

# Morialta Vision

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## MORE REFLECTIONS ON 'CHANGING GUARD'

By Margaret Cargill

They're changing guard at Buckingham Palace –  
Christopher Robin went down with Alice.  
Alice is marrying one of the guard.  
"A soldier's life is terrible hard,"

Says Alice.

They're changing guard at Buckingham Palace –  
Christopher Robin went down with Alice.  
"Do you think the King knows all about me?"  
"Sure to, dear, but it's time for tea,"

Says Alice.

*First and last verses of Buckingham Palace, by A.A. Milne*

I am taking a deep breath and setting out to build on Mary Thornley's very effective allusions to Alice and the soldier in her piece in the April *Vision* thanking our long-standing chairperson Bruce Ind. So – here are some reflections from a new guardsperson! Our family copy of A.A. Milne's *When We Were Very Young* was given to our children, Thomas (then on his way to 4 years old) and Helen (1.5), by my parents for Christmas 1980. The children were very quick to learn that their evening story time could be extended almost indefinitely if they brought out an A.A. Milne volume, and this was one of their favourite poems. It sprang strongly to mind as I thought about Morialta at the end of June 2017 – these two verses in particular.

The 'Changing Guard' analogy is obvious – we are farewelling Rev. Dr Jonathan Barker at the end of June after a longer than anticipated (since 1 May 2016!), and very deeply appreciated, period as our Minister in Supply.

From 1 August we are excited to be welcoming our new Minister in Settlement, Rev. Bob Hutchinson, together with his wife Mandy and their (uni student) children, Lauren and Joel – Bob's induction will be at 2:00pm on Sunday 30 July. During July we will be welcoming a varied array of preachers to our Sunday services, including some of our wonderful retired ministers and also visitors from the wider church. So that aspect of the 'guard' is certainly changing in terms of personnel! We would hope, though, that the life of the 'soldiers' mounting the 'guard' won't be too 'terrible hard' in this case.



Morialta has experienced quite a bit of change in the last little while, and it will be great to have the chance to settle into a new pattern of ministry and mission with Bob. He comes to us from previous placements in Kangaroo Island, Spicer and Athelstone, with gifts described as wisdom, preaching, teaching small groups, worship curator, administration, cooking, acceptance and tolerance. Bob's personal statement of his primary theological values includes that "the core message of my ministry would have to be grace, the pardon, the love, the forgiveness, and acceptance of and by God. This is totally God's work directed at humanity, because God is love. The message of Grace is the best news ever. We are to accept it as a gift to us. It is that simple. Ministry is also encouraging the church community to share that message of grace in the wider community, to love, accept, and help."

Bob has a clear view that social justice, the inclusion of all people and hospitality to the stranger are essential to the working of the church – a clear match to Morialta's values. We look forward to learning how his talent for cooking and his favoured approach of 'intentional loitering' will further contribute to our mission of sharing the message of God's grace – as Alice reminds us in the poem, "It's time for tea!". Or coffee – read on for memories galore to help us celebrate a wonderful 25 years of Coffee Corner (now Lunch on Chapel)!

## Guest Preachers joining us in July

**Cate Baker on the 2<sup>nd</sup> July** – Kate is chaplain at Resthaven – Leabrook and Paradise – and lived for several years in a community in The Philippines. She worships at Para Hills UC and is married with two young children.

**Lynne Aird on the 23<sup>rd</sup> July** – Lynn is married to Craig, and Mum to two adult children. She is passionate about healthy churches and committed to justice, making poverty history, reconciliation and caring for our environment. With Craig she attends Seeds UC in Aberfoyle Park, where she is an elder.

**9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> July** – Our very own and loved **Jenny Swanbury** and **David Purling** will lead us in worship.

**Sam Chan on the 30<sup>th</sup> July** – Sam is involved in the Synod's 2<sup>nd</sup> gen ministry and works with, and mentors, young 2<sup>nd</sup> gen-ers (2<sup>nd</sup> generation Australians) finding their way in faith and into leadership in the Uniting Church. Sam is married with two young children.

## CHAIRPERSON WRITES...



It's now nearly three months that I've been in this new position – and such a lot seems to have happened in that time! Perhaps the most exciting highlight from my perspective is the congregation's unanimous vote to accept the JNC's recommendation of a new minister to join us from the 1st of August in our mission and ministry at Morialta – Rev. Bob Hutchinson.

We're looking forward very much to welcoming Bob, his wife Mandy, and their uni-student children Joel and Lauren to the Highland Avenue manse and our congregation. Bob's induction service will be at 2:00pm on Sunday 30 July, so make sure you note the date in your diary now.

Another high 'spot' in my first three months has been the **Mission – Possible!** program we have shared in. I had a great time being a hat-wearing 'spot presenter' at both the 8:15 and 9:30 services over the four weeks in May. I especially enjoyed having a chance to highlight the many and varied facets of our interconnected ministry and mission at Morialta, and also to explain the challenges we face as we move forward with our

new minister into the future. I would like to have been able to give you a report on the outcomes of the program in this issue of Vision, but that will have to wait until we have received responses from everyone. Remember – we're counting on you all!

As we look forward to welcoming Bob to our midst, it is time to bid a very fond and grateful farewell to Rev. Dr Jonathan Barker, who has served us so warmly and well as our supply minister over an extended period of more than 12 months. Jonathan's last service with us is 25 June, and we take the opportunity at the close of that service to celebrate our time together and express our thanks. We also extend our good wishes to Jonathan and Janeen for the next phase of their busy and productive lives.

Sunday 25 June also marks another important celebration – an amazing 25 years of Lunch on Chapel/Coffee Corner. There is lots to read on that score elsewhere in this issue, so I'll close by encouraging you to read on! Just remember to be in touch if there is anything Morialta-related that you would like to discuss – I look forward to hearing from you!

*Margaret Cargill*

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## 'Coffee Corner' to 'Lunch on Chapel' Celebrating 25 Years

### Rumblings and Shoulder Tappings

In November 1990, Morialta Uniting Church was birthed out of four parent churches – Newton, Magill, Finchley Park, and Rostrevor. This allowed for significant property re-development, which included a large and attractive foyer, glass-walled on both its north and south faces. Enthusiasm bubbled up to make this physical space into much more: the possibility of a mid-week community lunch began to emerge. Already there was a vibrant Friendship Club meeting on Wednesday afternoons, established ten years earlier, with many participants living alone and missing the special companionship of a shared meal.

In his astute and encouraging way, the Rev. Elwyn Penna noticed that the special organisational and food skills of Lesley Tideman might be exactly what were needed to establish this new venture on a sound footing.

### Let's Go

And thus it was that, after training sessions on the two Wednesdays prior, Coffee Corner announced itself on 8 July, 1992, with 12 eager diners supported by a team of 7 volunteers. A loan of \$207.10 from the Property and Finance Committee enabled the purchase of tablecloths, aprons and membership of a wholesale food company.

A goodly band of 17 volunteers agreed to support the Wednesday food preparation and delivery on a rostered basis, with a further 8 people adding to the pool of cooks. The early menus offered a choice of 2 soups, 3 main courses and 3 desserts with fruit juice or tea and coffee, presented on a decorative blackboard. If a full 3 course lunch was ordered with a "cuppa", the cost was about \$4, and by year's end, attendance averaged in the low twenties.

### Settling In

The lunch rapidly gained momentum. On one giddy week in early September, 26 diners arrived, and we didn't know how we could possibly accommodate them until, with some astute re-arrangement of furniture, we set up two extra tables in the walkway! The 'kickstart' loan was repaid in full within just six months.

Initially we had envisaged simple meals, such as soup followed by a toasted sandwich or a warmed ham and cheese croissant, with perhaps a cake or slice to follow, but it soon became clear that the favourites were the hearty casseroles and desserts 'like Mum used to make.' There was uproar one week when soup suddenly disappeared from the menu, in recognition of the warmer months upon us. Needless to say, it was rapidly reinstated, and has remained in place and in demand ever since – albeit as a 'Soup of the Day' since 1996.

Roster and menu planning was a group effort, done monthly. Incredibly, there are names on those very first rosters that have been contributing consistently for the full 25 years: Margaret Boundy, Kath Cheel, Marie Elson, Alison Lockett, Margaret Pittman and lastly, though more truly firstly, Lesley Tideman. One could spend an afternoon extolling the virtues of so many, many others who have run the hard yards over the years, but it would be fraught to attempt to list all of these saints. We have been greatly blessed.

### Reaching Out

The general bustling about, clatter of cutlery and tempting aromas emanating from the kitchen did not escape the young mums who came in each week for an anti/post-natal exercise group. By the beginning of 1993, we offered an early lunch at 11.30am on the first Wednesday of the month to these mums and their children, who were cared for in a creche during the class. This gave the mums a chance to catch up, commiserate over lost sleep, celebrate over sleep retrieved and generally share the challenges of parenting. This lunch continued for five years, until the cessation of these classes at Chapel Street.

