



31st May 2019

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.

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.

Please ensure that items for the next edition are sent in by the end of the month.

PRESBYTERY NEWS

Presbytery meeting news

Presbytery members met at Camberwell UC on 25th May. A significant event during the meeting was the presentation of certificates to four Ministers who had completed either 50 or 60 years since ordination. Rev Rod Horsfield introduced each Minister, outlining their service to the Church, and Rev Graham McAnalley made a response on behalf of the Ministers. Others receiving certificates were Rev Dr Norman Young, Rev James Donaldson and Rev Peter Barnes. Others celebrating anniversaries in 2019 include Rev Dr John Henley and Rev Ron Sunderland.

Approval was given to two people presented by the Ministry Formation Committee to proceed to the Selection Conference held later in the year for candidates for the Ministry, and various committee reports and short speeches were heard and received.

The meeting concluded with a service of induction for Rev Dr Sunny Chen as Presbytery Minister.

Presbytery Meetings in 2019

The remaining Presbytery meetings in 2019 will be held on the following Saturdays:

24th August (Habitat) and 23rd November

Please note these dates for your local calendars, and plan to avoid clashes so that it is possible for Ministers and other Presbytery members to attend.

Chairperson	Ross Pearce	0437 561 833	rgpearce.au@gmail.com
Presbytery Ministers	Dan Wootton	03 9857 1000	dwootton@victas.uca.org.au
	Liz McMillan	0419 884 736	liz.mcmillan@victas.uca.org.au
Secretary	Geoffrey Grinton	03 9857 1003	pvy.secretary@victas.uca.org.au

Our Presbytery Minister Team

The Presbytery is delighted to welcome Sunny Chen as our new Presbytery Minister. Sunny's particular responsibilities will be the relationship with congregations, and he will also provide a point of liaison with the Synod through the equipping Leadership for Mission (eLM) unit. After a short relocation leave, Sunny will join the team at the Presbytery office from 11th June.

Congregation Annual Reports

Thank you to all the congregations who have sent in copies of their annual reports. If you are still on the "waiting list", please see if this can be given a little more priority. A "soft copy" (ie, electronic form) is preferred to assist in long-term filing. Copies can be emailed to the Secretary at pyy.secretary@victas.uca.org.au.

Presbytery Membership

Someone commented at the last Presbytery meeting that they were not sure about what is involved in being a member of Presbytery. The attached document, prepared and last circulated a few years ago, and updated, provides an overview of the responsibilities of Presbytery members, and may provide helpful to Church Councils as they consider who is an appropriate person to be elected to Presbytery membership.

"PATIENCE" IS A VIRTUE IN MOOROOLBARK

Singularity Choir will be visiting Mooroolbark, on the afternoon of Sunday 2nd June, with another selection from their concert versions of Gilbert and Sullivan Operettas. This year it's *Patience*, featuring rapturous maidens, handsome and moody poets, a platoon of enthusiastic British Dragoon Guards, and the local milkmaid who throws a wrench in it all! Presented as a concert version, and explained by a narrator, Singularity's performance will be sumptuously costumed. *Patience* will be conducted by Lucas De Jong and accompanied by Lyn Bromage.

You can catch the performance at 2.30pm on Sunday June 2 at Mooroolbark Uniting Church. Proceeds will go to Rubaga Youth Development Association, Uganda.

WARRANTYTE CELEBRATES

The congregation at Warrandyte are excited with the results of a recent project supported by a disability access grant, and are looking forward to extending their vision now that the hall space is safer and provides more inclusive access. They are inviting the wonderful people who share their hall, as well as their amazing tradespeople, sponsors and supporters.

Sunday 16th June 2019 10.15 am

Interactive church service, followed by Morning tea at Warrandyte Uniting Church, Corner of Taroona Avenue and Westend Road, Warrandyte.

Queries and RSVP for catering by 7th June 2019

Pam: laverypam@gmail.com or Rod: rodcléments52@gmail.com

UCA HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2019 CONFERENCE

The 2nd Biennial History Conference of the Uniting Church National History Society will be held from 7–10th June 2019 at the Centre for Ministry and Theology, 29 College Crescent, Parkville.

What does it mean to belong to the Uniting Church? Many grew up Congregationalist, Methodist or Presbyterian. Others have grown up in the Uniting Church. Some have only ever known the Uniting Church as their spiritual home and others have transferred in from other denominations. What does it mean to find a home in a church that describes itself as Evangelical and Reformed and is at the same time committed to theological diversity?

Keynote Speakers are:

- Dr Meredith Lake host of ABC Radio's Soul Search programme, Honorary Associate of the Department of History, Sydney University, and author of the 2018 Australian Christian Book of the Year, *The Bible in Australia: A Cultural History*.
- Dr Joanna Cruickshank, Senior Lecturer in History at Deakin University, author of *Pain, Passion and Faith: Revisiting the Place of Charles Wesley in Early Methodism* and editor of *The Journal of Religious History*.
- Dr Graeme Davison, Emeritus Sir John Monash Distinguished Professor, Monash University.

Registration is at www.trybooking.com/BBQBE

UCA UNDER-35 THEOLOGICAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Pilgrim Theological College offers 10 scholarships to Uniting Church in Australia (UCA) young adults to study towards a Diploma in Theology or Graduate Diploma in Theology (full time, part-time or online). The scholarships subsidise 50% of the total fees of the award through the University of Divinity.

Applicants must be within and recommended by a UCA congregation of faith community.

More information is at <https://vox.divinity.edu.au/study-with-us/uca-under-35-theological-scholarships/>

INTERFAITH ACTIVITY IN BOROONDARA

Kew East congregation is one of the sponsors of a month of inter-faith activities in Boroondara which continues till 9th June. Take your pick from any or all of a youth forum, a meal, a festival, variety of worships and a full day seminar on putting “Prayer into Practice”.

For more information contact Bronwyn Daniels on 0417 383 764 or visit <http://www.lbc.org.au/interfaith> or phone 9819 7160. Bookings may be made at <http://www.trybooking.com/BBIRB>.

STORIES OF CHILDHOOD – PLAYGROUP/PRE-SCHOOL MINISTRY TRAINING DAY

The annual Stories of Childhood Playgroup/Pre-school Training Day, is now taking place in Parkville on Saturday 22nd June (note the rescheduled date!), is a great opportunity for any church engaged in ministry with young families. For ministers, pastors, leaders and team members involved in activities such as Playgroup, pre-school music programs and Sunday morning activities, Stories of Childhood will assist you and your church in connecting more deeply with the children and their carers you are called to serve. Excellent electives are on offer across the day, with a particular focus on deepening conversations. Whether you and your leaders already have great listening and conversational skills or not, you will leave this day feeling better equipped for missional conversations. More information and Registration: [Stories of Childhood 2019](#) or tel 9340-8815.

PRESIDENT’S CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN FIJI

The UCA President, Deidre Palmer, has announced the 2019 President’s Conference, to be held in Fiji from 13th to 17th July. The theme will be “For the Whole Creation” – Explore how we can grow in our Christian discipleship in deep conversations on creation, climate and gender justice. Speakers will include Rev Dr Seforosa Carroll, Rev James Bhagwan and the Bible Study leader will be Rev Dr Vicky Balabanski.

Note that this conference is for all members of the Uniting Church, and is not limited to participation by Ministers!

Information and registration: <http://assembly.uca.org.au/presidentsconference>

*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.