday morning Partnership worship meditative style.

#### **3 pm at Lancefield**

The Lancefield church will be open from 11 am to 3 pm, as usual, and there will be materials

provided for prayer and reflection. The 3 pm service will be a short conclusion to the prayers and reflections of the day.

#### **6 pm at Kyneton**

A short reflective service of worship

## Worship Leaders

	Service time	Sunday 5th March	Sunday 12th March	Sunday 19th March	Sunday 26th March
Sutton Grange	11am				TBA
Mia Mia	11am			Peter Cannon - HC	
Barfold	11am	TBA			
Metcalfe	11am		TBA		
Kyneton	9:30am	Doug McIver	Andrea Strack	Annette Buckley - HC	Pip Elston
RM Begg	3:30pm	TBA			
Lancefield	10:45am	Worship Team	Wendy Elson - HC	TBA	Annette Buckley
Romsey	9am	Worship Team	Wendy Elson - HC	No Service	Annette Buckley
	6pm			Annette Buckley	
Tylden	9am	Annette Buckley - HC	Janet Cole	BBQ Breakfast	Peter Cannon
Woodend	5pm				Peter Cannon
Mt Macedon	10:30am	Peter Cannon	Annette Buckley - HC	Janet Wood	Cliff Talbot
Riddells Creek	9am	Wednesdays			
Gisborne	9:30am	TBA	Peter Cannon	TBA	Wendy Elson - HC

## Bible Study & Worship Preparation Dates

Tuesday 7:30pm session venue & date		Wednesday 10am session venue & date		Week preparing for	
Tylden	28th Feb	Metcalfe (10:30am)	1st Mar	Lent 2	12th Mar
Romsey	7th Mar	Mt Macedon	8th Mar	Lent 3	19th Mar
Mt Macedon	14th Mar	Kyneton	15th Mar	Lent 4	26th Mar

See page 20 for the lectionary readings

## World Day of Prayer

Friday 3rd March

Country of Focus - Philippines



Theme - "Am I being unfair to you?"

### Ecumenical Services

Gisborne Uniting Church at 10am

Romsey Uniting Church at 11am

All Welcome

## Romsey Worship

Worship at Romsey on Sunday 19th March will be the 6pm service led by Annette Buckley. There will be no morning service.

## AGM's

Gisborne Congregation AGM will take place following morning worship on Sunday 12th March. Annual Reports need to be with Maree by 28th February for compilation and distribution on the 5th March for reading before the AGM. Please give prayerful consideration to nominations to Church Council.

Romsey Congregation AGM will be held after Worship on Sunday 23rd April. All reports to be with Jeni Clampit by Sunday 2nd April for completion for reading prior to AGM.

## Meetings

### Romsey Church Council

Romsey Church Council meeting has been moved from Wednesday 1st March to Wednesday 8th March due Ash Wednesday. Meet 6pm at the Stracks for a pizza meal.

### CoCo

The next meeting of the Partnership Co-ordinating Council is at 9:30am at Mt Macedon Uniting Church on Saturday 4th March.

## Clubs and Groups

### Mt Macedon Men's Group

Mens Group meet 10am Tuesday 7th March at the Church. All men welcome.

### Tylden UCAF

Uniting Church Afternoon Fellowship will meet on Tuesday 7th March at 1:30pm at St Andrews Uniting Church, Tylden.

All welcome

### Romsey UCAF

Romsey UCAF are reducing the number of meetings this year. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 29th March at Willowmeade, Kilmore. Meet at church at 12:30pm to car pool. Numbers limited. Jay Brooks will be showing photos and sharing about her trip to Canada.

### Mt Macedon Thistle Club

Thistle Club meet at 2pm at the church on Wednesday 29th March – DVD Swap Day – Bring a favourite DVD, tell us about it and swap it for someone else's. (Put your name on it and you will get it back).

Item for Shoeboxes – soft pencil cases, pencils, sharpeners etc.

Devotions: Lois Coggin.

## Special Events

### Pancakes at Romsey



On Shrove Tuesday 28th February members of the Romsey congregation will gather for a pancake tea from

6pm at the church. Batter provided. Check out the list at the church for what to bring. Members from other congregations are welcome to join us give Jay a call to find out what you can bring. Donations collected for Uniting Care.

### Family & Domestic Violence Forum

Wednesday 15th March 7.30 -9.30 pm

Mechanics Hall Kyneton

Guest speaker is Dr Alison Killoh, with a panel with relevant expertise to respond to questions. There will also be a recorded presentation by Rosie Batty.

The forum aims to enable people to become well informed on the early warning predictors of domestic violence abuse, to help vulnerable people avoid becoming trapped in abusive relationships.

