



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

PO Box 4308
Balwyn East VIC 3103

12th February 2018

Notes and news for Yarra Yarra Congregations and Institutions

As usual, the 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. Apologies for the lateness of this edition, and particularly to those whose events have already taken place.

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

A New Year for the Presbytery

Yes, I know this is already the second newsletter for 2018, but as everyone returns from holidays or relaxing during January there is a real feeling of activity around the Presbytery. Most committees have now had at least one meeting already this year, and committee members are preparing for a busy time ahead. Following the first presbytery meeting on 3rd March there will be some changes as new chairpersons take up their new roles, and some new people begin their involvement as committee members.

As indicated in the last newsletter, the first meeting for the year will include the installation of our new Chairperson, Rev Ross Pearce (also the Minister at Highfield Road, Canterbury). **The meeting will be held at the Plenty Valley Church on Saturday, 3rd March, commencing at 9.30am.** Information about the agenda, will be distributed to Presbytery members shortly. We will also recognise the service of those who have been members of committees and welcome those who will be members of committees during 2018-9. Let's ensure that this is a real celebration with a full attendance.

Induction Services

With several changes to ministerial placements in the Presbytery, all members of Presbytery, as well as members of nearby congregations, are invited to attend the following induction services.

Chairperson	Lauleti Tu'inavai	03 9878 6608	lauletitui@gmail.com
Presbytery Ministers	Ian Brown (acting)	0439 931 080	Ian.Brown@victas.uca.org.au
	Morag Logan	03 9857 1002	morag.logan@victas.uca.org.au
	Dan Wootton	03 9857 1000	dwootton@victas.uca.org.au
	Geoffrey Grinton	03 9857 1003	pyy.secretary@victas.uca.org.au
Secretary			

Burwood will celebrate the induction of Rev John Mann on Friday **16th February at 7.45 pm** at Burwood Uniting Church, cnr of Hyslop Street and Warrigal Road, Glen Iris.

Canterbury Balwyn Road will celebrate the induction of Rev Salesi Faupula on **Sunday 18th March at 2.30pm** at their church on the corner of Balwyn Road and Erica Street, Balwyn.

Ashburton will welcome Rev Lavingi Tupou who will be inducted on **Friday 16th March at 7.30pm** at the church at 3 Asburn Grove, Ashburton.

Presbytery members are reminded that these are Presbytery functions, and invited to attend those services which are in their own area. Ministers are invited to robe using red as the liturgical colour. Please plan to attend at least one of these services over the next month, even if it is not possible for you attend them all.

Presbytery Database Updates

Thank you to Church Council Secretaries who continue to provide updates to the database. It would be helpful to have these completed before the Presbytery meeting to ensure our records are current.

Presbytery Resourcing

Following the decisions of the Synod in 2017 about the resourcing of Presbyteries and the conclusions of the placements of two of our Presbytery Ministers (Paul Stephens on 21st January and Morag Logan on 30th April), the Presbytery Standing Committee and other leaders have been meeting to discuss how it will be possible to resource the Presbytery of Yarra Yarra to continue to carry out its role of oversight within this area. There will be many challenges, particularly over the next few months as we work to determine a staffing model that is compatible with reduced funding but which still addresses our increasing demand for many different types of support to congregations and other bodies. Your prayers for those who will attend a meeting convened by the Synod to discuss presbytery resourcing on 20th February will be appreciated.

LENT EVENT – FAITH IN ACTION

UnitingWorld can provide Bible study and worship resources to support their Lent Event program. If your congregation has not received information directly, you can find out more at www.unitingworld.org.au.

BEHIND THE WALL

The Congregation of Mark the Evangelist in North Melbourne, in collaboration with the Palestine Israel Ecumenical Network, invite people to come and hear Vice-Chancellor Brother Peter Bray speak on what is happening in Bethlehem University and in the Holy Land, at a session entitled *Oasis of Peace Behind the Wall: Bethlehem University in the Holy Land*. The meeting will be held on Thursday 22nd February at 6:30pm, at Elm Street Hall, 4 Elm Street, North

Melbourne, near cnr of Curzon Street (Melways ref 2A H10). Enquiries: Heather Mathew, tel 0403 654 185.

