



Morialta Vision



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From the Minister

Dear Friends

As I walked in for worship the other Sunday, I suddenly realised I hadn't changed the parameters. The communion table and the lecterns should have been draped in green, the colour of growth which would have been doubly appropriate given the gospel reading which led us to reflect on two parables of growing seeds. We are fortunate to have four beautiful sets of liturgical drapes that pick up the themes of the various seasons. When the Christian year starts, with Advent, a season of preparation, we bring out the newest set of blue drapes, before the bright white of celebration for Christmas.

After Epiphany we move into the Season after Epiphany (green) until another season of preparation, Lent (purple),

begins on Ash Wednesday. Lent concludes with Holy Week and we then celebrate Easter (white of celebration again) for seven Sundays.

Pentecost gives us a brief flash of red, before another week of white for Trinity, and then we move into the imaginatively named Season after Pentecost. The green drapes come out again until the year ends with white again when we celebrate the reign of Christ.

The white drapes are also used for weddings and funerals, and can be used instead of the colour of the season when we celebrate a baptism. Church anniversaries, confirmation, ordination, induction and commissioning services are also a cause to use red.

The Sundays after Epiphany and Pentecost are also called Sundays in Ordinary Time.

The term Ordinary Time is not meant to suggest these Sundays are less important – every Sunday our worship is a celebration of God's good news shown to us in Jesus Christ - rather it refers to the way they are named by counting, eg the eleventh Sunday of Ordinary Time.

These Sundays in Ordinary Time give us the opportunity to explore the good news as we grow our faith in all the ordinary times and places of our lives, developing the values of the community of God's people such as compassion and forgiveness, peace and justice, generosity, hospitality, acceptance. And there's nothing ordinary about these things in any season of the year.

Grace and peace

Diane

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Balance

Including excerpts from "Living in Balance" by Joel and Michelle Levey

Many people in our world are living out of balance, working more and enjoying it less. The effects of such unbalanced work life are manifesting everywhere.

For millennia, a wealth of clues reminding us to live in balance has been offered in the sacred symbols of the world's great religious traditions. The balanced crossing of the lines of the cross; the interpenetrating triangles of the Star of David; the Buddhist lotus or wheel of dharma; the ancient winged, double helical staff of the Greek caduceus used today as the symbol of the medical profession; these reflect a marvellous sense of harmony and balance. Through them we are reminded how to harmonize the forces of heaven and earth, the universal and personal, in our daily lives. Properly understood, each of these sacred symbols serves as a beacon to help us find our way home to the centre of all centres.

Stillness is meaningless without motion and sound is meaningless without silence. Nature also has a balance through the four seasons and the sun and the moon, giving us the continuous rising and falling of the planetary tides.

We have such trouble finding balance because we think it is about cleaning our desk or getting up an hour earlier in the morning. Rushing to and from work, managing our investments, taking care of our kids and our parents, many of us become distracted. We forget what we are doing and why we're doing it. (Continued page 2)



O God, you blow through our lives like the wind, refreshing us, moving us, renewing us. Come into our lives like flames of fire, dancing into our hearts searing compassion deep within us, refining our often confused speech into Good News for the world.

Balance ... (continued from page 1)

Many people didn't get much of a spiritual education growing up and now aren't sure how to balance their spiritual inclinations with the rest of their lives. In many lives, spirituality is found more through communion with nature, in the arts or in love for family, than in traditional religious institutions. Many feel uneasy when it comes to stepping out of their comfort zone to explore unfamiliar spiritual paths. In search of balance and spiritual renewal, they may simply choose to putter in the garden, talk deeply with their spouse or friends, really play with the kids, be blissfully alone for a day, or meditate in their own home.

With this in mind, if you were searching for spiritual renewal and came to Morialta how would you know if you were pursuing an authentic spiritual path, or if you had met a good teacher? This book suggests that if you are looking for a balanced approach, watch for: impeccable ethical and moral integrity; service to others; compassion; respect for discipline; personal accountability of both leaders and community members; faith; embodiment; groundlessness; respect; joyfulness; fellowship with, or at least tolerance for, people of different faiths; an inspiring lineage of practitioners whose lives have been enriched; a community of kindred souls that inspires your respect and admiration; love; celebration; humanity; respect for silence as well as questions; an honouring of the mythical and the mystical; a path of clear reasoning that welcomes debate; a balance of prayer, contemplation, study, and service in practice; a reverence for the mystery, by whatever name.

I am fascinated by the similarity regarding living in balance with nature that appears in the various native cultures around the world. This is not unusual as they were usually in step with the seasons and not controlled by the number of hours in the day. At a meeting on an Indian reservation in the US, Chief Oren Lyons said "We see it as our duty to speak as caretakers for the natural world. Government is a process of living together, the principle being that all life is equal, including the four-legged and the winged things. The principle has been lost; the two-legged walks about thinking that he is supreme with his man-made laws. But there are universal laws of all living things. We come here and say they too have rights."

We have much to learn from our indigenous friends about living in balance with nature as well as our day to day life where the clock rules our lives.

John Powers - Presented for Reflection at Church Council

Fifty Years - My Special Place

Fifty years ago, with a very young family, I came to worship at the then Magill Methodist Church with its battered old hall, solid old family traditions and a large Sunday school caring for orphans as well as family children. All was traditional. We were made welcome and I expected that here was a place where my anticipations would be fulfilled. I anticipated that if I worshipped there, God would bless me with a Christian family that I could adequately support, a family just like the one my parents had provided for me.

At that time when my life journey was just beginning that anticipation completely lacked any thought of the fluid state of my identity as modern life evolved.

Very soon I was a different person swept along my life journey with a working wife and four children growing up with all the attention they needed: schooling, camping holidays, Scouts and Guides, sport, music and meals. And so my old anticipations faded as home and work enveloped me. With my life in the fast lane, I failed to stop long enough to articulate any meaning. I just experienced it and weathered the changes in people around me. I wince at some of the episodes along the way. My divorce, things I have said and done.