### Tylden Uniting Church Car Boot Sale

**On Monday 13th March  
commencing at 9am.**

**Bookings can be made through  
Glenda – Phone: 5424 8218**

**Stalls include:-**

- BBQ - Sausages
- Egg & Bacon Rolls
- Cakes
- Devonshire teas
- Produce
- Raffle

**Come along & have a great day**

## Who is my neighbour...?

Neighbour Day is a community initiative supported by Relationships Australia. It is an encouragement for people to get to know or spend time with their neighbours, either in a small way such as sharing a cup of tea, in a bigger way by hosting a street party, or perhaps in a large community event. Some of our congregations are hosting Neighbour Day activities in their town, either alone or ecumenically, and encouraging others to be neighbourly to each other. Neighbour Day is set for the 26th March, but any time near that date is fine. Resources and information can be found on the website: [www.neighbourday.org](http://www.neighbourday.org)

### Neighbour Day BBQ Breakfast

On Sunday 19th March the Tylden Congregation will be holding a Neighbour Day BBQ Breakfast at the BBQ shelter next to Tylden Hall. It commences at 9am.

All welcome

### Asylum Seekers Picnic at Hanging Rock

Everyone is invited to a picnic at Hanging Rock on Sunday 26th March to help welcome a group of asylum seekers and refugees from Melbourne.

The day is being organised by an ecumenical group from Romsey/Lancefield, the Brigidine Sisters, Macedon Ranges Rural Australians for Refugees and the Hobsons Bay Asylum Seeker Network. We hope to provide a welcoming and relaxing afternoon for our guests, as well as an opportunity to share a meal and conversation. Please contact Annette for further information.

Did you expect to see your event, meeting, activity advertised here this month and it wasn't? Fewer Congregations sent information to me this month. I cannot include what I haven't been told. Don't leave it to someone else. - Editor



## Learning Opportunities

### Peter Barcham Lecture

Dr Rachael Kohn will deliver the annual Peter Barcham Lecture on **Monday 6th March** at 7:30pm.

Rachael has hosted "The Spirit of Things" on ABC radio for many years and has won awards for her books and broadcasts.

She has been nominated as one of the 50 most influential thinkers in Australia.

Her topic is "Faith has nothing to fear". In an email she says she will discuss some of the "fearsome things in our environment".

The lecture is the eighth in the series and will be held at Gisborne UC in Brantome Street.

### Lay Preachers' & Worship Leaders

Workshop for Port Phillip West  
LP & Worship Leaders

**Saturday 18th March**,

10am at Hoppers Crossing.

#### Topics

- Preaching from the New Testament
- Different forms of worship

Morning tea provided, BYO lunch.

RSVP by 10th March to Rob Coulson -  
<[rssnpc@bigpond.com](mailto:rssnpc@bigpond.com)>

### Biblical Storytelling 101

Would you like to learn the skills needed for biblical storytelling, or perhaps improve your reading out loud of the scriptures? Annette Buckley is leading a workshop on biblical storytelling at the Kyneton Baptist Church on **Saturday 25th March** from 2.00 to 5.00pm.

The workshop will focus on the Matthew Passion stories, but the skills learned will help you tell a variety of stories, biblical and otherwise.

**All welcome.**

### Lay Preachers'

### Annual Conference 2017

**Friday 24th March & Saturday 26th March**

at Centre for Theology and Ministry  
29 College Crescent, Parkville.

**"Moving along with change in the  
UCA"**

#### Speakers include

Chris Barnet - Multi-generational worship  
Rev Dr Jenny Byrnes - The changing role of  
Lay Preachers in the strategic direction of  
the Synod

**Who may attend?** Lay preachers, candidates, other worship leaders and interested people

**Cost** \$30, to be paid in cash or cheque on the day; includes lunch and refreshments. Correct money would be appreciated.

**Venue** The Centre for Theology and Ministry is in College Crescent, Parkville, across from the gate to the Melbourne Cemetery.

**Parking** There is metered street parking nearby

**Annual General Meeting** The Annual General Meeting of the Lay Preachers' Association of Victoria and Tasmania will follow the conference programme, from 3.00 to 4.00pm. All Lay Preachers may vote; others are welcome to attend the meeting.

Register **before** Thursday 16th March

Email your details to

<[lpsecretary@victas.uca.org.au](mailto:lpsecretary@victas.uca.org.au)>

OR post to

Sec. Synod LP Assoc  
c/o 503/2 Barnet Way  
Richmond VIC 3121



# Coco Report

## for Meeting held Saturday 4th February 2017 at Woodend UC

**Welcome:** Chairperson Colin welcomed us for our first Coco Meeting of the year. Also a big welcome and thank you to Fiona Armour from Mt.Macedon UC who has agreed to provide secretarial support to CoCo.

**Devotions:** Alison Killoh from the Woodend congregation welcomed us to the Woodend property. The Woodend Hall is used to store and distribute Op Shop items and Alison used this to focus on these donated items, their backgrounds and the people who have owned them. Then their reuse when they go to new owners. The reading for tomorrow is about salt and how that is used to lift and flavour our food – we can do the same for our lives and the lives of others.

