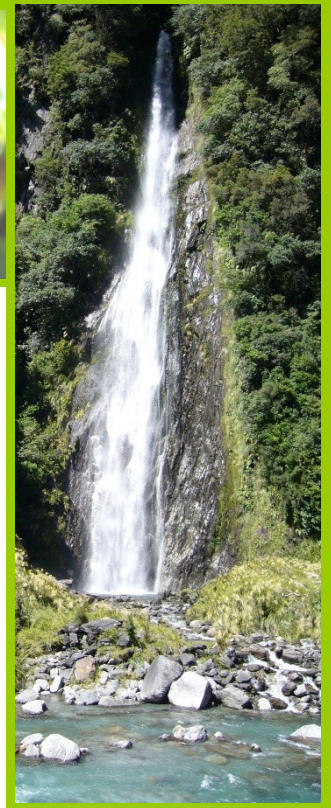


# Morialta Vision

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## From the Minister

### The Divine Madness of All

"Love your enemies!" This is the most divine madness of all. This is the most strategic reversal of all. The key to the kingdom is to love those who do not love you, who hate you, and whom you, by worldly standards, should also hate. That is the madness of the Gospel of Jesus. Loving the lovable is entirely possible, but loving the unlovable, those who are impossible to love, that is when the kingdom reigns. Loving the unlovable, the possibility of the impossible.

That is why our political leaders, aided by a large part of complicit media, do all they can to make the alien, the refugee, the marginalised - unlovable. Our government suggests, for example, that it knows everything that needs to be known about asylum seekers - not in 'reality' of course, but in function as the repository of authority and power. Thus its actions are in the best interests of all.

But on those occasions when Jesus puts on a display of power it is not to save himself or crush those seen to be enemies, but it is on behalf of others for their healing and salvation. Jesus is consistently concerned about the needs of everyone he meets who is down and in need of help. What would a political order look like were it a politics of flesh that proliferates in the New Testament?



A politics of mercy and compassion, a lifting up of the weakest and most defenceless people, a politics of welcoming the stranger and of loving one's enemies abroad? What would it be like if there were a politics of and for children, a politics that builds from the poorest up? What would a political order look like if the last were first, if everything turned on the lifting up of the lowliest? Would all this, and more, not be in almost every respect the opposite of the politics that currently passes itself off under the name of government policy? Are not the figures who publicly parade their love of power and their acknowledgment of Jesus singled out by Jesus under the name of whited sepulchres and long robes?

The dangerous memory of the crucified Jesus poses a threat to the concept of 'sovereignty'. A threat to a nation believing it can get away with acting in its own self-interests.

It is we who have to make the weakness of God stronger than the power of the world. That is the madness to which we are called.

*Bruce Grindlay*

## Easter and Pentecost 2014

### A Common Celebration

This year, 2014, Christians from all traditions – Western and Orthodox – will have celebrated Easter and, shortly, Pentecost on the same day – Easter 20 April and Pentecost 8 June. The two dates coincide when the full moon following the equinox comes so late that it counts as the first full moon after 21 March in the Julian calendar as well as the Gregorian. This is not a regular occurrence, but it has happened more frequently in recent years - 2001, 2004, 2007, 2010, 2011. It will also take place in 2014 and 2017 but, after that, not again until 2034.

## The Easter Mystery

This year, during Lent, Good Friday and Easter Day, Christians across the world have been moving through a time of remembering the suffering, death and resurrection of Christ at the same time. We have been held together in that unity as we mark these days in diverse ways and in various places. And as we continue may we remember especially the suffering, death – and the hope of new life – of all our sisters and brothers in Christ who live in lands of persecution - Nigeria, Middle East, Vietnam... ..

*From SA Council of Churches, 65 Flinders Street, Adelaide SA 5000 - edited.*

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## David Purling's Musings - Head in the Clouds?

Do you remember this hymn?

*"Not a shadow can rise,  
Not a cloud in the skies,  
But His smile quickly drives it away;  
Not a doubt or a fear,  
Not a sigh or a tear,  
Can abide while we trust and obey."*

The 'cloud' in this hymn has negative connotations. It has to be removed!

I'm not sure how or when I got interested in clouds and taking photos of them. I seem to have taken a few. And to wax philosophical, what do they mean? It's easy enough to learn what they are. The Bureau of Meteorology web page states, "Of all weather phenomena, clouds are among the most fascinating. From the silky filaments to high altitude cirrus to the towering, threatening mass of storm-bearing cumulonimbus, clouds are as varied as the weather itself."



It seems that it's not only the Bureau of Meteorology which has an interest in clouds, but poets and theologians also. We all remember William Wordsworth's

words: "I wandered lonely as a cloud that floats on high o'er vales and hills..."

We refer to clouds in our language, too, with such sayings as: 'Every cloud has a silver lining', 'have one's head in the clouds', 'under a cloud', 'cloud on the horizon', and 'be on cloud nine'.



What about the clouds of the Bible?

A few examples:

"And the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of cloud, to lead them on their way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night." Exodus 13:21.

"Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us..." Hebrews 12:1,2.

Other references to clouds in the New Testament evoke a sense of God's glory and majesty.

So in my musing, I ask, what do clouds mean?

Now here are some interesting



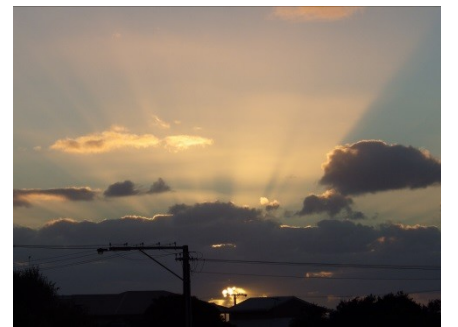
observations:

"God writes the Gospel not in the Bible alone, but also on trees, and in the flowers and clouds and stars". *Martin Luther*

"When we look up, it widens our horizons. We see what a little speck we are in the universe, so insignificant, and we all take ourselves so seriously, but in the sky, there are no boundaries, no differences of caste or religion or race." *Julia Gregson, East of the Sun*

*And a final thought:*

"A pessimist sees only the dark side of the clouds, and mopes; a philosopher sees both sides, and shrugs; an optimist doesn't see the clouds at all — he's walking on them."