Our Morialta Kids Club was bouncing along, and, as an outreach, we began to offer coffees to parents as they came for drop-offs or pick-up. Later there were meals to think about, both for the Friday night fortnightly and for the Holiday Kids program.

Christmas catering abounded: one for the young mums group, one for the Thursday Afternoon Fellowship, and of course the Friendship Christmas Lunch. There was an ecumenical breakfast hosted and more than one Ministers' Fraternal lunch.

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From February 1993, the Burnside Community Bus came on board, offering a door to door service for Coffee Corner followed by Friendship Club, at a nominal cost to users. This enabled people who were isolated and without means of transport, to enjoy a very happy Wednesday. A strong linkage into the rehabilitation service then operational at Resthaven Leabrook brought significant numbers of referrals. The Campbelltown Bus was also brought into use, although after several years the charge imposed became prohibitive.

For many years a small group were brought down by a carer from the Lentara Home in Adelaide Street, Magill, giving these folk with significant intellectual and/or physical disability a chance to escape institutional life for a couple of hours each week. It was a joy to see how much this meant to them.

It was also a great pleasure to have a group from the former East Adelaide Uniting Church lunch monthly over a number of years, ensuring that, despite increasing age and frailty, their treasured fellowship and mutual caring could be regularly sustained.

Indeed we continue to extend welcome and hospitality to various groups on an ad hoc basis.

**In for the Long Haul**

By the mid 1990s, attendance was averaging in the high 30s, and it has held, with some fluctuation, close to this mark ever since. On two occasions the numbers have reached 52! Yet, in the spirit of the 'Feeding of the Five Thousand,' we seem never to have run out of food for the diners. True, sometimes it may get down to slim pickings for the volunteers, whose lunch consists of the day's leftovers, but for the most part we have ridden the swings and roundabouts with considerable aplomb.

Towards the end of 1997, Alison Lockett took over roster preparation, and more general leadership. It is remarkable that over all that time, even as volunteers signalled a need to retire, new volunteer faces emerged, either from the congregation or the broader community, so that volunteer numbers have sat consistently around 50. Rosters now identify 1 Team leader per week, 3 people, usually men, on washing up duties, a money manager, 5 further volunteers to prepare the food, serve up and take orders, with a further 2 men to come in specifically to set up tables and chairs. There would barely be a week's menu

that one would look at without thinking what a tempting and diverse range of options are on offer for the day. Not surprisingly, the quality of cooking has been consistently lauded to the extent that over the last 25 years, 3 recipe books have been produced for sale.

An important element of ensuring that high standards of hygiene are met, as particularly appropriate to the serving of meals to an older clientele, has been that from an early stage we registered with the Eastern Health Authority. It is pleasing to report that, despite their unannounced arrival, we have always met with their approbation, despite stricter and stricter codes being enforced. Indeed in the most recent inspection, undertaken with a slightly altered set of protocols, we received a 5 star rating! Interestingly, the requirement for volunteers to observe a scrupulous hand washing regimen has morphed through several different prescribed antibacterial agents and gels, only for the system to now revert back to a good old-fashioned hand wash, finger by finger, with soap, running water and a clean paper towel.

While the name 'Coffee Corner' was well understood, by those who came, to mean a meal served at noon, it always had a degree of ambiguity about it. Recognising this, at the beginning of 2016 the name for our midday community lunch was changed to 'Lunch on Chapel,' and flags now flutter on the kerbside each Wednesday morning announcing such.

**So Much to Celebrate**

What began as a leap of faith has surely borne fruit many times over and beyond the initial hopes. So many dishes have been washed, cucumbers sliced, serviettes folded and pots of rice cooked. Yet, for all this wonderful effort, the meal will always be simply a vehicle that carries a message bearing so much more: a smile, a welcome, a listening ear, gentle encouragement, a hearty laugh. These are the elements that keep people coming back.

And should a diner one day be able to order a bowl of Pea and Ham Soup with a brown dinner roll, followed by Shepherd's Pie, and a serve of Lemon Delicious with cream, then they will surely smile, and muse inwardly: "Heaven has truly come to 'Lunch on Chapel.'"

*Alison Lockett*

**THANK YOU  
Volunteers!**  
We couldn't do it without you



## The Serenity Prayer

Reinhold Niebuhr

*God, give us the grace  
to accept with serenity  
the things that cannot be changed,  
the courage to change the things  
that should be changed,  
and the wisdom to distinguish  
the one from the other.*

The Serenity Prayer is well known and is used by various organisations and often in different versions. Many people assume that it is an old prayer.

Marian Barnes, in her book 'Funerals to celebrate life', attributes the prayer to Saint Francis of Assisi (1182-1226), and gives an amended version:

*God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.*

In her version the plural 'we' has become singular, and 'grace' is omitted. She also

has a version 'for those who would choke on the word God'. (May I have the serenity....)

Most people attribute the prayer, in the form above or in a longer version, to the American theologian Reinhold Niebuhr. His daughter, Elisabeth Sifton, gives her explanation in her book 'The Serenity Prayer' to put the record straight'.

Her father was an American citizen of German descent and he wrote this prayer in the USA in about 1943 at the height of the war against Germany. He was a teacher and writer who all his adult life had strenuously opposed much of Germany's religious and political life, especially when the National Socialists (the Nazis) poisoned both.

So, the historical background to this prayer is bound up with the war against "one of the greatest evils posed during the violent evil of the twentieth century".

The Serenity Prayer, Elizabeth says, is not just a familiar agreeable cliché. After all, its instructions are tremendously challenging and difficult to follow.

She raises a few issues for us to ponder: What does it mean to ask God to grant us grace? It is not easy to accept what cannot be changed. No loss is easily managed. Yet acceptance must come serenely or not at all. If we find the courage to change, what should be changed? And the 'Wisdom' – this prayer asks only for wisdom to discover the right way on our own. It presumes that it is within our powers to accomplish this.

It leads us into deep reflection, as it did Reinhold Niebuhr during the fearsome, violent years of World War II.

Niebuhr's daughter wrote her book in 2003, two years after the terrorist attack on New York, an event that was a catalyst for another violent era in our history where wars and people power make it imperative that God should give us grace to accept with serenity the things that cannot be changed, courage to change the things that should be changed, and the wisdom to distinguish the one from the other.

David Pill

## Indirections to God XXI *From the discourses of Sathya Sai Baba*

What is love? It is the life-force itself; the God within; the God without; the omnipresent God; the very basis of the universe. Start the day with love and fill the hours with love. These are not mere words; they can have real meaning in our lives if we so choose. As you awaken each morning, tune in to the ever-present Source of love and become an Instant channel for the flow of love to those around you. Let love flow throughout your whole being; feel it; absorb it; enjoy it: being immersed in a pool of divine love; an experience so powerful that all material worries are dissipated by it.

God is love. Love is the only way to God. Love is infectious and the greatest healer.

Understand the power of loving thoughts.

Thoughts do travel from one person to another. If we think ill of others, it can harm them, but it will do much more harm to us. Let us banish such thoughts from our minds.

*Roman Catholic Biblical scholar, Fr. Edgar Bruns in "The Christian Buddhism of St. John" (New York: Paulist Press, 1971) suggests that the Greek of I John 4: 7b, normally rendered as "Everyone who loves is born of God," may just as legitimately be translated "everyone who loves brings God to birth".*

**Sathya Sai Baba** (born Sathya Narayana Raju; 23 November 1926 died 24 April 2011) was an Indian guru and philanthropist. He claimed to be the reincarnation of Sai Baba of Shirdi.

The Sathya Sai Organisation, founded by Sai Baba "to enable its members to undertake service activities as a means to spiritual advancement", has over 1,200 Sathya Sai Centres (branches) in 126 countries. Through this organisation, Sai Baba established a network of free hospitals, clinics, drinking water projects, auditoriums, ashrams and schools.

- Contributed by Lorraine Powers

## Prayer for Intergenerational and Next Gen Ministry

Assembly Resources

*Rev Sam Chan runs the Synod's 2<sup>nd</sup> Gen Ministry. He will be our guest on 30<sup>th</sup> July. This prayer comes from Noah Kim, Multi Cross Cultural Next Generation Project Officer for the QLD Synod.*

God,  
We thank you for your faithfulness to your church and your people. Many times we failed you, we were faithless, and we were overwhelmed by fear of this world, but you continued to remain faithful to us.

God,  
We lift up the generation that is gone before us to you.  
We pray your Spirit may come afresh upon your people that their hearts are

restored with the first love for you. We pray your Spirit may come afresh upon your people, that their hearts are comforted and filled with peace.

We pray your Spirit may come afresh upon your people, that their hearts are filled with the hope in Christ and the praise of His glory.

God,  
We lift up the generation that is arising in this nation to you.

We pray your Spirit may come afresh upon us so that our hearts are restored with the first love for you.

We pray your Spirit may come afresh upon us so that we become a generation

that is known as a generation of reconciliation and servant hearts.

