

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 27 - November 2017

Seasons - All Saints Day, Ordinary Sundays 31 - 33 & Christ the King





Safe spaces

On the first Friday of every month a group of people gather at the Holgate Brewhouse in Woodend for Story Wise, an evening of telling and hearing stories. Kate Lawrence, a local storyteller, writer and teacher hosts an evening where people are invited to tell a 5-10 minute story on a theme that has been advertised in advance. It might be 'Comfort Zone' or 'Dark

and Light', or another theme that sparks a connection with something that's happened in our lives, because each story told has to be a true story of a personal experience of the teller.

The stories can be wildly hilarious, deeply moving, tragic, instructive, playful...sometimes all within the same story. At the end of the night, the audience heads out into the darkness, taking with us the gifts that have been generously offered by the tellers. It can take a lot of courage to stand and speak your truth, bare your soul, laugh at your inadequacies in front of a group of people you don't know. Even as a practiced storyteller, getting up and telling a personal story for the first time can be a daunting experience.

It's made easier by the safe space created by Kate and the group of listeners. Many in the audience will get up and tell a story themselves, so it could be self-interest that ensures respect for the person at the front at any given time. It's more than that, though. We know that we are among friends. We know that the story we offer, whether told well or badly, whether a great story or a very ordinary one, will be treated with the utmost respect. We know that the people listening are there because they believe that the exchange of personal stories is a way to elicit a deeper understanding of ourselves and the world around us.

Safe spaces have been uppermost in my mind in the last few weeks. We are in the middle of Safe Church training, and I've spent time with our wonderful Op Shop volunteers from both Kyneton and Woodend, going through the material and helping them with Working With Children Checks. In the training sessions, it's obvious that some people find it difficult to confront these issues, but I've been impressed by the preparedness of people to be part of this focus on making our places safe for everyone.

Safety has been part of wider community conversations as well, as our country has discussed major ethical issues. Equal marriage, dying with dignity legislation, sexual harassment and assault, race relations, asylum seekers and refugees; the conversations around these issues and others have created situations where people feel threatened and exposed. Community debate hasn't always been respectful, as some have taken opportunities to further demean and demonise those whose opinions are different to their own. In many instances, it's the most vulnerable people who are most likely to be silenced or abused in community discussions.

What might our role be in all of this? I hope that as we are thinking about being Safe Churches it

means more than just making sure we all have the appropriate checks and training. I hope we can commit to being communities that model ways of having difficult conversations with respect and care for the vulnerable. I hope that we can create safe spaces where we are able to share each others' deepest stories, along with our deepest hopes and dreams. I hope that we can be challenged to build communities, both within our congregations and beyond, that consider who the most vulnerable people are, and how we can best organise ourselves so that everyone is included and treated with dignity and respect.

We could do worse than to follow the example of Story Wise. It's our shared humanity and our shared vulnerability that create a place where people feel that they can stand up, maybe for the first time, and tell their story. Many of the people there may be strangers, but we're bound by a common commitment. Our safety comes not from brute strength or fixed rules, but from mutual trust and openness. Imagine what it would be like, though, if all we did was turn up and congratulate ourselves on what a warm, comfortable, intimate space we had created. Imagine if we all sat back, and didn't feel that we had a story to tell that might have something to say to someone else, or that helped us explore who we are. We'd have missed the point, because being safe is a means to an end, not an end in itself. It only really works if the safety of the group provides a springboard for our own acts of courage and leaps of faith. As we continue to work on creating safe spaces, I hope that they inspire us and others in similar ways.

Annette Buckley

Wonder about devices

I have been hearing a lot lately about people who go on a fast, not from food, but from Facebook or Instagram or email. That feeling of being over-stuffed drives them. How do you feel when you can't find your mobile phone?

Emotion-research says it is like losing someone you love. Certainly you would lose access to them, but have we transferred too much meaning to one little object? Or is it entirely wonderful and stop worrying about it, what would your generation know.

Would you consider a fast? How does that feel?

Can you answer the question: What does that feeling tell you about how you understand yourself? Or are you still blustering around avoiding the question?

You're welcome.



MYW

See page 16

What's your question?

What have you been thinking lately? From what you have read, seen or heard? Anything tickling away?

It may not be in your head. It may be felt as a sort of unresolved blah or hmm or gagh!

Is there a question that is looking for some air?