## Council's Worship Reflection

Caroline Jones, in her book "An authentic Life", talks about Sacred Time. She talks about dedicating some space to accommodate the soul and the spiritual life that nourishes it.

Time has been made into a commodity, of which there is never enough. This is illustrated by the fact that media interviewers thank people for their time, rather than their expertise. Living at top speed becomes an addiction as painful to break as any other. This may be stimulating for a limited period, but is inhospitable to spirituality.

Many of us have become expert at juggling multiple commitments. But is this really the way to go for peace of mind?

Some busy people find a daily time of prayer or meditation fulfils the need. Others are sustained spiritually by the ritual of making a cup of tea and enjoying it in peace and contemplation.

Many men claim that time in their den or shed is essential to them.

Thomas Moore writes that "art captures the eternal in the everyday, and it is the eternal that feeds soul". He means art of all kinds: poetry, painting, woodwork, writing letters, playing music, keeping a journal.

Thomas Moore goes on, "Art beckons us into contemplation, so that we have an intensified experience of the presence of the world. We see it more vividly and

more deeply."

Traditional cultures believed that certain places had distinctive qualities and that one should spend time in such places, regardless of the time and the hardship of making the journey there. It happens still today. Moslems strive to make a pilgrimage to Mecca, Christians to the holy places in Israel. In India and Bali, and in Europe, people visit holy wells, sacred mountains, great cathedrals, temples, holy rivers and shrines of saints.

At some level, we modern western people know these concepts of sacred time and sacred place but we have forgotten them.

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## From the Chairperson

In an article over Easter, *The Advertiser* notes that 72% of Marriages are solemnized by Civil Celebrants. In another recent article it was noted that there had been significant decline in church membership over the past 100 years in percentage terms. Resurrection is now a popular American television drama and Hot Cross Buns have become....

Well, it's easy to look at the glass and see that it is half full. But as a community that follows *the Light* what challenges do these situations throw up for us? Indeed, why bother to call another Minister?

Arguably, even though the Church in the West is suffering a significant decline we at Morialta are still in a far better position than many, and in

contrast to the members of the early Christian community. We do not experience persecution and face death because of our beliefs, but that doesn't mean that we have any excuse to be complacent.

Our purpose for being is to engage in Mission, to respond to the Word and demonstrate the Love that Jesus taught. Regardless of our size.

Easter shows us each that there is always tomorrow. Our community may change. We may suffer the grief of loss, but our purpose remains. We are a community of Faith journeying together.

As we prepare to welcome Steve Thompson as our Minister we have an opportunity to recommit to the strong vision we share as a congregation and the Mission to which we are called.

Even though there is a significant decline in the size of denominations and congregations around us, where there is breath we must share hope and show love. In doing this we are exercising the teaching of Jesus and people will be able to experience the Divine through us and our actions.

As people of the Resurrection we are called to live out our Faith. As the congregation of Morialta Uniting Church we will continue to serve our community as we wait and hope that all will experience God through an understanding of the life and person of Jesus.



Bruce Ind

## Community Centre News

Volunteering is a wonderful way to live out one's Christian faith. Volunteering provides opportunity to extend Christian hospitality to people beyond one's normal group of contacts. I am not saying anything unusual to a church community like Morialta where there are multiple ways in which individuals offer their various skills in service of others.

For a community like Morialta so rich in volunteer help in a wide variety of ways, it is sometimes important to be the recipient of volunteers from outside the square. This has been the case at Playgroup where we have recently

engaged four volunteers from outside our community. Kaori came for about two months bringing a touch of Japanese culture to some craft activities. Jing and Annie are both Chinese volunteers who are each studying Early Childhood at Magill Campus of UniSA. They are appreciating the opportunity to apply some of their learning. For a short time we enjoyed the help given by Valashni who is from Sri Lanka. Valashni found paid work and moved on but we valued her contribution as we also value the contributions of all the current volunteers. Despite all the wonderful volunteering that occurs there are not enough volunteers on the morning tea

roster for Playgroup. Carole Lyons

**Morialta  
Community  
Centre**



is soon to finish in her role administrating Playgroup matters. Carole's contribution has been very valuable. Carole would at times fill up to three gaps in the morning roster. With Carole gone the roster will look a little thin. Are you able to bake a few biscuits and leave them in the fridge on Sunday morning or perhaps drop in a cake as you pass by on your way to the shops on Tuesday morning. Parents greatly appreciate the home cooking. It is a little blessing for tired, busy parents.

Christine Ostle

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Some modern tourism is actually unconscious spiritual pilgrimage, a search for that quality which has been removed from modern Western life but for which we still yearn. I certainly found a spiritual quality at Uluru or Ayers Rock. Perhaps it was the space when looking to the horizon – the feeling of being alone even though there were dozens of fellow tourists around - perhaps it was the knowledge that Aboriginals had known this area as a sacred site for thousands of years.

Again at Lindisfarne in England, also known as Holy Island, there was the remoteness, the isolation when the tide came in and cut off access to the mainland, the sacredness of the area where St Cuthbert lived and died. Again this had been a sacred site for hundreds of years. Time seemed not to matter.