We pray your Spirit may come afresh upon us so that our hearts are filled with a vision of the resurrected Christ and we become a fearless generation.

God,  
We honour you for who you are in this land. You are life to the lifeless. You are hope to the hopeless. You are light to the darkness.  
Amen

*For more prayers and a print-friendly version: [assembly.uca.org.au/40prayers](http://assembly.uca.org.au/40prayers)*

## Morality and Ethics

*Adapted from various sources - Editor*

Rev Christine Garner referred to Hans Küng and the declaration of a Global Ethic when sharing her experiences with us during the 9.30am service late last year.

Christine's comments stimulated me to do an on-line search for more information about the man and what he stood for.

Hans Küng was born on 19 March 1928 in Canton of Lucerne, Switzerland. He studied philosophy and theology at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome and was ordained in 1954. He continued his education in various European cities, including the Sorbonne, in Paris. Since the early 1990s he has been President of the Foundation for a Global Ethic. He is notable for his rejection of the doctrine of papal infallibility and as a result he is not officially allowed to teach Catholic theology. However he remained at the University of Tübingen as a professor of ecumenical theology, serving as an emeritus professor since 1996.

In 1991 he gave a speech entitled "No Peace Among Nations until Peace Among the Religions" and he is famous for the quote "There will be peace on earth when there is peace among the world religions." This quote comes from a book entitled "Global Responsibility" published in 1991 and is something Küng suggests we are all responsible for.

The "Declaration towards a Global Ethic" was initially drafted by Küng, as President of the Foundation for a Global Ethic (Stiftung Weltethos), in cooperation with the Council for a Parliament of the World's Religions. Drawing on many of the world's religious and spiritual traditions, the declaration identifies the Golden Rule: "What you wish done to yourself, do to others" as the "unconditional norm for all areas of life". It identifies four principles "which can be affirmed by all persons with ethical convictions, whether religiously grounded or not as the basis for peace".

The four principles are:

- Commitment to a culture of non-violence and respect for life;
- Commitment to a culture of solidarity and a just economic order;
- Commitment to a culture of tolerance and a life of truthfulness;
- Commitment to a culture of equal rights and partnership between men and women.

This Declaration was signed at the Parliament of the World's Religions gathering in 1993 by more than 200 leaders from over 40 different faith traditions and spiritual communities. These included the Baha'i Faith, Brahmanism, Brahma Kumaris, Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism,

Indigenous, Interfaith, Islam, Jainism, Judaism, Native American, Neo-Pagan, Sikhism, Taoism, Theosophist, Unitarian, Universalist and Zoroastrian. Since 1993 it has been signed by thousands more leaders and individuals around the world. As such, it established a common ground for people to agree and to cooperate for the good of all. "No world peace without peace among religions". The Council for a Parliament of the World's Religions offers it to the world as an initial statement of a group of rules for living on which all of the world's religions can agree.

The declaration covers a wide range of issues including peace, poverty, the earth's ecosystems, social disarray, the disregard for justice, economic equality, and a passion for sharing. It ends with the following statement: *Earth cannot be changed for the better unless the consciousness of individuals is changed first. We pledge to increase our awareness by disciplining our minds by meditation, by prayer, or by positive thinking. Without risk and a readiness to sacrifice there can be no fundamental change in our situation. Therefore we commit ourselves to this global ethic, to understanding one another, and to socially beneficial, peace-fostering, and nature-friendly ways of life.*

The full version of the declaration can be found at [www.religioustolerance.org/parliame.htm](http://www.religioustolerance.org/parliame.htm)

## How do we uncouple global development from resource use?

*Based on an article in the Conversation by Heinz Schandl - Senior Science Leader CSIRO - July 21, 2016*

The consumption of the world's natural resources has tripled between 1970 and 2010. People in the richest countries now consume up to ten times more resources than those in the poorest nations. If those in the developing world are to enjoy a similar standard of living as us, this must change.

A recent report by CSIRO and the UN Environment Program lists several ways that the world can maintain economic growth while reducing its use of primary materials.

While decoupling economic growth from resource use is crucially important, few countries have been able to stabilise or reduce their overall material consumption. This suggests that there is no level of human well-being at which the demand for primary materials will level off – unless we make some fundamental changes to our economy.

As emerging economies industrialise and urbanise, their requirement for construction materials grows dramatically. While this has helped millions of people move out of poverty, infrastructure investments required is enormous.

The global economy now uses more material per unit of GDP than it did in 2000.

However, decoupling will create the space for developing countries to raise their standards of living while also achieving the Sustainable Development Goals objectives. But this will require well-designed policies and large public investments in research and development.

The CSIRO report contains several recommendations for maintaining economic growth while streamlining resource use:

- **Construction and housing.** Improved building materials, insulation and orientation of new buildings – together these

can cut energy use in buildings by 80%. Meanwhile, using higher-strength steel in the construction of medium-density and high-rise buildings can save on the amount of construction material used.

- **Transport and mobility.** Improved urban design, walkable cities, public transport, electric and hybrid vehicles, improved fuel efficiency in aviation, freight and private transport – all of these measures will deliver massive savings in materials, energy and greenhouse emissions.
- **Agriculture and food.** Improved irrigation techniques; reduced fertiliser and pesticide use; reduced average consumption of meat and dairy; and reducing food loss and waste from its current level of more than 30%.
- **Heavy industry and energy.** Besides embracing recycling and renewable energy, heavy industries such as steel, cement and paper can each draw on a range of new technologies, such as electric arc furnace improvements in the iron and steel industry.
- **Technology.** Nano- and biotechnology will play increasingly important roles in sustainable production and consumption – for instance, through the creation of more durable products or the development of enzymes as industrial catalysts.

It is important for developed countries to reduce their usage as lower-income countries will require more primary materials than they currently use, if they are to reach the same level of development as wealthier countries. Expanding global demand for materials could also contribute to local conflicts like those seen in areas where mining competes with agriculture and urban development. But the more we can curb the world's resource growth, the more room there will be for people's standards of living to grow without surpassing planetary limits.

*This article was written with the help of Karin Hosking from CSIRO's Land and Water Flagship.*

## Celebrating 40 years of the Uniting Church in Australia

On Sunday 18th June at Morialta we celebrated at our Beyond our Walls service, with visiting preacher the Reverend Sue Ellis, Moderator of the Uniting Church in South Australia. Worship leader was Margaret Cargill, our singing was led by Margaret Boundy, Kath Cheel, and Margaret Pittman and we enjoyed music performed by our young musicians.

Celebrations continued over a special morning tea after the service.



## From Central Times - Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> July 1977



### Morialta parish celebrates

A processional cross featuring the symbol of the Uniting Church was received and dedicated during a special service of celebration for the Morialta Parish on Sunday, June 26. A trio of trumpets heralded the beginning of the service which was attended by an overflow congregation. Banners representing the six churches formed a distinctive part of the processional picture before entry to the church.

**Editor's note:** Rev Rob Davis (extreme right), Rev Ray Creevy (Left of UC symbol) and Choir Master Bob Bennett (extreme left) leading the procession. Do you know the lad holding the symbol?

**Our thanks to Julie Lomman for providing a copy of the New Times from 1977.**

## Best of British!

Morialta folks enjoyed an afternoon of laughter, revisiting old British comedy shows and movies. Special thanks to David and John for spending hours chuckling at the computer, selecting clips for the show, and to all who helped to make the afternoon a success, raising just over \$1000 for church funds.



## 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebrations South Australian Council of Churches

On Saturday 29 April 2017, four Adelaide churches – Pilgrim Church (Uniting), St Francis Xavier Cathedral (Catholic), St Mary Magdalene's Church (Anglican) and St Stephen's Church (Lutheran) – were hosts to more than 100 Christians from churches across the Adelaide metropolitan area and rural South Australia. The theme was *An Exchange of Gifts on the Journey towards Unity: a pilgrimage* – with fellowship, food and reflections at each venue. Nine different denominations were represented in leading prayers to celebrate 70 years of active ecumenism and the South Australian Council of Churches.

The gathering included story-telling through word, image and song, both at table and while walking together in twos from church to church. Participants were encouraged to walk with "others" and Margaret and I shared our journey from Pilgrim to the Cathedral with a couple from the Coptic Church. We discovered they live only a few blocks away in Rostrevor and we shared their pain from the killings that had occurred earlier that week in their church in Cairo. We also shared their joy that the Pope was visiting the Coptic Church of Egypt and had shared a platform with the Coptic Archbishop and the Grand Mufti the previous evening.

As we departed from and arrived at each church we were led in Taizé chants, while others carried the bible and candles. Member church leaders or their representatives brought greetings from their church to the other member churches, and Sr Elizabeth Delaney, General Secretary of the National Council of Churches in Australia, had come from Sydney and brought a greeting from the NCCA. This was truly an exchange of gifts on the journey towards unity.