**Minutes of Previous Meeting:** were accepted.

**Ministry Team:** Discussion about what worked or not over the January services. Many positives and some negatives. Some not happy to travel etc. All present felt we needed to have a discussion with our Congregations to get feedback rather than what we personally felt.

Wendy expressed her passion for different ways to conduct worship. We need, as a Partnership, to embrace all age worship and to step outside our comfort zone. She also needs our support at Community events eg. Community Christmas Carols, Blue Christmas services etc. We need to re-commit to the Partnership ideals.

A lot of discussion resulting from this. Including suggestions of more publicity for community events and if this happens the congregations need to support the events and interact with the community – acting out our vision of touching the lives of more people.

Colin summed up – where to from here? We moved on to Strategic Planning to try to address these concerns.

**Strategic Planning:** A sheet was distributed encapsulating the Partnership components – Ministry, Op Shop, Finance, Connection, Property, Executive and Goals and Objectives. Lots of thoughts discussed re utilising peoples expertise in different areas eg. Events Planning, Property Management, Finance, Connections with community groups etc.

The Ministry Team asked if there are people interested in joining a team. Eventually it was decided that Wendy lead a Community Engagement Team – Meg Evans and Paul Gilbertson volunteered for this.

Annette will lead a Pastoral Care Team – Bev. Gilbertson and Anne Fyfield will be on this team.

Administration of Property and Finance Team – Will consist of Ian Kennedy, Noel Shaw, Paul Gilbertson.

Peter will lead an Education Resources Team – Jay Brooks and Pip Elston will be on board with this.

Anyone interested in joining these teams is most welcome.

**Financial Report:** Paul submitted his report. Budget for 2017 still to be done. Paul concerned re shortfall by 2020. How will this be addressed – fund raising, Presbytery to contribute more?? Query re buying a house in Kyneton with Kyneton Manse money to keep pace with inflation. Rent from this would assist financial position.

**Property Committee:** Haven't met for this year, will report when this has happened.

**Labyrinth:** See plan published in February Partnership In Print. This is moving ahead and a date for a Working Bee will be publicised.

**High Risk Fire Days:** Strategy worked out and can be viewed on Website.

**Website:** Keep checking this – more info becoming available all the time.

**Signage:** A sketch to be distributed for approval for signage on Notice Boards. Also a banner to be used at Community Events.

**Neighbour Day:** Possibly a picnic in a local park for each Congregation – each Congregation to discuss this. 19th March suggested date for this.

**Baptism Supplies:** These have been purchased and are held at the Church Office.

### **Consensus Model**

We handed over to D'Arcy who explained to us the beginnings of the "Consensus Model" of running Church meetings. Originally designed to encourage young people to participate on Church Councils. A change from the adversarial system which could be manipulated. In 1994 a Manual For Meetings was adopted – some revisions have been made since then. The aim is to try and work together on an issue and discern God's Will in our discussions. The Chairperson needs to be sensitive to the participants feelings on issues. It is used widely in the Uniting Church

– not always successfully. The card system is only part of the process. Annette will elaborate on this at the next Coco Meeting in March.

**Culture Of Safety Project:** Colin will send Safe Church/Safe Child info to each Congregation to see if we comply. This needs to be sorted out. D'arcy has established that not all on Church Council need Working With Children Certification. Annette will see if more Training Days will be held.

**Other Business:** Peter promoted Education For Ministry Program run by Father Greg Davies.

**Congregation Reports:** Most Congregations have their usual Groups operating again for the year. Woodend still have problems with the building works. Gisborne promoted Peter Barcham Lecture and Hymn Workshop for Lent and Easter.

Annette told us that Jay Brooks had been given permission to give Communion. CoCo need to apply for an extension of this.

The next Meeting of CoCo is on Saturday 4th March at Mt Macedon UC at 9:30 am. This is an Open Meeting. All welcome.



## Lenten Offering 2017



*The Lenten Offering is an annual event in the life of congregations within the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania. It is conducted during Lent and Easter at a time of reflection, renewal and recommitment.*

The 2017 Lenten Offering will support the following projects:

### **Dignity For Girls – International**

For girls growing up in developing countries, lack of sanitary supplies is a major issue. Many are forced to miss large chunks of school each year and face days of isolation every month. Days for Girls is an international



NGO made up of volunteers from all over the world who sew reusable and safe sanitary supplies for use in developing countries.

While distributing these hand-made supplies in the recipient country, Days for Girls also deliver hygiene and reproductive health information and, where possible, teaches local women to sew their own kits for future use.

In East Gippsland, Victoria, an existing Days for Girls chapter is looking to expand and recruit more people to sew hygiene kits; with a specific focus on sending a large supply to girls in the Pacific Islands during 2017.

Your Lenten Offering will provide sewing machines and over lockers, fabric and other materials needed to produce the kits.