From time to time I like to walk around my front garden. It's not a well cultivated garden – more a native garden which includes four large gum trees up to 25 metres high. There is always the sound of birds in the air. Sometimes it is New Holland Honeyeaters calling to each other, or Blackbirds fossicking around in the compost. Sometimes the raucous call of the wattle birds as they maintain control of their territory or the loud call of a family of crows as they fly around from tree to tree. As though this is not enough, cockatoos screech to each other as they circle the area.

Then as I look up into the branches I can see a koala there sitting quietly, sometimes asleep, sometimes just gazing at me or the birds as they call out a warning to each other of an intruder in their tree.

Their presence is a source of wonder to me. I did not create them. I do not control them. Their visits are sheer grace. They remind me of the need to relax and be with nature, be at peace.

This is my sacred time.

These are simple, accessible things – chance encounters. They are all around us, commonplace. But they are illuminated when regarded with the eye of gratitude. Like waking to a new day, they are all a gift if we choose to see them that way.

Living with more care for the soul in everyday life might require something as simple as pausing more often, for a few moments of quiet reflection, for a period of being rather than doing.

John Powers

## Welcoming Steve Thompson...

As we have celebrated the new life of the Easter message we have come closer to the arrival of Rev Steve Thompson. Steve has been completing his ministry in Easter Worship with the Yilki Congregation who we know are generous, loving and fully supportive of his move to full-time ministry at Morialta. And we have been taking the steps with warm anticipation towards his arrival and ministry with us.

*Taking the steps* covers a number of matters, not least of them being the preparation of the manse.



You will recall pictures of the garden's "radical surgery" back in January. That was an important beginning! Since then, under the dedicated project management of John Powers there has been painting throughout, bathroom repairs and installations, lighting upgrade, new curtains and blinds, repairs internally to the roof structure and ceiling, appliance replacement, and floor coverings will complete this significant refurbishment.

Given that the manse has served a minister and family, then student accommodation, and then two ministers in placement, over a total period of twenty-three years, with identifiable limitations and comparatively little refurbishment, the time was ripe for this major work.

We say our thanks to John and the other "workers", all skilled in their various contributions: Dawn and Sam Colegrove,



Bruce Ind, Peter Thornley, Roger Whibley, John Thornton, Lorraine Powers and Margaret Whibley. When one considers the reconnaissance for purchases, decisions, selection and ordering of all the items involved, we may well feel daunted – but not this group!



This substantial work is funded by the Morialta Foundation and we will have a much improved property. A consideration earlier had been that if an incoming minister did not need the manse the refurbishment would prepare it well for the rental market. We are delighted that as matters have progressed it will become the home for our Minister, Rev Steve Thompson and his partner, Lachlan White.

### Induction

The Service of Induction, a Presbytery service, here at Morialta, on Sunday 18 May at 3.00 pm will be followed with a Celebratory Afternoon Tea. We look forward to extending our hospitality to visitors, friends of Steve, those with whom we share in the wider church, and to others in our local community.

Rev Diane Bury will be the Presbytery appointed Leader in Worship, and the Preacher will be the Rev Ian Hunter. This service is one of inclusion of our members, in worship roles, as the congregation, and in celebrating Communion.

## Information and highlights from Church Council

### Never a dull moment!

- The Worship and Faith Education MMT is now moving forward with Beverley Tredrea as Leader, supported by Dawn Colegrove, Bob Penhall as Elder, John Secombe as member, and with the welcome addition of Pam Ayles. Members are looking forward to Rev Steve Thompson working with them.
- Council agreed to the purchase of a further camera to enable the *Beyond our Walls* project, noting that the third camera in the trio had been made available with great goodwill by a member of the team. Whilst a camera is a relatively expensive item at about \$4000, it was clear that the income from Morialta's hire of its equipment into the wider church would pay for this purchase in a very short time. The camera should bring an improved quality of picture and greater flexibility.
- The Synod's Draft Policy for Work Health and Safety, to ensure congruency with current legislation, was examined by Church Council. Requirements under the policy relevant to our responsibilities and practices were identified and will need ongoing attention to ensure that they are met. Such is the concern to show that Work Health and Safety is taken very seriously, that Council is required by the policy to have a standing item on its Meeting Agendas for this purpose. More information will be shared as this impacts on everyone and every action in the Congregation.
- Council has been mindful of the responsibilities and Duty of Care requirements in all its activities and particularly with children and other vulnerable people. It was noted that Craig Mackenzie's work as KCO Group Coordinator was detailed and well done to meet these requirements. Care will be taken to note all activities undertaken with children.
- Resourcing ministry with children, young families and youth has been given ongoing attention, prompted most recently by initiatives such as Messy Church and the long standing Kids on Sunday. Frequently, as at the AGM of the Congregation, questions are raised about the ways in which we can provide for, and invite more children. Council has agreed to establish a 10 hour per week Ministry Resourcing position for one year to assist in this challenging area. Some of the funds previously supporting our 0.3 appointment of a Minister-in-Association will enable this ministry. A Position Description, outlining the expectations and duties will be developed with advice from Synod and with input from program leaders. The work on this process, facilitated by the Secretary of Church Council, will begin shortly, and it is intended that Rev Steve Thompson will join in the deliberations and in the selection for the position. The position and development in this area of ministry will be reviewed after twelve months.
- Thanks were expressed to Carole Lyons and Pauline Norman who concluded their terms, and a warm welcome is being extended to newly elected member, Adam Yearsley.

Mary Thornley  
Secretary, Church Council

# SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS

## Why did I march on Palm Sunday?

The main reason was to make a public statement that as a Christian I do not agree with the way Australia, as a nation, treats asylum seekers. It is contrary to my understanding of the Gospel messages, and I am embarrassed and ashamed of my country.

The Australian Government and media love to use the term "Illegals" – but it is not illegal to seek asylum in Australia, even if coming by boat. The 1958 Immigration Act is quite clear, so until the Act is changed, it is legal.

