

October 2025

PyY news



News for the Presbytery of Yarra Yarra Congregations and Institutions

Calendar of Events - 2025

Date	Time	Event
16 Oct-late Nov	11am-12:30pm	Care4Carers, Hosted by Elm St Mission, Bayswater
17-18 October		Intergen: <i>Belonging By Design</i> , Crossway Baptist Church
Sat 18 October	2-4pm	East Burwood Care, Burwood Heights UC
Sat 18 October	10:30am-2:30pm	Wesley Event: Churches responding to Yoorrook
Wed 22 October	7:30am	Presbytery in Council Zoom Meeting – UnitingWorld Presentation
Sat 25 October	9am-4pm	Discernment Day, In person Parkville or On-line
Sun 26 October		Celebration of 65 years of North Ringwood UC
Thurs 30 October	4pm	Banyule Network: Halloween Event Burgundy St
Thurs 30 October	6pm	Wesley Event: Christian and Muslim reflections
Fri 7- Sat 8 Nov		Feminist Theologies Conference: Speaker Julia Thwaites
Sat 29 November	9:30am	Presbytery in Council Meeting
Sun 28 December	10am	Heathmont's final Worship Service
Sun 15 March 2026		ADVANCE NOTICE Ivanhoe Centenary Celebrations

Presbytery in Council Meeting – via Zoom Wed 22nd October

Our guest speaker at the October Presbytery in Council Meeting will be **Antony McMullen**, Church Engagement Manager at **UnitingWorld**. Antony will be providing an overview of UnitingWorld's current projects and explore how we might build on our own aspirations for international mission and partnership within our congregations.



There will be some minor business for the Presbytery members to deal with but all are welcome to attend the UnitingWorld presentation.

If you are interested in attending for Antony's presentation please contact the Presbytery Secretary on pyy.secretary@victas.uca.org.au and a link to register can be sent out. Meetings starts at **7:30pm**.

UnitingWorld stall



In the lead-up to Christmas, Uniting Church congregations and faith communities across Australia can host stalls to promote poverty-fighting gifts from UnitingWorld's [Everything in Common](https://donate.unitingworld.org.au/everythingincommon) catalogue. (<https://donate.unitingworld.org.au/everythingincommon>)

Host a gift stall in your church, school or community group. Start important conversations about global poverty. Promote waste-free, sustainable gift alternatives. Fight poverty and build hope!

Wanted – Hospitality and Gardening Items

Richmond Uniting Church are in need of a few items for hospitality and gardening and would love to speak to any congregations with any of the following items in excess or for sale:

- Crockery/cutlery/serving/food preparation utensils
- Large round tables
- Together in Song (HARMONY) edition
- Gardening tools

Please be in contact with the office with a description and/or photographs. Our email address is richmond.uniting@bigpond.com

Teachers Exploring Chaplaincy or Spiritual Care?

eLM's Chaplaincy and Connections Team is testing whether some teachers might want to step toward chaplaincy or spiritual care (often hybrid roles), and what support they'd need. This is a 'listening first' activity with no pressure to participate beyond providing some feedback.

Know a teacher who might have some views on this? Two ways to participate:

Primer document (offer comment): [\[Google Doc link\]](#)

4 - 6 min survey: [\[Survey link\]](#)

Contact: adrian.pyle@victas.uca.org.au

Safe Church – WWCC Applications

The Department of Government Services Victoria has recently introduced changes to the Working with Children Check applications and renewals. The Culture of Safety Unit have reached out to all the Safe Church Contact People and Working with Children (WWCC) Administrators regarding these changes. If your congregation does not currently have a Safe Church representative the details of these changes are provided here.

New Requirement – Organisation Email Address

When applying for or renewing a WWCC, applicants are **now required to include an organisation email address**. To ensure consistency and proper handling of notifications, please use our dedicated email: wwccr@victas.uca.org.au This email receives all WWCC and Victorian Institute of Teaching (VIT) notifications, helping us avoid misdirected communications across the Synod.