MINDFULNESS IN PRACTICE

East Key Uniting Church invites you to a day of mindfulness, meditation and music – a diverse program exploring the art of wellbeing. Inspiring speakers including Rev Paul Sanders will provoke you, calming activities will offer you time out and beautiful music will transport you – to wherever it is you wish to go. It is a blend of both the secular and the spiritual. Proceedings will close with a moving musical meditation by the Melbourne Threshold Choir.

The programme is on Saturday 3rd March 2018, starting at 11am and finishing by 3.30pm. We encourage participants to arrive at 10.30am and have a coffee before proceedings kick off at 11am. The venue is, East Kew Uniting Church, 142 Normanby Road, Kew East, 3102. Enquiries: Bronwyn Daniels, tel 0417 383 764 or bronwynambrose.daniels@gmail.com.

WOMEN OF FAITH

The Faith Communities Council of Victoria and Murrumbeena Uniting Church continue their 2018 programme with Men of Faith on 15th April. Everyone – men and women, any faith background, those searching for faith too – is invited to come and share in conversation, listen to these amazing stories and ask some questions with these four women sharing their life journeys from their different faiths.

AUSTRALIAN WELSH MALE CHOIR INVITATION

The Australian Welsh Male Choir has a history of 45 years during which it has continued to raise funds for charities including chaplaincies across Victoria. They are seeking to establish a chapter in the central business district and invites interested singers. More information: Arthur Poole at arthur.ruth@bigpond.com or by calling 0425 725 525.

NEW WORSHIP RESOURCES

The Assembly's Worship Working Group has compiled new resources and guidelines to be used by Uniting Church congregations and Presbyteries. They are available online here: <https://assembly.uca.org.au/cudw/worship-resources-and-publications/item/2783-new-worship-resources>

NEWS AND EVENTS FROM CTM

Early in 2017 Mark Scandrette introduced us to “Belonging and Becoming” and “Practicing the Way of Jesus”. Mark and Lisa are returning in 2018 for a series of events:

Tue 6 Mar, 10:00am-12:30pm + 1:30pm-4:00pm: Create thriving cultures & practices

- Hosted at [CTM Parkville](#) and live-streamed to [Horsham UC](#) and other venues
- Two half-day workshops for local/regional church leaders & ministry workers, creating ‘networks/communities of practice’
- Morning: creating thriving family/intergenerational culture, “Belonging and Becoming”

- Afternoon: faith-full practices for discipleship and mission, “Practicing the Way of Jesus”
- Participant cost \$40 (inc GST) includes refreshments & lunch. [Registrations open mid-January.](#)

Tue 6 Mar, 7:00pm-9:30pm: workshop on “Creating a thriving family culture”

- Hosted at [Living Faith Church](#), 37 Grimshaw St, Greensborough
- Evening workshop for families & leaders on creating thriving family culture, “Belonging & Becoming”
- Goals include connecting families with each other for ongoing encouragement, support, & accountability
- Participant cost \$20 includes light refreshments. [Registrations open mid-January.](#)

Fri-Mon 9-12 March: Synod Social Justice Family Camp 2018

- [Mt Morton Camp & Conference Centre](#), Fairmont Ave, Belgrave Heights
- Join the annual Synod family camp network, a dispersed community of faith-full families diving deep
- *What are the practices and approaches that will help us to be strong, enriched families where each member is loved and supported to become all that they were made to be, and enabled to thrive?*
- 6pm Friday 9 March until 1pm Monday 12 March 2018: [download the promo flyer](#) or [register online now!](#)

Full details of these and other events can be found on the CTM Events page at <http://ctm.uca.edu.au/ctm/events/>.

SAFE CHURCH TRAINING

North Balwyn Uniting Church will host a training session for congregational leaders on Sunday 6th May from 11.30 am to 1 pm. The church is at 17–21 Duggan Street, Balwyn North. Those attending are asked to bring their own lunch. More information: Nell Potter at mail@nbuc.org.au.

*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 with the name of your congregation and the name of the correct person.