In fact, many of the things said about asylum seekers in the media are untrue. One is that payments are made to asylum seekers. Another relates to the risk of terrorism. While Centrelink pays a refugee single mother \$611.90/month, which is the same as is paid to all single mothers, the benefit for an asylum seeker is zero. And to date no terrorists have arrived by boat.

However, I think the most concerning aspect for me is the way many Australians seem to feel that the policy of towing the boats back to Indonesia is so successful in stopping them. Politicians take pride in the fact that the boats have stopped and no one is drowning at sea. However, while preventing deaths at sea is a great outcome, this has not solved the larger problem. It has just transferred the problem to someone else. The asylum seekers are still in limbo, still living in crowded accommodation, still begging for food, and their children still have no schooling and no future. To me it reeks of hypocrisy to claim how wonderful we are because we are preventing people from drowning at sea, while we are still ignoring the fate of those people. Refugees are not an Australian problem; they are not an Indonesian problem. Refugees are a world problem, and it is totally irresponsible to tow the boats back and then pretend the problem is solved.

So that is why I marched, so that I could join with other like-minded people in firmly stating that when we as a nation lock up people who have committed no crime, in conditions worse than those in which we would lock up a child abuser, then I want to say loud and clear: "Please - not in my name".

*Colin Cargill*

## SJMMT say a fond farewell and thank you to Bill and Doreen Matheson



The members of the SJMMT gathered for dinner on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April to thank Bill and Doreen for their friendship and enthusiasm and their valued contributions and support to social justice in the life of Morialta. After 20 years of dedicated and faithful service the Mathesons have decided to "retire".

Bill and Doreen developed their interest in social justice well before their marriage over 60 years ago. One of the reasons they moved to Morialta in 1994 was that it was the only congregation in the area with an active social justice committee. Another major attraction was Nairn Kerr, who had just become our minister.

Bill and Doreen are both very passionate about a range of social justice issues including world poverty, human rights and asylum seekers, living more sustainably, and environmental degradation. Bill was awarded an OAM in 2005 for his services to Trees for Life and the environment, and his insights and wisdom on environmental issues have been extremely valuable to our community. His many articles in Vision over the years, simplifying complex environmental issues, have been valuable in helping many of us understand the complexity of issues and the ramifications of our actions.

Doreen is not only passionate about world poverty and human rights, but is also extremely knowledgeable and well read. However, Doreen not only reads and talks about issues, she follows up with action. Bill and Doreen did not just join marches and campaigns to have asylum seekers released from detention; they visited and befriended a young detainee in Baxter. Bill and Doreen's lifestyle reflects their commitment to social justice and living more simply, and they are highly respected throughout the wider community for their commitments.



The Rockleigh Picnic and tree planting that occurred every June long weekend over a number of years was one of their great contributions to our community. The trees will continue to be a living memorial to Bill and Doreen long after we have all moved on.

While the SJMM Team will miss their inputs at our meetings, we will not lose their friendship and we are confident that they will continue to support us for as long as they are able.

Thanks Bill and Doreen for your contributions, friendship and encouragement.

*Colin Cargill  
For Social Justice MMT*



Twenty-two members joined in the 2014 Gateways Getaway at Normanville in April. Arrangements were efficiently and thoughtfully made by Lesley and Arthur, Carole, Lorraine and John. Lorraine has captured selected gems from the five-plus days' rich and relaxed experience.

**Gateways**

**BLESSINGS ON RETREAT**

Over the sand dune and there spread before us  
 sea, sand and jetty to basalt clad hills.  
 Strolling to town, we discover the bakery  
 ready to serve us with delectable pastries.  
 Colourful water-hewn rocks are inspected,  
 as plodding through seaweed, a cave we explore.



Bumping along in our automobiles,  
 over the hills, and over the vales,  
 a tiny town, amongst farms all around,  
 Delamere is what we have found.  
 A little white chapel is where we are heading,  
 down country lanes and then straight ahead,  
 Entering, not knowing what to expect,  
 they've been waiting for us as I suspected:  
 A sumptuous country morning tea is spread,  
 on a table as long as a bed.



Pictures envisaged of Delamere past,  
 of Molly the organist,  
 Pumping the bellows as hard as she could;  
 Of hungry mice scampering  
 from under the organ,  
 Making merciless mayhem, they give such a fright;  
 Of Nelly the cow, through the window she stretches  
 espying the flowers, she has them digested.

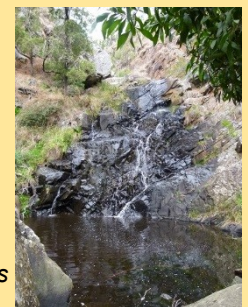
Laughter like tonic has restored our belief,  
 in fun as a life-giving form of relief.  
 Simply chatting away for as long as we like,  
 does wonders for friendships they grow while we play.  
 Forming a circle and encircled by nature,  
 we sing praise to God *for all creatures ... below.*  
 Sharing some bread and sharing some wine,  
 words that are spoken have meaning and grace  
 as together we create sacred space.



Neath golden elm and scarlet ash,  
 a picnic lunch and lots of chat,  
 Birdsong, fresh air, laughter and fun,  
 we took it all in, as we sat.  
 Over green grass, passing trees so tall,  
 we discover the Ingalalla Waterfalls.  
 "Tell us, oh water, what you are whispering?"  
 "How do you put us at ease?"  
 Softly, the water gives its answer to us,  
 with melody, dancing and glee.  
 Secrets the water has told us,  
 so we can keep them unsaid.

Creative Spirit,  
 For the blessing received on retreat  
 We give thanks and rejoice  
 in the giftedness of each person there.  
 We are grateful for who we are  
 and for what we are for each other.