*Bless the Lord, my soul  
And bless God's holy name  
Bless the Lord, my soul  
Who leads me into life.*

### Local Celebrations

The Magill Interchurch Council (MIC) is planning a similar event to celebrate our ecumenical journey with our partner churches in the Magill area. The Council plan to sponsor an "ecumenical walk" on the afternoon of **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October, from the Church of Christ on St Bernard's Rd to Pilgrim Lutheran Church in Edward St Magill, via the St George's Cemetery.** We hope to have a guided historical tour of the cemetery, led by a local church member, and end the afternoon with refreshments and discussion on the history of ecumenism in South Australia with Father Denis Edwards. Everyone who attends a church that is part of the MICC is invited – so please note the date in your diary now.

Colin Cargill

## A brief history of Farming

Adapted from several sources including "The Coming Famine", "Feeding the World" and "Laudato Si"

Farming began, or if you prefer was invented, in the Fertile Crescent around 10,000 to 12,000 years ago. According to recent research, it seems that farming was initiated by at least three genetically distinct groups of people scattered across the Middle East and Anatolia. The research found that early farmers of Israel and Jordan were genetically distinct from those in the Zagros Mountains, and that both populations were distinct from the western Anatolians. This means that farming wasn't spread initially by just one group of people, but that it was invented more than once and was such a good idea that it spread quickly across the region.

Farming has never looked back and has continued primarily as a family occupation. By 2015 there were more than 570 million farms across the world, of which more than 90% were run by an individual or a family and rely primarily on family labour. Not surprisingly, family farms produce about 80% of the world's food. The majority of farms are small or very small and 72% are less than 1 hectare. Farms between 1 and 2 hectares account for 12% of all farms, and farms greater than 50 hectares account for only 1%. However the latter control 65% of the world's agricultural land.

Small-holders can be highly productive. In Indonesia over 70% of the rice crop is produced by small-holder farmers who own less than one hectare of land. In Brazil, small farmers are responsible for 40% of major crop production using less than 25% of all agricultural land. Even in the United States, family farms produce 84% of all produce from 78% of the farmland. Family farmers in Fiji provide 84% of yam, rice, manioc, maize and bean production working on only 47% of the land. In fact the International Assessment of Agricultural Science and Technology (IAAST) affirms that small scale mixed agriculture plays an important role in solving the world's food needs.

Around the world farming employs an estimated one billion people with most in South and East Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa. There are approximately 134,000 farm businesses in Australia and 99% are family owned and operated. On average each Australian farmer produces enough food to feed 600 people, 150 at home and 450 overseas. Australian farmers produce almost 93 percent of Australia's daily domestic food supply. While only 307,000 people are employed in Australian agriculture, over 1.6 million are employed in the complete agricultural supply chain.

### Farming ideologies

Although organic farming is as old as farming itself, and is still practiced widely in many developing countries, it is also becoming popular again in more affluent societies. However, data comparing yields of organic and conventional farming from over 366 studies found that yield per hectare from organic farming is about 75% of the average yield from conventional farming production. In more fertile soils, when organic farming was applied with good management practices and focused on crop types and soils, it achieved 95% of conventional yields. The study did not consider efficiency or the environmental costs associated with conventional production, which may include soil erosion and soil depletion.

### Urban Farming

Pope Francis and a number of food security experts see Urban Farming as part of the solution. In Asia and parts of Africa, Urban Agriculture (Farming) already provides around 80 million people with most of their food and 70% of urban households in developing countries participate in agricultural production. In favourable conditions urban farming can provide up to 60% of a family's food, including animal protein from the meat of rabbits, guinea pigs and hamsters.

### The Peasant Route!

There is also an ideological battle going on between large corporate farming and small-holder farmers. One example is the formation of "La Via Campesina (LVC)" ("the Peasant Route") – which is an international organisation of more than one hundred peasant and small-holder farming bodies. LVC, which has its headquarters in Indonesia, was founded in 1993 and claims to represent 200 million people worldwide. LVC supports the aspirations and needs of those who produce, distribute, and consume food, rather than the demands of markets and corporations. It seeks to build a coalition of producers and consumers against the control of food by corporate agribusiness and government. Despite the contemporary international context of these movements, there is a strong flavour of agrarianism about LVC's ideals, as expressed in the declaration of its second youth assembly.

### LVC Declaration

The countryside is our life. The earth feeds us. The rivers run in our blood.

We are the youth of the Via Campesina (*literally Peasant Track*)

Today we declare the beginning of a new world. We come from the four corners of the world:

To stand together in the spirit of resistance; To work together to create hope; To talk together about our struggles; To learn from each other's work; To be inspired by each other's songs, music and stories; To build solidarity between our movements; To unite as a strong force for social change.



Small farm on the island of Java, Indonesia



Pig farming in Papua Indonesia



Rabbit farming in Papua Indonesia



## 'Sustainable tourism' is not working

Freya Higgins-Desbiolles looks at how we can change that! Adapted by the Editor from the "Conversation" April 20 2017.

*The Morialta Community is blessed with more than our fair share of enthusiastic tourists. These intrepid travelers make "Pot Luck Teas" such welcome and entertaining events over the cold winter evenings. However, as tourists we can always learn more about being "sustainable tourists" and how to benefit the recipients whose villages and cities we invade.*

2017 is the United Nations' "International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development".

In the words of the UN World Tourism Organisation Secretary-General – Taleb Rifai – *it gives a unique opportunity to advance the contribution of the tourism sector to the three pillars of sustainability – economic, social and environmental, while raising awareness of the true dimensions of a sector which is often undervalued.*

Sustainable tourism comes from the concept of sustainable development, and sustainable development is defined as: *... development which meets the needs of current generations without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.*

Sadly sustainable development has morphed into sustained development so that *"economic growth trumps environmental limits, which makes sustainability elusive".*

### What is sustainable tourism?

Tourism is a massive industry, and many countries rely on it for their economies.

In 2016, more than 1.2 billion people travelled as tourists internationally, and

another 6 billion people travelled domestically. Hence it is important to achieve sustainability.

According to the UN World Tourism Organisation, sustainable tourism is:

*... tourism that takes full account of its current and future economic, social and environmental impacts, addressing the needs of visitors, the industry, the environment and host communities.*

Not all tourism is good in the eyes of the locals. Venice residents accuse tourists of "destroying their city". Barcelona's government has passed legislation to limit new tourist accommodation. The Galapagos sees mass tourism's arrival threatening the iconic wildlife that attracts visitors.

No place is off the tourism circuit, and tourism seems to have few limits. Tourists even want to tour Antarctica to see its pristine environment before it disappears *due to global warming!*

While we might be sceptical that UN "years" are often more rhetoric than real, Governments, the tourist industry and **us** should seize the opportunity to make tourism more sustainable.

There are several ways we can achieve this, including technology—so that we can continue business as usual—highlighting conscious consumption and alternatives such as slow travel.

But in a world in which growing populations with endless consumer demands are pitted against a fragile environment, we will require more concerted effort.

Some the things we can do and advocate for are:

**Lobby Governments** to implement policies that foster sustainable development and limit the growth fetish. We need to force Governments to tackle the environmental limits to growth and take seriously the climate change challenges we face. Tourism development requires integrated planning. Government tourism authorities – such as Tourism Australia or state tourism commissions – must focus equally on integrated planning and marketing, rather than just marketing.

**Consumers** must understand how to make responsible travel choices. For example, few tourists realise that all-inclusive resorts result in economic benefits from tourism merely passing straight to the home economies of the big multinationals and corporations. Civics education in schools is needed to educate future generations on responsible travel.

**Local communities**, often treated as just one stakeholder among the many, must have a right to participate in tourism decision-making and have a say on "if and how their communities become tourism destinations".

**Workers of tourism** must have their rights respected and be given decent conditions. Tourism should not be allowed to continue as a low-wage and precarious source of employment. Next time you stay in a nice hotel, ask the "room boy" or "room girl" how much they earn. You could be seriously embarrassed to learn how little they get for making your bed.

**The tourism industry** needs to assume greater responsibility, submitting to local tax regimes and regulations, so its presence builds thriving communities, rather than undermining them. This should be part of the "permission to operate" contract. The industry should also educate its clients on responsible tourism.

**Non-governmental organisations** are essential for reporting on the abuses of tourism, including land grabs, human rights abuses, community opposition and corruption.

Harnessing these essential stakeholders in a rigorous agenda for sustainable development, rather than sustaining tourism, would make the UN's "year" more meaningful.

*To read the full article, log onto the Conversation and check out the April 20, 2017 edition.*

## Gallivanting in the Grampians

Morialta Uniting Church Tour  
6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> November 2017

Why not join a group of intrepid travellers and enjoy a week together exploring more of our great country.

This year the tour will visit some of the most beautiful sites that Victoria has to offer. You will also have the chance to get close up with native wildlife, go for interesting walks, and relax in coffee shops with friends. Grab a copy of the brochure and join the team.

## Maturity

I matured when I realised that not every situation requires my reaction.