Try to name it. Find what shape it has.

Worship Leaders

	Service time	5th November 2017	12th November 2017	19th November 2017	26th November 2017
Northern Congregations	10am	<u>BARFOLD</u> TBA	<u>METCALFE</u> 11am CFA Service Peter Cannon	<u>MIA MIA</u> Annette Buckley - HC	<u>SUTTON GRANGE</u> TBA
Kyneton	9:30am	Pip Elston	Doug McIver	Wendy Elson - HC	Andrea Strack
RM Begg	3:30pm	<i>(Note - No Service in November)</i>			
Lancefield	10:45am	TBC Wendy Elson - CFA	Jay Brooks - HC	Congregation	Annette Buckley
Romsey	9am	Jeni Clampit Wendy Elson - CFA	Jay Brooks - HC	Congregation	Annette Buckley
Tylden	9am	Annette Buckley - HC	TBC	Peter Cannon	Janet Cole
Woodend	11am	Mondays			
Mt Macedon	10:30am	Janet Wood	Wendy Elson - HC	Adele Mapperson	Meg Evans
Riddells Creek	9am	Wednesdays (Devotions) & Thursdays (Walk the Labyrinth)			
	4pm			Intergenerational Wendy Elson	
Gisborne	9:30am	Keith Hallett	D'Arcy Wood	Shirley Midgley	Peter Cannon - HC

News

Senior Citizen of the year

Dorothy Smith, elder in the Metcalfe congregation, was named as Senior Citizen of the Year in the Mt Alexander Shire.

Great Work Dot.

Thanks to Shirley Hutchison for informing us of this award.

Meetings

Romsey Church Council

Romsey Church Council meeting is on Wednesday 1st November at 6pm at the Stracks.

Congregational Meeting

Gisborne will hold a congregational meeting after worship on Sunday 19th November.

Follow the Star

Follow the Star planning meeting 10am on Monday 20th November at Romsey.

Special Events

Dying to Know

This week

The Macedon Ranges Shire is running a forum titled 'Dying to Know' on Tuesday 31st October at the Riddells Creek Community Centre (previously the Senior Citizens) beginning at 10:30am.

The program includes a panel on advanced care planning, palliative care, dying and funeral matters. That will be followed by lunch which in turn will be followed for an opportunity to look at the implications of the assisted dying legislation.

For catering purposes the MRSC would like registrations so, if you are interested, ring Stephani Harper on 5422 0258 or e-mail her on sharper@mrsc.vic.gov.au

Thank you to Janet Wood for alerting us to this forum. As Editor I add the following information.

If you would like to be more informed about the proposed legislation before you go to the forum, or just because you are interested, have a look at the consultation paper prepared by the JIM Unit of the VicTas Synod. It includes the 66 Ministerial Advisory Panel recommendations, the existing Uniting Church Synod of Victoria Resolutions, theological reflections on the issue, the views of other churches, the justification of assisted dying/suicide laws and the situation and results from other countries who have similar legislation. I recommend reading it.

It can be found at

https://www.victas.uca.org.au/getinvolved/.../Assisted%20Dying%20Paper_WEB.pdf

Be warned it is a 72 page pdf document so you may not want to print it off.

Major Musical Event

Josef Haydn wrote many outstanding works, none more popular than *The Creation*. The text is from the Book of Genesis and other sources. The chorus "The heavens are telling" is sung regularly by choirs throughout the world. The whole oratorio is joyful, with beautiful parts for orchestra, three soloists and choir. The Gisborne Singers will present this work twice.

- Sunday 19th November at 3pm at Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church in Kyneton
- Sunday 26th November at 3pm at the Church of Christ in New Gisborne.

Bookings may be made online at [<www.gisbornesingers.org.au>](http://www.gisbornesingers.org.au) or by phoning 0413-003-254.

Full price is \$40, concession \$35, students \$20 and children under 12 free.

Target and Uniting Care Christmas Appeal

This appeal will commence at the Woodend Target Store in November and continue through December. Most of the donations made will be given as gift vouchers, but new toys may also be purchased in or left at the store. There will be more details next month.

Car Boot Sale

The Romsey Congregation will be holding a Car Boot Sale in the church grounds on Saturday 18th November.

All questions and bookings to Sandra Strack. Her phone number is in PiP directory.