*Lorraine Powers*



**PANCAKE BREAKFAST 2014**

Once again we dined on Pancakes - on 9<sup>th</sup> March to be precise!  
 Those serving were happy early-morning people, efficient, good  
 cooks and superb in their service before and after breakfast.  
 (Those were the criteria for the positions!) We always enjoy the  
 opportunity to join with so many in the Uniting Church in the  
 Pancake Day event with the proceeds of our enjoyment going to  
 Uniting Communities. Morialta's contribution totalled \$153.  
 Thanks to all those who made the pancakes, served the tea and  
 coffee and organized the event! Great team work!



**MORIALTA MARCH PICNIC**

On a balmy holiday Monday in March a group of about thirty  
 friends from Morialta gathered in Morialta Conservation Park to  
 share fun, food and fellowship among the gum trees.



## NEWS FROM MISSION PROJECTS

The projects for Morialta this year are all associated with support for children.

### Building a local school in Linbong North India for 150 children.

Plans include a boarding school and medical clinic. This will make a huge difference for children from Linbong who now have a four hour walk along mountain trails to school. Human traffickers prey upon these children abducting them into slavery in the sex and construction trades. With a local school many more children will be able to experience a real childhood and get the education they deserve.

### Locally made tables and chairs for kindergartens in Tonga.

Many kindergartens in Tonga are badly under resourced. Tables and chairs will not only provide local tradesmen with an income: they will get a whole class off to the right start.

### Working among indigenous women and children in the urban poor communities in Baguio city.

Irisan is where communities have grown up around the local refuse tip. Volunteers from local churches need to be trained to facilitate workshops for mothers on basic child health, relationships in the family and community, handling conflicts and other activities to help this community. There is need to expand the program for basic handicraft production to enable women to supplement the family income. Again volunteers from local churches need resources as they set up informal school preparation education, working on basic writing and reading skills, the discipline of school attendance and basic social skills.

*Information from Uniting World.*

Beverley Tredrea  
Morialta Mission Projects Team

## Common Humanity

I am ashamed to admit that the last I heard of a Sunday morning homily was, 'St Paul said'..... My mind had switched to an encounter in the previous week with a 'fellow feeling' while sneaking a cappuccino in my much frequented coffee shop on Norwood Parade.

I had chosen a table at a window to observe the passers-by, the 11.00 a.m. Norwood parade which at first proved to be an unexceptional spectacle. Ladies passed by with floppy hand bags on the way to the supermarket. A number of elderly men just strolling along. With a flash a boy passed on his skate-board. Why wasn't he in school I wondered?

And then a middle-aged fellow came into view and stopped at my window while searching in an inner pocket. I thought, 'I know him'. Perhaps a work colleague lost in the mist of my time. While I was staring and pondering, to my embarrassment he faced me and gave a pleasant smile. With a high five wave he moved on but not before I could acknowledge him with my own smile.

In that moment I felt we had conveyed to one another recognition of our common humanity, that sense that links us one to another as that prolific author, Alexander McCall Smith, so cleverly blends into his tales.

Following that dismal attempt at worship I entered our hall for a refreshing cup of coffee to find there, so obvious, chatting groups conveying to one another that same recognition of common humanity. Without a glass window between us I joined in what was openly being offered, a common human feeling.

*Arthur Tideman*

## Sally Stamp

Margaret Dix shares correspondence from Maxine Haines, Convenor of UCA Stamp Group. Over \$2,500 was raised in 2013 enabling school books to be sent to South Pacific Islands, a project of many years. More recently books have also been sent to East Timor, Philippines, Bangkok and Liberia.

The Sally Stamp newsletter gives guidelines:

- Trim the stamps with 5mm (quarter of an inch) of paper surrounding. Be careful that stamps with white edges are not cut too close.
- DO NOT soak the stamps off the paper as most stamps are sold by weight.
- Keep separately any stamps which have no postmark, or have not been used, whether Australian or overseas.

- Pre-stamped envelopes or First Day covers should be kept whole (stamp only is of no value).
- Private Stamp Collections no longer wanted can be donated.
- THROW AWAY stamps postmarked too heavily, especially the "common ones", torn, stained, sticky taped, crossed with biro, or otherwise damaged.

Do you know of any stamp collectors? We have a good supply of Australian and overseas stamps in our stock books at "great prices". Purchases available from: Uniting Church Office, Level 2, 2012 Pirie Street, Adelaide, phone 8227 0822. Mondays 9am – 12 noon.



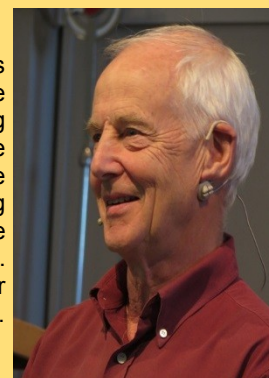
## John Thornton—Member in Association

John Thornton was Received as a Member in Association on 6 April, and we applauded in a statement of pleasure and good wishes.

In introduction, John Powers referred to the correspondence from Park Church of Scotland, Helensburgh, where he was listed on the Membership Roll for 1981 and as a resident in Helensburgh, and on the Communicants Roll for the 1980s. The letter from the Session Clerk confirmed his "freedom" to apply for membership of "another congregation".

John has been a busy working member of this congregation for

more than three years, using his wide ranging skills in maintenance and refurbishment, including filling cracks in the asphalt, scaling the heights in a tallscope, painting the reredos in the church and the roofing over the church porch, as well as the vestry, and testing roofing structures. John has proved to be another significant asset to the Property Team.





**Destiny - An Interpretation  
Symbols and Representations**

By Helen Penhall

The world, a black circle.  
Palm Sunday, the palm leaf  
and also the world out of darkness.  
The Risen Christ in the lines of the palm.  
The Crucifixion, the flax cross;  
Singapore orchids, the tears of Christ.  
A hint of the crown of thorns worn by Christ  
in the tangled vine around the top of the cross.