Sometimes you just have to leave people do and say the dumb things they want to do.

*Anonymous*

## Facing the world

Any idiot can face a crisis.

It is the day to day living that wears you out.

*Anton Chekov 1860 -1904*

## Waiting for the trickledown effect

*Father Frank Brennan*

In an age of 'budget repair', social policy risks becoming just a sidebar to economic policy, which is a contest of ideas about how best to grow the size of the pie thereby providing a slice for 'the deserving poor' without having to redistribute too much of the pie, while 'the undeserving poor' drop off the edge as they would have anyway. For those of us schooled in Catholic social teaching, the so-called 'undeserving poor' are the litmus test of our commitment to the human dignity of all persons.



## Adaptation for Climate Refugees

Adapted from *Climate Caretakers Newsletter*  
(Edited by Brian Webb)



Many of us living in developed countries can (and do) take specific actions to decrease (mitigate) our own carbon footprints. While this is a critical first step in reducing our collective contribution toward global warming, will it be enough? For millions around the world – particularly those living in poverty – mitigation is not enough as they already face severe impacts from climate change. Among the most vulnerable are those who have been, or may soon be, forced to leave their homes due to rising global temperatures, crop failures, sea level rise, intensified natural disasters, and other climate change-related events. These "climate refugees" face dire situations if we don't shift our energy infrastructure quickly, but they also face difficult scenarios in terms of how to adapt to an already changing reality.

### A few examples:

- Island nations such as Tuvalu, the Maldives, Kiribati, and others have already begun making evacuation plans for their populations because sea level rise is threatening their low-lying homelands.
- Experts point to an extended drought from 2006 - 2010 as one of the key factors contributing toward the social unrest that fuelled the conflict in Syria, which has resulted in 4.8 million refugees. (see box)
- In 2014 more than 19 million people from 100 countries were forced to flee their homes due to natural disasters. This number will continue to go up as disasters increase in frequency and intensity due to climatic changes.
- In Bangladesh, 400,000 people flee each year to the slums of the Dhaka, the country's capital, to escape flooding rivers due to accelerated glacier melt in the Himalayas and salinated aquifers from sea level rise.

• Even in the United States, Native American tribes from vulnerable locations in Louisiana and Alaska are set to be relocated in the coming years.

Unfortunately, there is no legal status for such "climate refugees," meaning that these individuals do not benefit from the special asylum opportunities accorded to political refugees. As a result, climate refugees must fend for themselves while they watch their homeland dry up, their aquifers become salinated, and their crops die off year after year.

By reducing our emissions, helping vulnerable nations adapt, and advocating for climate refugees we can share the love of Christ to our global neighbours who are bearing the brunt of these climate impacts.

### Researchers Link Syrian Conflict to a Drought Made Worse by Climate Change

A study published in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* draws one of the strongest links yet between global warming and human conflict. The report found that the extreme drought in Syria between 2006 and 2009 was most likely due to climate change, and that the drought was a factor in the violent uprising that began there in 2011.

Martin P. Hoerling, a meteorologist at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration whose earlier work showed a link between climate change and aridity in the Eastern Mediterranean, said the study results were "quite compelling." Social scientists, policy makers and others have previously suggested that the drought played a role in the Syrian unrest, and the researchers believe that the drought "had a catalytic effect." They cited studies that showed that the extreme dryness, combined with other factors, including misguided agricultural and water-use policies of the Syrian government, caused crop failures that led to the migration of as many as 1.5 million people from rural to urban areas. This in turn added to social stresses that eventually resulted in the uprising against President Bashar al-Assad in March 2011.

## 2017 Wilks Oration - Surviving the 21st Century

**WHEN:** Friday 18 August 2017, 7:30 - 7:30pm

**WHO:** Speaker Julian Cribb

**WHAT:** Can our civilization outlast the 21st Century? This is the biggest question facing humanity today as ten major existential threats (eco-collapse, resource depletion, WMD, climate change, global toxicity, food insecurity, population and urban expansion, pandemic disease, risky new technologies and self-delusion) combine to overshadow our future.

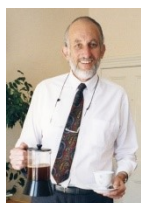
**VENUE:** Effective Living Centre, 26 King William Road Wayville, South Australia 5034

### CONTACT DETAILS:

Rev Jonathan Barker  
Effective Living Centre - 8271 0329  
office@effectiveliving.org

### What is the "Wilks Oration" and who was Mr Wilks?

Graham Wilks was an inspirational South Australian leader. The Wilks Oration was created in recognition of Graham's substantial contribution to the foundation of the Effective Living Centre and his contribution to thinking and relationship building in this State.



Graham was involved in the initial gathering of a small group from within Christ Church and beyond who were seeking ways to create a bridge between the widening divide of members of

the South Australian community who were seeking a new expression of Christianity and recognition of our growing multi faith and "no faith" society.

Graham was a Presbyterian Minister in New Zealand before retraining for his career as a highly respected psychologist. Traditional Christian worship held little relevance to him in his later years but he had a deep and searching Christian spirituality that needed a forum for exploration and expression. He was passionate about building healthy relationships.

Graham was a deep thinker, a friend to many and a fan of Michael Leunig whom he used constantly in illustration of his points of view.

He was an innovative and much respected CEO of The Marriage Guidance Council in South Australia and shepherded its transformation to Relationships Australia today. This is today a key not for profit in our community.

Graham suffered a debilitating stroke just prior to the commencement of our dreaming for the creation of The Effective Living Centre. Little did we recognize when he agreed to be our inaugural secretary that the taking and transcribing of Minutes would take him many hours as he sought to learn to rewrite and find words again.

Graham was always a great inspirer and had a way of uplifting and challenging those around him. Many have been mentored by him. The Effective Living Centre with the help of others was nurtured into existence through his inspirational thinking and hard work. We remember his contribution, the contribution of many volunteers who over 12 years now have kept the vision alive. This includes his wife Wendy's contribution as a volunteer of ELC for many years. Both have sadly now passed away.

## Getting to know Margaret Cargill

Whichever way one looks at it, Margaret's life is a remarkable one. At the leading edge of the baby boomer generation, she found herself at the age of 10 living with her parents and three younger brothers in Seattle. Her father, a man of, dare it be said, soaring ambition, had been sent as resident engineer for Qantas to work at Boeing where the new 707 aircraft were being built. The reality for the young family was challenging, and Margaret helped her mother with cleaning, scrubbing out and preparing accommodation and welcome for other new arrivals.

The notion of justice and an outward focus were already well instilled in Margaret's DNA. While her mother Judy left school at 15, she was throughout her life a voracious reader of both fiction and non-fiction, and was not coy about marshalling her acquired knowledge into articulate contributions to often robust discussion. She also displayed a remarkable self sufficiency, when after two and a half years in the U.S., the family returned to the home they had built on Sydney's North Shore. She enthusiastically threw herself into such diverse activities as building terraced gardens, laying out pathways, upholstering furniture and covering lampshades. Judy not only did a fortnightly Meals on Wheels run, with the four children dutifully in tow during school holidays, but also led the way in setting up associated social groups. Thus was set a pattern of care for others coupled with travel and cross cultural experience that has woven its colourful fabric throughout Margaret's life.

After attending Willoughby Girls' High School, Margaret embarked upon an Arts degree at Sydney University, majoring in

French and German. With a Diploma of Education, Margaret expressed a wish to teach in the country, and was sent to Cooma. There she met a dashing young vet called Colin, who himself had already completed a Masters Degree in Alabama. Three months after their marriage in 1970, they flew to Missouri, where Colin completed a PhD program specialising in microbiology and pigs. In the absence of teaching opportunities, Margaret worked as a laboratory technician for a vet researcher, and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. During a further post-doctoral year spent in Switzerland, Margaret taught English in Zurich.

In 1973, a position for Colin in the Department of Agriculture brought them to Adelaide, where Margaret was able to return to teaching languages at Northfield, Campbelltown and Ingle Farm. Notwithstanding motherhood, Margaret became involved in the Good Neighbour Council, voluntarily teaching English to mainly Lebanese immigrant women in the Salisbury area. Tom was born in 1976 and Helen in 1978, the year the family moved to Magill and joined a congregation that became Morialta.

Further adventure beckoned. Wanting to live as a family in another culture, and needing both safety and challenge, a chance conversation led them to Tonga, initially for twelve months. A further three years ensued, co-funded by AusAid and the Uniting Church, and significantly in the final year by Morialta UC. The challenges were numerous and diverse: isolation, intermittent electricity, limited food resources, managing help in the house such that it didn't feel as if they were implicated in slavery, letting the children roam freely (eventually realising that absolutely everyone on the island would look out for them) and constantly needing to adapt to the unexpected. Margaret herself was teaching plus supervising correspondence classes for

Tom and Helen. She also wrote an English curriculum for the Hango Agricultural College, based on needed outcomes. Despite the challenges and frustrations, this extended time



living and working in Tonga became pivotal, both for Colin, with his subsequent work in Indonesia, and for Margaret with her work in China.

