

Morialta Vision

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Rev Bob Hutchinson writes...

'It takes a village to raise a child'

"It takes a church to nurture the young in faith"

The Church is often talked about as being like a family or the People of God, or even the Body of Christ. Each of these descriptions highlights the sense of community. In 1 Corinthians 12: 12- 27 St Paul talks about the human body as having many parts and that each part is valuable and should not be considered least. *"For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ".* Paul continues, *"The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you,' nor again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you.' On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it."*

St Paul may well be saying that *"It takes a whole village to raise a child"*. This Igbo and Yoruba (Nigeria) proverb exists in different forms in many African languages. The basic meaning is that child upbringing is a communal effort. The responsibility for raising a child is shared with the larger family (sometimes called the extended family). Everyone in the family participates especially the older children, aunts and uncles, grandparents, and even cousins....Children are considered a blessing from God for the whole community. This communal responsibility in raising children is also seen

in the Sukuma (Tanzania) proverb "One knee does not bring up a child" and in the Swahili (East and Central Africa) proverb "One hand does not nurse a child."

In general this Nigerian proverb conveys the African worldview that emphasizes the values of family relationships, parental care, self-sacrificing concern for others, sharing, and even hospitality.

Here at Morialta Uniting Church we would like to be known as a "family", a congregation of people from diverse backgrounds and experiences and households or family units, eg singles, couples, couples with no kids and families. We are diverse. This year the ministry leadership team are making a focused effort to develop ministry and opportunities to and with our young people, especially school aged, which includes families. As you can see from the photo, at a recent families dinner, we have quite a diverse group. Our plan is to engage with and encourage our young people more in worship, church life and social events. Our young people will be given opportunity to plan, lead and participate more in Sunday worship, intentional youth discussion programs on Sundays and involvement in Friday night (or weekend) youth social activities.

For this to be effective I believe the *"It takes a whole village to raise a child"* thinking applies to the church. We are all members of the body, the family, the 'village', the church. Everybody is invited to share in this through encouragement, affirmation, acknowledgement and interest in our young people and be members of the village. As we move through the year I hope that many of us will take some time to intentionally engage with some young people or families, to get to know names and interests and to be part of a growing 'village' church community.

<http://www.afriprov.org/african-proverb-of-the-month/23-1998proverbs/137-november-1998-proverb.html>



Chairperson Writes ...

Greetings and welcome to the first Morialta Vision for 2018! My February musings follow on from December's focus on our mission goals and how we can move to discern and clarify them as we move forward together. Specifically, I want to focus this time on expanding the group of people who are working regularly together to do this, prayerfully, generously and intentionally, in our Church Council and our Ministry Teams.

Nominations are open for positions of Elder on Church Council (closing 7 March) – and we have vacancies for up to six! There is information on this role on page 14 of this issue, and please ask me personally if you would like to read an excellent summary of the responsibilities of this position, produced by the NSW/ACT Synod.

In addition we need people able to contribute to guiding our financial affairs, as a Treasurer and as members of the Finance Operational Ministry Team. Skills are needed in two distinct areas here: book-keeping and accounting; and financial analysis and strategising – and people putting their hands up may be primarily interested in one or both of these.

Next we have the Children, Youth and Young Adults Mission Ministry Team. To give genuine expression to the enthusiasm for this mission area that was expressed during the Dreaming process in 2015, we need people in addition to the parents of the young people to join the team and its activities! And thirdly

we have the Worship and Faith Education Mission Ministry Team. Jenny Swanbury has just begun as the new leader of this team, so it's a great time to consider if your gifts and interests may equip you to make a contribution to this vital part of Morialta's life as a team member.

Remember, everyone learns on the job – no-one comes to a new role, at Morialta or anywhere else, with everything they need to do it well – and I sit here today as a crystal clear example of this principle! The things I need to learn and the skills I need to develop for my roles as chairperson are many and varied – and I am feeling very appreciative indeed of all the warm support I am receiving in this learning and development from so many of you in the Morialta community. Thank you all!

And it will be the same for you, if you put your hand up for a new role here – there is help and support, mentoring and encouragement, through grace-filled individuals and through the proposed structure changes we are working through. So please do consider prayerfully if there may be a new role calling to you for 2018 and beyond!

And as always, please be in touch if you have questions, concerns or suggestions – or if there is anything Morialta-related that you would like to discuss – I look forward to hearing from you!

Margaret Cargill
0439 954814

EASTER 2018



Easter Season at Morialta

Church open for private prayer and meditation
8.00am to 9.30am on weekdays during Lent.

