



**Uniting Church in Australia**  
**Synod of Victoria and Tasmania**  
**Presbytery of Yarra Yarra**

PO Box 4308  
Balwyn East VIC 3103

15<sup>th</sup> October 2017

## **Notes and news for Yarra Yarra Congregations and Institutions**

*Once again this newsletter contains two sections. The first has information directly related to Yarra Yarra Presbytery, and this is followed by information about items which may be of interest to your congregations.*

*Please identify other items relevant to your community, and promote the issues and events listed below through your own newsletters and other communication channels as appropriate. There is much going on, so please take a few minutes to review.*

### **PRESBYTERY NEWS**

#### **Presbytery Nominations – Can You Play A Part?**

All Members of Presbytery should be aware that a Call for Nominations will shortly be issued to fill vacancies in significant Offices, Committees, and Working Groups within the life of the Presbytery.

With the sole exception of the Presbytery Treasurer, all other Offices (including Chairperson and Secretary) will require nominations to fill, as will the Chairperson positions, Convenorships, and Membership of all Presbytery Committees and Working Groups.

Members of Presbytery are asked to consider now what part they might play in the life of the Presbytery by nominating for one of the available vacancies. Alternately, you might consider those you know within the Presbytery who might possess the gifts and graces needed to make a positive contribution to the life of the Presbytery. Have a conversation with others – you might discover within yourself, or within somebody else, the capacities the Presbytery needs to carry out its administrative, financial, and pastoral functions.

Nominations may be made on the Presbytery's web site at <http://yarrayarrapresbytery.unitingchurch.org.au/nominations/>

Anyone with questions or suggestions should contact the Chair of the Nominations Committee, Rev. Brendan Byrne, at [minister@mountviewuca.org](mailto:minister@mountviewuca.org) or any other member of the Nominations Committee.

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| Chairperson          | Lauleti Tu'inauvai | 03 9878 6608 | <a href="mailto:lauletitui@gmail.com">lauletitui@gmail.com</a>                       |
| Presbytery Ministers | Paul Stephens      | 03 9857 1001 | <a href="mailto:paul.stephens@victas.uca.org.au">paul.stephens@victas.uca.org.au</a> |
|                      | Morag Logan        | 03 9857 1002 | <a href="mailto:morag.logan@victas.uca.org.au">morag.logan@victas.uca.org.au</a>     |
|                      | Dan Wootton        | 03 9857 1000 | <a href="mailto:dwootton@victas.uca.org.au">dwootton@victas.uca.org.au</a>           |
| Secretary            | Geoffrey Grinton   | 03 9857 1003 | <a href="mailto:pyy.secretary@victas.uca.org.au">pyy.secretary@victas.uca.org.au</a> |

## **Do you have a spare manse?**

The Presbytery regularly receives requests for manses that could be used for accommodation for a variety of purposes. Here is one current request. If you are able to assist, please contact the Presbytery Minister, Administration, Dan Wootton at [dwootton@victas.uca.org.au](mailto:dwootton@victas.uca.org.au) or tel 9857 1000.

Uniting ReGen, which focusses on alcohol and other drug services, is extending its residential youth withdrawal building at Moreland Hall in Coburg from 5 to 8 beds which is great. What is challenging is that we need to find a 4 bedroom home for rent while the construction is underway, probably January – June 2018. A house or manse in the north (say: Hume, Moreland, Darebin) of Melbourne which is available during these months would be of great assistance.

The program operates with 4 young people each week who are coming off drugs with 24/7 staff support and a full week of activities and education sessions. It is not a particularly violent or risky program and has a significant impact on the young people involved. The requirement is for an average 4 bedroom house for a few months.

## **WHAT IS "INSIDE MY HEAD"?**

Habitat Uniting Church and Boroondara Community Outreach are sponsors of a music theatre piece created by Cath Rutten in collaboration with "All Directions" Community Choir. Drawing on early gospel music, with original songs and poems by choir members, "Inside My Head" is a revealing and personal account that explores the lived experience of mental illness through visual imagery, sound and music.

When: Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> October, at 7pm

Where: Habitat Uniting Church, Kew Hall 23 Highbury Grove, Kew

Cost: \$10 (free for concession card holders)

Bookings are essential: [trybooking.com/SGEO](http://trybooking.com/SGEO)

Enquiries: Natalie Dixon-Monu, tel 0409 019 269

## **COMMUNITY CONCERT TO SUPPORT VANUATU WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP**

An afternoon of sacred & secular music raising funds to support women in Vanuatu in their struggle to gain skills and confidence to take up leadership roles in a society where, until now, all such leadership belonged exclusively to men. This concert, part of the Vanuatu Women in Leadership Project and featuring the Immanuel Singers will be held at Surrey Hills Uniting Church, corner Canterbury Rd/Valonia Ave, Surrey Hills, on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October at 2.30pm. Enquiries to Rob Gotch, [robgotch@optusnet.com.au](mailto:robgotch@optusnet.com.au).

## **EDUCATION FOR PURPOSEFUL LIVING**

The Principal of Kingswood College, Elisabeth Lenders, and the Christian Research Association invite you to the launch of *Educating for Purposeful Living in a Post-traditional Age* by Rev Dr Philip Hughes. Light refreshments will be served.

When: Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2017 4.00pm – 5.00pm

Where: Senior School Centre Kingswood College Station Street, Box Hill. (enter via Gate 2, Piedmont Street)

Enquiries and RSVP: [kwc@kingswoodcollege.vic.edu.au](mailto:kwc@kingswoodcollege.vic.edu.au) or 9896 1700 by Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2017.