Passionate Love Affair

I remember very clearly one long ago Sunday morning, when the visiting preacher decided to try to engage our small country congregation in conversation during his sermon. I can see us four kids rowed up on the seat in front of our parents, so they could poke and prod us into order, even though on this particular Sunday we were probably almost all into our teens and had learnt more or less how to behave. We knew as soon as the invitation was given, that our father, being our father, would not be able to resist setting the preacher right on matters of faith.

"What does it mean to be a Christian?" asked the preacher.

'Well' said my father, 'Faith isn't something that's wishy-washy,' -a charge he frequently levelled at an emerging sixties theology. He went on, 'It should be like a passionate love affair.'

Passionate? Love affair?? Oh my giddy aunt! That my father even knew such words was quite shocking! And now to hear them spoken out loud, in public, in Church - so embarrassing!!

Well - time moves along, and now I'm well older than my father was when he spoke those words. But I've come to value what I learnt from him that day.

The 'passion' he spoke of was that all-consuming, unbridled enthusiasm that defies logical explanation, that can't be contained, that permeates the rationality of our thinking and our faith in a way that gives courage and energy and vibrancy and a sort of contagious conviction.

Of course we need to apply ourselves to learning, to grappling with Biblical text, to reading, to thinking logically about what our faith means; we need to do this in order to construct the fabric of our understanding. But unless we allow the Spirit to get into those little spaces between the warp and weft of our carefully woven faith, we will fail to grasp the enormity and the mystery and the potential of the Gospel story. We will miss out on the most important and most passionate love affair that we can ever live.

That's what I think, anyway!

Alison Lockett

I will put my breath, my spirit within you, and you shall live.

Sometimes the movement of the Spirit feels like strong winds and burning flame, sometimes like a gentle breath that fills us.

As life continued I roamed the world to work in sixteen countries on challenging tasks for which my formal education had not prepared me. Despite these distractions my special place at Magill called me back again and again where I found waypoints and turning points I could not ignore. At them I have found hope, reason over passion, inclusiveness and dialogue over dogma.

When Lesley and I found a new relationship the church gave us a belonging without prejudice and new meanings to life supported by family and friends. During the years of worship and service that have followed I have gradually found a God free from those narrow anticipations of fifty years ago. Under the shadow of that holy place I have been able to study the works of Biblical scholars such as Borg, Crossan, Spong, Miles and Webb and come face to face with the wonderful stories, metaphors and legends left by peoples at their waypoints as over the ages they have found their God.

Thank you Morialta.

Arthur Tideman

From the Chairperson

Since our last edition Morialta has moved forward in several ways. Change is in the air!

The congregation has commissioned and welcomed a number of people into the life of the church and into positions that will resource us in mission.

The Church Council has more members now than for some time. The new members of Council, some of them 'recycled', have gifts and graces that will complement those of our number who already contribute in that team.

Helena has settled in quickly to the role of Office Coordinator and is another friendly face to the community.

We've also welcomed Christine Ostle, our Community Centre Coordinator, who is working to explore ways in which Morialta can impact positively on the community.

She's developing knowledge and relationships with the programs we are already running successfully, but it's not her task to run these. After all we are fortunate to have many capable volunteers to do that! Christine is charged with looking for gaps in what is being provided

for the community through agencies, councils, other churches and community groups, and exploring how Morialta might respond.

It used to be that there were more Margarets than anyone else, but it seems that Christine is becoming a popular name with Christine Garner's arrival. We welcome her and anyone else who wants to find a fulfilling home with us.

Morialta is a busy place. We have a mission and a message that is worth sharing. I hope you feel that way too!

Bruce

The Community Centre Co-ordinator writes ...

Getting started

As I reflect upon my first six weeks as the Coordinator of the Community Centre I can summarise my time as, getting up to speed. In the last few weeks I have attended local government forums, met members of parliament, visited local service agencies, looked through filing cabinets, interviewed members of COMMT, chatted with local people, visited local libraries, and many other small tasks.

Much of this activity mirrors what members of the Morialta Uniting Church

have done in the past. I am greatly impressed by the outreach ministry that has taken place and still takes place through this congregation.

In the new role that I occupy I am firstly making myself known in the local region as the new contact person and secondly searching for new opportunities for outreach and mission.

I am thoroughly enjoying working at Morialta Uniting Church and look forward to the fruits of our work together.

Christine Ostle



Commissioning of Council Elders

Rev Diane Bury and Rev David Purling commissioned four members of Church Council: Helena Begg, Alison Lockett, Chris Ayles and Pauline Norman.

Rev Christine Garner was welcomed as a member of our congregation. Soon she'll be in Supply Ministry at Broadview UC, but is pleased to now call Morialta home.

**Burn brightly within us as your church
so that our minds shine forth with new ideas
and our hearts are filled with caring and commitment.**

David Purling writes...

D Kangaroo Island.
For the fourth time!
Don't get me wrong.

We have enjoyed every visit.

You see, when we lived and worked in Aylesbury (in Buckinghamshire), we said, 'why don't you come and visit us "down under"?' And that's the reason we've been to Kangaroo Island so many times. Our friends, when asked if there was anything in particular they'd like to do or see, K.I. was on the list.

We have our favourite places to go; Seal Bay, Admiral's Arch, Remarkable Rocks...and each time enjoy the scenery, the atmosphere, and of course, the company of our English friends.

It is always particularly gratifying when our friends have such delight in seeing our flora ad fauna.

This time we shared a wonderful experience with our friends.

We were staying overnight in Hanson Bay in a cabin.

We booked in for a Nocturnal Walk, and our guide, with the aid of a very powerful torch, showed us Koalas, Wallabies, Kangaroos, and Possums. I had not taken my camera along as I assumed we would perhaps frighten the animals with the flash. However, when we got back from the walk, our guide, Andrew, had to get some towels from their home. When he came over to our car, he showed us a baby Koala that they had rescued, and had given it the name of La La.