Thursday 29 March, 7.00pm

Maundy Thursday
Last Supper Experience
A night of shadows and darkness

Friday 30th March, 9.00am

Good Friday
A sombre remembrance of a bad day

Sunday 1st April

Easter Sunday
8.15am *A reflective Easter service*

9.30am *Easter Celebration*
"I'm not joking"

Community Centre Mission Ministry Team

Report to Church Council, 6th February 2018

Since our last report in July 2017 the team of Helena Begg, Anne Ind, Alison Lockett, John Powers and Mary Watson have continued to develop and maintain a range of activities within the Community Centre.

The key activities of Coffee & Chat, Art Circle, Lunch on Chapel, Friendship Group, Tai Chi, Bridge Classes, Student Accommodation, two Playgroups, half day Bus Trips, English Conversation classes and the Workshop continue to be well attended. Of particular note was the commencement in December 2017 of Morialta Music Time on Thursday mornings during the Christmas school holidays. We are deeply indebted to Jane Feast for preparing and conducting the sessions which were well attended by ten to fifteen children with their parents/carers.

Student Accommodation has required a massively increased workload by many sections of the church, particularly Anne Ind,

in finding alternative accommodation and preparing the 24 Chapel Street property for re-development. It is pleasing to report that we are well placed to continue our student accommodation project with full occupancy and the resultant income stream.

It is hoped that Jilly Fox will be able to assist in the English Conversation classes during 2018. Jilly has experience as an IELTS examiner and will be a fine support for Margaret Cargill, who is already offering an exceptional standard of leadership

During the next six months it is planned to have two more half day bus trips, and possibly commence a walking group, meditation group or a cooking class for men. Plans in conjunction with the Property Team to rebuild the storage cupboard at the southern end of the kitchen are continuing. Grant funding has been sought to finance this project. It has been decided to not replace the dishwasher as it continues to function satisfactorily albeit without the appropriate lights working.

John Powers, Leader

AV into the future at Morialta: Roles for sound and lighting enhancement in worship and beyond?

Margaret Cargill

I don't know about you, dear reader, but for me, it seems that AV – audio-visual – as an essential component of worship and other events has rather snuck up on me! I don't focus on it as a separate 'thing' most of the time – but my goodness, I certainly notice if the enhancements it brings are missing, or go on the blink. These include amplification of sound – spoken, sung or played – projection of words and images, and the use of coloured or white lighting to define and highlight specific parts of the church or hall, as well as general lighting.

We are deeply blessed at Morialta to have a strong team of people with skills and interest in the AV area, led by John Drew and John Secombe. This is also an area that interests younger members of the congregation, with Jing, Jordan and Katrina having recently undergone training and joined the roster for audio management during services. (For noting – more people are needed who are willing to be trained as projectionists!) We benefit enormously from the expertise and efforts of this team every time we worship together and every time we host a fund-raising concert or other event – I remember especially the Morialta Music Time sessions for toddlers during the school holidays just past, and the Kym Purling Trio concert in January. Warm memories for me of worship experiences enhanced by AV input include these:

- creative use of light and shadow in Tenebrae services,
- the effect of coloured lighting on the reredos deepening my awareness of the liturgical season colour in the paraments on the communion table and lecterns,
- the high-quality video footage we are able to produce of Beyond our Walls services because the preacher, bible reader and other participants are lit so effectively – making possible our popular YouTube videos,
- and everything can be heard! – with special hearing needs able to be catered for, too.

But all this comes at a cost in dollars as well as in the time and talents so generously given – and we have not traditionally been so accustomed to including in our budgets significant amounts for maintaining, replacing and enhancing our AV equipment. I encourage us all to be open to learning as much as we can about the Audio-Visual Leadership Team's needs and plans for the future, and to give these matters our serious and prayerful consideration. It seems to me to be an important area for us as we move forward into a future we cannot know, seeking to discern where God is acting and to be ready to join in.



Courts Resurfacing – Report to Council

Netball Club News

The Netball Club has chosen TEB Sporting Surfaces from several quotes to resurface the courts and replace the chain wire surrounds. Their preference is to do the work in September at the end of the winter season. The cost will be \$69,000 for resurfacing and \$15,000 for fencing and the courts will be out of use for a full month. The Netball Club intends to consult with the tennis players also about the timing of the work.

As reported earlier the club was successful in obtaining a Neighbourhood Grant of \$80,000 for this work, but they have just been notified that they missed out on the Sports and Recreation Grant. They have received feedback on their application and will resubmit in the next round which will be finalised before September.

More News from the Netball Club

- The Mother's Day Cake Stall will be held on Saturday 12th May. Proceeds support our church's mission projects.
- Matches for the winter season commence on 7th April
- Last minor round match 4th August
- The grand final is scheduled for 25th August but please note that no finals games will be played on the home courts this year.

