

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 24 - August 2017

Season - Ordinary Sundays 18-21



Prayer





I haven't had much of a chance to ride my motorbike recently so getting back on again has been a real joy for me. It got me thinking. Some time ago a book was published, "Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance". It used the imagery of looking after one's motorcycle as an allegory for understanding life. I too saw some parallels with the issues we face as people of God.

First, I recognise that many of you will never have ridden a motorbike, several have had no interest in ever doing so and some of you may even have a strong dislike of them. Nevertheless, I invite you to stay with me in my reflections and hope in doing so you may be able to gain an insight into our life together as a Partnership.

There are many elements to riding a motorbike including the actual machine, one's training and equipment but I want to focus on three aspects. To stay upright and move anywhere, one's tyres are an essential element. One needs to have the right tyres for the conditions; bitumen, gravel, off road, etc. Likewise, the tyres need to be in good condition. Tyres provide traction, they ground the bike and they are the interface between the rider and the ground.

In the same way, we need to be grounded. We need to be grounded in our relationship with God, with ourselves and our core relationships. Without such a grounding, we have trouble getting anywhere in life. We can find our slipping and sliding from situation to situation and from relationship to relationship.

There are many aspects to being grounded but one of the core elements is prayer. It is like the tyres. Prayer connects us to God and invites us to listen to God's Spirit. It brings us closer to the one who is both at the centre and the centre itself. There are many ways to pray that allow us to do this including walking the labyrinth, breath prayers, meditation based prayer and contemplations. Going on a retreat can help us be grounded.

To go anywhere on a motorbike, a road, path, direction or track is required. I ride a road bike so tend to stick to bitumen roads. I have to follow the road, knowing when to change roads and directions if I am to get to my destination. I follow road rules.

Like being grounded, there are many ways of getting somewhere. We need to know where we are going and how to get there. An essential element is the reading and familiarity with the scriptures. This includes listening for an understanding of the Good News. This is much more than just being able to quote particular Bible passages. It is about listening for the heart of God.

When riding my motorbike, I want to stay upright and so I need to be aware of what is happening around me. I need to watch for traffic movements, the condition of the road, the changes in condi-

tions such as weather and environment. I also need to look out for signs and hazards.

Likewise in the Partnership we need to be listening to the needs of our communities and neighbourhoods. We need to be aware of the changes in our communities as well as the needs of individuals around us. Noting the changes in our society and identifying their significance is part of the listening and observations we need to make.

So often we assume being church means just attending on Sundays, maybe putting in some spare change into the offering plate and that is enough for it all to just keep on happening. But like riding, much more is required. It doesn't just happen. We need to be active contributors and participants. We need to remain grounded as God's people. We need to move in the direction called by God as we respond to the needs of those around us and in our communities.

Yes, we can push any allegory too far but sometimes they can help shed some light on our living and faith. Listen for the voice of God. Pay attention to the needs of others and follow the calling given to us in the Spirit.

Rev Peter Cannon

Around the Partnership

News

National Volunteer Week

8-14 May 2017

As we know, volunteers are incredibly important to all charities across Australia. Many of us volunteer our time and efforts to help those around us.

In 1989 the National Volunteer Week was established to highlight the role of volunteers and to say thank you to the more than 6 million Australians who volunteer.

This event happened over a month ago and we have not one but two of our members who have featured in 2017.

Among the longest serving volunteers for Diabetes Victoria is **Evelyn Dunstan** from the Gisborne congregation who was presented with an award during National Volunteer Week for having volunteered since the 1990s. Her husband, Rob, has also been a volunteer since 2012. Well done, Evelyn!



Evelyn Dunstan

We have also been informed that **Roy Gibbs**, Kyneton, is 'cover boy' on the front page of the Macedon Ranges Council 'Shire Life' as a Council volunteer.

Volunteers - "Give Happy, Live Happy"

Congratulations

Both Judy and John Rigby have ministered with us in the Partnership at various times over the past several years. Both were ordained in the Wesleyan Methodist Church before serving in the Uniting Church. After a long and detailed process, their original ordination has been recognised by the Uniting Church. A ceremony was held at the meeting of the Presbytery of Port Phillip West on 22nd July which celebrated their reception as ordained ministers in our church. We welcome Judy and John with enthusiasm!