Prayer & Worship

All Saints

Wednesday 1st November is All Saints Day. There will be services at Riddells Creek at 9am and Woodend at 7pm.

These services celebrate the lives and example of those who have been positive contributors to our lives.

They are also a special time to reflect on those who have died who have played this positive role in our lives.

Prayers for Others

The Romsey Church will be open on Thursday 9th November from 10am - 1pm for prayer.

CFA Services

Romsey - About 10am Sunday 5th November at Romsey CFA Station. After morning worship we will travel around to the CFA Station taking morning tea with us.

Lancefield - After morning worship on Sunday 5th November at Lancefield CFA Station.

Metcalfe - 11am Sunday 12th November at Metcalf Church.

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.
- Prayer and Meditation every Wednesday morning at 9am at Riddells Creek.
- The Lancefield Church is open for private Prayer and Meditation every Wednesday 11am - 3pm.
- An Ecumenical Meditation Group meets each Wednesday night at 5:30pm at the Woodend Anglican church.
- Group Labyrinth walk at Riddells Creek each Thursday morning at 9am. The Labyrinth 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.

Blessing of the Animals

Tylden

We held a service in the local park on Sunday 8th October with a blessing of the animals and were joined by three people from the community and their pets.



Romsey & Lancefield gathering

Romsey & Lancefield

Members of Romsey and Lancefield congregations along with several community members met in the grounds of the Romsey church on Sunday 1st October for a Blessing of the Animals.

The weather was pleasant, cool but not wet or windy. Eleven dogs, a cat, a rabbit and a snail were all well behaved.

Councillor, Bill West, visited. The photo he took was in the Midland Express.

Clubs and Groups



Cuppa at Cookies

Each Monday – 2pm

Coffee get together at

Cookies Cafe in Main St, Romsey.



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.

Gisborne Friends Group

Gisborne Friends Group Pizza night on Friday 3rd November at 6:30pm in the church hall. For catering please let Ron Hebbard know if you are coming.

Mt Macedon Men's Group

Men's group at Mount Macedon would normally be meeting at 10am on Tuesday 7th November but seeing as though that is Cup Day they will be meeting at another event in the afternoon. Contact John or Shirley Cross (see directory) for details.

Tylden UCAF

The Tylden UCAF will meet on Tuesday 7th November at the church at 10am. This is Cup Day for the southern congregations but Tylden follow Kyneton and have the holiday on Wednesday. So yes, we will still meet on Tuesday.

Our luncheon on the 26th September was very successful with entertainment by Michael Frantz and Malcolm Cole and a most informative talk was given by Alison Lowe from the Kyneton District Nursing Service. Alison selected Frontier Services to receive a donation of \$200 from the proceeds of the day.

Romsey UCAF

Romsey UCAF AGM and final meeting for the year is scheduled for Wednesday 8th November 1:30pm in the meeting room.

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Much, much more than a Muffin

With warnings of more days over 40 degrees, on Tuesday 14th November, Gisborne's Muffin 'n More concentrates on heat. In partnership with Macedon Ranges Shire's program to support older residents, Gisborne UCA will host a panel of speakers who can advise on what to do when the day is hot and gets hotter. Karen Dunstan, the shire's officer in charge of emergency management, will speak on how to prepare for the heat. There also will be advice from a nurse specialising in heat-related issues and a vet on how to care for your pet in extreme conditions. It's important that we don't assume we know what's what because we've been through bushfires previously. We now need to cope with the fact that many of us are older than we were! Also that grass fires are increasingly dangerous to those who live in built-up areas.

Join us then at Gisborne UCA on Tuesday 14th November from 10am until noon. There will be really good coffee and catering provided by Dromkeen.

For more information contact Janet Wood on 5428 6700 or janetda@bigpond.com

Conversations

*"The prison system:
retribution or rehabilitation."*

The Conversations group will be discussing this at their next meeting. We meet on Wednesday 15th November at Halletts at Gisborne at 7:15pm and would welcome anyone who would like to engage in this topic with us.

Call Wendy for further details.

Gisborne UCAF

Pre-Christmas Breakup will be at Duneira, Mt Macedon, on Monday 20th November.

Afternoon tea will be served on the balcony overlooking the garden. We can wander the garden without charge either before or after afternoon tea, which will consist of coffee/tea/cake (some gluten free) at \$15 per head. A form will be on the morning tea table soon on which you can indicate your attendance.

