



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

PO Box 4308
Balwyn East VIC 3103

22nd May 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

May Presbytery Meeting

A well-attended meeting of the Presbytery at the Burwood Heights Uniting Church spent time considering a range of important matters, and made some significant decisions. A highlight of the meeting was a presentation by Sarah Tomilson, who is close to completing her studies and formation as a Minister of the Word. The Presbytery affirmed Sarah's readiness for ordination, subject to completion of her studies and the acceptance of a call to a placement. We also heard from David Withers, the Synod Strategic Framework Minister. David provided an introduction to the Synod's strategic framework, and the significance of the priorities that have been adopted for the current triennium.

A new Presbytery Minister for Yarra Yarra

One of the key decisions at the Presbytery meeting was in response to a proposal from the Joint Nominating Committee appointed to work towards seeking a Presbytery Minister whose work will have an emphasis on working with ministry agents. The meeting resolved to issue a call to the Rev Liz McMillan, and we are delighted to be able to confirm that Liz has accepted that call. Liz is currently Presbytery Minister Pastoral Care in the Presbytery of Port Phillip Est, and will bring considerable experience, wisdom and understanding to this new role in Yarra Yarra. A commencement date is still to be finalised, but will be in about three months. Please pray for Liz as she moves into this time of transition.

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

Presbytery meeting

A special Presbytery meeting has been scheduled for Saturday 16th June at Greensborough Uniting Church, starting at 9:30am. The purpose of the meeting is to receive reports from the Ministry Formation Committee about applicants for candidature in the Uniting Church, and to hear from the applicants themselves prior to their presentation to the Synod Selection Conference in August. Please watch for further information.

Annual Grants Program

On 8th May congregations received information about the Synod Annual Grants Program for 2018. This is a reminder that any congregation or group wishing to submit an application needs to send a copy of their application to the Presbytery no later than Wednesday 20th June, in order to allow time for the Presbytery assessment which is required as part of the process.

Presbytery Database Updates

Thank you to those who have responded after my plea for updates. There are still many who have not responded.

Do you know someone who would like copies of TIS?

Manningham congregation have about 30 copies of Together in Song (TIS) which are surplus to their requirements. They are happy to donate them to anyone who can use them. Please contact Moses Lee at moses.lee@manninghamuc.org for further details.

STANDUP & TAKE ACTION CONCERT

A program of spiritual and inspirational music by the Immanuel Singers and performers from Kingswood College. Followed by afternoon tea. Entry by donation. All funds raised go to support SOSK (Skills, Opportunity & Survival in Kenya) and a Food Gardens project in schools in Same, Timor Leste. Surrey Hills UC (cnr Canterbury Rd & Valonia Ave), on Sunday 27th May at 2:30pm. Contact: Bron Long – 9836 7817.

SAFE CHURCH TRAINING WORKSHOPS

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

- 1) 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.
- 2) 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.

- 3) Surrey Hills Uniting Church, cnr Canterbury Rd & Valonia Ave, on Sunday 17th June, 11am – 1pm. The workshop will be led by Rev. Rob Gotch. Bring your own lunch (tea & coffee will be available). Please confirm attendance with Rob (robgotch@optusnet.com.au or 9898 1097) and bring with you (in hard copy or on your device) the current version of the Synod Safe Church resource. It can be downloaded from <https://ucavictas.org.au/keepingchildrensafe/SCT/SCT-Participant-Booklet.pdf>

MIND BODY SPIRIT

The next programme will be on Sunday 29th April at 5:30 pm.

The speaker, John Steward, is a peace consultant and a spiritual director, and a volunteer in the Cranbourne Australian Garden. He has been a part-time mentor to healers in Rwanda and a speaker/writer about the journey of change there for the past 20 years. Topic: “Why is forgiveness so hard? What can Rwandans teach us about it?”

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

North Balwyn Uniting Church, 17–21 Duggan St, Balwyn North.

WANDIN-SEVILLE 150TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

The 150th Anniversary Celebrations continue at Wandin-Seville with a Gardening Spectacular on 26th May. This will be a celebration day of growing and greening, planting and pruning, soils and seeds, water and weeds, all together with food and fun. It all happens at the church on the corner of Beenak and Hunter Roads, Wandin. Enquiries to Jennie Gordon on 0416 152 051.

CLINICAL PASTORAL EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Historically CPE practice has been focussed on hospital settings. The John Paver Centre has been established to broaden the possibilities of placements while students still complete the same requirements for accreditation.

Placements in recent years have included agencies, prisons, schools, aged care and congregations. If you are interested in opportunities for CPE training, please refer to the brochures attached with this newsletter. For more information, contact Andy Calder on 9251 5489. Applications close on 9th July. Note that for students enrolled in University of Divinity courses Fee-Help is also an option.

ULURU STATEMENT FROM THE HEART

Sophia’s Spring (Ceres) congregation are encouraging submissions to the Australian Government Joint Select Committee on Constitutional Recognition relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. An information booklet and advice about how to prepare submissions are available. For more information contact Steve Martin at dgsm@optusnet.com.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.