Weekly Update

Each week Peter Cannon sends an email to everyone in the Partnership for whom he has an email address. This email is an update as to what is happening around the partnership, reminders of events, questions and queries. If you have not been receiving this email and would like to please forward your email address to Peter.

Special Events

Jesus Christ Super Star

Do you remember the songs? Did you see the original 1972-74 Australian production at the Palais in St Kilda, or a later performance?



Did you know it is back for 19 performances?

Three Seniors tickets remain from a group booking, for the 1pm matinee session on Tuesday 8th August at the State Theatre, Arts Centre, Melbourne.

Please contact Jay Brooks (see directory for phone numbers), ASAP if you would like one or more of these tickets. Cost is \$85.85 per ticket.

50 years of Op Shop

Kyneton Op Shop 50th Anniversary celebration. Church service at 10:30am on **Sunday 6th August**, followed by a light lunch in the hall at 11:30am and then music in the church from 1-2pm.

Invitation

8 week Alpha Interactive Sessions

Saturdays 5 August - 23 September 9:45am-12noon at House of the Rock Church, 247 Station Road, New Gisborne

All churches are invited to attend the 8 week Interactive course.

Subjects

Session 1 Is there more to life than this?, Session 2 Who is Jesus?, Session 3 Why did Jesus die? Session 4 How can I have faith?, Session 5 Why and how should I pray?, Session 6 Why and how should I read the bible?, Session 7 How does God guide us?, Session 8 (away day at Duniera - 23 September. Anticipated times 9:45 - 16:00) Who is the Holy Spirit? What does the Holy Spirit do? How can I be filled with the Holy Spirit?

Worship Leaders

	Service time	Sunday 6th August	Sunday 13th August	Sunday 20th August	Sunday 27th August
Northern Congregations	10am	<u>BARFOLD</u> TBA	<u>METCALFE</u> TBA	<u>MIA MIA</u> Jay Brooks - HC	<u>SUTTON GRANGE</u> Peter Cannon
Kyneton	9:30am	Wendy Elson	Andrea Strack	Peter Cannon - HC	Doug McIver
RM Begg	3:30pm				Mon 28th Wendy Elson
Lancefield	10:45am	Jeni Clampit	Peter Cannon - HC	Congregation	Annette Buckley
Romsey	9am	Jeni Clampit	Peter Cannon - HC	Trevor Turnham	Annette Buckley
Tylden	9am	Peter Cannon - HC	D'Arcy Wood	Rev Graeme Reid	TBA
Woodend					
Mt Macedon	10:30am	Brian Charter	Wendy Elson Commissioning of Elders & HC	Janet Wood	Worship Team - Frontier Services & BBQ
Riddells Creek	9am	Wednesdays Devotions & Thursdays Walk the Labyrinth			
Gisborne	9:30am	TBA	Jay Brooks	TBA	Wendy Elson - HC

Bible Study & Worship Preparation Dates

Tuesday 7:30pm session venue & date		Wednesday 10am session venue & date		Week preparing for	
Kyneton	1 August	Metcalfe	2 August	Pentecost 10 / Ordinary Sunday 19	13 August
Lancefield	8 August	Mt Macedon	9 August	Pentecost 11 / Ordinary Sunday 20	20 August
Tylden	15 August	<u>Kyneton</u>	16 August	Pentecost 12 / Ordinary Sunday 21	27 August
Romsey	22 August	<u>Metcalfe</u>	23 August	Pentecost 13 / Ordinary Sunday 22	3 Sep
Gisborne	29 August	Tylden	30 August	Pentecost 14 / Ordinary Sunday 23	10 Sep

Clubs and Groups

Movie Group

Peter is interested in starting a movie group somewhere in the Partnership. He is thinking of it being monthly, located where there is interest in having it and engaging in discussion over supper re the ideas and themes from the movie – a bit like a book club only a movie club. He envisages faith and spirituality would come into the discussions but also the group would suit connecting to a wider group of people from the community. Anyone interested can contact him by phone or email.

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.

Mt Macedon Men's Group

Men's group at Mount Macedon, Tuesday 1st August (always first Tuesday) at 10am. All welcome.