### **Ministry Training – National**

Preparing to become a Minister of the Word or Deacon in the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (UAICC) involves training and study. After all, ministry is more than just a profession; it's a calling.

Currently that training takes place at Nungalinga College in Darwin (or at UCA Theological Colleges in other states) and provides ministry candidates with a foundation in biblical studies, church history and theology.

Congress has identified a need to provide additional training about the formation of the UAICC and to address recent developments in biblical and theological studies. Congress also sees value in providing opportunities for ministry candidates throughout Australia to meet.

Your Lenten Offering will help cover the costs of bringing together trainee ministers twice a year for a residential program designed to meet these additional training and social needs.

### **Sharing Worship and Faith – Victoria**

Weekly church services are an important part of Christian life – a chance to receive vital teaching and spend time in the presence of God. But for many people living in the Henty region of Victoria, age –



as well as the distance to local services – prevents them from getting to church. Many Uniting Church congregations in this area also struggle to keep leaders, as they move on or retire.

as well as the distance to local services – prevents them from getting to church. Many Uniting Church congregations in this area also struggle to keep leaders, as they move on or retire.

To help address this problem, the local Hamilton Uniting Church plans to live stream their services to local hospitals, aged care facilities and homes. Not only will this bring services directly to ageing congregation members, and provide a viable alternative for struggling congregations, it will also enable the message of Jesus to be shared more widely – perhaps even to people who have never stepped foot in a church before.

Your Lenten Offering will help the church purchase the necessary equipment for live streaming, including three digital cameras, a digital recording device, high capacity modem and associated cables and switches.

### **Growing Together – Tasmania**

At the heart of one of Tasmania's most disadvantaged areas lies a community garden.



More than just a place to grow fruit and vegetables for people in the community, the garden is also a place where people grow friendships.

The garden helps foster community connection, while also teaching people beneficial skills in horticulture and planting.

Fruits and vegetables grown in the garden improve the nutrition of families doing it tough, who might otherwise go without, as well as local school children.

Your Lenten Offering will help cover the costs of employing a part-time gardener to manage this garden (as well as oversee a second smaller garden used by local UnitingCare family services participants).

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

# March 2017

**28 Shrove****Tuesday**

6pm - Pancake tea at Romsey

6pm - Labyrinth Walk at Kyneton

7:30pm - Bible Study at Tylden

**5 Lent 1**

9am - Worship at Tylden, Romsey

9:30am - Worship at Gisborne, Kyneton

10:30am - Worship at Mt Macedon

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

11am - Worship at Barfold

**6**7:30pm - Peter Barcham  
Lecture at Gisborne**7**10am - Mt Macedon  
Men's Group

1:30pm - Tylden UCAF

7:30pm - Bible Study at  
Romsey**12 Lent 2**

Synod Family Camp

9am - Worship at Tylden, Romsey

9:30am - Worship at Gisborne, Kyneton

10:30am - Gisborne AGM

10:30am - Worship at Mt Macedon

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

11am - Worship at Metcalfe

**13**

Synod Family Camp

9am - Tylden Car Boot  
Sale**14**10am - Muffin'n More at  
Gisborne

12noon - Gisborne Craft

7:30pm - Bible Study at  
Mt Macedon**19 Lent 3**

9am - BBQ Breakfast at Tylden

9:30am - Worship at Gisborne, Kyneton

10:30am - Worship at Mt Macedon

10:45am - Worship at Lancefield

11am - Worship at Mia Mia

6pm - Worship at Romsey@6

Copy for PiP due

**20****21**6pm - Labyrinth Walk at  
Kyneton

7:30pm - Bible Study

**26 Lent 4**

9am - Worship at Tylden, Romsey

9:30am - Worship at Gisborne, Kyneton

10:30am - Worship at Mt Macedon

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


11am - Worship at Sutton Grange

Lunchtime - Asylum Seeker Picnic at Hanging Rock

5pm - Woodend

**27****28**

7:30pm - Bible Study

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>1 Ash</b></p> <p><b>Wednesday</b></p> <p><b>9am</b> - Service at Riddells Creek</p> <p><b>10:30am</b> - Bible Study at Metcalfe</p> <p><b>3pm</b> - Service at Lancefield</p> <p><b>6pm</b> - Service at Kyneton</p>	<p><b>2</b></p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p><b>10am</b> - World Day of Prayer at Gisborne</p> <p><b>11am</b> - World Day of Prayer at Romsey</p> <p><b>6:30pm</b> - Gisborne Friends</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p><b>9:30am</b> - CoCo at Mt Macedon</p>
<p><b>8</b></p> <p><b>10am</b> - Bible Study at Mt Macedon</p> <p><b>6pm</b> - Romsey Church Council</p>	<p><b>9</b></p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>Synod Family Camp</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>Synod Family Camp</p>
<p><b>15</b></p> <p><b>10am</b> - Bible Study at Kyneton</p> <p><b>7:30pm</b> - Family &amp; Domestic Violence Forum</p>	<p><b>16</b></p>	<p><b>17</b></p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p><b>10am</b> - PPW Lay Worship Leader Workshop</p>
<p><b>22</b></p> <p><b>10am</b> - Bible Study</p>	<p><b>23</b></p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p><b>7pm</b> - LP Conference at CTM</p>	<p><b>25 Annunciation of the Lord</b></p> <p><b>9am</b> - LP Conference at CTM</p> <p><b>2pm</b> - Biblical Storytelling 101 at Kyneton Baptist</p>
<p><b>29</b></p> <p><b>10am</b> - Bible Study</p> <p><b>12:30pm</b> Romsey UCAF</p> <p><b>2pm</b> - Mt Macedon Thistle Club</p>	<p><b>30</b></p>	<p><b>31</b></p> 	