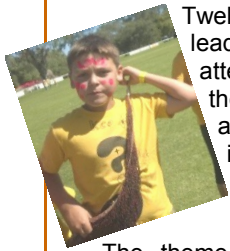


Early in the morning...

**TEAM JESUS  
Let's Go!**



**KIDS' CAMP OUT**



Twelve children and five leaders from Morialta attended KCO. As usual the children's enthusiasm and excitement was infectious, and made the weekend enjoyable for everyone.

The theme for KCO was "Team Jesus – let's go!" and was centred on discovering how Jesus is with us every day and how we can share God's love through our words and actions.



The children enjoyed games, crafts, devotions, communion, singing, music, worship and friendship.

KCO provides a wonderful opportunity for children to realise that there are many children in the

church family and to experience a sense of community, in an enjoyable and constructive way.



I would like to thank all those who helped make KCO an enjoyable event, for John Powers who helped transport camping equipment to and from KCO and also helped Lachlan Mackenzie put up tents on Friday night. Special thanks to our leaders Eunice, Steph, Cheryl, Steve and the support from the Morialta congregation has been greatly appreciated.



I would also like to thank the many other members of Morialta who helped to

make KCO a success, Ruth Pitt, Margaret Dix, Christine Secombe, Miranda Clarke, Rhonda Amber and Brian Hogben who assisted with crafts; Lachlan and Matthew Mackenzie who were part of the KCO Tech Crew and Jessie Hall, who was part of the KCO Crew.

Craig Mackenzie



**Paper Team to Fix-It Team musings**

The conclusion of the Paper Team's long, successful and generous history was a momentous point for our Church community, for many reasons. Nevertheless, the decision was well understood and we honoured the members of the team over that history. It's great to see the energies of the group and the camaraderie translated into the Fix-It Team on Monday mornings.

The story as reported in the February edition brought some musings on the past, and memories, clear or blurred by time and circumstance. Right or wrong, we thought readers may be interested in Graham Vincent's recollections, aligned somewhat with his personal circumstances, which may also bring

empathy with others' personal experiences.

Graham wrote:

I read with interest the story about the Paper Team. Whilst I will bow to the content if there is definitive evidence of the start being 1958, however, I will remember Magill Methodist being the place to bring newspapers. it was well known around the eastern districts within Methodism because as kids we would bring bundles and be paid 6p. or some similar amount per bundle (which were straightened and then on-sold to fish shops as wrapping paper).

But there is the problem ... by 1958 I was employed with a wage and owned a

car, and so it seemed to me that my evidence suggests that it was in business at least 2 or 3 years earlier than 1958.

By that time I would not have been interested in gathering and spending coins when I was already earning a respectable wage!!

*On another point*

*The Vision Editor continues to wonder and to apologise for overlooking Merv Boundy in the honour list of participants! Merv was a key figure of long standing in that venture! Merv has been, as always, very generous in accepting the "Oops!" apology.*



# Morialta Magpie



Happy Birthdays to Helen Stephens, Casey Sullivan, Marion Beard and Bruce Ind!

Rhonda Wake was happy to receive the quilt made by Judith Purling and signed by friends from Morialta. She is now living at Milpara.

Baby Archer Hughes, son of Kerry Anne and Adam, was baptised at Morialta. Kerry Anne and Adam are well known to Rev Bruce Grindlay who married them.



Fellowship celebrated Easter with hot cross buns and chocolate eggs.

## Paws for thought...

Cats in general, and Macey in particular, can be quite prickly. While she has got better recently, Macey is still hard to understand.

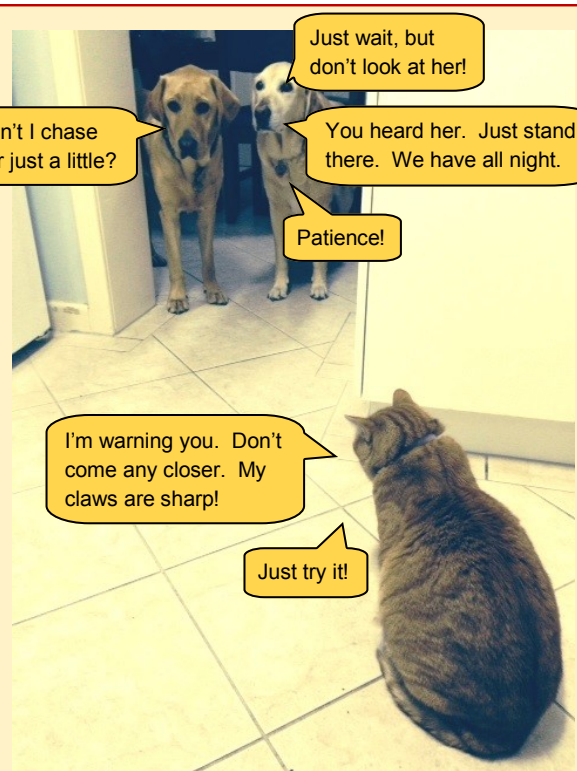
All she does all day is sleep. Each night Anne has to almost drag her inside. Personally, I wouldn't bother. And when she is inside she is allowed on the furniture. She doesn't do anything to help around the house like Wallace and me, and she still gets fed first each night.

For a long time Macey used to hiss at me whenever I got close. Recently that has improved. Now she hisses at Wallace. That could have something to do with the fact that he likes to chase her into the Outside Room. Whatever, I don't care, at least she isn't hissing at me.

Anyway, with all this it is good sometimes to get Macey on the back feet like the other night when she was "trapped" in the kitchen for a while.

Macey went into the kitchen even though Wallace and I are banned, so we just sat in the doorway for a while. We didn't have anything else to do and we **were** making sure that she didn't get up on the bench.