Lancefield Music

Lancefield Music is on fortnightly....the first and third Tuesdays 2pm til 4pm. (1st and 15th Aug) We meet for a community lunch at 12:30pm before the music program on the third Tuesday (15th Aug) of the month.

Gisborne Friends Night

Friends meet at 6:30pm at the church on Friday 4th August.

Muffin 'n More & Craft Group

Both groups meet on Tuesday 8th August at the Gisborne church.

Muffin 'n More 10am - 12noon

Craft Group 12noon - 2pm

BYO Lunch

Page 6

Kyneton Chat'n'Chew

Meet at Kaddy's Cafe,
8 High St, Kyneton on
Friday 25th August at 12
noon.



All are welcome, just turn up. Any questions to Jenny Elston.

Mt Macedon Thistle Club

Our August Meeting on Wednesday 30th August, will be an 'Un-Birthday Party'. Meet 2pm at the home of Judy Carter (see directory for address). Bring a small gift to put in Lucky Dip so we all get a present. Lorraine Tweddle will lead us in devotions.

Items for shoeboxes - Hygiene items - Face washers, combs, toothbrushes etc.

Tylden UCAF

Tylden UCAF is in recess until September.

Advanced notice - Tylden UCAF Luncheon will be Tuesday 26th September. The guest speaker is co-ordinator of the district Nursing Service at the Kyneton Hospital Alison Lowe and the musician is clarinettist Michaela Frantz. The cost is \$8 and there is a trading table.

Romsey UCAF

In July we gathered postage stamps for Sammy Stamp and have nearly a kilo of trimmed stamps to take to Melbourne in the next few weeks. Thank you to all those who forwarded stamps to us. If you have stamps to go down we would be happy to include them.

Just a reminder when opening or tearing/cutting envelopes to be careful not to get too close to or to damage the stamp. Many, up to 1/4, of the stamps we were given will, we think, be rejected as the envelope was torn, or cut, to the edge of or even into the stamp.

We will not be meeting in August.

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 and Meditation every Wednesday morning at 9am at Riddells Creek.
- An Ecumenical Meditation Group meets each Wednesday night at 6pm at the Wood-end 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.

Meetings

Romsey Church Council

Romsey Church Council meets 6pm for tea on **Wednesday 2nd August** at the Strack's.

CoCo

The next meeting of the Partnership Co-ordinating Council is at 9:30am on **Saturday 5th August** at Barfold.

Gisborne Church Council

Gisborne Church Council meets 7:30pm on **Wednesday 9th August** at the church

VicTas Synod Meeting

Synod opens with Worship on **Friday 8th September** at St Michael's church, Collins St, at 7:30pm. Synod meeting continues to 13th September at Box Hill Town Hall.

Invitations from other churches



THE SHACK
SATURDAY AUGUST 19TH 7.00 PM
ENCOURAGE CHURCH

Venue: 7 Mitchell Court Romsey
For Details & Childminding Bookings
Ph (03) 5429 6327

FUNDRAISER
ENTRY: SUGGESTED DONATION \$10.00 P.P.
SNACKS FOR SALE
Childminding available. Classification M.

Wesley Uniting Church
Yarra St, Geelong
175 Years of Worship



22nd October 2017
10am followed by lunch
RSVP for lunch by 30th Sep
2017
Ph 5229 8866

Another motorbike story

The Adventure of Faith

I read a story about an Episcopal priest who was shopping for a Harley Davidson motorcycle. The salesman talked about speed, acceleration, risk, the women that like to ride on them. Then the salesman found out the guy he was selling to



was a minister. Immediately his language and tone of voice changed. He spoke quietly about good mileage, visibility, and how practical it was. The minister wrote this:

Have we told the world that being a Christian is more like riding a lawn mower than a motorcycle? Is the life of faith more safe and sound or dangerous and exciting? The common image of the church is pure lawn-mower- slow, deliberate, plodding. Our task is to take the church out on the open road, give it the gas, and see what the old thing will do!

Hebrews has this wonderful line: "Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen" (Heb 11:1). The example that is given is Abraham and Sarah, who lived out their lives with only a promise.

God tells them to leave behind all the security they have known and get to a new land. Where? God only says, "I will show you." Why are they leaving? Because they believe that somehow God is going to bless them and make a great nation. They are old. The plan is a long shot. Whole

pages in this business plan are simply blank, but they start out anyway. Faith is like that.