Review of Mighty Magill Christmas Market 2017

Adapted from a report by Bruce Ind commissioned by Church Council

As part of the thank you letter to some of the volunteers who help organise the market, an invitation was extended to attend a review meeting on 4th February.

Some interested individuals, who were not able to attend the meeting, also provided feedback. Around 20 members of the congregation participated in the review meeting.

Summary of recommendations from the review meeting;

- As long as it remained feasible the present structure should continue
- The recommendation for future markets is that they be held until 1.30pm.
- It was recommended that tea and coffee be made available to volunteers throughout the market.
- In future, the doors will be opened earlier in the week for the delivery of items for sale.
- Catering for volunteers will be provided on each of Thursday and Friday.

Open Church, Open Heart

Lenten program sponsored by Social Justice Mission Ministry Team

Many congregations have their own way of responding to Lent and Easter each year. Traditionally Morialta UC has a practice of participating in Lenten Reflection Groups and giving to appeals through the Lent Event program.

This year, Social Justice Mission Ministry Team (SJMMT) has organised another project – opening the sanctuary each week day morning between 8.00am and 9.30am to invite people into a quiet space for self-reflection, prayer, or meditation.

Some of the reasons for this initiative are:

- Morialta UC is an open community that encourages interaction by the community and the congregation;
- Our relationship with the Community Garden and the key events we hold during the year are testament to this long held desire to be part of the wider community.
- Opening the church each weekday morning during Lent is yet another way Morialta UC can demonstrate its wish to be integral to the community.

It is not expected that there will be a big uptake, but even if one person finds a place of peace that is a start!

Aloneness and Loneliness

Adapted from a sermon by David Pill at Morialta on Sunday 14th January 2018.



Aloneness and loneliness are two different things. Aloneness or 'separation' is a basic part of human existence. I can never know what it is to be you and you can never know what it is to be me.

Aloneness, or solitude, as in a retreat, gives time for reflection where we can understand that we are unique.

Sometimes politicians think that sleeping in the parklands will help them better understand what it is to be homeless. This tokenism is useless. Tomorrow the politicians will be back in their warm beds. It is the persistence, the absence of hope, the entrapment that destroys a person's humanity. Think of the agonising loneliness and aloneness experienced by traumatised refugees locked away in never-never land.

Loneliness is a major problem of our day. Despite ever increasing technical means of communicating with others. Loneliness is intimately related to such disorders as alcoholism, behavioural problems, depression and a multitude of psychological states such as headaches, loss of appetite and insomnia. It is so painful for some, that they will do anything to avoid it.

In our mobile society people can become separated from their roots and become socially isolated. Their support webs become disintegrated.

There are two main forms – social loneliness and emotional loneliness.

When moving to a new city where we don't know anyone, it is easy to experience social loneliness or isolation. But that sort of loneliness can be overcome when someone from a local church calls and invites us to join in.

When a lonely person gets busy, gets involved, and where his or her interests and talents are recognised, loneliness will evaporate. When people hear words of warmth and friendliness the "silence of loneliness" is broken.

But there is a deeper form of loneliness, deeper than social isolation – the loneliness of emotional isolation.

Many experience a sense of utter loneliness whether or not they have the companionship of others. It is the loneliness one feels when widowed, divorced or separated, or when a "significant other" in one's life dies.

Shortly after my father died some years ago, my mother, who was very lonely, said: "No one calls me Adah any more" We called her "Mum". The neighbours rather formally called her "Mrs Pill". People experiencing a relational deficit, or as one put it "malnutrition of the soul" due to the absence of a "significant other" may be helped by a new relationship, but often there is the sense that nothing can fill the gap in their heart.

But within the Church and within her fellowship we have resources the world knows not of. We are commissioned to live out the Gospel, to be compassionate. As Christ's ambassadors it is part of our faith to affirm that there is one who never leaves us, nor forsakes us.

The Psalm for today, Psalm 139 "O Lord you have searched me and know me" – goes on to say "If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea even there your hand shall lead me and your right hand shall hold me."

In effect we cannot escape from the God who loves us unconditionally. God is not in some remote place. In God we live and move and have our being. He dwells in the hearts of those who love him.

Gradually, in any grieving situation – denial, anger, self-pity, depression, loneliness, or restlessness and the sense of isolation, give way to acceptance and healing, with the embrace of new hope and the realisation that by God's grace there is life after sadness and loss, and many of you can testify to that.

We, as the Church, especially when as carers visiting others, need to be alerted to those who are lonely so that we can discern the reason, if we are able. If a person is socially isolated then joining in, getting busy, becoming involved in a congenial friendly caring group will help. For others who are emotionally isolated, busyness may help but may add to the sense of confusion. But one or two patient and helpful, understanding friends can serve as living and loving symbols of the ever present healing Christ.