# SacredEdge

*Spirituality in Diversity*



Bruce Pascoe



Julie McCrossin



Nur Wasame



Trish Watts



Richard Frankland

## The Little Festival with the Big Heart May 5-7 2017

**over 20  
artists and  
presenters**

Registrations online at:

**[www.unitingqueenscliff.org.au](http://www.unitingqueenscliff.org.au)**  
**contemplation creativity compassion**



Enquiries: Jan 0429 356 230

[unitingqueenscliff@iinet.net.au](mailto:unitingqueenscliff@iinet.net.au)



[www.facebook.com/sacrededgefestival](https://www.facebook.com/sacrededgefestival)

Registrations for 2017 are open!

Early Bird tickets (Stage 2-\$139) available 'til 31 March

Stage 3 from 1 April: \$159



This is a unique opportunity for those on the edge, their supporters and those who want to learn more, to come together, celebrate and experience diversity.

The themes for the weekend are Indigenous, Asylum Seekers/Refugees, LGBTI, Sustainability and Mental Health.

If you would like to know more about this years evolving line up, you can check out our website and Facebook pages:

[http://www.unitingqueenscliff.org.au/Queenscliff-Point\\_Lonsdale\\_UCA/Coming\\_to\\_SacredEdge/Coming\\_to\\_SacredEdge.html](http://www.unitingqueenscliff.org.au/Queenscliff-Point_Lonsdale_UCA/Coming_to_SacredEdge/Coming_to_SacredEdge.html)

<https://www.facebook.com/SacredEdgeFestival/>

## Some Presenters and Performers in 2017



**Peter Roberts** is a Thanatologist, which differs from a music therapist, playing the harp at the bedside of dying people in the St John of God Hospital in Geelong. Part of the Pastoral Care team, he offers compassion and music where words fail. He also plays for the newly born and the ill.

**Alice Skye** is an Aboriginal Australian singer/songwriter originally from Horsham, Victoria and now based in Melbourne. Featured on Triple J's "Far Out" segment and one of eight winners of the Alukura Songwriting competition, you will love her single "You Are the Mountains", which perhaps echoes her early experiences living in the shadow of the Grampians.



**Nur Warsame** is a powerful voice for inclusivity within the Muslim community, as well as a strong advocate more broadly. Nur will speak to us about the experience of being gay and Muslim.

**Shafiq Monis** is a house painter and visual artist living in Melbourne. His art reflects his journey to Australia as a refugee as well as his deep concern for his home country, Afghanistan. Now living permanently in Australia with his family, his paintings reflect the soul searching he has experienced in life.



**Peter Bentley** is associated with WellSpring, and conducts workshops on the Enneagram personality type at regular intervals. He will present an introductory workshop at SacredEdge, to be followed up later in the year with a full day workshop in Queenscliff.



# Bible Society - 200 not out

Australia's longest living organisation may not be who you think it is.

It's not Houghton Wines or Westpac or the Australian Agricultural Company and it's certainly not McDonalds.

There wasn't a Big Mac in sight when community leaders Governor and Lady Macquarie created Bible Society in 1817.

Ahead of its Bicentenary on 7th March 2017, Bible Society remains the oldest continually operating organisation in our nation's history.

The only change is the name. In 2010, the Bible Societies in each state merged into a single organisation, Bible Society Australia.

It's still involved in the translation, publishing, and distribution of the Bible. BSA also aims to engage people with what it calls the Good Book, using both traditional and the latest media.

Bible Society Australia CEO Greg Clarke says "we're not content simply to hand our Bibles. We want to help people engage with the Bible and answer their questions about it".

"We're celebrating our 200 years of sharing the Bible by doing more of what supporters want us to do – championing the Bible worldwide, from prisons in Australia to churches in China".

In our increasingly secular society, the Bible remains the world's best-selling book with more than five billion copies printed.

But is it still relevant to Australians?

Bible Society claims the good book is foundational to our human rights and legal system.

According to Human Rights barrister Geoffrey Robertson QC, the philosophic basis of the right to human dignity is the parable of the good Samaritan.