There will be a brief UCAF meeting at 1:30pm before we leave for Duneira. Questions to Bev.

Lancefield Music

Lancefield Music is on fortnightly....the first and third Tuesdays 2pm til 4pm. We meet for a community lunch at 12:30pm before the music program on the third Tuesday of the month.

7th is Cup Day - no music

21st November lunch and music

Mt Macedon Thistle Club

Our last meeting for the year is on Wednesday 22nd November at 12:30pm at the church. This will be our Christmas Breakup and AGM. Devotions will be led by Meg Evans.

Film Club

Film Club met last Thursday and watched Sarah's Key the story of the roundup of Jews in Paris in 1942.

Next gathering will be at Riddells Creek at 7:30pm on Thursday 23rd November.

Kyneton Chat'n'Chew

Meet at Kaddy's Cafe, 8 High St, Kyneton on Friday 24th November at 12 noon. All are welcome, just turn up. Any questions to Jenny Elston.



Op Shops

Woodend Op Shop

The shop is looking for people who would like to volunteer, especially on Saturday mornings when we open from 9:30am till 1pm. Even if you can only spare a couple of hours your help would be most appreciated.

Volunteers Needed

It would also help us if we could compile a list of people who could help if we were short of staff on Saturdays.

You will need to have a current Working With Children Check and to attend, or have attended Safe Church Training.

An opportunity to see how the shop works will be available on Mondays. Please call Jan Cole on 54271807 if you are interested.

Vale - Bev Juriansz

The congregation at Tylden and the volunteers at the Op Shop were very sorry to lose our dear friend and colleague Bev Juriansz. A memorial window was placed in the shop following Bev's passing which enabled many of the shop's clients and staff to reminisce and share together many of the anecdotes which she had shared with us. Her long service to the shop and her dedicated service to the cluster were recorded in a memorial minute at our recent meeting. Bev will be greatly missed by us all.



MYW
See page 16

Wonder about escaping

Another day another effort.

If I could give you a plane ticket to anywhere in the world for two months by yourself, where would you go and why is it that one?

Think about it. Would you take it?

Learning Opportunities

Bible Study

Monthly Bible Study commenced at Metcalfe last Tuesday. The plan is to explore the Gospel of Mark which is the Gospel for next year.

In preparation, Peter suggests reading Mark through in one sitting, to get a broader perspective on how it all fits together.

This study group will meet on the 4th Tuesday of each month. The next session will be on Tuesday 27th November at 10:30am. Come earlier for a cuppa beforehand. The study will finish by 12noon. All Partnership members welcome.

Advent Studies

Four week study commences Friday 10th November at 11am at Gisborne. The book "The Journey - Walking the road to Bethlehem" by Adam Hamilton will be studied.

Mission

Community Engagement

Next Community Engagement group will be at Woodend Manse at 12 noon for lunch on Thursday 23rd November. We would love to have a representative from each church (not necessarily CoCo reps) at each meeting so we can plan and dream missionally for each community. If you are inclined towards this give Wendy a ring.

Partnership Missional Events

A reminder that missional events are a ministry for us all. The ministers are not here to run them as entertainment for us but to help us identify and use our missional opportunities and to walk with us all into community ministry. Please consider attending things across the Partnership in order to support these processes as part of your own mission....even perhaps when they don't tap into your own interests or meet all of your own needs. This is us being church as sent people.

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Other Mission

Gisborne Chaplaincy

Thank you to those who came to our Breakfast with Michael McCoy. We were pleased that the numbers rose to 85 and the HOR people did a fantastic job. The feedback has been great and we raised \$2,120 which was sensational. The plants & raffle raised \$250 and we had \$220 in donations which was great. If anyone dropped \$50 at the door let me know as our door takings were \$50 over.

Shortbread - Each congregation has boxes of shortbread for sale at \$3 a packet.

Bronwyn

Christmas Shoeboxes

Three Congregations packed a total of 193 Operation Christ Child shoeboxes this year. What a fantastic contribution from the Partnership.

Lancefield - 17, Mt Macedon Thistle Club - 30, Romsey - 146 (120 on the packing day & another 26 packed by individuals)



Final boxes completed on packing day at Romsey

Romsey would like to thank members of the Romsey Walking Group who work all year with us on this project, the Anglican Op Shop who donate material for sewing skirts and bags, Romsey Hardware for donation of MDF and paint for blackboards, Romsey IGA for donation of scissors and tennis balls, 'Just-in-Time Transport' for freight costs, and members for donations of goods or money, and those who sewed, painted, sawed, shopped, sorted and packed.