Finally from Dom Helder Camara in *One thousand reasons for living* – "It is worth any sacrifice, however great or costly to see eyes that were listless light up again; to see someone smile who seems to have forgotten how to smile; to see trust return in someone who no longer believed in anything or anyone."

How lonely it is....

How lonely it is to go against the tide of others' ideas and attitudes.

How lonely it is to whisper 'no' when all around are saying 'yes'.

How lonely it is to raise the question when everyone else assumes the answer.

How lonely it is to have a vision that no one else can share.

How lonely it is to follow your dream when others simply fall asleep!

How lonely it is.

Source unknown

Life Change Unit (LCU)

During the service on 14th January, Rev David Pill spoke about stress in our lives, and referred to something called a Life Change Unit, or an LCU.

The definition of an LCU was developed in the 1960s as a component of the Holmes and Rahe Stress Scale. It measures the influence of stress on the incidence of illness in an individual.

Holmes and Rahe asked participants (who were medical patients) if they had experienced any of 43 stressful life events prior to their illness. Each event was given a score (an LCU) that weighted how stressful the event was. They found that higher scores and higher weighted LCUs contributed to a greater likelihood that illness would occur.

LCUs range from a highest score of 100, following the death of a spouse, to a lowest score of 11 for a minor law infraction. Other examples include divorce (73), jail sentence or a death of close family member (both 62), retirement (45), pregnancy (40), death of close friend (37), child leaving home (29), beginning or ending school/college (26), change in residence or change in school (both 20), change in church activities* (19), holidays (13) and Christmas (12).

www.AlleyDog.com

*Change in church activities was not defined but we hope it was more than just changing the tune for our favourite hymn.



Beverley Tredrea

By John Powers

Among the many riches that have come from Broken Hill is Beverley Tredrea. Beverley attended Lane Street Methodist Church until she moved to Adelaide, when she was nine years old. She completed her Primary School education in a two roomed school before attending MLC.

Beverley's first employment was as a share clerk at Gurner & McArthur, sharebrokers, which continued for ten years. Following her marriage she had two children and when they were small she ran a babies & children's wear shop at Norwood. Beverley joined Magill Methodist Church in 1971 and around the

same time turned her attention more to her great interest in drama and elocution.

A drama major was completed at Murray Park and with two diplomas for drama from London College of Music she commenced teaching drama for the Education Department. After a further two years of study she completed her Teaching Diploma and moved into the classroom, teaching for the next ten years.

From there she worked for sixteen years at WEA organising educational travel. Beverley's passion for travel has seen her visit about seventy countries however there are still a few places that she has on her list to visit. These include Cape Town and Barcelona while later this year she will be visiting eastern Canada around the Toronto and Montreal areas. Little wonder that our bus trips over the past ten years have been so well organised.

Sunday School teaching began for Beverley when she was about twelve years old. She became a Sunday School Teacher's Assistant and then over the next fifty years taught at Sturt Marion, Parkside, West Richmond and Morialta Sunday Schools. Since 1991 Beverley

has been involved with the partnership between our Presbytery and Iksan Presbytery of PROK in South Korea, visiting there and providing hospitality to Korean visitors in Adelaide a number of times. For about forty years Beverley has been part of the Mission Projects team, first with Morialta Parish then Morialta Uniting Church, gaining valuable knowledge about the world wide church.

Another great interest of Beverley's was founded in London when visiting a friend who was involved in egg artistry. Sometime after her return to Adelaide, Beverley enrolled in 1989 in a WEA course in Egg Artistry. Eggs from geese, ostriches and emus have been used and many prizes won at the Royal Adelaide Show over the years, culminating in the Champion Egg award in 2015.

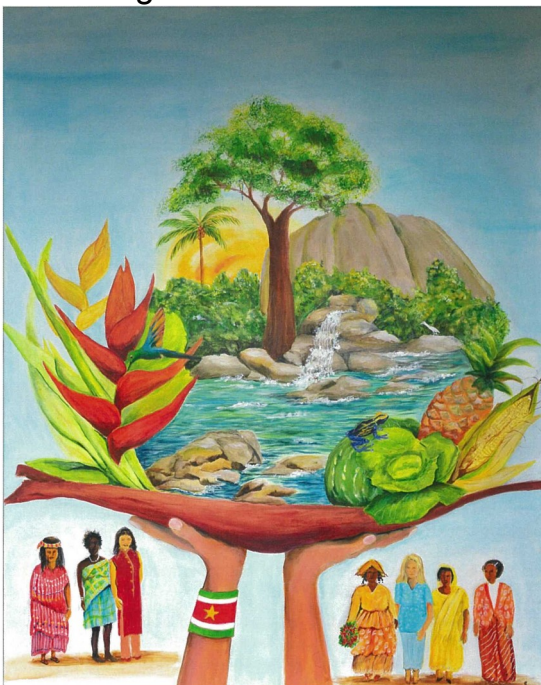
These days see Beverley continuing her involvement in travel, egg artistry, family and art, as well as her participation in the church as a member of Church Council, attending Presbytery & Synod meetings and serving on our Worship and Faith Education Mission Ministry Team. Beverley regards a pilgrimage to Iona in 2015 as her most amazing experience in her understanding and her relationship with the God.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Friday 2 March 2018