Back in Adelaide, Margaret worked as an English teacher at TAFE and at the Pennington Migrant Resource Centre. Needing an English as a Second Language (ESL) teacher to work at the Waite Institute, the University of Adelaide tapped her on the shoulder. Recognising the particular needs of ESL students when writing up scientific research, Margaret developed a keen interest in the very particular challenges confronting these students, such that her research took her to a Master of Education (TESOL) in 1997. In 2000 she travelled to Vietnam, and in the following year made the first of 23 (and counting) such trips to China, working principally with the Chinese Academy of Sciences, which has 104 research institutes throughout the country. As a result of this in-depth experience, Margaret has co-authored a book for science students at the point of writing a paper based on research undertaken. In amongst all this, Margaret enrolled part-time in further study, being awarded a Doctor of Education in 2011.

Somehow 800 words cannot do justice to a life so richly lived. A citizen of the world, Margaret has embraced diversity, social justice, cross-cultural experience, learning, teaching, leading, reading and travelling, all bound together with profound care and generosity.

## A Message from our man in the Southern Isle Lachlan Mackenzie

Hello Morialta Uniting from Tasmania. I've already been in Tasmania for almost four months, and have enjoyed some unusually warm weather in autumn. However winter has definitely started and I'm slowly adjusting to the idea of multiple layers! That being said I've found myself a small apartment close to work, with a heater and a heavy duty quilt to keep the cold at bay.

Work has been extremely busy and very challenging. I have been working mainly in a process support position in the electrolysis department but will transition into a projects and design role in the coming weeks. I've been given a fair amount of responsibility (I haven't broken anything yet!), plenty of work to do and excellent supervision, mentoring and support from my colleagues.

I've been using my weekends and public holidays well, joining up with the Hobart Social Bushwalking Club for a number of events including a picnic at the Waterworks and hiking the Cape Raoul track. Making use of the warmer weather I've walked some of Mount Field and Mount Wellington and kayaked on the Derwent River.

Recently I've joined up with the Lenah Valley scout group, who were short a leader, and I'm looking forward to getting out and doing some more activities with the scouts. After trying out a few different Uniting Churches around Hobart I've found one that I enjoy going to and find both welcoming in community and challenging in faith. I've been attending Hobart North Uniting Church regularly for almost 3 months now and am getting to know the members of the congregation.

I'm really enjoying living and working here in Tasmania. There's plenty to see and do

to keep me busy for many years to come. Feel free to visit anytime!!



Lachlan recently graduated with a Bachelor of Engineering degree with First Class Honours in Chemical - Minerals Processing.

**CONGRATULATIONS LACHLAN!**

## A New Version of the Australian National Anthem

Words by Judith Durham

The following version of "Advance Australia Fair" was spoken before the major games played in the Indigenous Round of the Australian Rugby League. Many feel this was a highly significant event as Rugby League has its roots in the old so called "Working Class" or with "Blue Collar Workers". That the game recognises the role of Indigenous Australians as an important part of its history marks a turning point in Australia's growing respect for the First Peoples of this Nation.

Australians let us stand as one, upon this sacred land  
A new day dawns, we're moving on to trust and understand.  
Combine our ancient history and cultures everywhere,  
To bond together for all time, advance Australia fair.  
With joyful hearts then let us sing, advance Australia fair.

Australians let us all be one, with peace and harmony.  
Our precious water, soil and sun, grant life for you and me.  
Our land abounds in nature's gifts to love, respect and share,  
And honouring the Dreaming, advance Australia fair.  
With joyful hearts then let us sing, advance Australia fair.

Australians let us strive as one, to work with willing hands.  
Our Southern Cross will guide us on, as friends with other lands.  
While we embrace tomorrow's world with courage, truth and care,  
And all our actions prove the words, advance Australia fair,  
With joyful hearts then let us sing, advance Australia fair.

And when this special land of ours is in our children's care,  
From shore to shore forever more, advance Australia fair.  
With joyful hearts then let us sing, advance . . . Australia . . . fair.

Lyrics are taken from "The Australian Cities Suite"  
Words by Judith Durham with additional words by Kutcha Edwards, Lou Bennett, Camilla Cahnce and Bill Hauritz  
Based on words by P.D. McCormick (1878)



Gil Sullivan was very kind to support Shiny Stars Family Concert (Adelaide), a local Chinese Community Music Event in May. Through a live interview with Jing, he talked about the importance of practice which was very inspiring for all the young performers.

Jing Luo

(Gil & Kenny can both be spotted in the back row of the photo!)

## Fellowship Happenings

In May, Sergeant Angela Clissold from the Electronic Crime Division of the SA Police, gave an extremely interesting talk about possible preventative methods that we may use to help prevent Cyber Crime attacks to our mobile phones, laptops and desk-top computers.

In June, Dr Colin Cargill spoke to us about his extensive work with pigs, which has taken him to many countries around the world. He presented a stunning slide show of not only his work within the pig industry as a veterinarian, but beautiful photos of villages around the world in which he worked, including Indonesia and Vietnam.

We are looking forward to the 'Bonus' meeting at the end of June that will be a visit to the Koala Hospital followed by lunch at Cafe Primo.

New members and visitors always welcome at our meetings!

## Advices and Queries

Based on The Friends Meeting Introductions

Recently at a meeting of the Ecumenical Partners for Justice and Peace, a commission of the South Australian Council of Churches, a friend and colleague (Jenny Stock) from the Quakers led the devotions.

Jenny read to us the "Advices and Queries" that members of the Quakers read before all their meetings, or use for private devotions and reflections.

I asked Beverlie Hopkins about the correct wording and she kindly provided it for me to share with you in Vision.

### Advices and Queries 15:

Do you take part as often as you can in meetings for the church?

Are you familiar enough with Church Government to contribute to its disciplined processes?

Do you consider difficult questions with an informed mind as well as a generous and loving spirit?

Are you prepared to let your insights and personal wishes take their place alongside those of others, or be set aside as the meeting seeks the right way forward?

If you cannot attend, uphold the meeting prayerfully.

Colin Cargill and Beverlie Hopkins

## Shared Life

The writer of this text is a pastor in the Presbyterian Church in Durbanville, Cape Town.

The word Koinonia (in Greek) is sometimes translated as fellowship. the word actually means 'shared life', and it points to the kind of relationship we are called to have with other pilgrims on this journey of faith.

In our congregation we have a program called 'Keeping Koinonia'. It is a celebration of the gift of hospitality, the goal of which is for people to share a meal and to build deeper relationships; where friend or stranger can experience the hospitality of Christ. At each gathering, participants pray this prayer as a grace before the meal:

**'Dear God, we live in a world where there are so many who go to bed hungry each night, and we recognize that we are very privileged to be able to share this meat. In a world where so many people do not know the love and compassion of family and friends, we thank you for the opportunity to be together. Be present with us to that we may we share together with joyful hearts.'**

God calls us to live with an unveiled face; to live openly, authentically and honestly with others; to be willing to be vulnerable with them and to trust them with our most intimate concerns.

Contributed by David Purling

## William Edmund (Bill) Matheson

*Adapted from the family eulogy*



Everyone knew William Matheson as Bill. He started life on 2nd March 1928 and departed on 20th May 2017 – aged 89 years and 79 days. He was the only son of John Colin Vincent Matheson and Queenie Dorman.

He was always a traveller and celebrated his first birthday on a train taking his family to Western Australia. Bill attended various schools in outback WA until his father joined the RAAF in 1941, moved to Melbourne, and ended up in Mallala in 1942. The family home was in Bridgewater but sadly when Bill was 15 years old, his father and four others were killed in a plane crash off the Gulf of St Vincent.

Bill attended Adelaide High School where he befriended some boys who went to Madge Memorial Methodist Church. In 1947 during a church camp at Nunyara, Bill committed his life to serving Jesus and began studying lay preaching. In May 1949, at age 21, he was accepted as an accredited lay preacher of the Methodist Church and continued to preach for the next 52 years. It was at Madge Church that he also met Doreen who was to be his life partner and soul mate.

While at University, Bill discovered his other life-long love – northern South Australia. He was to have many wondrous adventures monitoring experimental vegetation plots in the outback.

To help pay his way at University, Bill worked at numerous jobs including grape-picking, milking cows, house painting, almond picking, crushing bricks and even a bicycle shop. The bike shop fuelled Bill's love of cycling and he, with his friend Keith Shaw, constructed a tandem bicycle from bits and pieces of old bikes. The bike took them on several long-distance rides, including riding from Adelaide to Blanchetown and back on the same day.

Bill graduated with a Bachelor degree in Agricultural Science in April 1952 and joined the Department of Agriculture as a Soil Conservation Officer. After two months he had saved enough money to buy an engagement ring and he and Doreen married in March 1953. Their first assignment was Murray Bridge and it was here that the first two children (Robyn & Janine) were born.