Acts of faith are a step forward into the great unknown future. But you come alive in those moments. You are connected, tingling a bit from nerves. If you could stand back from the situation and look at the whole picture dispassionately, you probably wouldn't do it. But you can't. You are in the middle of it. You can't think. You have to choose. You just do it.

When you are old, it is moments like that to which you come back. It is moments like that when you were fully engaged spiritually. You were alive. You made a choice. You jumped, and so many other things followed from it that you couldn't anticipate. Abraham and Sarah could not have anticipated the consequences of their decision to leave. They couldn't really even imagine the birth of a child, let alone that child having children that would become 12 tribes, who in turn would become a whole nation. Great waves of goodness came out of their jump, waves they never lived to see and couldn't really envision. I'm sure all they knew was that they felt alive for that moment. It was a spiritual awakening.

What makes people do that? I want to remind you that most of the people who are drafted into the adventure of faith in the Bible aren't any more religious than anyone else. Abraham and Sarah were ordinary people. Joseph and Mary were ordinarily the kind of people you never hear anything about. Moses, David, Ruth - in every case, there is nothing in the biblical stories about them to suggest that they were more pious, prayed harder, or had some unique divine connection that the rest of us don't have. Scripture seems to go out of its way to suggest the opposite. They were just trying to get on with their lives like the rest of us, when suddenly, in quite an unexpected, unwanted, unanticipated way they are called to make a decision, to open a door to the future, to take a risk and jump. And they did

it. Old Testament scholar Walter Brueggemann puts it this way:

Because of this text which will not go away, we have haunted lives, filled with yearnings for what is not in hand, promises not yet filled, commands not yet obeyed, desires not yet granted, neighbours not yet loved. And because the text will not go away or be silent, we are destined to be endlessly haunted, uneasy, restless, on the way.

Helen Keller got it right when she said, "Life is either a daring adventure or nothing." So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbour. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover. "Faith is the assurance of things hope for, the conviction of things not seen."

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You cannot prevent the birds of sorrow from flying over your head, but you can prevent them from building nests in your hair.

*Chinese Proverb - From Editor's Clip Sheets
© Baker House Book Co*

After the Sunday School teacher told the story of the Prodigal Son to the class, she asked, "Was anyone sorry when the Prodigal son returned?" One boy answered, "The fatted calf"

*- From Editor's Clip Sheets
From Illustrations Unlimited.*

Some people, no matter how old they get, never lose their beauty - they merely move it from their faces to their hearts.

*- From Editor's Clip Sheets
Source unknown*

Success is going from failure to failure without losing enthusiasm.

*- Winston Churchill
From Editor's clip Sheets*

"The past," wrote William Faulkner, "is never dead. It is not even past. History is the continuous river of time and past events are rocks that help keep your feet dry."

*- From Editor's Clip Sheets
© Pulpit Resource.*

When you're lonely,
we wish you LOVE.
When you're down,
we wish you JOY.
When you're troubled,
we wish you PEACE.
When things look empty,
we wish you HOPE.

*- From Editor's Clip Sheets
Source unknown*

The Roman Catholic scholar Cato started to study Greek when he was over eighty. Someone asked why he tackled such a difficult task at his age. Cato said, "It's the earliest age I have left."

*- From Editor's Clip Sheets
From Illustrations Unlimited.*

One reason God created time was so there would be a place to bury the failures of the past

*James Long - Leadership.
- From Editor's clip Sheets*

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

August 2017

1

10am - Mt Macedon
Men's Group
2pm - Prayer at Gisborne
2pm - Lancefield Music

6 Ordinary Sunday 18 7

9am - Worship at Tylden, Romsey
9:30am - Worship at Gisborne
10am - Worship at Barfold (*cuppa at 9:40am*)
10:30am - Worship at Mt Macedon
10:30am - Worship at Kyneton (**50 years of Op-Shop**)
10:45am - Worship at Lancefield (*cuppa at 10:15am*)

8

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

13 Ordinary Sunday 19 14

9am - Worship at Tylden, Romsey
9:30am - Worship at Gisborne, Kyneton
10am - Worship at Metcalfe (*cuppa at 9:40am*)
10:30am - Worship at Mt Macedon
10:45am - Worship at Lancefield (*cuppa at 10:15am*)