Join us at Morialta Uniting Church at 10.00am for a service prepared by the women of Suriname on the theme "All God's creation is very good".

Morning tea will follow in the hall.



All God's Creation is Very Good!

World Day of Prayer 2018

Changing the date of Australia Day is nothing new for the Uniting Church

From the Assembly Archives

The following statement was made by the Uniting Church Assembly on 1st July 1997.

The Assembly resolves: in concert with many other Australians, to take the view that the nation must find a date for a National Day which has the capacity to unite all Australians in celebration. Successive Assemblies since 1982 have recognised that 26 January divides rather than unites the nation. Aboriginal people have observed that day as a Day of Mourning or Invasion Day or Survival Day for many years. It reminds them of the dispossession and marginalisation of their people over the past two centuries.

The Assembly therefore:

- supports a change in the date of our National Day, and urges the Federal Government to promote community discussion directed towards identification of a date for Australia Day with greater power to unite than 26 January;
- recommends to presbyteries and parishes that until an alternative date has been agreed they take steps to have local governments incorporate into the observance of 26 January as Australia Day the frank recognition that the day represents for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people dispossession and alienation over the past 200 years;
- recommends to parishes that on the Sunday nearest to 26 January congregations be invited to include in their worship prayers confessing marginalisation of Aboriginal people in their own land and praying for a just and harmonious future.

This resolution was reaffirmed in 2000, when the Church also resolved to support a treaty with the First Peoples of this land.

<https://www.unitingjustice.org.au/justice-for-indigenous-australians/uca-statements/item/490-national-day>

Submission to the Review on Religious Freedom

Morialta Uniting Church has made a submission to the Review chaired by the Hon Phillip Ruddick. The submission was developed by the Social Justice Mission Ministry Team and discussed and approved by Church Council.

Dear Mr Ruddock

Australia is a successful democracy where people are already free to express political, philosophical and religious views and observe, practice and teach their faith. Our strong discrimination laws promote equality, and foster and support a safe and cohesive society. Any move for broad exemptions which privilege the interests of select groups over the rest of the community, should be avoided.

Like many Australians we regard freedom of thought, conscience and religion to be a fundamental human right and one that must be protected under law. However, this should not be at the expense of the rights of others. Rights need to be protected and balanced in a coherent legal framework. The best way to achieve this would be for Federal Parliament to enact a Bill of Rights to bring Australia into line with most other western democracies around the world. Once a Bill of Rights is enacted then the High Court will deal with, and decide, disputes between groups and individuals who feel disadvantaged or challenged. Everyone is then assured of a mechanism for protecting their rights.

We also question the need for further legislation to protect the rights of religious groups. In our opinion the Same-sex Marriage Bill delivered marriage equality for LGBTI couples, while protecting the religious celebration of marriage. Surely the honest interpretation of this legislation is that the Australian community voted overwhelmingly for fairness and equality for LGBTI people, they did not vote for

more discrimination. Our elected Parliament has already rejected a series of amendments that would have wound back discrimination protections for LGBTI people. As supporters of the Bill, we would feel totally disenfranchised if the review makes recommendations already dismissed by our elected representatives.

It is our opinion that the existing law already goes too far in allowing religious organisations to discriminate. Broad exemptions already exist in federal and state discrimination laws. Religious charities that provide publicly funded welfare and social services can legally turn away LGBTI people, single mothers and others where this refusal is in line with the charity's religious beliefs.

One danger of allowing exemptions based on religious or doctrinal beliefs is that they can prevent vulnerable people from accessing support services. The historical facts tell us that unmarried couples, LGBTI people and single parents have faced discrimination from religious charities in the past and felt unable to speak out or complain. This situation can result in vulnerable people not seeking support, even from faith based service providers who do not enforce the exemptions available to them.