Our charities also reflect the well-known parable. Of the 30 largest charities in Australia, 26 are faith-based. They argue that Bible readers are more likely to volunteer to help others.

The values that Australians cherish also stem from the Bible.

A common ANZAC statement is from John 15:13: "Greater love has no one than this – to lay down one's life for one's friends".

Bible Society claims it's a verse that captures our national vision for humility, sacrifice and friendship between equals.

Following Arthur Stace's one word campaign "eternity" is a Bible word most Australians would recognise. Christians

believe it's the message of God's love for us in Jesus Christ and a love that will last forever.

Eternity is also the title of Bible Society's news service which reaches hundreds of thousands of people via newspaper and digitally.

To mark its 200th birthday, Bible Society Australia is staging a national celebration service on Sunday 5th March, 2017. Bible Society Australia wants this celebration to be more about elevating the place of the Bible rather than about Bible Society itself.

The event will be held at the Hillsong Main Auditorium in Sydney. Church groups of every de-



nomination are encouraged to stream the event as a lighthouse church. Details at [www.bible.org.au](http://www.bible.org.au).

Dr Clarke says “Over the past 200 years, the Bible has done Australia a lot of good”.

He says the work will continue both here and throughout the world, adding “the Good Book really is here for good”.

*(article supplied by Bible Society on request)*



## Bible Society Australia - What We Do

Bible Society Australia is committed to giving access to the Bible across the world. Alongside this we advocate for and engage Australians here at home and people around the world with the Bible. In order to pursue our mission, Bible Society Australia undertakes a range of activities:



### **We translate the Bible into the world's languages**

We support the ongoing task of translating the Bible into the world's languages, including in Indigenous languages and sign language (Auslan) in Australia.



### **We provide Bibles to those who want one**

We provide free Bibles and Scripture portions to Chaplains of hospitals, prison & defence force as well as to Scripture teachers. We also produce Bible resources to help people engage with the Bible.



### **We help others understand the Bible**

We run local Bible engagement campaigns as well as overseas and indigenous Bible-based literacy programmes.



### **We tell the world why the Bible is so good**

In many 'post-Christian' countries, we need to advocate for the beauty, truth and goodness of the Bible. We do this by equipping Christians to be more confident in the Bible. We also champion the Bible by engaging the media, universities, schools, and prominent think tanks with high quality and well-researched print, video and audio material about the relevance of Christianity in the 21st century.



# “Gratitude and Grace”

How do we nurture gratitude and grace rather than entitlement when our children are surrounded by consumeristic culture? Is self-interest ‘natural’ or is it something that is taught? How much do we try and shape our children vs letting them learn from experience?

Come and wrestle with these issues over a weekend of fun, food and faith with other like-minded families.

**Where:** Adekate Lodge  
Creswick Dean Road,  
Via Creswick VIC 3363.  
Ballarat 15 km, Melbourne 130 km.  
Melway 627 C3, VicRoads Country Directory 58 H9.

There are three separate lodges with rooms that each sleep 6.  
Toilets and showers are in a separate block.

**When:** 7pm Friday 10 March until 1pm Monday 13 March 2017

**Cost:** Adults \$100 or \$50 for one night  
Children (under 16) \$75 or \$40 for one night  
Children 3 years and under free  
Maximum cost per family \$400  
(Please note these are subsidised costs to make it as affordable for families as possible.)

**Catering:** We will do our own catering with everyone bringing food to contribute.  
You will receive more detailed information about this on registration.

## To register contact:

- Register online: <https://ucavt.goregister.com.au/ssjfamilycamp2017>
- Via post email [explore@ctm.uca.edu.au](mailto:explore@ctm.uca.edu.au) or call 03 9340 8815 for a paper copy to be sent to you

## Registrations close

**Monday 27 February 2017**

For more information contact

Cath James 03 9251 5279; 0438 504 394 or

[cath.james@victas.uca.org.au](mailto:cath.james@victas.uca.org.au)

## Synod Social Justice Family Camp 2017



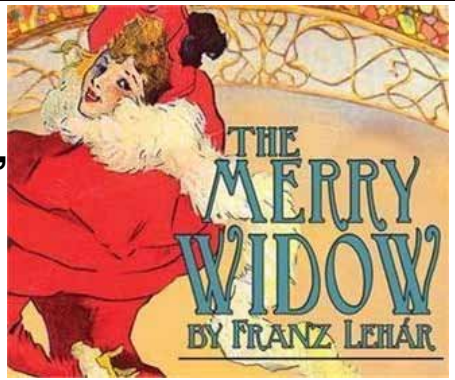
### Adekate Lodge

**Creswick Dean Road, Via Creswick VIC 3363  
Friday 10 - Monday 13 March 2017**

A joint activity of Justice and International Mission Unit and the Centre for Theology & Ministry, Children & Families Ministry Uniting Church in Australia, Synod of Victoria and Tasmania.



