



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

PO Box 4308
Balwyn East VIC 3103

13th March 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

Induction Services

Here is another reminder of two induction services coming up in the next few days.

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 Ashburn 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, even if it is not possible for you attend them both.

Presbytery Resourcing

A lively discussion at the recent meeting of the Presbytery made some important decisions about the future staffing of the Presbytery. The Presbytery gave approval in principle for a presbytery staffing model based on at least three full-time (or equivalent) Presbytery Minister positions as a basis for future planning by the Standing Committee. The Standing Committee was directed to proceed as quickly as possible to appoint a task group to prepare a Placement Profile for Presbytery Ministers in the Presbytery of Yarra Yarra which recognises the particular need in this

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| Chairperson | Ross Pearce | 0437 561 833 | rgpearce.au@gmail.com |
| Presbytery Ministers | Morag Logan | 03 9857 1002 | morag.logan@victas.uca.org.au |
| | Dan Wootton | 03 9857 1000 | dwootton@victas.uca.org.au |
| Secretary | Geoffrey Grinton | 03 9857 1003 | pyy.secretary@victas.uca.org.au |

Presbytery for intercultural and missional support, and based as far as possible on a general description of the following broad areas of presbytery activity:

- Working with congregations, agencies and institutions;
- Working with ministry agents; and
- Working with administration, finance and property to support both congregations and ministers.

The Standing Committee will be starting to address these issues at its meeting this week.

Presbytery Database Updates

Thank you to Church Council Secretaries who continue to provide updates to the database. There are still many congregations who have not responded, so please check if yours is one of them.

Would you like to help at the 15th Assembly?

The 15th Triennial Assembly Meeting will be held at Box Hill Town Hall, Melbourne from Sunday 8 July – Saturday 14 July 2018. This meeting of approximately 265 members of the Uniting Church in Australia meets for six days every three years to discuss the direction and priorities of the Uniting Church. The outcome is a series of decisions that guide the life of the Church and its advocacy over the following three years.

The Victoria/Tasmania Synod office is currently seeking Melbourne based Uniting Church congregation members who would like to be a part of this important event in the life of the Church in a volunteer capacity.

Volunteers will not only provide essential practical and logistical assistance to members but also provide a friendly welcome particularly to those travelling from interstate and overseas.

Information and briefing sessions will be provided to all volunteers prior to the meeting.

Those wishing to volunteer may complete a paper registration form and return it to David Rowe, email David at David.Rowe@victas.uca.org.au or complete an online registration at <http://www.cvent.com/d/ytqqr/4W> .

LENTEN STUDIES with Rev. Coralie Ling

Theme: ‘Women of the Reformation’. Amid tension and conflict many reformation women took creative steps in their new found faith. Discover how these women developed reformed spirituality and theology, independent voices and strong action for justice. The second session will be on Wednesday, 14th March, focusing on ‘Ruling women’, Marguerite de Navarre 1492-1549, Vittoria Colonna, and Jeanne D’Albret.

7.30 – 9.00PM. Cost: \$10 incl. Refreshments

The study will be at North Balwyn Uniting Church, 17–21 Duggan St, Balwyn North. Contact: www.nbuc.org.au or mail@nbuc.org.au or 9857 8412 (Wed – Fri)

MIND BODY SPIRIT

The speaker at the next Mind Body Spirit program will be Sary Zananiri, an Australian-Palestinian artist and academic. His PhD looked at the ways in which biblical frameworks colour the imaging of the Palestinian landscape.

Topic: “The Crucifixion narrative and its political implications. Christianity, indigeneity and colonialism”. To be followed by soup and a short service of reflective worship in the church.

Sunday, 25th March from 5:30pm to 7:30pm at North Balwyn Uniting Church, 17–21 Duggan St, Balwyn North. Contact: www.nbuc.org.au or mail@nbuc.org.au or 9857 8412 (Wed – Fri)

DEVOTIONAL LISTENING: THE ST JOHN PASSION – J.S Bach

Part 1: Wednesday, 21st March at 7:30pm

Part 2: Wednesday, 28th March at 7:30pm

at North Balwyn Uniting Church, 17–21 Duggan St, Balwyn North. Contact: www.nbuc.org.au or mail@nbuc.org.au or 9857 8412 (Wed – Fri)

MAUNDY THURSDAY TENEBRAE SERVICE AT AUBURN

The Service of Tenebrae has a rich tradition in the church, and is marked by movement from light into darkness with the extinguishing of candles. Through words and music for choir and congregation this Holy Week service, movingly dramatises the suffering, death, and burial of Jesus Christ. It will be sung by the choir of Auburn Uniting Church and the Ad Hoc Singers directed by Bruce Macrae with organist Margaret Pettitt.

TENEBRAE: A SERVICE OF DARKNESS, arranged by Hal Hopson

Auburn Uniting Church, 81 Oxley Road, Hawthorn

Thursday 29th March, 7:30pm

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.

FRIENDS OF AUBURN TOWER LEARN ABOUT ARTHUR STREETON

The Great War through an Australian Artist's Eyes – Arthur Streeton paints the Western Front. Julie Dodds-Streeton will present an illustrated talk based on her research of the renowned Australian artist Sir Arthur Streeton's experience as a war artist in the Great War. Arthur Streeton was her late husband's grandfather. Thursday, 19th April at Auburn Uniting Church Hall, Hepburn Street, Hawthorn, at 7:30pm. Enquires: Elizabeth Bethune on tel 9818 2726.

SAFE CHURCH TRAINING

Several training sessions have been scheduled for this Presbytery over the next few months, as follows:

- 1) South Camberwell Gospel Hall UC (910 Toorak Road, Camberwell) on 25th March (Sunday) at 12:30 pm. This will be conducted by Rev. Swee An Koh. Please email Sheila Bellamy at shebell@bigpond.net.au if you want to attend.
- 2) Gospel Hall UC Melbourne will be hosting English/Chinese (Cantonese) Safe Church Training on 15 April Sunday, 148 Lonsdale St, at 10:45 am. This session will be run in English and interpreted in Cantonese
- 3) Gospel Hall UC Melbourne will be hosting a further session on 22 April Sunday, at 196 Lt Bourke Street, at 1:00 pm for a Chinese audience in English. This will be led by Ms. Barb Brook. Please contact Alice Tang at if you want to attend.
- 4) North Balwyn Uniting Church (17-21 Duggan St, North Balwyn) on Sunday 6th May from 11.30am to 1pm. Rev. Anneke Oppewal will be leading a session. BYO your own lunch Please inform Nell Potter if you want to attend at mail@nbuc.org.au or phone 9857 8412.

*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.