Keely



## Melva Freeman 1924 – 2014



Melva was born in Unley Private Hospital on 5<sup>th</sup> May 1924, to Charles and Myrtle Bray.

Early days were spent in Malvern, where she attended Highgate Primary School, Unley High School and Miss Mann's Business College after leaving school at the age of fourteen and working as a receptionist-secretary. She recalled that on Saturdays in her teenage years, she rode her bike with friends to Glenelg for a swim, then attended the local dance in the evening.

Melva's Christian foundations were laid at Malvern Methodist Church, from the time of attending Sunday School, through Comrades, until she was married. Her children were christened there. It was on the Malvern Methodist tennis courts that she met her husband, Colin Freeman – she was 12 and he was 16! Melva said that they dated from her 14<sup>th</sup> year, always chaperoned by her parents!

Courtship was interrupted by the Second World War. Aged 18, Colin enlisted with AIF and, after training at Wayville, Woodside and in Queensland, he was sent to the Middle East, where he fought at Tobruk for three years. On his return to Australia they were engaged. He was then sent to Queensland again for jungle training.

In 1943 Colin sent a telegram telling Melva to prepare for their wedding. Plans began and her wedding dress was made from fabric purchased with coupons, but alas the next telegram came from Tarakan in Borneo, where Colin fought in the jungle until 1945. Finally, after the war ended, they were married at Malvern. The wedding dress and Melva had survived the two year wait!

After the war Colin worked at the National Bank in Adelaide, followed by an appointment to Mount Gambier, where their two daughters were born. Managerial appointments followed at Kapunda, Mount Gambier, Elizabeth, Whyalla and finally in Adelaide, where they retired. Throughout, Melva's role was that of supportive wife, mother and community worker. She recalled that in Kapunda she cleaned the bank offices and at all

branches frequently hosted lavish functions for bank staff.

Whilst in the country Melva and Colin were always caught up in community work. On leaving the first branch, Kapunda, they totted up 29 committees between them! In Mount Gambier involvement was similar.

Melva always enjoyed executive roles on committees, usually opting to be more behind the scenes as secretary. Her first position, while still a young mother, was secretary to her mother-in-law while she was mayoress of Unley. She was secretary of the welfare club at Highgate School, where she made up a prototype of the school uniform some 55 years ago. Melva could recall riding her bicycle to the school on special lunch days, with her basket full of hot pasties for the children's orders.

While in Elizabeth, through the inter-denominational ministers' fraternal, she became involved with the establishment of the Elizabeth Counselling Centre, acting as secretary-receptionist for three years. Her duties, every month required her to roster the 100 receptionists, eight accountants and four professional counsellors who were involved in this wonderful organization.

Throughout her life she was involved with the Country Women's Association, church groups, hospitals, Inner Wheel, Legacy and other groups. She was a life member of Meals on Wheels, and served for more than 30 years at Resthaven.

Life was not all community work. Attendance at ship launchings in Whyalla, at unusual times of the day to coincide with tide times, was one of the unique perks of the job, as was attendance at country balls, luncheons and receptions.

Melva was a devoted mother to her family – sewing, cooking, knitting, following their activities and visiting. She enjoyed playing social tennis until aged 50 and in later years she enjoyed woodcarving and decoupage.

All in all Colin and Melva enjoyed their years of service and itinerant years in the bank. The activities in each town provided a rich and interesting life although packing and moving every three to five years never got any easier and was a disruption to school life for the girls. Changing schools, uniforms and friends was very difficult for them. Melva was very proud later to be around for their weddings and the arrivals of the grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

In retirement Melva and Colin moved to Pinewood Village, where Melva lived for 25 years. Sadly Colin passed away in 1998.

Melva said, "All told, I have had a good and rich life. Through all my changing circumstances the church has been my mainstay.

### Magill - Morialta

Melva attended Magill Methodist and then Morialta, working in Coffee Corner for years, being famous for her bread and butter pudding, and serving Sunday morning tea and coffee over a long period. She attended one of the Fellowship groups, and had an interest in the history of the church.

She loved to talk with others about her family and had a number of especially good friends: Marie Elson, Elizabeth and Paul Keipert, Margaret and Bill Jenkins and June Thompson – and we have it on good authority that she loved Bruce, who always had a hug for Melva.

In 2013 as she found the arrangement of taxi travel to Morialta more difficult she attended Glenunga Uniting Church, quickly making friends. The funeral service was conducted at Glenunga and more than twenty Morialta folk joined in celebrating her life.

### Melva understood life as a dance

In Morialta's 2010 Exhibition, *Dreams and the Dance of Life*, she made a wonderful set of contributions: her beautiful wedding gown, pictures and portraits, tapestry, her awards, the coffee table and her carved mirror.

She, indeed, shared with us her dance in life! Her contribution added colour and depth to her story.



*Melva's daughters, Lorraine and Pam, have passed on their sincere thanks to her friends at Morialta for all they did for Melva and for their support at her funeral.*

## Welcome to the Morialta Uniting Church Community Library

From Morialta's Librarian,  
Lorraine Powers ....

**New to the Library:  
Creative Writer's Group!**



With apprehension and excitement four of us arrived in the library on Sunday 2 March at 11 am, eager to join a group where we could share our writing in an accepting environment. We are producing a magazine of our writings, "Creative Musings", which you can borrow from the Library, or I can send it to you electronically on request.

### Writing Competition

Write about a **HOT AIR BALLOON ADVENTURE** in approximately 100 words, in a genre of your choice.

**Closing date – Sunday 19 June.**

**Entries** should be placed in the box marked "Hot Air Balloon Writing Competition" in the Library.

**Winning Entries** will be published in the August edition of *Morialta Vision* and other entries displayed on the Library notice board during August.