Concert advanced notice  
**Singularity Choir**  
present  
**Lehar's "The Merry Widow"**  
at Romsey Uniting Church  
1:30pm on Sunday 28th May  
Afternoon Tea to follow  
Cost \$20



Singularity is a SATB Choir of around 30 singers of all ages, associated with Coonara Community House (CCH) in Upper Ferntree Gully. Over the past 14 years the choir has taken on many different challenges, some more traditional and others involving working with new compositions and composers such as Calvin Bowman and Sarah Hopkins. The choir is equally at home with unaccompanied music or accompanied by instruments and has enjoyed performances with the Melbourne Opera Orchestra, the Maroondah Symphony Orchestra and the Nicholas Chamber Orchestra. With over 20 performances per year all over the state the choir has developed a lively and eclectic approach to their music under the musical directorship of Cecily Woodberry. We frequently perform for charity and have raised around \$50,000 for different causes. The choir celebrated its tenth birthday in 2012.

*information taken from their website*

## Resourcing for Lent and Easter Worship

At this time of year Ministers and Worship Leaders are looking for quality Lent- Easter worship resources and suggestions for their own personal reading.

In Advent last year the CTM compiled a "host" of things - videos, music suggestions, books, reflections, theological material etc - which many folks reported back they found useful for worship preparation and personal reflection.

So here is a collection for Lent- Easter.

The website for CTM Resourcing and particularly the Lent- Easter Resources- websites, books, photographs, podcasts and downloads is included below.

<http://www.ctmresourcing.org.au/blog/lent-recommendations-links/>

Partnership in Print March 2017

## Community Labyrinth Walks



A Community labyrinth walks will be held at Kyneton Catholic Church Labyrinth (opposite UCA) on

Tuesday 28th February  
Tuesday 21st March

These meditative prayer walks are conducted at **6pm** and are followed by a bring and share picnic tea. This is a precious time for the community and the church to meet together. Please consider attending. They are a great way to pray.

# Macedon Ranges Partnership Prayer Cycle

Day	Congregation/s	Topic	Day	Congregation/s	Topic
Sun	Northern Congregations	Friends	Thu	Riddells Creek, Office & Staff	MR Partnership
Mon	Kyneton	Family	Fri	Mt Macedon	Homeless
Tue	Lancefield & Romsey	Concerns	Sat	Gisborne	Current Affairs
Wed	Tylden & Woodend	World Events			

## Lectionary Readings Year A

### Lent

A season of preparation and discipline that begins on Ash Wednesday and concludes at sundown on Holy Saturday. During the forty weekdays and six Sundays in Lent, the church remembers the life and ministry of Jesus and renews its commitment to him in Christian discipleship.

Date	Day/Season	Col	1st Reading	Psalm	2nd Reading	Gospel
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> March	Ash Wednesday	P	Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12	51:1-17	2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10	Matthew 6:1-6,16-21
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	Lent 1	P	Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7	32	Romans 5:12-19	Matthew 4:1-11
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> March	Lent 2	P	Genesis 12:1-4a	121	Romans 4:1-5, 13-17	John 3:1-17, or Mat- thew 17:1-9
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> March	Lent 3	P	Exodus 17:1-7	95	Romans 5:1-11	John 4:5-42
Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup> March	Annunciation of the Lord	W	Isaiah 7:10-14	45 or 40:5-10	Hebrews 10:4-10	Luke 1:26-38
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> March	Lent 4	P	1 Samuel 16:1-13	23	Ephesians 5:8-14	John 9:1-41
Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	Lent 5	P	Ezekiel 37:1-14	130	Romans 8:6-11	John 11:1-45
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup> April	Palm Sunday	P	Isaiah 50:4-9a	118:1-2, 19-29	Philippians 2:5-11	Matthew 21:1-11
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup> April	Passion Sunday	P	Isaiah 50:4-9a	31:9-16	Philippians 2:5-11	Matthew 26:14 to 27:66 or Matthew 27:11-54
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> April	Monday of Holy Week	P	Isaiah 42:1-9	36:5-11	Hebrews 9:11-15	John 12:1-11
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> April	Tuesday of Holy Week	P	Isaiah 49:1-7	71:1-14	1 Corinthians 1:18-31	John 12:20-36
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> April	Wednesday of Holy Week	P	Isaiah 50:4-9a	70	Hebrews 12:1-3	John 13:21-32
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> April	Maundy Thursday	P	Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14	116:1-2, 12-19	1 Corinthians 11:23-26	John 13:1-17, 31b-35
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> April	Good Friday	-	Isaiah 52:13 to 53:12	22	Hebrews 10:16-25 or Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9	John 18:1 to 19:42
Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup> April	Holy Saturday	-	Job 14:1-14 or Lamentations 3:1-9, 19-24	31:1-4, 15-16	1 Peter 4:1-8	Matthew 27:57-66 or John 19:38-42