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

November 2017

5 Ordinary Sunday 31

9am - Worship at Tylden & Romsey
 9:30am - Worship at Gisborne & Kyneton
 10am - Worship at Barfold (*cuppa at 9:40am*)
 10am - **Blessing of the CFA** at Romsey CFA Station
 10:30am - Worship at Mt Macedon
 10:45am - Worship at Lancefield
 11:45am - **Blessing of the CFA** at Lancefield CFA Station

6

11am - Prayers for Peace at Woodend
 2pm - Romsey 'Cuppa at Cookies'

7 (Cup Day)

10am - Tylden UCAF
 ?pm - Mt Macedon Men's Group
 2pm - Prayer at Gisborne ?

12 Ordinary Sunday 32

9am - Worship at Tylden & Romsey (HC)
 9:30am - Worship at Gisborne & Kyneton
 10:30am - Worship at Mt Macedon
 10:45am - Worship at Lancefield (HC)
 11am - CFA Service at Metcalfe

13

11am - Prayers for Peace at Woodend
 2pm - Romsey 'Cuppa at Cookies'

14

10am - More than Muffin'n More at Gisborne
 12noon - Gisborne Craft
 2pm - Prayer at Gisborne

19 Ordinary Sunday 33

9am - Worship at Tylden & Romsey
 9:30am - Worship at Gisborne & Kyneton
 10am - Worship at Mia Mia (*cuppa at 9:40am*)
 10:30am - Congregational meeting at Gisborne
 10:30am - Worship at Mt Macedon
 10:45am - Worship at Lancefield (*cuppa at 10:15am*)
 3pm - Gisborne Singers at Kyneton
 4pm - Intergenerational Worship at Riddells Creek
Items for PiP due in today

20

10am - Follow the Star meeting at Romsey
 11am - Prayers for Peace at Woodend
 1:30pm - Gisborne UCAF
 2pm - Romsey 'Cuppa at Cookies'

21

12:30pm - Community Lunch at Lancefield
 2pm - Lancefield Music
 2pm - Prayer at Gisborne

26 Christ the King

9am - Worship at Tylden, Romsey
 9:30am - Worship at Gisborne, Kyneton,
 10am - Worship at Sutton Grange (HC) (*cuppa at 9:40am*)
 10:30am - Worship at Mt Macedon
 10:45am - Worship at Lancefield (*cuppa at 10:15am*)
 3pm - Gisborne Singers at New Gisborne

27

11am - Prayers for Peace at Woodend
 2pm - Romsey 'Cuppa at Cookies'

28

10:30am - Bible Study at Metcalfe
 2pm - Prayer at Gisborne

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 All Saints Day 9am - Worship at Riddells Ck 9:30-1:30pm - The White Goose 11-3pm - Lancefield Church Open 5:30pm - Meditation at Woodend 6pm - Romsey Church Council 7pm - All Saints worship at Woodend	2 9am - Labyrinth walk at Riddells Creek 9:30-11:30am - Safe Church Training at Kyneton	3 10am - Prayer at Gisborne 6:30pm - Gisborne Friends	4 (No CoCo this month)
8 (Cup Day Kyneton) 9am - Worship at Riddells Ck 9:30-1:30pm - The White Goose 11-3pm - Lancefield Church Open 1:30pm - Romsey UCAF AGM 5:30pm - Meditation at Woodend	9 9am - Labyrinth walk at Riddells Creek 10am-1pm - Romsey Prayers for Others	10 10am - Prayer at Gisborne 11am - Advent Study 1 at Gisborne	11 9:30am - Lay Preacher/ Worship Leader Training Day Hoppers Crossing
15 9am - Worship at Riddells Ck 9:30-1:30pm - The White Goose 11-3pm - Lancefield Church Open 5:30pm - Meditation at Woodend 7:15pm - Conversations	16 9am - Labyrinth walk at Riddells Creek	17 10am - Prayer at Gisborne 11am - Advent Study 2 at Gisborne	18 Car Boot Sale at Romsey 9:30am - Presbytery Meeting
22 9am - Worship at Riddells Ck 9:30-1:30pm - The White Goose 11-3pm - Lancefield Church Open 12:30pm - Thistle Club AGM 5:30pm - Meditation at Woodend	23 9am - Labyrinth walk at Riddells Creek 12noon - Community Engagement Group 7:30pm - Film Club at Riddells Creek	24 10am - Prayer at Gisborne 11am - Advent Study 3 at Gisborne 12noon - Chat'n Chew at Kyneton	25
29 9am - Worship at Riddells Ck 9:30-1:30pm - The White Goose 11-3pm - Lancefield Church Open 5:30pm - Meditation at Woodend	30 9am - Labyrinth walk at Riddells Creek	Stop Press Port Phillip West Lay Preacher/ Lay Worship Leader Training Day, <u>Saturday 11th November</u> 9:30am-12:30pm at Hoppers Crossing Topic "Preaching from the Old Testament" will be led by Lynden Broadstock. RSVP to Rob Coulson <rssnpc@bigpond.com> or Ph 0407 535 116	