## **JEWISH CHRISTIAN MUSLIM ASSOCIATION FRIENDSHIP WALK 2017**

Starting at the Albanian Mosque in Carlton North we will walk together to the East Melbourne Hebrew Congregation Synagogue, then walk across the road to St Peters Eastern Hill Anglican Church. We will start with a prayer of peace and reflections and then learn about some of the history and traditions of each of the places we visit.

JCMA is a membership based organisation for Jewish, Christian and Muslim people of faith. It is supported by the Islamic Council of Victoria, Victorian Council of Churches and Jewish Community Council of Victoria.

To register book your free ticket at <https://jcmaf.w.eventbrite.com.au> or for more information call Ginette Everest ☎ 9287 5590 or 0400 211 221 or email to: [executiveofficer@jcma.org.au](mailto:executiveofficer@jcma.org.au).

Date: Sunday 22 October 2017, Time: 1:45pm to 5:15pm

Starting point: Australian Albanian Islamic Society, 765 Drummond Street, Carlton North [<http://bit.ly/1KbPHwz>]

## **COMMEMORATE THE 500<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE PROTESTANT REFORMATION**

An all-Melbourne-Church-event commemorating 500 years of Reformation, to be held in St. Paul's Cathedral, Melbourne, on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> October from 2–4 p.m. We are looking forward to having Indigenous, Tongan, Korean, Chinese, African, German, Welsh, Indonesian and Swedish Church Choirs sing hymns in their own languages, interspersed with traditional church hymns in English. Our event features congregations who worship God in many languages sharing in celebrating the meaning of the mother-tongue for spirituality. Each one expresses the beauty and the individuality of how the Gospel is spread in Australia.

As we hear many languages spoken and sung, we can experience the variety of the Christian heritage in Melbourne. At our event, we plan to welcome the cross carried by the Catholic Charismatic Renewal movement. Church leaders from Uniting, Lutheran and Anglican churches will support the advertisement of this event to their suburban congregations. We are expecting that normal Sunday church goers, either from English speaking or from other language congregations, will want to join in this event. All of these people will be able to enjoy themselves singing famous church hymns in one of the great buildings in Melbourne, St Paul's Cathedral. They will also be able to join Church Unite in Federation Square following our hymn-singing event.

Finally, we will be joining the Roman Catholic - Lutheran commemoration service at St. Johns, Southgate on the same day, 28<sup>th</sup> October, 7.00 pm, featuring messages from Archbishop Denis Hart and Bishop Lester Priebbenow and the Bach cantata *O ewiges Feuer, o Ursprung der Liebe* (O eternal fire, origin of love).

When: Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> October from 2–4 p.m

Where: St Paul's Cathedral, Melbourne

Enquiries: Alexander Yule, [yules@optusnet.com.au](mailto:yules@optusnet.com.au)

## **MIND, BODY, SPIRIT AT NORTH BALWYN**

Speaker: Julie McDonald, Co-coordinator at the Bethel Centre, Counsellor and Creative Arts Therapist.

Topic: "Responding with hope to heal abuse and misuse of power in the Church"

The Church is a sacred refuge. Shared with family and friends, it is held to be a safe place but what happens when you have been hurt by the church in some way? It can be difficult to make sense of these experiences and very easy to become disoriented to one's faith.

Bethel works to respond to the reality of the hurt a person or people within a congregation have experienced. The goal is to restore faith, hold hope and foster healing.

The talk will be followed by soup and then a short reflective service.

When: Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> October, 5:30pm to 7:30pm

Where: North Balwyn Uniting Church, 17-21 Duggan St, Balwyn North.  
Contact: Nell Potter ☎ 9857 8412 or [mail@nbuc.org.au](mailto:mail@nbuc.org.au)

### **TOORAK UNITING OPEN DAY**

All facilities at Toorak Uniting, including the John Macrae Centre and the Kinross Arts Centre will be open during a Community Open Day on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> October, from 10am to 1pm. Enquiries: John Clarke, [John.Clarke@vt.uniting.org](mailto:John.Clarke@vt.uniting.org)

### **MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID COURSE**

Are you interested in learning skills to assist friends, family and co-workers who are experiencing mental health challenges? This course will enable participants to learn the signs and symptoms of mental health problems, and where to get help. After completing the course each participant will be eligible to an accredited Mental Health First Aider.

When: 9am to 5pm, Monday 30 October and 31 October

Where: Centre for Theology and Ministry, 29 College Crescent, Parkville

Facilitator: Marcel Koper

Cost: \$210.00

Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea will be provided on both days.

Go to <https://www.trybooking.com/SHRJ> to book your place. Spaces are limited.

For any further enquiries contact Bethel Centre on tel 9859 8700 or alternatively email [support@bethelcentre.com.au](mailto:support@bethelcentre.com.au)

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*If you have information that you wish to have distributed through this newsletter, please ensure that it is submitted by the start of the month in which the item is to appear. I plan to try to send newsletters out in the third week, so that means if your event occurs early in the month, you will need to have it submitted by the start of the **previous** month.*

*The newsletter is sent to Church Council Secretaries. If you should not be receiving it, please contact me at [pyy.secretary@victas.uca.org.au](mailto:pyy.secretary@victas.uca.org.au) with the name of your congregation and the name of the correct person.*