**Prizes** – A \$25 Book Voucher for the best adult entry and a \$25 Book Voucher for the best children's entry.



### Library BIRTHDAY High Tea

The Library's birthday on 14 July will be celebrated this year on **Sunday 13 July**. It is **20 years** since the library opened in its foyer location

Come and enjoy our very popular fundraising event, this year, "**UP, UP AND AWAY**" and High Tea from 5.00 pm to 7.00 pm.

**Tickets** on sale from Sunday 1 June

**Cost** \$10.00 Adults \$5.00 Children

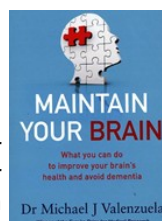
**Bring** along and share something to do with the theme, "Up, up and Away", or bring any favourite poem or piece of prose.

**Our Guest Speaker** - Marianne Musgrove, Children's Author, Poet and Worrywart - will talk to us about her journey through life with books, and recite some poems and passages from her books.

**Share** High Tea of soup, savoury slices, birthday cake and tea or coffee.

### WHAT'S NEW – APRIL BOOK REVIEWS

**MAINTAIN YOUR BRAIN**  
by Dr Michael J Valenzuela

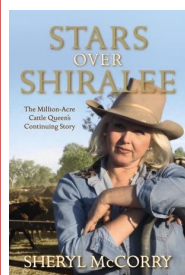


The author is the winner of the Eureka Prize for Medical Research in 2006 and is Senior Research Fellow at the School of Psychiatry at the University of NSW and leads the Regenerative Neuroscience Group.

Dr Valenzuela outlines ways of maintaining mental health and its relationship to physical and dietary health. He suggests ways that could assist in keeping Dementia and Alzheimer's at bay in later life and also discusses early onset of both conditions. A good book to read and hopefully help us all to maintain a healthy and enjoyable long life.

*Reviewed by Margaret Boundy*

**STARS OVER SHIRALEE**  
by Sheryl McCorry



As the first woman in the Kimberley to run two million dollar cattle stations, Sheryl McCorry had proved to herself that she was a woman capable of handling anything life threw her way. Or so she thought....

"Stars over Shiralee" is the story of how a woman having conquered her life on her own terms can succumb to circumstances that threaten to undermine all of her achievements. What will it take for Sheryl to find the strength within? An energetic read.

*Reviewed by Margaret Pittman*

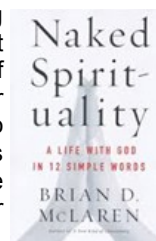
**SING YOU HOME** by Jodi Picoult

An up to date novel (2011) of modern problems of same-sex marriage, lesbianism, homosexuality and IVF and the bringing up of children in these situations. An excellent and compelling read to keep you enthralled to the surprising end.



*Reviewed by Margaret Boundy*

**NAKED SPIRITUALITY:**  
A life with God in 12 Simple Words  
by Brian D McLaren

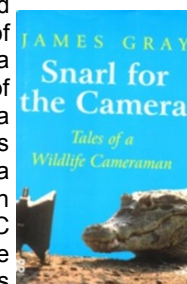


An all-encompassing view of spirituality. It provides a wealth of resources. The reader may be puzzled as to what the twelve words are, but they become more clear in the latter chapters: here, thanks, adoration, sorry, help, please, when, no, why, behold, yes, love. Read Appendix C, twelve simple prayers which provide a good summary.

*Reviewed by Bryan Forbes*

### NON FICTION

**SNARL FOR THE CAMERA:**  
Tales of a Wildlife Cameraman  
by James Gray



A light-hearted and readable account of the adventures of a dedicated recorder of animal behaviour. As a boy of twelve he was keen on becoming a cameraman, and with advice from a BBC producer he was able to launch into his career after securing a zoology degree. The book records a series of encounters with wildlife varying from lice and damselflies to caimans, anacondas and vultures in widespread parts of the world. In the end he noted a near-death experience with an elephant and recently conceded that his wife and children endured some sacrifices along the way.

*Reviewed by Bryan Forbes*

For further book reviews go to  
<http://www.morialtauca.org.au/resources/library/whats-new/>

*God is the heart of life.  
And we are the heartbeat.  
We are an Easter people,  
ours is an Easter faith,  
our fears have died,  
we rise to dream,  
to love, to dance, to live.*

*Christ is risen,  
Christ is risen,  
risen in our lives.*

*W Wallace*



## DIARY DATES 2014

Sun 27 April 9.30am	Rev Bruce Grindlay's concluding service in Supply ministry Recognition of Elders/Officers on Church Council and Officers in the Congregation
Sun 18 May 9.30am	Beyond our Walls Filming Rev David Purling
Sun 18 May 3.00pm	Induction of Rev Steve Thompson
Tues 20 May 7.30pm	Church Council Meeting
Mon 9 June	Church Picnic—Rockleigh Rejuvenated
Tues 18 June 7.30pm	Church Council Meeting
<b>Forward Dates for your Diary</b>	
Sun 13 July 5.00—7.00pm	Up, Up and Away Library Event and High Tea
Sat 30 August 7.30pm	Cabaret with Payneham Concert Band

### Morialta Uniting Church

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Minister

Farewell—Rev Bruce Grindlay

Welcome—Rev Steve Thompson

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[www.morialtauca.org.au](http://www.morialtauca.org.au)

## Mining & Art in the Outback



**8 - 15 October**

Hosted by Bev Tredrea

**Pick up a brochure in  
the foyer for details!**

### Acknowledgments

Brian Corrigan, David Purling, Sam Colegrove, Craig Mackenzie, Christine Secombe and others for photos throughout this edition. Stories and texts from those identified throughout. and thanks to all who have contributed in many ways to this edition

Editor: Mary Thornley  
Publisher: Helena Begg



**Deadline  
for the next Edition  
1 June 2014**

To discuss ideas for Vision articles contact the editor, Mary Thornley

**Living Streams ~ Giving Life**