We argue that further religious exemptions should definitely not target LGBTI people, as this would allow religious organisations to discriminate against people, not because of religious reasons, but because of a person's sexuality or gender identity. Discrimination should not be allowed on the basis of an individual's conscientious belief as that could be open to abuse and never-ending legal challenges.

Our final point revolves around the definition of religion, which is notoriously difficult to define. If we take the most common definitions used within the law, 'doctrine' or the notion of 'supernatural',

how does that work for Indigenous spiritualities and religions, or Buddhism, for example? To accept terms such 'as tenets of religion' or 'injury to sensitivities of the faith', which are used in current anti-discrimination law, sets a very low bar.

To think that all Christians think the same way about a range of issues, such as sexuality, marriage, euthanasia, stem cell research, abortion, Islam, Buddhism and others, is an impoverished view of religious belief and community. It ignores religious cultural practices, which are often not connected to formal religious doctrine, and renders dissent, diversity and theological change within religious traditions invisible. Christianity is privileged in Australia, and most Christians don't experience threats to their freedom to hold a belief or manifest that belief. However for other faiths, such as Muslims and Jews, individuals and groups may face significant levels of harassment, abuse and threats to their freedom to practice their faith. Hence if any strengthening of protection for religious groups is required it would be in these areas that the review should look.

It is our sincere belief that all members of our society, from any community, belief system, or group must be able to participate equally in society at all levels, and this includes members of the LGBTI community. As our opening statement reads, "Australia is a successful democracy where people are already free to express political, philosophical and religious views and observe, practice and teach their faith". We see no valid reason to change the status quo. In fact we should take this opportunity to enhance it by the Federal Parliament enacting a Bill of Rights.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Cargill
Chair, Morialta Uniting Church



The Whole Hog: Profitable wonders

Adapted from an article by James Le Fanu, published in "The Oldie" August 2017 - Original article contributed by Mandy Hutchinson.

The pig has contributed more to human happiness and well-being than any other creature in history. I know, that is a big statement, but read on.

'During its lifetime the pig was an important member of the family,' recalls Flora Thompson in Lark Rise to Candleford. 'Its health and condition were regularly reported on in letters to children away from home, together with news of their brothers and sisters. Male callers on Sunday came not to see the family but the pig, and would lounge with its owner by the pigsty scratching piggy's back and praising his points.'

In late Victorian England, many rural households kept a cottage pig, and not to do so was almost unthinkable. To have a pig in the garden was thought as essential to the happiness of a newlywed couple as a living room or bedroom.

Purchased as a piglet after weaning, its rearing overs several months epitomised nature's alchemy, transforming waste into goodness. Vegetable scraps from the kitchen, the water used to cook food –

everything went into the pig tub at the back door. After school, children foraged for acorns; the farm worker would gather bundles of hogweed, or cow parsnip to bring home. And the increasingly well nourished 'family member' would deposit its dung as fertiliser for the cottage garden.

Come November, this virtuous cycle of frugal self-sufficiency would come to an end. The loss of the companionship of the cottage pig was compensated for by the 300 pounds of black pudding, sausages, pork pies, ham and bacon it would become. 'There was nothing like your own bacon from a pig you had fed yourself on good honest scraps and boiled-up hogwash,' recalls a Worcestershire farmhand. 'That bacon was as sweet as the vegetables we ate with it, and the fat was guaranteed to build beautiful babies.'

Continued on next page...

The Grasstree Gathering

Empowering Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Christian Leaders



"Grasstrees" painted by Safina Stewart is used as the emblem for the movement.

The Grasstree Gathering is a national, inter-denominational and non-denominational event which brings together emerging and established Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Christian leaders from across Australia and from across denominations and churches. Grasstree Gathering's vision is to celebrate, encourage, equip and inspire an emerging generation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Christian Leaders.

The inaugural gathering was held in March 2012 in Belgrave Heights in Victoria. The next gathering will be in March 2018.

The aims of the Grasstree Gathering are:

- Create a network amongst established, emerging and young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Christian leaders;
- Offer theological and community development, training and equipping;

- Encourage and empower, new and existing, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ministry workers;
- Provide a platform to discuss issues affecting our communities and the issues affecting our people;
- Explore pathways for the wider church to partner with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ministries;
- To have representation from remote, rural and urban Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

So why the Grass tree?

Safina Stewart takes up the story ... I love trees. Some of my favourites are the snow encrusted trees in Washington DC, the aloe in Kirstenbosch, South Africa, or the cherry trees filled with blossoms in Japan. Whilst these trees can be spectacular, nothing beats our trees here in Australia. Give me a gum tree, a sheoak, or Moreton Bay fig – or my countryman the bunya pine, native to Waka Waka and Gubbi Gubbi country, home of the ancient Bunya Nut Festival.