Guidance and Resources

For detailed instructions on completing the organisation section and the overall WWCC process, please refer to the “Getting a WWCC Checklist” available on the Safe church website via the following link:

 [Getting a WWCC-checklist.docx](#)

A copy of this checklist is also attached to the email.

Updating Contact Roles

To update your congregations Safe Church Contact Person or WWCC Administrator for please let the Culture of Safety Unit know by contacting them at cultureofsafetycontact@victas.uca.org.au so they can update their records accordingly.

Discernment Day - in person and online 25 Oct 2025

Are you wondering "where to from here" in terms of your discipleship? Ever thought about what God might be calling you to? And how do you know it's a call from God?

The Synod equipping Leadership for Mission team warmly invites you to attend a Discernment Day on **Saturday 25 October**.

We will offer an opportunity to learn about discernment, lay and ordained ministries, UCA processes, and educational pathways. This event will be held in person in Parkville and online. All are welcome. Come and see!

Register online at <https://events.humanitix.com/discrimnment-day>

Where: Centre For Theology and Ministry, 29 College Crescent Parkville

When: 9am-4pm Saturday 25 October

Cost: \$40 per person (in-person); Free (online via Zoom).

East Burwood Care – Sat 18th Oct 2-4pm

East Burwood Care is celebrating the re-opening of our Food Assistance service and renewing our commitment to caring for the community. Please join us on **Saturday 18th October 2 - 4pm** at Burwood Heights Uniting Church hall, Cnr Burwood Highway & Blackburn Rd, Burwood East (entry from Blackburn Road)

Care4Carers – Thurs 16th Oct to late November



We are very excited to be working with [Women's Health East](#) to deliver a new program - **Care4Carers** - for women who provide unpaid care.

This free program will run weekly from **Thursday, 16 October to late November**, 11 am - 12.30 pm. Hosted at Elm St Mission in Bayswater, the program is for women who support someone with mental health challenges, disability, chronic conditions or age-related needs.

Caring for others brings rewards and challenges, and it's important that carers can be part of a group where they feel safe to share their thoughts, express themselves and have some fun.

Care4Carers offers connection, conversations and a moment for women to prioritise their wellbeing. Information on local support services will be available.

Participants can expect a welcoming space, morning tea and the chance to connect with others who understand.

Please share if you know someone who may enjoy being part of Care4Carers.

While the program is free, **registration is essential**.

Click the link to register via Humanitix: <https://events.humanitix.com/care4carers-a-safe-and-supportive-environment-for-women-who-care>

Location: 654 Mountain Highway, Bayswater 3153

When: Thursday, 16 October - November 2025

Time: 11 am - 12.30 pm

For more information: Please contact Ethne on 0428 330 873 or email info@elmstmission.org.au

Wesley Events – Churches Responding to Yoorrook: Can we Handle the Truth?

Saturday 18 October 10:30 am - 2:30 pm

Join us for the Churches' response to Yoorrook. We will hear perspectives from various denominations on their responses and discover ways to foster change within your church community. To enrich our discuss, we will be doing by Aunty Prof. Anne Patel-Gray.

Lunch is provided.

Venue: Father Tuckers Meetings Room, Rear of 95 Brunswick St (entrance via Fitzroy St).

This is a free event, but registration is vital.

Registration: <https://events.humanitix.com/can-we-handle-the-truth>

November Newsletter Deadline: 14th November

Please forward articles and other information you wish to share with the Presbytery of Yarra Yarra (in Word or image format, not PDF) to ann.williamson@victas.uca.org.au by 14th of the month.



Wesley Events – Free Will or Divine Script? Who's Really in Control?

Thursday 30th October 6:00pm for 6:30pm start

Christian and Muslim reflections on Theology and the World.

Panel Discussion with Rev Dr Daniel Sihombing, Pilgrim Theological College; Dr Omer Ergl, Islamic Sciences & Research Academy with Moderator Noor Gillani, from The Conversation.

A conversation exploring Divine Control, Human Agency, and the implications for Moral Responsibility.