15

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

20 Ordinary Sunday 20 21

9am - Worship at Tylden, Romsey
9:30am - Worship at Gisborne, Kyneton
10am - Worship at Mia Mia (*cuppa at 9:40am*)
10:30am - Worship at Mt Macedon
10:45am - Worship at Lancefield (*cuppa at 10:15am*)

22

2pm - Prayer at Gisborne
7:30pm - Bible Study

27 Ordinary Sunday 21 28

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

28

3:30pm - Worship at RM
Begg

29

2pm - Prayer at Gisborne
7:30pm - Bible Study

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>2</p> <p>9am - Worship at RCK 9:30am - The White Goose 11-3 - Lancefield Open 6pm - Meditation at Woodend 6pm - Romsey Church Council</p>	<p>3</p> <p>9am - Labyrinth walk at Riddells Creek</p>	<p>4</p> <p>10am - Prayer at Gisborne 6:30pm - Gisborne Friends</p>	<p>5</p> <p>9:30am - CoCo at Barfold</p>
<p>9</p> <p>9am - Worship at RCK 9:30am - The White Goose 11-3 - Lancefield Open 6pm - Meditation at Woodend 7:30pm - Gisborne Church Council</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9am - Labyrinth walk at Riddells Creek</p>	<p>11</p> <p>10am - Prayer at Gisborne</p>	<p>12</p>
<p>16</p> <p>9am - Worship at RCK 9:30am - The White Goose 11-3 - Lancefield Open 6pm - Meditation at Woodend</p>	<p>17</p> <p>9am - Labyrinth walk at Riddells Creek</p>	<p>18</p> <p>10am - Prayer at Gisborne</p>	<p>19</p>
<p>23</p> <p>9am - Worship at RCK 9:30am - The White Goose 11-3 - Lancefield Open 6pm - Meditation at Woodend</p>	<p>24</p> <p>9am - Labyrinth walk at Riddells Creek</p>	<p>25</p> <p>10am - Prayer at Gisborne 12noon - Chat'n Chew at Kyneton</p>	<p>26</p>
<p>30</p> <p>9am - Worship at RCK 9:30am - The White Goose 10am - Bible Study 11-3 - Lancefield Open 12:30pm - Mt Macedon Thistle Club 6pm - Meditation at Woodend</p>	<p>31</p> <p>9am - Labyrinth walk at Riddells Creek</p>	 <p>An icon from the Uniting Church Icon School. This one is of Lydia, Phoebe and Dorcas.</p>	

National Conference of Lay Preachers

held at CTM, Parkville, Melbourne 7-10 July 2017

What a fantastic weekend. So much happened during the 4 days that I can only cover a few highlights here. If you didn't attend you missed a treat.

Two women, Papua New Guinean, from Thursday Island in the Torres Strait, got the honours for having travelled the most distance. One of them was a Lay Preacher and the other a Lay Worship Leader.

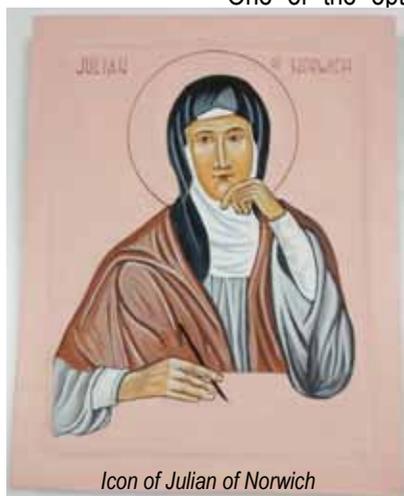
The first session, Friday evening, was titled *Reformation 500*. This year, 2017, on Tuesday 31st October, is 500 years since Martin Luther nailed his '95 Theses' to the door of the Wittenberg Church in 1517. In honour of this we heard from ordained minister of the Lutheran Church, Gordon Wegener, and Rector of the Catholic Theological College, the Very Rev Denis Stanley EV about the Reformation and how the Lutheran and Catholic churches will be recognising Reformation 500. Our D'Arcy Wood was also meant to be contributing but unfortunately was ill and unable to attend. Just a few of the points I noted.- Catholics are commemorating the reformation not celebrating as they have a sadness of broken community. Lutherans and Catholics have worked on this commemoration together. Near the end of the session we were reminded that 400 million Christians (including us) are part of reformed churches worldwide.