As Christians, we are keen to ensure we care for each other. We try to support each other pastorally, spiritually and practically. Unfortunately the recent Royal Commission into Institutional abuse of children has reminded us of our failure to care for some of the most vulnerable people in our communities. In response to the Royal Commission and in an endeavour to ensure the mistakes of the past do not happen again, Synod has been working to resource the church with the Safe Church programs, policies, procedures and guidance.

Rev Peter Cannon is conducting Safe Church Training at several locations in the Partnership. You only need to attend 1 session of two to three hours. The first session was on Saturday 21st October at Gisborne. Further opportunities

Kyneton UC on Thursday 2nd November from 9:30 - 11:30am

Romsey UC on Saturday 9th December from 9:30 - 11:30am

Please attend if you can. We need as many members of our congregations to attend whether you are an 'appointed leader' or not. Dates not suitable? Contact Peter Cannon for alternative options.

Even if you undertook Safe Church Training up to July this year you should attend because the laws and regulations in relation to child safety are in a state of regular change as a result of the Royal Commission findings and continuing review and enquiry by both federal and state governments.

All ministers, appointed leaders, helpers and volunteers are required to attend Safe Church Training at least every two years. (Page 10, UCA Keeping Children Safe Policy - Appendix 2)

All congregations within the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania must meet the legal obligations of their state for Working With Children Checks/Registrations.

All 'appointed leaders' are required to have a WWCC/R. The Standing Committee of the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania has defined an appointed leader this way:

“ Appointed leaders are people who are in a position of trust, influence or authority because of their leadership role within the Church. This would include, but not be limited to, lay preachers, elders, church councillors, worship leaders, anyone involved in children and youth events/programs/activities, anyone commissioned by the Church Council to perform a leadership role, music leaders, organists, Bible study leaders, and 'home group' or 'cell group' leaders. (Synod Standing Committee Resolution 16.4.14)”
(<http://ucavictas.org.au/keepingchildrensafe/working-children-check/>)

Coco Report

for Meeting held on Saturday 7th October 2017 at Romsey

Chairperson Colin welcomed us all. We were appreciative of the lovely warm hall at Romsey, thanks to the new heaters installed recently.

Devotions Jay led us through to the smaller Meeting Room and with other Romsey members conducted a Service on the theme of "VOICES". The pictures of great Composers, Singers and Speakers were posted on the white board. We reflected on using our voices for good – inclusion, encouragement, share good things, asking questions, singing, helping, speaking against injustice, sharing love etc.

The **Minutes of the previous Meeting** held in September were confirmed.

Minister In Association to the Partnership - Rev. Deacon Meg Evans was confirmed as Minister In Association to the Partnership – congratulations and thanks to Meg for her willingness to be involved in this way.

Peter presented the **Ministry Team Report** this month. This report is available at each of the Partnership Churches for you to read.

- He referred to his recent article in PIP and asked if we can find a way forward with dreams and aspirations. Some of these things can be easily achieved if we encourage people with their ideas and support them. Sometimes this can be a small change in the way things are done and in others big changes can happen. It is important to be positive in our attitudes. The establishment of "Cuppas at Cookies" and the Film Club are positives, also the Conversations group at Hallett's and Chat 'n Chew (see PIP for details for these) – everyone is welcome.
- Safe Church and Keeping Children Safe

process mentioned – important to see this as a positive in caring for each other.