From Murray Bridge the family moved to Jamestown where the Department provided a timber-framed asbestos clad house with only two power points and no hot water service. However there was a chip heater and the children (eventually numbering 5) remember the rusty coloured bath water it delivered.

Bill was a dedicated scientist and surveyed thousands of contour banks

across the Jamestown region to prevent soil erosion. He enrolled in his Master's degree but kept putting studies on hold as the family grew with the births of John, Tanya and finally Anne.

Bill was not just a soil scientist but a man with wide interests. These included the Camera Club, which he helped establish, Church activities, the Agricultural bureau and the JayCeas club. Subsequently he added bird-watching and bought a pair of binoculars with his first overtime payment in 1958. Among his prize "spottings" was a pair of cattle egrets riding around on the backs of cows. The sighting was the first for decades and Bill was an avid bird watcher the rest of his life.

In 1965 the family moved to Nuriootpa and Bill began working at the Viticultural Research station. During this time he was able to access the library at the station and finally graduated with his Masters of Agricultural Science in 1968.

Bill continued to be involved in church and community organisations and became Chairman of the Primary School committee and steered the planning of a new primary school which was finally opened in 1977. He was also a member of the Barossa Valley Rotary club and over the years held every executive position in the club except President, which he deemed required too many trips away from the family.

Bill enjoyed travel and family caravan trips included the Snowy Mountains (1967) and Tasmania (1970). After the family left home Bill and Doreen not only enjoyed caravanning but also travelled overseas to the UK, Europe, Tonga, New Zealand, Vanuatu and New Guinea.

The family moved to Rostrevor in January 1972 so that Bill could work on a project at Bolivar – researching irrigation using reclaimed water. It took around thirty years before a scheme to provide reclaimed water to vegetable market gardeners came to fruition, but that and all that purple pipe snaking around the suburban parklands today, came out of Bill's work.

Bill retired in 1987 after 35 years in the Public Service and for next few decades he worked with farmers in the role of conciliator, providing advice on the application of the new Native Vegetation Act. He was a Land Care consultant until he retired for the second time aged in his mid-70's. He joined Trees for life in 1989 and over the years he grew thousands of seedlings and was still growing in 2017. Later Bill was introduced to Bushland Conservation and joined a group of environmentalists dedicated to the conservation of native vegetation on parcels of land around South Australia. Later the Mathesons became shareholders in properties at Tothills and Rockleigh and many of us at Morialta remember happy Queen's Birthday Mondays planting trees and enjoying a picnic barbeque at Rockleigh.

Bill's dedication and leadership in the Environmental Movement was recognised

in 1998 when he was honoured with the Australian Government's National Landcare Award for Nature Conservation on behalf of Bushland Conservation Propriety Limited. He and Doreen were guests at a dinner at the Great Hall of the People at Parliament House, as well as shaking Prime Minister Howard's conservative hand.

In 2006 he was awarded an Order of Australia for his service to the environment, soil, water and biodiversity conservation, which was a fitting acknowledgement of the 54 passionate years of professional service to the land he cared so much for.

Bill was a great community participant with many friends across South Australia and beyond and he will be sadly missed, not only by Doreen and his family, but by all of us who were privileged to know and share part of our lives with him.

### Tribute to Bill Matheson From the Social Justice Team

Bill Matheson was a valued and dedicated member of the Morialta Social Justice Team for over 20 years. He and Doreen not only shared their life together, but they shared a deep concern for injustices wherever they occurred.

They developed their interest in social justice well before their marriage over 60 years ago and 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 was passionate about a range of social justice issues including world poverty, human rights and asylum seekers, living more sustainably, and especially environmental degradation and the ramifications of climate change.

Bill's many articles in Vision over the years, simplifying complex environmental issues, have been valuable in helping many of us understand the complexity of the issues and the consequences of our actions.

Bill, supported by Doreen, did not just join organisations and campaigns, or go on marches. They went the extra mile. Rather than just campaign to have asylum seekers released from detention; they visited and befriended a young detainee in Baxter.

Bill's lifestyle reflected his commitment to social justice and living more simply and he was 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.

## Dorothy Holmes (1920-2017)

Dorothy (Dot) was born on November 27 1920 and was the fifth child and second daughter of Harry and Jean Bottrall. She lived her early life in Appila, where she attended and completed grade 7. She then spent a year at the Methodist Ladies College in Wayville where her drawings caught the eye of the art teacher.

The next years were spent helping around the farm and in the house where she learnt skills in making jam, dressing poultry, milking cows and was particularly good at teaching calves to drink. In her spare time she enrolled in a correspondence dress making and tailoring course and gained top marks for the state with her tailored ladies suit. This was a handy skill to have with clothes being rationed. In her later life her craft skills also included tatting, china painting, cake decorating, cross stich, flower arranging and crochet. Her five grandchildren all have woollen rugs and many other pieces that are now treasured by her family.

Dorothy studied music with Cecil Wild of Laura and as a teenager became an organist for the Appila Methodist Church.

It was through Methodist church activities that Dorothy met Ralph in the late 1930s and they were married on October 27 1945. Following Ralph's discharge from the RAAF in March 1946 he returned to his job at Gladstone where they rented rooms until buying their first house in

1947. Around this time their daughter Rhonda was born.

In 1952, following Ralph's promotion, they moved to Loxton, where Dorothy soon became involved in church activities. She continued as organist for another 10 years and as she was available to play on weekdays, her services were in demand for weddings and funerals.

One of the many exciting episodes in her life occurred when she was taking a car load of ladies for a Church Guild meeting and had to cross the Murray River. As Dorothy was driving down the steep ramp to board the punt, the punt began to drift away from the landing. Dorothy clamped down hard on the brake and applied the hand brake with all her strength – and "hoped".

Daughter number 2 (Val) was born in 1957 at the Loxton hospital, and was a real-life doll for Rhonda.

In 1962 Ralph was promoted to a position in metropolitan Adelaide with the Electricity Trust and they built a new home at Newton where they lived for 42 years. They joined the Newton Methodist Church, where Dorothy served as an elder and as president of the ladies guild. She also became involved with a local aged care home as a volunteer friend and was known for the next 23 years as the sewing lady.

Dorothy was also first in line as a volunteer when the local Rotary Club sponsored the formation of a branch of "Meals on Wheels". Her red Triumph drove many miles delivering meals and

she served as an active committee member and assistant staff officer for the next 25 years. In 1996 Dorothy was presented with the citizen of the year award from the City of Campbelltown for her service.

Always willing to open her house to guests, including guests from 11 different countries, Dorothy was a caring and interested host.

She loved crosswords, scrabble, canasta, and on their many caravan trips she always had a crochet work in progress. Dorothy loved to travel with Ralph and when Val and family lived in Leeds, they used it as a chance to travel the UK and to visit the roots of some of her ancestors.

In 2005 they moved to Laura to be closer to Rhonda and family, and by happy coincidence the house that they bought was actually the same nursing home where Dorothy was born. Her love of gardening meant that several ute-loads of pot plants had to be transported from Adelaide to Laura.

After 7 happy years they moved to Belalie Lodge for respite care, while family were on an overseas trip, and stayed, making it their permanent home.

Dorothy and Ralph were "gems" and family and friends are left with countless memories of Dorothy that will stay forever. In Ralph's own words – "Dorothy was a quiet, caring soul whose name will be written in gold in the roll book of God."

So ends a love story spanning over 75 years.

### The Wisdom of Donald Soper

From "Soperisms" edited by Brian Frost with introduction by Gordon Wakefield

Who was Donald Soper?

**Baron Donald Oliver Soper** (1903-1998) was a prominent Methodist minister, socialist and committed pacifist. Historian Martin Wellings states: *His combination of modernist theology, high sacramentalism, and Socialist politics, expressed with insouciant wit and unapologetic élan, thrilled audiences, delighted admirers, and reduced opponents to apoplectic fury.*

He was President of the Methodist Church in England from 1953-1954 and he was the first Methodist minister to sit in the House of Lords.

In the words of Brian Frost – *It was then I realised that in addition to his many other talents Lord Soper has a gift for the striking phrase, which both arrests your attention and makes you think.* Obviously a master of sound bights for the evening news long before sound bights became the core of the media interview.

Here is a sample of his "striking phrases" on Christianity and Politics.

### Christianity

Christianity is a historical religion or it is nothing.

Christianity is contagious; you catch it rather than achieve it.

Christianity is a way of life which is essentially political and social as well as personal and spiritual.

Christianity demands a moral revolution, but it just as certainly demands an economic one as well.

That which distinguishes and identifies the Christian faith is non-violence.

The Christian graces and virtues have to be kindled like a fire; they don't just happen like the warmth of a summer day.

The paradox at the heart of Christianity is that what we regard as the weak are actually the strong ones...?

Christianity is self-development, not mere self-expression.

Christianity has no monopoly of goodness.