Two sessions on Saturday morning were led by Dr Sunny Chen. During the first session we were looking at words, their meanings and how often they are 'lost in translation'. Words such as sin

(one meaning - 'missing the mark' or 'straying from the path' and another meaning - 'broken relationship'), hell (eternal separation from God), death, life (from the tree of life - community, union, together), cross, heaven (why in ancient Hebrew heavens is always plural - 1. clouds, 2. sun, moon and stars and 3. where God dwells), redemption and resurrection. The session included some lively discussion and quite a few light bulb moments. In the second session we first looked at 'water' themes in the gospel of John, then 7 marriage stories in John, some explicit and others metaphor and finally looking at comparisons/similarities between 3 passages, John 19 crucifixion excerpt, John 2 the wedding in Cana and Genesis 2-3 Adam and Eve excerpt.

One of the options during the elective sessions was 'The art of prayer through art' where we learnt about icons as liturgical art and to explore ways of using icons in our worship. Rev Peter Blackwood, co-ordinator of the Uniting Church Icon Schools, showed us the materials used and took us through the steps of 'writing' an icon. He explained the history of icons and the Iconoclastic Controversy when many icons were destroyed. We

discussed what made iconography different to other religious artwork. Peter had quite a collection of icons on display while he spoke. We were then led through a short worship segment with an icon of Julian of Norwich as a focal point. Peter read some of her work including the words "All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well". We sat quietly for a while, meditating on what we had heard and



Icon of Julian of Norwich

finished with a prayer from her writings.

There were a number of other electives including 'The art of public prayer', 'Intergenerational ministry', 'Messy church' and 'Singing the Psalms'.

In the evening we let our hair down a bit when

Rev Chris Meneilly entertained us in a session titled '*A little magic: making worship more engaging*'.

Yes, we had some magic which he says we know as slight of hand and trickery whereas God never plays tricks on us. God is for real. We were introduced to 'Cuddles' a large hand puppet with whom he has conversations about faith. He said that working with a puppet is scary as you don't always know where it is going to go and sometimes you can get into deep water and not know how to get out. Chris told us of one Sunday morning when for some reason he couldn't end the conversation with Cuddles and ended up with

him for the whole service. Cuddles asked questions about everything they were doing and butted in during the sermon. He was very relieved when that service finally finished and he could put Cuddles away.

Chris then shared with us his love of pop-up and children's picture books most of which are secular stories but a theme of our relationship with God or with each other can be found. He shared with us a story about a funeral he conducted where the woman had been, I think, a children's librarian. Instead of flowers everyone was asked to bring a children's picture book to the funeral where they would be gathered and sent to those who could use them. They ended up with an enormous pile of over 400 books. He read to us the book he read at the funeral. It is titled 'The Black Book of Colours'. Every page

is black. There is a line of white writing on each double page spread. The story is also written in braille. The story is descriptive, for example 'Brown crunches under his feet like autumn leaves. Sometimes it smells like chocolate, and other times it stinks.' The illustrations are colour-

less but raised and tactile.

After worship on Sunday morning we heard Dr Paul Forgasz, a Jew, now semi-retired, previously a lecturer at Monash University in biblical, medieval and modern Jewish history for almost 20 years and in an earlier life was headmaster of the secondary campus of Mount Scopus College. Paul introduced to us to the Jewish Jesus. We tend to forget that Jesus was a Jew and lived the life of a Jew. Paul talked about Jewish history, the destruction of the temple and exile to Babylon, return from exile and the completion of the 2nd temple. We learnt

about the Torah and the end of the age of the prophets and the beginning of interpretation of the Word of God. He talked about the temple, the synagogue, the study house and about sectarian divisions - Sadduces, Pharisees and Essenes and how Jesus fitted into that framework. We learnt about Tzitzit and Tefillin - fringes and phylacteries, prayer shawls and other garments. Next we looked at Jesus and the Law, links between the Passover and the Last Super, the influence of Paul's Christology and anti-Semitism, Jesus relations with the fellow Jews of his day and what is portrayed as an argument was the normal rigorous debate that all Jews take part in even today, and finished with the narrative of Jesus Passion. Phew! and I've just listed the headings from my pages of notes. Somewhere in the middle of all that we had stopped for lunch.