When Andrew opened the door to introduce us to La La, she jumped from his arm to the back shelf of our car. I had to be quick to get the accompanying photo! You can see how small La La is. You can just see my hat which was on the shelf, and she is only about the size of the brim!

As I said before, we've been to K.I. for the fourth time, but this was a new experience. Something that you can't organize or make happen. It was a serendipity moment! ("making a desirable discovery by accident, or good fortune")



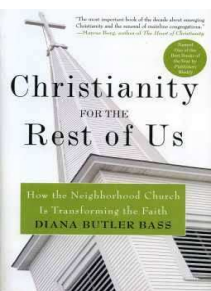
La La was a delight to meet, and then she scurried off Andrews' arm, and onto the back of the seat. We thought maybe she thought it was a tree to hang on to!

Even though there is a familiarity, and certain sameness to our visits to the Island, I thought about this particular time. I wondered about other life's experiences we might see as so familiar, as to miss the Serendipity moments!

"The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it;" Psalm 24:1

Watch out for Serendipity moments!

Council's reading - *Christianity for the Rest of Us.*



This year as part of our spiritual growth and ongoing education members

of Church Council will be participating in a "Focus Day" or retreat early in August.

Along with other matters and input, Council will be discussing part of Diana Butler Bass' book, *Christianity for the rest of us - How the neighbourhood church is transforming the faith.*

This will build on reading of chapters of the book that members agreed to undertake in lieu of Council meeting in April. The book was introduced at our March meeting. As well some members of Council will be attending seminars which

Diana will lead. These are open to all if you would like to register.

A brief introduction to the book

In this book Diana Butler Bass takes what she describes as a journey or pilgrimage with a number of mainline Protestant congregations that are theologically moderate to liberal to explore the ways they were renewing themselves and finding new spiritual vibrancy.

The first part of the book attempts to answer the question "What happened to the neighbourhood church". It is of course mostly about the American context but there are some similarities, some shared experiences of church and society that help us connect.

After describing some of the changes to the way we relate to the world around us, and some former models of church

that people remember (whether accurately or not),

Diana suggests that the primary role of the church today is to be a spiritual community that forms people in faith. These communities are based around tradition not traditionalism, practice, not purity and wisdom, not certainty. In talking with the various communities she discovered that "the vast majority of people ... did not grow up in the church they currently attend. Some did, some were returnees others were exiles, immigrants, converts and villagers, a band of contemporary pilgrims on a quest to find home."

In the second part of the book Diana describes ten practices she found present in the vital congregations she encountered. She calls them Ten Signposts of Renewal. Each member of council has undertaken to read at least two of these chapters.

Ten Signposts of Renewal:

- Hospitality*
- Discernment*
- Healing*
- Contemplation*
- Testimony*
- Diversity*
- Justice*
- Worship*
- Reflection*
- Beauty*

Discussion of insights gained from this reading will be further informed by reviewing the concluding chapters of Diana's book to help us discover any implications for our life together at

Morialta. The book is available from the Synod Resource Centre for \$22.00.

Diane



Electronic Giving e(give)

Electronic Giving, or e(give), conjures up visions of computers and other wiz-bang gadgets, however this fancy name is really quite simple. You do not need a computer or any knowledge of the electronic world.

e(give) is an easy, safe and convenient way for you to support the church whereby you make your offertory payments from your bank account, credit union account or UC Invest account direct to the church's account with Synod UC Invest weekly, fortnightly, monthly or quarterly

- Your support of the congregation continues even when you are on holiday or unable to attend worship.
- No stress to "catch up" when away for a week or two.
- You don't have to find the correct change each week.
- It makes the job of collecting regular offerings much simpler - easing the recording and not having to count the cash each Sunday.
- The ability of the church to plan ahead and know that the offertory will be stable.
- The congregation receives interest on

the daily balance held by UC Invest.

- At any stage you can alter, suspend, or cancel your instructions.

Over 25% of our givers at Morialta are already using this system with great success. Now is the time to make your offertory payments even easier.



An application is included in the e(give) brochure available at the Church Office. John Powers or Rob Cheel would be pleased to answer any queries you may have about being part of this great scheme.

New member Christine Garner really appreciates the benefits of e(give) for making her financial contribution to Morialta. She says, 'I may frequently be absent from worship because I will be preaching for other congregations or doing Supply Ministry. With e(give) I only have to fill out the form once for the church to receive regular payments.

Computer Geeks Rule - OK!



Morialta is fortunate to have the services of many well qualified individuals who give their time freely to ensure that our mission is moved forward.

This time I want to highlight the large amount of time that Neville Pope spends providing computing support for the Church Office. Recently, Neville spent a lot of his time working through issues around our Internet and Email Service.

For sometime we have used the same Internet Service Provider (ISP) and as often happens they need to change arrangements. This time it was decided that the changes were not to our advantage. Accordingly, the church engaged another ISP. Anyone who has rung to speak to someone on the other end of the phone will appreciate the commitment that requires.

Because we have changed our ISP we also took the opportunity to change our email contacts which are available on our web site and also changed our Domain Name to simplify access.

Our new web address is morialtauca.org.au

Ecumenical Prayer Service

“May they be as one as you and I are one” John 17:11

Once again the Magill Inter-Church Council celebrated the week of prayer for Christian Unity with an ecumenical prayer service, held this year at St Joseph’s Catholic Church on Magill Rd. Those who missed it not only missed an inspirational evening, but a selection of some of the best soups ever served in Magill.

Monsignor John Swan chose as a sign of our commitment to seek reconciliation, the theme from Ezekiel about uniting the sticks. We know from the building industry that laminating timber – where lengths of timber are bonded together to give added strength – creates greater structural strength. The parallel is that if we as churches join together as laminated pieces of timber, we will have a far more powerful effect on the community in which we live, than working as individual communities.