- He listed many of the things he, Wendy and Annette have been involved with over the past month.
- Wendy told us she will be participating in "The Great Victorian Bike Ride" in November so will be away for a couple of weeks – stay safe Wendy.
- Planning for the Partnership Camp at Campaspe Downs still proceeding – pencil in April 21st and 22nd 2018 for this event.

Reports

- **Finance** Report circulated – All going well. Possibly need to plan for resources in the long term. Treasurer needs statement from each Congregation to see how each Church is coping financially.
- **Property Team** Woodend Property inspected – many issues to be addressed. Drainage and Electrics are the main things needing immediate attention. A plumber and electrician will be sourced to see what can be done to rectify these problems. Presbytery Maintenance person will check the property for compliance issues. The Property Team will manage this work.
- The Riddells Creek property will probably have a BOMAR Grant to complete work around the Building.
- **Community Engagement Fresh Expressions Team** -There is now a Prayer Corner in place at "The White Goose". Community Garden also in train. Wendy suggested engagement with the Community on Steering Committees re use of Woodend and Riddells Creek facilities.

- **Pastoral Care** - Ministers to let Coco know when prayer support is needed during difficult situations they are dealing with. eg. Funerals, health issues etc.
- **Resource Survey** Small number of responses – Resource meetings not what is needed. Peter is available to provide personal support when someone is doing a Service. Resources are also available on the Website – check Resources page.
- Will have **Bible Studies** once a quarter at different locations in the Partnership. Easter, Advent and a particular book of the Bible for the other two. Check PIP and Website for details of these as they are planned.

Keeping Children Safe and Safe Church

Training program needs to be completed. One will be held at Gisborne UC on Saturday 21st October 2017. Must have a culture of concern for each other and those we welcome into our Churches. Jay Brooks volunteered to coordinate the data needed to comply with Synod's requirements. She will keep up to date as required. Thank you for being willing to do this task, Jay.

Congregational Reports

Our October 5th Sunday Combined Service will be at Metcalfe UC at 10.30. If weather unfavour-

able the Metcalfe Hall is available. BYO lunch etc.

All Churches reported things were proceeding well – Animal Blessings, CFA Blessings, Coffee Catch-Ups, Garage Sale, Open Churches, on-going Club meetings, funerals, baptisms etc.

Wendy showed us the Tea Cosy she made out of yarn passed around at the Congregations with the tangles and knots people had put into it, reflecting life's disappointments, complications, sadness etc. She has made an attractive symbol of caring and hospitality out of this confusion. We can all do the same with our lives.

Matters from Previous Minutes and New Business

Funds for On-going Training mentioned.

Copyright issues mentioned – can this be Partnership wide – to be investigated.

Those who attended Synod Opening Worship Service reported a very meaningful experience.

Coco will not have a November Meeting. Our next Meeting will be at Gisborne UC 9.30am on Saturday 2nd December. The executive will handle any pressing business in the meantime.

Thank you Romsey for the lovely Morning Tea.

Wonder about hidden secrets

Ok we all know that people are full of surprises. Here is one to think about.

It's been niggling you for a while but you just found out that a 'great bloke', 'good guy', 'real nice woman', a friend of yours, has been caught peddling Ice (the drug) at three high schools in your area.

What would you do?

Tut tutt? Deny all knowledge? Hide so the press can't find you? Visit them in prison?

Think about it. Give it some second thoughts about your choices, fears, hopes.

Wonder about your face

I have an easy question today. Something I have been noticing among quite a few friends.

Look at your recent track record on the following questions...

Do you accept help when you need it?

Do you accept love when it is given?

Do you accept compliments when they come your way?

How do you react? Do they make you smile, do they make you happy, or do you look down and away, rationalize it away, praise the lord? Try to act humble? What does your face do?

Look into this today, will you? It could be a key to happiness.

Wonder about ageing

Today I have another "if" question.

If your magical genie offered to send you back to teenage years, that is, you would have a youthful body but your friends would all get old without you, and you would lose the wisdom of your years - yes, go back to being that stupid again - would you take it?

Think about how you feel about getting older.

It can be rich, it can be bitter, it is never easy.

It's my birthday today, so I am thinking about this all over again.

What do you think?

Wonder about boundaries

If you are female you know about the 'glass ceiling' and all the other barriers to women at work, mansplaining, male dominance, and so on. If you are a man you probably wonder about these things but have never really seen them... what does that say?