Dr Paul Forgasz blessing lunch

The middle part of the afternoon was free time then Lay Preachers from across the country met for discussion and information session on resources, the future of the ministry of Lay Preaching and the new national standards for LP training. Rohan Prior talked about the outcomes of the Royal Commission on Child Safety and the importance of the WWCC. He also explained that each state has different legislation. VicTas Synod has congregations in 3 states, Victoria, Tasmania and a few over the border into NSW so has to get abreast of 3 lots of regulations and requirements. They feel that eventually the Federal Government will be forced to introduce national regulations to clear up the present dogs breakfast.

On Sunday evening we were entertained by Rev Dr Avril Hannah-Jones telling us the story of how comedian Adam Hills made fun of her on national television and how the first Sci-fi service came out of that. We enjoyed the film clips produced by the Adam Hills team and seeing the Romsey church not only on national television but internationally as well. I was reminded of the Darlek who was pushed up the ramp into the church porch but got stuck there. It was too wide to get into the church, then couldn't get back out due to the lip of the front step. Avril

also talked about the theology within the sci-fi services and what has happened since that first service. There is still a fabulous turnout each year.

Monday morning saw reduced numbers. Some people had to return to work and several others had retired sick.

Rev Dr Jenny Byrnes talked with us about 'Brain matters: life, faith and neuroscience'. The same topic that she had spoken on at the Peter Bar-cham Lecture at Gisborne in March last year. It was certainly worth a second hearing.

The morning and the conference finished with worship during which people shared their thoughts on the various sessions throughout the weekend.

Catering was provided by the staff of the cafe at CTM, they served us with a beautiful selection of meals including salad platters, wraps, sandwiches, soups, pastries and curries.

We were accommodated at Maclean House, Ormond College and local hotels. Some people chose to drive from their home each day.

I was a great weekend and apart from the brilliant teaching, I really enjoyed getting to know the interstate people over breakfast.

Jay Brooks - Romsey

Coco Report

for Meeting held on Saturday 1st July 2017 at St Andrew's UC Kyneton

CoCo members were grateful to the Kyneton people for having the heaters going on such a cold, frosty morning.

Devotions - Chairperson Colin welcomed us and Annette then led us in a thought about the NAIDOC week theme of language. The importance of using language to be a Light In The Darkness. We thought about being without lan-

guage and how to show concern and inclusion. We listened to Psalm 23 sung beautifully in an Aboriginal language.

The Minutes of the previous CoCo Meeting were confirmed. Also the **Treasurer's Report** was accepted.

Ministry Team Report - Annette presented the Report – this is available to read at each of the

Partnership Churches.

The main points of the Report were -

- Riddells Creek - The weekly Labyrinth Walk; White Goose Book Exchange and Drop-In up and running; possibility of young families becoming involved in a Godly Play based worship.
- Lancefield hosted their first Community Lunch in conjunction with the classical music afternoon.
- The Ministry Team met with Rose Broadstock – proposal for relocating Woodend Op Shop to the Church property.
- Recognition of the strain Woodend has been under with the Church property issues.
- At Romsey the 6pm service was been discontinued – will look at other initiatives that might serve Romsey better.
- The celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the UC held at three different locations was mentioned – good feedback. Also the 40 days of prayer leading up to this.
- Mindful of members and people in the wider community with health issues.
- Attended many Community Groups to work on building relationships in the various Macedon Ranges towns.
- Annette has attended a Workshop on applying for Grants. She is willing to share this info to assist any Congregation applying for Grants.
- She has completed her VCC Emergency Ministries Training.
- Expressed the concern for Wendy and her family at this difficult time for them. We have the Rev Judy Archer providing Supply Ministry while Wendy is on leave. We hold Wendy and family in our prayers.

After Annette's Report, Colin commented on how well the Ministry Team were working together.

Keeping Children Safe Project

Colin reported that the measures the Uniting Church have put in place for the 'Keeping Children Safe Project' have been presented to the Hearing. We are waiting on further instructions on what else needs to be done. Data Base may need to be updated.