During the service a representative from each member Church came forward with a piece of timber bearing the name of their Church and these were bound firmly together, symbolising the strength that comes from bonding, from working together in a spirit of harmony and co-operation. In the words of the liturgy, *may this be a sign of our willingness as churches in the Magill area to express our desire for reconciliation for past disunity, and now work together in whatever way we can to be a real influence on the spirit of our local community.* This created a great image of how we should be operating as “the Inter-Church Council”. Maybe we can be more proactive in our ecumenism and encourage others to unite with us in Christ.

To quote Rev Steve Blacket, the new Chairperson of the Magill Inter-Church Council, an example of what we can achieve when we work together is the tremendous ministry that we provide to the local schools and the Youth Training Centre through our Christian Pastoral Support Workers (School Chaplains).

On 21st June you will have had the opportunity to hear more about the work of our Christian Pastoral Support Workers at the Forum held at Morialta. This is an important ministry which we are able to support.

Colin Cargill – on behalf of the Magill Inter-Church Council



From South Australian Council of Churches

Gospel

The two disciples told what had happened on the road, and how Jesus had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread. While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." Luke: 24:35-36

For reflection...

Dear God,
 We struggle, we grow weary, we grow tired.
 We are exhausted, we are distressed, we despair.
 We give up, we fall down, we let go. We cry. We are empty,
 we grow calm, we are ready. We wait quietly.
 A small shy truth arrives. Arrives from without and within.
 Arrives and is born. Simple, steady, clear Like a mirror, like a
 bell, like a flame. Like rain in summer. A precious truth arrives
 and is born within us. Within our emptiness. We accept it, we
 observe it, we absorb it. We surrender to our bare truth. We
 are nourished, we are changed...we are blessed.
 We rise up.
 For this we give thanks. Amen.

Michael Leunig

URBAN MISSION NETWORK



A new way to be fishers: Using a new net Gathering at Enfield UC

At a recent Gathering of the Urban Mission Network we spent time exploring how we, as congregations and other units in the Uniting Church, might use the Net as a Missional Tool.

How can we spread the message of Hope to a world that is so much in need of it? We continue to use radio, television, the printed media and other incidental opportunities. Now we need to make intentional use of the Internet.

It is true that some congregations have an excellent 'web presence', but there are many that don't. And they are missing out on a chance to be at mission.

Where (or How) does a congregation start looking? The Urban Mission Network chose to use the excellent resources available through the Synod Website. Sarah Urmston, spoke with knowledge and enthusiasm about the information presented to Seekers and Members alike.

Andrew Prior, the Web Minister at Scots Church amongst other things, took us through some of the ideas that congregation are developing for their Websites. Have a look at these Scots Church sites as well as others to get some ideas.

There is no doubt that people are looking on the net for information about churches. Why don't you have a look at our web site?

Fair Trade Coffee Evening



On 13th May 25 people from Morialta enjoyed coffee, hot chocolate, tea and tasty cakes at the *Difference Coffee House* in the Athelstone Shopping Centre.

The *Difference Coffee House* is managed by Martyn Smith who is a member of Tea Tree Gully Uniting Church. Martyn and his Board are working hard to develop their business selling *Fair Trade* tea and coffee.

We received an email from Martyn thanking us for our support and generosity in donating \$91.10 towards their project in Ethiopia. This amount is enough to provide education and health care in preventing and dealing with HIV and AIDS, and hence is an immensely valuable gift.

This just demonstrates how easy it is for us to help make changes in the world.

The *Difference Coffee House* is also a good example of how a group of people can join together to provide education and health care support to children and families in some of the most disadvantaged areas of the world.

When we buy *Fair Trade* products, we are helping poor families in rural areas to move from a subsistence existence to a more sustainable lifestyle. Our support will increase farm income, and

this has been shown to be one of the best and most sustainable ways to bring subsistence farmers out of poverty. Increasing income enables the family to educate their children, build a hygienic toilet, buy a motor bike or even a cell phone to communicate with family and friends. Things we at Morialta take for granted and indeed expect. I have been very privileged during the last decade to witness this at first hand, and I can assure you that your support will bring great changes to the lives of many people, especially children, trapped in rural poverty. You may not see it personally, but believe me it happens.

The Social Justice Ministry Team plans to promote *Fair Trade* as a means of making a contribution to changing the world and we invite you to join us in this endeavour to bring hope to a few of the many children trapped in poverty in the continent of Africa.



The Fairtrade Label is a "seal of approval" that appears on products that meet internationally agreed Fairtrade standards and which guarantees to consumers that their purchases will benefit the producers, their families and the surrounding communities from the developing countries that they originate from. Look for this label in your supermarket when you are purchasing chocolate and cocoa, coffee, tea, rice, cotton garments and sportsballs to ensure that the benefits really do go back to producers.

Colin Cargill - Social Justice Ministry Team

A Green Church (So Watt?)

Just as a journey of a thousand kilometers starts with one step the impact that we as individuals and congregations have, on Environmental Change, will commence with simple actions.

The Green Church Workshop, held on 5th June, considered a range of responses that are well within reach. One congregation has installed an array of Photo-voltaic Panels on the roof. Other individuals have done the same. The seminar heard that it is expected that research and development of the technology of Solar Panels will see a significant improvement in efficiency in the next few years. But should we wait until then to enter the market?

With the demise of the Means Tested grant for Solar Panels there is another subsidy available through the Federal Government. While less for each Kilowatt, the grant is not limited to one Kilowatt. In other words if you install a system of around 2 Kilowatts the subsidy is around the same amount as before.

Of course, we heard more than that. Architect, John Maitland of Energy Architecture, told the gathering about design imperatives that could decrease the impact our houses have on the environment. While Sophie Piron, ACF Climate Change Ambassador, and member of Uniting Church Environment Group encouraged the assembly to be more discerning about energy use around the home.

After Jeff Telfer, another member of the Uniting Church Environment Group, spoke about the measures he and his wife had taken to decrease their Carbon Footprint, the discussion was broadened with a panel that took questions from the floor.

There will be other Green Workshops in the future. If you have questions or a desire to know more about what congregations or individuals can do towards stewardship of our planet come to the next one. Charlene Kent, from the Synod Office, will be able to answer other questions. Of course, you can always ask Doreen or Bill Matheson what they thought.