But the Grasstree, also known as the Xanthorrhoeal or blackboy, will always be my first love.

There are over 30 species of grasstree in Australia and if you look at any of the drawings from colonisation you will usually see a Grasstree, such as once their dominance of the landscape.

As an Aboriginal person I always knew the Grasstree was special, but I didn't fully come to know why until our first Grasstree Gathering in 2012. The Grasstree Gathering was the vision of Aunty Jean Phillips to bring together the next generation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Christian leaders from all denominations and from all over Australia – a gathering not seen on this scale for some 30 years.

The Grasstree Gathering has played an important role in creating a network of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Christian Leaders who meet every few years. Our next gathering is in Sydney from March 18-20, 2018.

So why was the Grasstree chosen to describe this network? Uncle Joe Kirk has taught us that the Grasstree has many uses – the "grass" can be used for bedding, the white tips of the "grass" on the trunk can be boiled and used like a natural spaghetti, the flowers provide a sweet cordial, the seeds can be ground to make a flour, the spike is used for making houses or spears, and the resin is used as a glue. The Grasstree can be resistant to fire, is slow growing, and long lasting (some are over 450 years old!). The unexpected beauty of the Grasstree comes from its versatility, its strength, and its longevity. The same could be said about Jesus. For us the "Trees of Justice" passages in Isaiah 61* is a prophetic encouragement to many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Christians.

As emerging and established Indigenous Christian Leaders we recognise the value of gathering together, sharing stories of hope and encouragement and becoming even more 'immensely useful and versatile resources' to our communities, to Christian ministry, and to the leadership of Australia.

*Isaiah 61:3-4 (CEV)

"...They will be called "Trees of Justice", planted by the LORD to honour his name. Then they will rebuild cities that have been in ruins for many generations."

Don't forget to turn your clocks back one hour on Easter weekend!

Continued from previous page....

Other foods followed in due course: chitterlings from the intestines, faggots* (*Welsh haggis*) from other organs, the trotters salted in water and boiled, and the head pickled to become brawn. The fat boiled down to make lard would serve for months to come – a silk purse (almost) from a sow's ear.

**Faggots are a traditional dish in Wales and the Midlands of England. They are traditionally made from pig's heart, liver and fatty belly meat or bacon minced together, with herbs added for flavouring and sometimes bread crumbs. Ed.*

While the major role of pigs is becoming food for humans, every bit from snout to tail had further uses. Dutch writer Christien Meindertsma listed 187

products that can be derived from a single pig. They include high-quality leather from its skin, paintbrushes from bristles and glue from bones. There is pork fat in shampoo and anti-ageing cream, gelatin in cheesecake and chewing gum. Pig ashes are added to fine bone china, and there are elements of pig in bread, beer, cigarette filters, car parts, brake discs and as a coating for bullets.

But this is all relatively minor compared to their monumental contribution to medicine. Pig insulin and pancreatic extracts kept diabetics and people born with cystic fibrosis alive for decades, while cardiac surgeons have been replacing damaged heart valves with their porcine equivalent since the 1960s. The astonishing innovations of keyhole surgery and coronary angioplasty would

never have happened, if not for the remarkable, almost interchangeable, anatomical similarity between the pig's internal organs and our own.

So hats off to pigs – their sacrifices on our behalf rarely receive the acknowledgement that they so deserve!





Kym Purling Trio Concert

The Editor

While the temperature rose to 44°C in the City, the folk at Morialta remained as cool as cucumbers. An amazing team of volunteers set out 120 chairs, wired the hall for sound, stoked up the air conditioners, prepared afternoon tea, provided hundreds of glasses of cold water, sold tickets and welcomed guests.

Some may say that as we put out 120 chairs, the Lord sent 120 folk to fill them. However I suspect it was far more complex than that, and while it involved many diverse factors, it was mostly down to Kym's musical talents. No doubt two of the great miracles of creation, DNA and evolution, combined with the nurture of a loving family and the support of a number of faithful communities and teachers, resulted in the fact that the name Kym Purling can fill our hall, even when it is 44 degrees in the city.

Kym was magnificently supported by bass player Tim Bowen, with Angus Mason on drums. Both men are very talented, well known Adelaide musicians.

One of the gems of the afternoon was Kym's musical skill for arranging well known tunes in a way that make them just that little more exciting, dreamy, uplifting or emotional. For me that is the real talent of a great musician.

Our sincere thanks to Kym, Tim and Angus for an absolutely superb afternoon of music.

As a result of all the hard work, we have an extra \$1,100 in our funds, having sent the same amount to the Long Hai Centre for the Social Protection of Children.