A BOMAR Grant has been requested for an update of kitchen facilities at Riddells Creek – for the use of the White Goose and for hall hire users.

Under the heading of Strategic Planning, the possibility of discussions on various issues was mentioned e.g. Environment Group etc. at Gisborne. No report on proposed Church Camp – info about available facilities given to Peter.

Property Committee report

The Woodend building problems were mentioned.

Some work proposed to protect the tap and letterbox at Riddells Creek – vulnerable to being hit by cars. Also repairs to the ramp and verandah will be temporarily effected by David.

Annette leads the Pastoral Care Team – ideas of getting to know each other better across the Partnership – possibly meet for meals etc. Please keep Annette informed of Pastoral needs as they arise in each Congregation.

As always activities, resources etc. are on the Website and in PIP.

Our combined 5th Sunday Service will be in the Tylden Community Hall – Peter will co-ordinate the Worship. Bring a plate to share. The Northern Congregations would like to host a 5th Sunday Service (possibly October).

Congregation Reports were mostly positive –

- Northern Congregations: Well attended and the members more active, better Pastoral Care. Some organs repaired; stained glass windows in Sutton Grange being studied; Metcalfe changed the Church around for better winter warmth.

- Kyneton: Op Shop 50th Anniversary to be held on August 6th. Felt their area of Mission is in the use of their buildings by the Community. Working on putting kitchen facilities in the Church to make the site more flexible. The church organ has been serviced.
- Lancefield: Things ticking over. Music afternoons going well. Kindergarten can be a mixed blessing – maintenance can be a problem.
- Romsey: Successful Singularity Choir Concert. Also catered for a large funeral. May buy split system heaters for the Hall.
- Mt Macedon: Open Church has been successful – will recess over winter and resume in spring. Thistle Club and Men's Group going well.
- Tylden: Malcolm's Concert went well. Wednesday night Services trialled – will not continue over winter but may resume in the warmer months. Extra involvement at the

Op Shop with George and Shirley away.

- Gisborne: New heaters good. Solar panels very successful. Attendances solid. Have been responding to Synod Mission Statement. D'Arcy's response will be made available. Muffins and More not really hitting the mark for Outreach as hoped. OXFAM meeting went really well. \$300.00 went to Syrian Appeal. Conversations still continuing.

Colin passed around a Logo for our proposed banners. Commented that CoCo Meetings are working well – people listening to each other.

The Presbytery Pastoral Relations Committee has approved Jay to preside at Communion within the Macedon Ranges Partnership – Peter to be her mentor .

Comments on the 40th Anniversary of Union Services were favourable at all venues.

Annette gave the Blessing to conclude the Meeting.

Our next meeting is on Saturday 5th August at Barfold commencing at 9:30am.

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

Sunday 6th August	Ord Sun 18	G	Genesis 32:22-31	17:1-7, 15	Romans 9:1-5	Matthew 14:13-21
Sunday 13th August	Ord Sun 19	G	Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28	105:1-6, 16-22, 45b	Romans 10:5-15	Matthew 14:22-33
Sunday 20th August	Ord Sun 20	G	Genesis 45:1-15	133	Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32	Matthew 15:(10-20), 21-28
Sunday 27th August	Ord Sun 21	G	Exodus 1:8 to 2:10	124	Romans 12:1-8	Matthew 16:13-20

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/#>

30 July - 5 August	Republic of Congo, Gabon, Sao Tome and Principe
6-12 August	Cameroon, Central African Republic, Equatorial Guinea
13-19 August	Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger
20-26 August	Liberia, Sierra Leone
27 August - 2 September	Cape Verde, The Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Senegal

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>
<p><u>CoCo</u> - (Co-ordinating Council)</p>	<p><u>Chair</u> - Colin Chapman <u>Secretary</u> - <u>Minute Secretary</u> - Fiona Armour <u>Treasurer</u> - Paul Gilbertson</p>	<p><u>Finance Committee</u> Chair - Paul Gilbertson, Lyn Ward, Colin Chapman & Bronwyn Hewitt</p> <p><u>Property Committee</u> Chair - Ian Kennedy Paul Gilbertson, Noel Shaw, & George Roberts</p>
	<p><u>Editor Partnership in Print</u> - Jay Brooks</p>	