Bruce Ind

Mission Projects ...

Morialta's Mission Projects are supporting areas of Timor Leste, Sudan and India as this year's areas of concern.

Last year Uniting Church Overseas Aid, now "Uniting World", working together with the Sudan Council of Churches, launched an appeal supporting the construction of two water holes for the Toposa Tribe in Nachipo villages. These have now been constructed but there is a need for more waterholes in other villages nearby. They also need help with a

preschool being constructed, as there have been no schools for the children, and most adults are illiterate.

We also are helping in the people in the rural areas of eastern Timor Leste, helping to relieve the poverty caused by the widespread destruction during their fight for independence, leaving communities with little or no food. It is planned to address the poverty by focusing on economic empowerment through agriculture and access to health services.

This is working with *FUSONA*, the Community Development arm of the Protestant Church in East Timor. *FUSONA* includes and runs the Clinics.

Recently Christine and David Schreiber and family who have been working in this area have returned home and will speak to us at our Mission Sunday Service on August 2.

Averil Nash



act for peace is the international aid agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia.

act for peace works with partners, wherever conflicts occur, empowering communities to:

- reduce poverty through community food security, livelihoods, health and education programs
- protect refugees and displaced people by managing safe refugee camps
- prevent conflicts through facilitating peace, reconciliation and disarmament processes

Rev Doug Hosking has provided the following information for the next two monthly projects under **act for peace**:

July project : Empowers indigenous communities in the Philippines

"I became the village leader and established community groups reaching out to churches and other groups for assistance. The groups formed literacy and numeracy programs, provided agricultural training, made simple farm tools and built a school for the indigenous people living nearby. After this, other indigenous groups came to me for assistance to develop similar groups and projects for their communities" – Himpad, Indigenous leader.

For \$51 you can send an indigenous person to a literacy course.

Pray for interaction between different ethnic and religious groups, to bring deeper understanding and tolerance rather than hatred and violence.

August project : Builds Peace in Fiji

"The program empowers young people to be inter-cultural Peace Builders" – Waisale Ramoce, Program Graduate.

For \$200, a young person from Fiji can undertake a one month peace building, conflict transformation and inter-cultural communication course that will enable them to take a leadership role in their own community.

Pray for an end to political unrest, violence and ethnic tensions in Fiji.

**Gifts for these projects may be sent to
act for peace, Locked Bag 199, Sydney NSW 1230**

Sioux Prayer

*Grandfather Great Spirit
All over the world the faces of living ones are alike.
With tenderness they have come up out of the ground.
Look upon your children that they may face the winds
and walk the good road to the Day of Quiet.
Grandfather Great Spirit
Fill us with the Light.
Give us the strength to understand, and the eyes to see.
Teach us to walk the soft Earth as relatives to all that live.*

SA Council of Churches Farewells Julie Wright



Julie Wright was farewelled from her eight year role with SA Council of Churches on 5 June and is taking up a new position with Pilgrim UC. She had been the organizer of the annual Christmas Bowl event in the city.

Brian and Dale Corrigan attended as representatives of the Moriata Social Justice MMT and extended our thanks and best wishes to Julie

My FPS trip to America



On May 22nd, four other students from Marryatville High School, two coaches and I left Australia to travel to America. It was very early in the morning, but we were all wide awake with excitement. We were going to the international

finals for Future Problem Solving, a competition where we are given a scenario set in the future, and two hours to find problems in it, an underlying problem, solutions to that problem, and develop one into an action plan. Ironically, this year's topic was pandemics.

In America, we had a great time. Before the competition I stayed with a host family in Flint, Michigan. Our team didn't do so well in the competition, which was at Michigan State University in East Lansing, coming equal 17th out of 18 with four other teams. Our reserve, though, entered the competition with a team of other reserves who had never met before, and came first out of the entire world! After the competition, we visited Washington D.C. and New York.

In Washington, we saw all of the famous monuments and visited the National Air and Space Museum, which was incredible. We liked the city; it was easy to get around and had lots of things to do. After two days in D.C., we took a train to New York. It was massive and very dull and grey compared to Washington. We saw lots of the famous sites, like the Empire State Building and Statue of liberty, and went to a musical on Broadway. Although it was interesting, I still preferred Washington.

Adam Begg

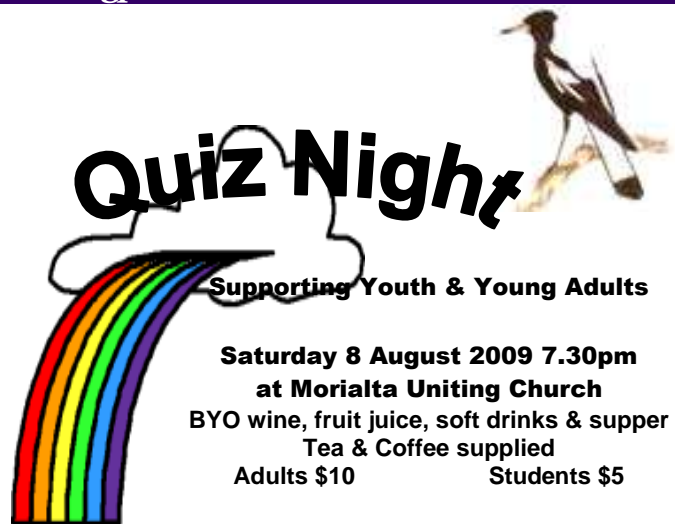
More Than The Great Ocean Road

21—27 September 2009

**BOOK NOW!
DON'T MISS OUT!**

Come and join us as we travel in comfort through Gold rush country, Otway National Park, Apollo Bay and more along the Great Ocean Road.

Brochures available from Church Office



Supporting Youth & Young Adults

**Saturday 8 August 2009 7.30pm
at Morialta Uniting Church**

BYO wine, fruit juice, soft drinks & supper
Tea & Coffee supplied
Adults \$10 Students \$5

Baptism

Bridie Kathleen
McGregor
great granddaughter of
Rhonda Amber was
baptised in Worship on
Sunday 3 May, by
Rev Shirley Osborne,
her grandmother.