There other 'unseen' boundaries. Or did you see them?

Racial discrimination, just 'normal' in some places, but a bitter pill to swallow if you are on the receiving end.

Or was it someone's beliefs are talked down, called 'madness' or ridiculed?

Have your talents or strengths or enthusiasm been belittled, your ideas laughed at?

If you are only half aware I have two questions.

One, why are you only half aware - what have you done about clarifying what you can do?

Two, what are you going to do now?



MYW

See page 16

Lectionary Readings Year A

Ordinary Sundays after Pentecost

A period of time that varies in length depending on whether Easter is early or late. In this period, the Church recalls its faith in the Holy Trinity. It seeks to relate its faith as a people of God to Christ's mission in the world. It commences with Trinity Sunday and concludes with the feast of Christ the King.

Date	Day/Season	Col	1st Reading	Psalm	2nd Reading	Gospel
Wed 1st Nov	All Saints Day	W	Revelation 7:9-17	34:1-10, 22	1 John 3:1-3	Matthew 5:1-12
Sun 5th Nov	Ord Sun 31	G	Joshua 3:7-17	107:1-7, 33-37	1 Thessalonians 2:9-13	Matthew 23:1-12
Sun 12th Nov	Ord Sun 32	G	Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25	78:1-7	1 Thessalonians 4:13-18	Matthew 25:1-13
Sun 19th Nov	Ord Sun 33	G	Judges 4:1-7	123	1 Thessalonians 5:1-11	Matthew 25:14-30
Sun 26th Nov	Christ the King	W	Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24	100	Ephesians 1:15-23	Matthew 25:31-46

Macedon Ranges Partnership Prayer Cycle

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



WHAT DOES CREATIVITY MEAN TO YOU?

Join us and explore your creativity in this arts exhibition at Brunswick Uniting Church. Explore visual arts and performance and have the opportunity to respond in your own way.

27 October to 5 November 2017
at 212 Sydney Rd Brunswick

Opening night: Friday 27 October 6:30-8:30pm
Performing Arts night: Friday 3 November 6:30-9:30pm

For more information head to
brunswick.unitingchurch.org.au

MAKE | DRAW | MOVE | DANCE | SING | WRITE



Makes You Wonder

Daily questions and/or discussion starters sent to your smart phone at 7:30am every day.

Those included here in PiP have come from the last week.



MYW

Go to your app store iTunes or Google Play and type in 'makes you wonder' and download the app.

You may like to check out the website as well <<http://makesyouwonder.yolasite.com/>>

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/#>

29 October - 4 November	Canada, United States of America
5 - 11 November	Oceania: American Samoa, Cook Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia (Maohi Nui), Kanaky, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu
12 -18 November	Aotearoa/New Zealand, Australia
19 - 25 November	East Timor, Indonesia, Philippines
26 November - 2 December	Brunei, Malaysia, Singapore

Directory removed for privacy

Contacts Other Groups

<p><u>SUTTON GRANGE</u> <u>MIA MIA</u> <u>BARFOLD</u> <u>METCALFE</u></p>	<p><u>Elders - North</u> Dot Smith Marge Townrow</p>	<p><u>Elders- Kyneton</u> Pip Elston Helen Aldridge Joan Mills Peter Stone Doug McIver Andrea Strack</p>
<p><u>KYNETON</u></p>	<p><u>Congregation Chairperson</u> Roy Gibbs</p>	<p><u>Congregation Secretary</u> Jenny Elston</p>
<p><u>LANCEFIELD</u></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><u>ROMSEY</u></p>	<p><u>Elders</u> Noel Shaw, David Strack Jeni Clampit, Sandra Strack Jenny Elliott, Jay Brooks</p>	<p><u>UCAF</u> Pres - Hazel Allen Sec - Jeni Clampit</p>
<p><u>TYLDEN</u></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><u>WOODEND</u></p>		
<p><u>MT MACEDON</u></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><u>RIDDELLS CREEK</u></p>		<p><u>Craft Group</u> Lynette Bucknall</p>
<p><u>GISBORNE</u></p>	<p><u>Prayer Ministry/F & C</u> - Glennis Speed <u>Pastoral Care/F & C</u> - Bev Gilbertson <u>Social Justice</u> - Wendy Hebbard <u>Worship & 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>
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