The greatest fallacy of all is to think of Christianity as a way of looking at life instead of a way of changing it.

### Politics

Nothing is politically satisfactory unless it is geared to a moral principle which is irrefragable.

...politics is an expression of Christian belief translated into economic and political terms.

...when religion forsakes politics it becomes unworthy and useless; when politics is divorced from religion then it becomes materialistic and violent.

Democracy only works when people are willing to make up their minds on evidence and not on prejudice.

The nation state is the most predatory and violent institution in history...

Sovereignty is a word which would have practically no meaning if we lived in a human neighbourhood and were brothers and sisters to each other...

I do not believe you can reconcile the nation state with the Christian Gospel.

Socialism is...essentially the extension of the family spirit to the whole of the community...

Marx, like so many other prophets, was right about what he said and often wrong in what he left out.

The family is the welfare state in microcosm.



# Morialta Magpie



Our library hosted the national meeting of the Australian Church Library Association, with speaker Grant Lock.



Happy 2nd birthday, Luke!



Jonathan, Anne and David dressed up for the Adelaide Harmony Choir concert!



Brian and Dale were honoured to meet a village chief in Noumea during their recent cruise.



Happy birthdays to Ervine, Dale and Merv!



Margaret and Ray led a Pot Luck Tea around the Outback of Central Queensland and New South Wales.



Clare Milne was delighted to receive her quilt, signed by friends at Morialta UC. She sends her love and thanks from her new home in Golden Grove.



**Youth Outing!**  
Some of our younger (and not so young!) members had a great time going bowling together.



## Welcome to the Morialta Uniting Church Community Library

### FROM THE LIBRARIAN

I was really pleased, one Sunday, when two of the Library Committee members came to me and said how much they had enjoyed the books which they had been asked to review. On visiting the book store I had specifically asked the shop assistant for books which were wholesome and enjoyable to read. It seems this particular shop assistant has excelled herself. I hope you will be inspired by the latest book reviews and want to read the books.

### Library High Tea

The Library's 23<sup>rd</sup> birthday will be celebrated on **Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> July** from 5.00 pm - 7.30 pm.

This year our theme is **JOURNEYING - ARE WE THERE YET?**

**Tickets** are now on sale!

**Cost** \$12.00 Adults \$6.00 Children

**Bring** along journeying memorabilia, travel stories, brochures, souvenirs, books about journeys, etc.

**Bring** a poem or piece of prose, either to do with the theme or a favourite, you would like to share in our "Literary Delights" segment. This segment is about sharing a piece of writing which has captivated you and delighted you over the years.

**Our Guest Speaker** will be Raylene Pearce, who did a creative writing course in her 60s and then wrote a book called "Night Journeys". She has journeyed to Egypt and her descriptions of her experiences gained when living in Egypt for 10 years are very interesting. Raylene's Christian faith, exuberant personality and care for others shine in every word she writes and says. Prepare to be informed entertained and amazed.

**Enjoy** High Tea including soup, savoury slices, cakes and tea and coffee.

### \*\*WRITING COMPETITION\*\*

The Morialta Uniting Church Library is excited to announce our annual writing competition. You can write fiction, poetry or non-fiction pieces up to 500 words.

The theme that you must write on is JOURNEYING! ARE WE THERE YET? Categories are Adult (18+) and Young People (under 18). Winners will receive a Dillon's book voucher to the value of \$25.

Entries close at 12noon Sunday 9 July 2017. Place your entries with your name on it in the Writing Competition box located in the library.

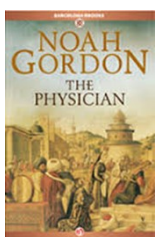
### BOOK REVIEWS



#### Remarkable Creatures by Tracy Chevalier

This is an engrossing work of fiction based on carefully researched actual events and people of the early 1800's around the English south coastal town of Lyme Regis, about 200 km south-west of London. The main drama is the ebb and flow of friendship between two women, both keen on collecting fossils weathered out of the Lias clay cliffs along the shoreline. Their thoughts about each other appear in alternate chapters, written as if by each in turn. The younger Mary writes as a less educated lower class person needing to collect fossils for sale, to make a living, but admiring her middle class friend Elizabeth, who sees collecting as an intellectual hobby. Mary is very observant and becomes famous among geologists, such as William Buckland and Charles Lyell, for making new discoveries, including ichthyosaurs and plesiosaurs. The book has an explanatory postscript and list of further reading and helps to illustrate the class-based society, the inferior position of women, and the increasing questioning by natural scientists of a literal interpretation of the Bible.

*Reviewed by Bryan Forbes*



#### The Physician by Noah Gordon

In eleventh century London Rob Cole becomes an orphan at the death of his mother. His brothers and sisters are split between family members, while he becomes a fast talking swindler with an acute sensitivity to impending death and yearns to become a healer. After peddling fake medicines and entertaining by juggling, travelling England and learning to become a bone setter, Rob has the desire to travel to Persia to study to become a physician. His adventures on the way are described vividly by Noah Gordon. The description of Europe at this time is vivid and makes for fascinating reading and an interesting insight into the life of everyday people at this time in history.

A very absorbing and vivid description of England and Europe in the 11<sup>th</sup> Century.

*Reviewed by Margaret Boundy*



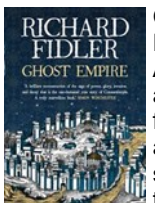
#### The Good People by Hannah Kent

Hannah Kent's second novel is based on a true story, and is set in a remote valley in south-west Ireland in the year 1825. After the death of her husband only months after losing her daughter, Nora Leaty is left to care for her 4 year old grandson alone. Once a thriving toddler, by the time he comes into her care, he could no longer walk, speak or interact. Fearful of the villager's reactions, Nora keeps him hidden, and hires Mary, a 14 year old girl to help her care for him.

Receiving no help from the priest or doctor, in desperation, Nora turns to old Nancy who has "the knowledge" for a traditional cure.

This is a dark tale, and a heart-rending parable about ignorance and fear that is convincing and full of things that cannot be explained. Hannah Kent has written a moving story of human frailty, and a gripping period drama.

"Some folk are born different, Nora, They are born on the outside of things, with skin a little thinner, eyes a little keener to what goes unnoticed by most. Their hearts swallow more blood than ordinary hearts; the river runs differently for them."



#### Ghost Empire by Richard Fidler

Fidler is the well-known interviewer in the 'conversations' series on ABC radio, and reveals here an extra talent for making ancient history arrestingly interesting. The empire in question is that of Byzantium, featuring Rome and Constantinople, but tragedy is interspersed with amusing events during an investigative tour by Fidler and his teenage son Joe in Rome and Istanbul. We are brought close to the drama and the minds of the people involved. We meet the Roman Emperor, Constantine the Great (306-337 AD) who converted to Christianity in 312 AD after a military victory and who in 330 AD gave the name Constantinople to Byzantium. We meet Christian knights on the Fourth Crusade who sacked the rich and glorious Christian city of Constantinople in 1204 AD and we also meet Mehmed, Sultan of the Ottoman Turks who conquered Constantinople in 1453 AD and who renamed Constantinople, Istanbul.

Among the final words in the narrative, Fidler describes a chance encounter with an Orthodox musical liturgy in Paris, 2015, in which he senses the ghostly spirit of Constantinople. Fascinating reading!

*Reviewed by Bryan Forbes*

For more book reviews go to [www.morialtauca.org.au/resources/library](http://www.morialtauca.org.au/resources/library)

**Prayer 'New Ways'**

From The Pattern of our Days -  
The Iona Community

God of our lives  
you are always calling us  
to follow you into the future,  
inviting us to new ventures,  
new challenges,  
new ways to care,  
new ways to touch the hearts of all.  
When we are fearful of the unknown,  
give us courage.  
When we worry  
that we are not up to the task,  
remind us that you would not call us  
if you did not believe in us.  
When we get tired,  
or feel disappointed  
with the way things are going,  
remind us  
that you can bring change and hope  
out of the most difficult situations.  
Amen

**Diary Dates**

Thursday 29 June	Fellowship Bonus - Visit to Koala and Wildlife Hospital
Sunday 9 July 2.00pm	Jane Feast Singing Students Concert at MUC
Sunday 16 July 5.00pm	Library Hight Tea and Literary Delights
Thursday 20 July 9.45am	Fellowship Cloth Doll Making
Sunday 23 July 9.30am	Combined Service Meeting of Congregation
Sunday 30 July 2.00pm	Induction of Reverend Bob Hutchinson
Sunday 20 August Lunch	Guess Who's Coming to Dinner Lunch
Thursday 24 August 6.00pm	Urban Mission Network Gathering at Modbury
Saturday 26 August Dinner	Guess Who's Coming to Dinner Dinner
Tuesday 19 September 2.00pm	Over 80s Afternoon Tea

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**Living Streams ~ Giving Life**

**Deadline  
for the next Edition  
1 August 2017**

To discuss ideas for Vision articles  
contact the editor, Colin Cargill