Evening Fellowship

On Wednesday April 29 members of the Evening Fellowship were joined by a few friends to share a meal at the Zen Chinese restaurant. It was a very successful evening and everyone enjoyed the food and fellowship.



Morialta UC Netball Club: A Successful Summer Season for all Teams and Two Grand Final Winners

The Under 8 Div 2 team, coached by Karen Palmer achieved amazing success. After a season where there were hot weather cancellations, forfeits and re-grading, there were no expectations going into the finals. However, a win in the Semi, put them straight through to the Grand Final! At full time the scores were tied away at 6-6. Our girls amazingly scored 8-1 in overtime to win the game 14-7.

The Under 9 girls, coached by Claire Bennett, were quite strong throughout the season and again won their semi to go straight into the Grand Final. After a disappointing loss in last winter's Grand Final, the girls were revved up and ready to play. With only 5 minutes to play, the girls were 5 goals down, but the adrenalin started pumping and they pulled a one goal win out of the bag. The Under 8 Div 1 team, coached by Jude Johnson with Olivia Fensom assisting, had worked amazingly hard for a place in the Grand Final, with close games in both the semi and prelims. They had only played Seaton once before and lost 20-1, so were not overly confident. They certainly tried their absolute best and only lost 14-7.



The Under 11 team, coached by Sandy Barker, had a mixture of success throughout the season, finishing in fourth place. This was a good step up for many players, playing in Div 1 for the first time. Two open teams played this season, one being made up of a combination of junior girls and their parents and the A team. Our mixed age team finished 5th with the girls gaining valuable experience playing against much older and stronger oppositions. The A's stepped up into A grade and did amazingly well to finish 4th.



The Winter season started with a warm day the week before Easter. The Under 8s played at home and began the season well with a 9-7 goal win. Grace and Annabelle showed great sportsmanship by helping out a very sad and frightened player from the opposition and telling her where to stand on centre passes. Emily Johnson attended the Junior Netball Camp in Wellington in the first week of the holidays. She had a great time, made some new friends and developed her netball skills. Well done to Emily Johnson and Kathryn Barker who participated in the Umpires Clinic held on Saturday April 18. Both girls learnt a great deal about umpiring and netball in general.

Do you know someone that wants to play netball?

It may seem like we've just started the Winter season, but we are already starting to compile the mailing list for the coming Summer season.

Please forward any names, year of birth and email addresses to Jude (morialta.netball@internode.on.net)

Since this report.....

Emily Johnson has been selected in the South Australian United Churches Netball Association Under 13 Representative team, playing in Adelaide in October. Sandy Barker has been accepted to coach the Under 15 representative team at the same carnival.

If you would like to cheer the teams along at matches on Saturdays, check the schedule on the notice board in the foyer. They'd love to have you there!

Celebrations and Sadness

We felt enormous sadness in the passing of Claire Hogben in April and Florence Gillett in May. Their lives have been celebrated with affection. We have been enriched by the stories, and memories shared by their families



Claire Annette Hogben

25 March 1936 – 08 April 2009

**In a loving family tribute
Claire was described as
“always a country girl at heart.”**

She was introduced quickly to the skills of cooking. She enjoyed playing piano and became very skilled in sewing, clothes of all kinds.

Eventually, with advice and assistance from family members, including Brian, she completed a huge task, a ribbon embroidery quilt – a beautiful piece of workmanship.

Claire met many people while she worked as a telephonist in Stansbury. One young man, Brian, spent quite a bit of time impressing her. When he saw her he would ruffle her beautiful blonde hair. It wasn't long before Brian asked her to marry him and they were engaged for a year.

Claire and Brian were 'proud as punch' of their grandchildren, Ben and Callum. Claire asked to look after the boys during the day and Natalie returned to work. She had a fantastic time and so did they.

Diane captured much of the essence of Claire

Claire knew a lot about making a home. She was an expert at it. It was an art she practised for many, many years. She made a happy home for her family and it was not just in being able to carry out the practical tasks, such as cooking and cleaning, although she did those extremely well. It was in being able to make her family feel loved, in making the place they lived, a safe place from which they could venture into the world - making a home from home where her grandsons would be welcomed and cherished and nourished by her.

Claire was one to set high standards in many things, but she was not one to use those standards to judge others. Even where no one else might notice, Claire would do what needed to be done so thoughtfully, so carefully, so thoroughly.

Diane talked of her thoughtfulness in floral arrangements and symbols. We have delighted in her flowers, beautifully arranged on many occasions and have been blessed by the thoughtfulness and love with which they have been placed.



“Claire only had a small footprint on the Earth, but a huge heart which she shared with everyone.” - Stuart



Florence Lila Gillett

17 November 1931 – 28 May 2009

**Paul reflected on the attitudes and
beliefs which shaped Florence's living.**

Florence had a number of simple principles by which she lived her life. Most importantly she demonstrated those principles by her daily actions.

She believed that no matter what we are doing we should always do it to the very best of our ability. She believed in equity, that all people had the right to be treated equally no matter what their background, their condition or their circumstance. She also believed in cause and effect, that we should treat others as we would have them treat ourselves. She was a strong believer in forgiveness.

She had a strong sense of right and wrong and was prepared to stand by her beliefs. She was not afraid to express her opinion and often did so whether that opinion was popular with the particular assembly or not. She believed that we all have an obligation to be the very best that we can possibly be. This was not an egotistical position but founded on the belief that in being the very best we can be then by our communal existence society as a whole benefits from our personal success.

Florence had a fundamental generosity of spirit. She believed we have an obligation to help where we can whomever we can. This was not led by the seeking of any possible reward other than the personal reward of simply helping someone else. Our actions should be led by simply doing what we believe is right.

Kay shared stories, reminding us of Florence's sense of humour and her joy in life.

