



27th March 2023

Notes and news for Yarra Yarra Congregations and Institutions

I hope that you are having a relaxed January without too many meetings. This is a special edition of the newsletter to remind you of the special celebrations that will be taking place over the next few weeks.

Please ensure that items for the next edition are sent in by the end of the month. It is helpful if you can provide text, rather than copies of fliers which need to be transcribed and summarised. Please include contact information for those seeking more information.

PRESBYTERY NEWS

Presbytery Meetings

The first meeting of the Presbytery on Saturday 25th February at the Canterbury Balwyn Road Uniting Church was attended by about 70 people. The major item on the agenda was a segment led by the Moderator, Rev David Fotheringham, who introduced a discussion about the Synod Standing Committee's decision to establish a Synod-wide Strategic Planning Task Group as a joint project of Presbyteries and the Synod to work towards the preparation and articulation of a common Strategic Plan. Input from our Presbytery will assist initially in the preparation of Terms of Reference for the Task Group, which will report to the 2023 Synod meeting in November. Thank you to all who contributed and made comments.

The meeting also provided endorsement for a proposal that Chris Waddell be regarded as ready for ordination once he has completed his studies and accepted a call.

Annual Reporting for Ministers

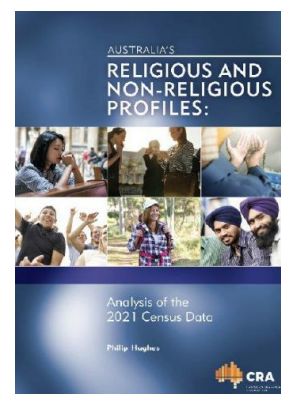
In his report to the Presbytery the Presbytery Minister Ministry, Ray McCluskey, outlined the way in which the Presbytery will introduce a variety of requirements related to the pastoral care of Ministers. These include Supervision, Professional Development, Working with Children and Safe Church, and annual reporting of leave.

Church Council Secretaries and Chairpersons will shortly receive information about a new process for recording leave of ministry agents. This will be through an online portal, and will ensure that accurate records are available to the Minister, the Church Council, the Presbytery and the Synod (including the Central Payroll Service).

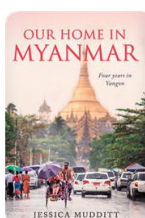
Chairperson	Lisa Carey	03 9857 1006	lisa.carey@pyy.victas.uca.org.au
Presbytery Ministers	Ray McCluskey	03 9857 1002	ray.mccluskey@victas.uca.org.au
	Sunny Chen	03 9857 1001	pyy.pmc@victas.uca.org.au
Secretary	Geoffrey Grinton	03 9857 1003	pyy.secretary@victas.uca.org.au

BOOK LAUNCH

Philip Hughes will be launching my latest book, Australia's Religious and Non-Religious Profiles: Analysis of the 2021 Census, on Thursday 30th March at 4.30 pm. The launch will be held at the University of Divinity, 90 Albion Road, Box Hill, 3128. He will explaining the general trends with special reference to Melbourne data. Robyn Wrigley-Carr (who has just started a new position with the University of Divinity) will be responding. Copies of the book will be available at a discounted price at the launch.



LEARN ABOUT MYANMAR AT MONTROSE



Montrose Uniting Church (Cnr Canterbury & Gratten Roads, Montrose) invites you to share time with us on Monday April 10th from 3 pm to hear Jessica Mudditt speak about her book *Our Home in Myanmar* and her time in Myanmar which included the historic general elections of 2015.

Jessica, former Billanook College student (Class of 1998), is now a Sydney-based journalist whose articles have been published by Forbes, The Economist, BBC, CNN, GQ and Marie Claire. She also writes about the daily challenges she faced as an expat in a country emerging from 50 years of isolation, and her fascination with Burmese culture and traditions, along with contemporary issues.



Enquiries: Rosemary Shaw on 0438 551 865.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

A memorial service to remember Lyn and Alan Bromage will be held at the Mooroolbark Uniting Church at 2 pm on Thursday 13th April. For more information, contact Andrew Bromage at andrew@bromage.org

*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 and Presbytery members. 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.