Light Refreshments at 6:00pm. Panel starts at 6:30pm

Venue: Yuma Auditorium, Centre of Theology & Ministry, 29 College Crescent Parkville.

Registration: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/free-will-or-divine-script-whos-really-in-control-tickets-1395516079159?aff=odddtcreator>



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MELBOURNE



Belonging by Design

Embracing Neurodiverse
Children, Youth & Families in Ministry

SAVE THE DATE!

17 October, 2025

Pastors, children &
youth staff & key
leaders

18 October, 2025

Pastors, leaders and
church volunteers

Crossway Baptist Church
2 Vision Drive, Burwood

Keynote Speaker
Kirstyn Oliver



Keynote Speaker
Louise Gosbell



more details to come
intergen.org.au

The newsletter is sent to Church Council Secretaries and Presbytery members. If you should not be receiving it, please contact myself at ann.williamson@victas.uca.org.au with the name of your congregation and the name of the correct person to receive PYY News.

Banyule Network

On **Thursday 30 October**, the Heidelberg Traders Association will be running its annual Halloween event on Burgundy St.

As part of this event, the Banyule Network of Uniting Churches will be opening the Heidelberg Scots Uniting Church as a 'chill out zone' and **showing a free community movie**.

As the community event takes place from 4pm, at the church there'll be a face painter, free tea and coffee, the opportunity to light a candle and to enjoy our 'ofrenda' tables. These tables will be set up for worship on All Saints Sunday and will honour the saints, friends and families of people in the Banyule Network.



From 5:30pm we will host a free community screening of Coco, Disney Pixar's wonderful movie inspired by the Mexican Day of the Dead. We'd love to invite our Uniting Church family from across the presbytery to come along to enjoy this community event as we open up our church. **Join us anytime from 4pm on Thursday 30 October at Heidelberg Scots Uniting Church**, 187 Burgundy St.

TO LISTEN AND RESPOND: Dialogue as Feminist Method

Feminist Theologies 2025 conference encompasses the book launches of two recent edited collections. The opening is followed by dinner and the annual **Janette Gray RSM Lecture**. This year's lecture is presented by keynote speaker and Janette Gray Scholar, **Julia Thwaites**, *Restoring humanity to poetry with Giorgio Agamben and Jacques Lacan*.

Saturday brings a program of papers exploring the theory, practice and impact of dialogue as feminist method.

Date: 7-8 November 2025. To register: <https://feministtheologies.net/events/>

Location: Pilgrim College.

Final Worship Service at Heathmont – 28th December

Heathmont Uniting Church will be conducting the final Worship Service on **Sunday 28th December** following a 3-year journey to amalgamate with Ringwood Uniting Church. Amalgamation will be completed on 1st January when the temporary name of the new entity will be Ringwood and Heathmont Uniting Church. If you have had a past association with Heathmont Uniting Church you are welcome to join us on this special day at 10am with a cuppa and something to eat afterwards. Please email HUC at hmontuc89@bigpond.com if you think you may be able to be with us.



November is Trans Month!

Trans Pastor, Writer and Presenter, Steff Fenton, is hosting a series of online events for trans people, parents, carer, pastors and chaplains from Christian faith and church backgrounds.

Spots are limited for all events, so register early: <https://linktr.ee/steffenton>

Steff has also offers the free "Practical Guide for Churches and Families - Supporting Trans and Gender Diverse People" PDF download from their website: <https://www.steffenton.co/bookresources>



TRANS MONTH EVENTS!

TransFaith Online Peer Group

Wed Nov 5, 7:30-9pm for 5 weeks [FREE]

A five-week online peer support group for trans & gender diverse people from Christian backgrounds. Link in bio!

Christian Parents/Carers Supporting Trans Loved Ones

Tues Nov 11, 7-8:30pm [FREE]

For Christian parents & carers on how to support trans & gender diverse loved ones. Link in bio!

Pastoral & Spiritual Care with Trans People

Thurs Nov 20, 12-2pm, \$49

Professional development for pastors, chaplains, counsellors & professionals who support trans & gender diverse people. Link in bio!