She got a job at the Post Office after she left school. She was very beautiful with dark hair, creamy olive skin and a great figure. Of course she had heaps of boys wanting to go out with her. One boy asked her out and when they got home, she gave him a kiss and he turned around and went flat on his face. *Wow, Mum thought, that was some kiss.* It turns out he tripped over the tap, but she still thought she had some input in to his dilemma.

Mum was always involved with the Magill Uniting Church now Morialta, and Dad used to get a bit annoyed that the only good food went down to the church. He never got any chocolate éclairs! So one night Mum made a three-course roast dinner. We had seconds then dessert. Then Mum bought out a large tray of chocolate éclairs for us to eat. Of course we tried to do it justice, but we just couldn't. Dad never winged about that again.

Mum and Dad combined their love of learning and travel and went camping taking us with them. Dad did geology and Mum, ornithology or bird watching. She walked for kilometres through unknown territory and spent hours looking for the elusive pink-eared duck or a yellow-nostrilled honey eater. We couldn't really see the point, but she came back to camp happy and that was important.

Right to the end of her life and beyond, Mum was thoughtful, compassionate, caring, strong and sharing. We couldn't have asked for a more giving, caring, generous, loving role model who taught us well but let us go when it was our time. She always loved us unconditionally.

Chosen as Leader - Rev. Alistair Macrae

Rev Alistair Macrae is the President-elect of the Uniting Church in Australia. He will be installed as President during the 12th Triennial Assembly, 15-21 July 2009.

Each year for the past few years I've had the pleasure of spending a day with candidates preparing to exit from our theological college. We spend the time reflecting on the vows they will take at ordination. It's a way of focusing on what God, through the church, has called them to be and do in this particular ministry within the body of Christ.

For the past three years I've been aware of an impending call to a particular leadership role within the church, namely, President of the Assembly. And it is time to stop, pray and reflect on the meaning of that call. Theologically I regard the primary Christian call to be to discipleship which is marked by baptism. Within that call to love and serve Christ and to love and serve the world, God calls us to particular ministries and roles within church and community. Some of these are leadership roles.

It is instructive to reflect on leadership in the church at a time when the lectionary is about to feature Israel's most famous leader, King David. He provides an interesting link between leadership and the idea of 'worthiness'.

On the one hand, David is regarded as the ideal, exemplary leader. His achievements cannot be underestimated. He united a declining and fragmenting federation of tribes into a unified and prosperous nation state.

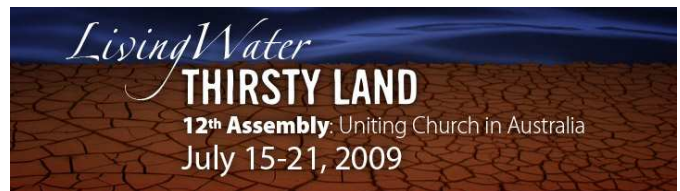
However, the scriptures also tell another story — that of a very flawed human being. The story of Bathsheba and Uriah is a tawdry one — abuse, deception and murder. It took a word from the Lord, through the prophet Nathan, to reveal the truth of David's abuse of the trust placed in him. Despite David's penitence, his corrupt behaviour as a leader exacted a heavy toll upon him, his family and his nation.

It would be dangerous to completely sever the link between leadership in the church and the question of personal worthiness. Leadership in the church is based in the call of God and the discernment of the community. We seek leaders who will in some way embody the vocation and character of that particular community. If leadership is to be effective, the authorisation and trust of the community the leader serves is fundamental.

We have been reminded many times of the damage done to the church and other organisations by leaders who have failed to honour the trust of those in their care. People have been hurt, the reputation of the church has been damaged and the task of credibly bearing witness to the gospel has been compromised.

However, as with our Christian discipleship in general, our personal worthiness can never be the whole story, otherwise no one would make the grade! Only a sinner, surprised by joy at God's call, could sing 'Amazing grace!'

A quote, I think from Groucho Marx, has popped into my mind with alarming frequency these past three years: "I can have no respect for an organisation that would have me as its leader" — or something like that. I know myself reasonably well and am all too aware of the fragility of my faith, the flaws in my character, the depth of my ignorance; any of which, on a bad day, I will interpret as conclusive proof that in calling me to ministry or to be President, God and the church have made a terrible mistake!



The theme, *Living Water Thirsty Land* was suggested by the President-elect and commends itself for a number of reasons:

Living water is a metaphor used by Jesus (John 4) to describe the gift he offers — nourishment from God which is never exhausted. Water is also used in scripture as a symbol of the Holy Spirit, and of justice.

Thirsty land is a clear reference to the context in which the Church participates in God's mission — this dry, ancient land. The current ecological crisis and the spiritual dryness of consumerist materialism add notes of urgency to Christ's call to mission.

But I am still in touch with the wonder of the first time I was aware of Christ's call to follow and serve him, 'all the days of my life.' A call which, despite my manifest failings, has come again and again. The apostle Paul, one of the church's greatest leaders, was himself, manifestly imperfect. The lesson learnt through bitter experience, that 'God's power is made perfect in my weakness,' (2 Corinthians) is one that has sustained many in Christian leadership since.

Like in the story of the loaves and the fishes — where the resources seemed inadequate to do the job — when they were offered for Christ's blessing they were enough and more than enough. That is how I approach the call to leadership in the church. To humbly offer what little I have — and trust that God will bless what is offered and make it enough.

Someone wrote that the task of leaders is 'to keep the main thing the main thing.' Maybe the 'main thing' in this challenging time for the Christian church is to believe that when the church offers the little it has for the 'reconciliation of all things', God can take what is offered, bless it and make it enough.

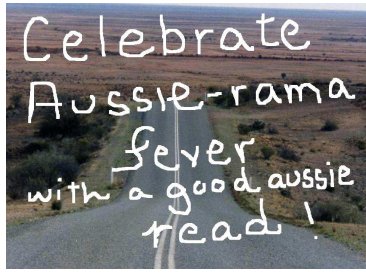
From *The Transit Lounge* Reprinted with permission, WA Synod

Rev Diane Bury and Bruce Ind will attend 12th Assembly in Sydney. Both were elected to membership of Assembly by the Presbytery and Synod.