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

## In God's Hands: The Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

The Ecumenical Prayer Cycle enables us to journey in prayer through every region of the world and through every week of the year affirming our solidarity with Christians all over the world, brothers and sisters living in diverse situations, experiencing diverse problems and sharing diverse gifts. See website for weekly prayers. <https://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/prayer-cycle/ecumenical-prayer-cycle/##>

26 Feb - 4 Mar	Belgium, Luxembourg, Netherlands
5 - 11 Mar	Ireland; United Kingdom: England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales
12 - 18 Mar	Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden
19 - 25 Mar	Not released - see website
26 Mar - 1 Apr	Not released - see website

Directory removed for privacy



## Contacts Other Groups

<p><b><u>SUTTON GRANGE</u></b>  <b><u>MIA MIA</u></b>  <b><u>BARFOLD</u></b>  <b><u>METCALFE</u></b></p>	<p><u>Elders - North</u>          Dot Smith          Marge Townrow</p>	<p><u>Elders- Kyneton</u>          Pip Elston      Helen Aldridge          Jenny Elston     Peter Stone          Doug McIver     Andrea Strack</p>
<p><b><u>KYNETON</u></b></p>	<p><u>Congregation Chairperson</u>          Roy Gibbs</p>	<p><u>Congregation Secretary</u>          Jenny Elston</p>
<p><b><u>LANCEFIELD</u></b></p>	<p><u>Elders</u>          Peter Fraser,     Ian Kennedy          Judy Stammers, Rita Vandervalk</p>	<p><u>Classical Music Group</u>          Ian Kennedy  <u>Organist</u> - Rita Vandervalk</p>
<p><b><u>ROMSEY</u></b></p>	<p><u>Elders</u>          Noel Shaw,         David Strack          Jeni Clampit,     Sandra Strack          Jenny Elliott,      Jay Brooks</p>	<p><u>Worship Team Co-ord</u>          Jay Brooks</p> <p><u>UCAF</u>          Pres - Hazel Allen          Sec - Jeni Clampit</p>
<p><b><u>TYLDEN</u></b></p>	<p><u>Elders</u>          Shirley Bowen,     Joy Evans          Max Hinneberg,   Jean Lucas</p>	<p><u>Worship Team Co-Ord</u>          Janet Cole</p>
<p><b><u>WOODEND</u></b></p>		
<p><b><u>MT MACEDON</u></b></p>	<p><u>Elders</u>          Brian Charter,     Anne Fyfield     Neil Tweddle          Barbara Talbot,     Shirley Cross</p>	<p><u>Thistle Club</u>          President - Judy Charter          Secretary - Anne Fyfield  <u>Organist</u> - George Fyfield</p>
<p><b><u>RIDDELLS CREEK</u></b></p>	<p><u>Contacts</u>          David Liebich          Marg Tarrant</p>	<p><u>Craft Group</u>          Lynette Bucknall</p>
<p><b><u>GISBORNE</u></b></p>	<p><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</p>	<p><u>UCAF</u> - Maree Clarke  <u>Craft Group</u> - Linda Moorhouse  <u>Friends Pizza Night</u> - Ron Hebbard</p>
<p><b><u>CoCo</u></b> -          (Co-ordinating          Council)</p>	<p><u>Chair</u> - Colin Chapman  <u>Secretary</u> - Bronwyn Hewitt  <u>Minute Secretary</u> - Sina Smale  <u>Treasurer</u> - Paul Gilbertson</p>	<p><u>Finance Committee</u>          Chair - Paul Gilbertson,          Lyn Ward, Colin Chapman &amp; Bronwyn Hewitt</p> <p><u>Property Committee</u>          Chair - Ian Kennedy          Paul Gilbertson, Noel Shaw, &amp; George Roberts</p>
	<p><u>Editor Partnership in Print</u> - Jay Brooks</p>	

# Address Label

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<b>TYLDEN</b> - Trentham Rd (c/o Tylden General Store, Tylden, 3444)		Max Hinneberg	Janet Cole <u>Property</u> - Max Hinneberg	Dawn Hinneberg	Bronwyn Hewitt, Janet Cole Dawn Hinneberg	Jenny Connor
<b>WOODEND</b> - 37 Forest St (PO Box 34, Woodend, 3442)		Ursina Smale	Ruth Hodgson	George Roberts	Sina Smale, George Roberts	Alison Killoh
<b>Mt MACEDON</b> - 684 Mt Macedon Rd		Neil Tweddle	Fiona Armour	Lyn Ward	Anne Fyfield, Lyn Ward Neil Tweddle	Fiona Armour
<b>GISBORNE</b> - 23 Brantome St		D'Arcy Wood	Colin Chapman <u>Property</u> - Neil Moonhouse, Rob Dunstan	Paul Gilbertson	Colin Chapman, D'Arcy Wood Paul Gilbertson	Michael Woolner