**As we worship, God of mystery,
Keep us open to wonderment and new possibility,
Keep us from the need to have answers.
Teach us to look anew,
To listen afresh,
And to question with child-like honesty.
Encourage us to approach the mysteries of life and faith
With a lightness of touch and a reverence of purpose**

Amen

Adapted from *Seasons of the Spirit*



The Library this month will be entering into the spirit of the festivities of the AUSSIE-RAMA and invites you to choose a good old Aussie book to read.

We have lots of books on our shelves by Australian authors like Colin Thiele, Margaret Stiller, Colleen McCulloch, Di Morrissey, Caroline Jones, Tim Winton, Christobel Mattingley, Monica McInerney, Judith Nunn, Sally Sara, Michael Keenan, Tom Clancy, Banjo Patterson, Bryce Courtney, Mem Fox, Sara Henderson, Marg Carroll and Helen Garner to name just a few.

One true story that has caught my attention is called The Washerwoman's Dream by Hilarie Lindsay. It is the amazing story of Winifred Steger who migrated with her father to Queensland in the early 1890's. Boy did she ever have a tough life! Poverty, isolation, backbreaking work, an abusive husband whom she leaves along with four small children. This is a story that you just can't put down, she did some amazing things like marry an Indian Muslim and well you will just have to read it to find out more.

Calling Me Home by Graham Jenkin includes a cassette so you can listen to South Australian songs with Thomas Edmonds singing some of them - that is if you still have a tape recorder! It is interesting to thumb through the book, have a look at the pictures, read a little here and there about the old river boats that steamed up or down the Murray, or read about the story of the Germanic people who came to South Australia or perhaps about the train voyages of the Ghan.

Due Date by Tricia Stringer. New! These are the stories of twenty Australian women of substance, twenty great pieces from the heart. Tricia Stringer grew up in South Australia on her family's Eyre Peninsula farm before moving to Adelaide. She is married with three children and now lives in rural South Australia.

What would you do if you discovered your unborn child held the fate of the future ownership of your family property? This is the question that "Due Date" addresses. .

ALSO NEW TO THE LIBRARY

Why We're Equal and In Defence of Doubt by Val Webb

The Gospel Music of Johnny Cash Christianity The second thousand years

Redeeming Love by Francine Rivers

Handle with Care by Jodi Picoult

Prayer - An evening with Philip Yancey

Top 50 Bible Songs (for Ages 3 - 7 years)

And from 'Lost Sheep' Series: The Gardener and the Vine; Peter the Fisherman

Morialta Uniting Church Library Living Words Giving Life

memo Things to do in June

- Read more Meet new people Join a book club Keep warm Be read to Help in the library

Laptop needed

Do you have a laptop which is surplus to your needs? The Library works with an electronic database/catalogue and needs a computer which is faster and more efficient.

If you can help Lorraine would be pleased to hear from you.

Friends of ELC - the Effective Living Centre

The Effective Living Centre is based at Christ Church Uniting Church, Wayville, and works with PC Net, the Progressive Christianity Network.

Morialta members have attended many of the programs in its high quality, diverse range which addresses social issues, the arts, poetry, parenting, multi faith issues and events, and progressive Christianity. Programs include acclaimed writers and speakers, nationally and internationally.

Almost since its inception, the Friends of the Effective Living Centre have been an important part of the administrative support that is so vitally needed to ensure the successful operation of the organisation. Perhaps you have supported ELC in the past, but your annual membership hasn't been renewed. Or perhaps you haven't realized that you could give support in this way. If you would like to show your support and enjoy the benefits of being a 'Friend', ELC would like to hear from you.

Subscriptions for 2009 are now due and payable, at only \$30 per person or \$40 per family. Many more friends are needed to secure the ongoing programs. The subscription form is included below. If you cut it out and send it off as soon as possible, you will be admitted to programs at the concession rate and receive your Friends Name Tag to wear to all ELC events.

Don't delay - subscribe today!

Friends of ELC

To become a Friend and help our work, please complete and return the form below to:

The Effective Living Centre, Christ Church Uniting Church, 26 King William Road, Wayville 5034

Yes, I want to become a Friend/Sponsor of the Effective Living Centre for 2009:

Name:.....

Telephone No.

Postal Address:

Email address:

Please find enclosed my cheque/money order for \$30 Single / \$40 Family \$.....

Friend please debit Mastercard/ Visa card (cross out as applicable) \$.....

Name on Card:

Expiry Date/.....

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MORIALTA UNITING CHURCH

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We are on the web!
www.MorialtaUCA.org.au

Editor: Mary Thornley

Graphic Design: Val DiGirolamo

Living Streams ~ Giving Life



Meditation and Prayer

We affirm and celebrate the mystery of God.
 Creator of vast galaxies,
 Yet still creating with passion in our midst;
 Source of all life and goodness.

(from Affirmation of Faith - Seasons of the Spirit)

Diary Dates

Saturday 4 July	6.30-7.00pm AUSSIE-RAMA
Wed 15—Tues 21 July	12th Assembly UCA
Saturday 8 August	7.30pm Quiz Night
Sunday 16 August	Mission Project sConcert : Myall Ensemble
Sunday 30 August	9.30 am Combines Service & Meeting of Congregation

AUSSIE-RAMA



Deadline for August Edition
 Saturday 1 August 2009

If you would like to contribute an item,
 please send *unformatted* as Word documents
 either:
by email to the Vision Receiver,
 Sharon Mackenzie,
 (craig_sharon@picknowl.com.au).

Please do not format or use other software

OR

In hard copy via the Vision pigeon-hole – please
 allow more lead time for word processing.

*To discuss ideas for Vision articles
 contact the editor.*

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 David Purling, Arthur Tideman
 and others.

All who have contributed to this
 enjoyable edition.



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 this publication



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