NOTE: Long Hai is situated near Vung Tau close to the northern most mouth of the Mekong River and 100 km from Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

Long Hai Centre

Adapted from the Website

Long Hải is a place of learning for disadvantaged children. The centre provides schooling for approximately 150 children from poor families in the local community. Without this free service, these children would instead be working,

as their families cannot afford the costs of sending them to government schools. It is one of two centres operated by the French Association Pour les Enfants des Rizières (APER).

The project also has a special focus on caring for mentally handicapped children and providing vocational skills training to enable children to be employable in the future. These vocational skills include sewing training, motorbike repairs, computer studies and hairdressing and beauty training.

The centre's objectives are to provide security to abandoned or disadvantaged children, monitor their health and give support and specific care, providing awareness for disease prevention, formal education, vocational skills training, awareness through fun and social activities, providing meals and teaching invaluable life skills.

History

The Long Hải Centre is a project of APER, in conjunction with Vietnam Central Association of Victims of Agent Orange (VAVA). The centre is entirely supported by corporate companies and private individuals.

It was conceived as a long-term response to economic, social and humanitarian issues that were identified during APER's evaluation of the Long Hải area.

In 2008, the first earth was turned on the construction site provided by the Long Dien People's Committee. The building work was completed in seven months and the centre was opened on 23rd October 2009. Classes commenced the following month. The first stage included facilities such as classrooms, a kitchen and dining room where all children are provided with a daily meal, a library and administration block.

During 2011 the second stage of the project was constructed, to provide dormitories, care facilities, extra classrooms and skills training facilities. Phase 2 was opened on April 17th 2012.

It is hoped that one day the Long Hải Centre will become a residential facility with its focus on caring for abandoned and disadvantaged children, as well as disabled children who are the victims of Agent Orange (dioxin).

So much has been achieved since the founder Lê Thị Trang Đài took in the first abandoned baby. Without question this work could not have been accomplished alone. It is thanks to various government departments, local and foreign companies, charitable organizations and numerous individuals along the journey that have assisted in making the centre what it is today.

Each and every child has a story to tell. For the most part children have been either abandoned or brought to the centre

because their mothers or other relatives were unable to provide for them. Those who work at the centre want these children to know that despite their circumstances they are valued, greatly loved, cherished and that they can have hope for a bright future.

Our desire is that this work will not only continue, but will expand as there are so many more children needing care. It is because of the generosity of so many that we are able to provide vital services to some of the most vulnerable children in our society. If we can touch a child's life and bring change and hope then we will make a difference in this world.

Thank you for helping us to make a difference. Kym recently received this message thanking us for our support:

Yesterday we gave the children at Long Hai Centre biscuits for TET as well as a toothbrush and toothpaste each. Am trying to get them to improve their dental hygiene. The children brush their teeth at the centre each day as that way we can then guarantee they brush their teeth once a day because at home they don't even have a toothbrush or toothpaste unless we give it to them. Now they can also brush their teeth at home!!

With the money donated we also bought items needed for the centre.....

Thank you again so much for your support towards our centre and I hope in the near future you can visit.



"It takes a whole village to rear a child" African Proverb



"Morialta's Marvels" – otherwise known as volunteers!

Community Centre Mission Ministry Team

Has there ever been anyone in all of history who hasn't, either overtly or covertly, been pleased to be thanked for their efforts? In the past we have variously used awards administered through either the Uniting Church, or via Local, State and Federal Government channels to acknowledge our volunteers. Alas, most of these are no longer offered.

Thus, Council has endorsed a proposal that we use our bi-monthly Morialta Vision to express the Church's sincere appreciation for those who have been wonderful examples of living out the Gospel message.

We begin in this edition with three great ladies who each have used their unique talents and abilities to support our ministry and mission over many years.



Rhonda Amber

The old adage, 'if you want something done, ask a busy person', could hardly be more aptly applied than to Rhonda. Her compassionate heart manifests in a generosity of spirit in all that she does. Her commitment to the Church is lifelong, in worship and in formal participation as an Elder and Church Councillor.

Whether she is called to cook, or arrange flowers, or organize funeral catering, or support the monthly services at Milpara, both with roster preparation and with her presence, all is done beautifully and with commitment. And come the end of the day she ensures all who have supported her in such endeavours are thanked and valued. Thus, this woefully inadequate summary of Rhonda's life of giving will in some small way return the favour, as we thank Rhonda not just for all she does, but indeed for the way in which she does it.

Margaret Pittman



Margaret is well known, and for very good reasons. She has been about the church, locally, and wider afield, for a long time. She has served in so many ways, taking responsibility and leadership roles in her stride, whether it be as an Elder, a secretary, a Coffee Corner/ Lunch on Chapel cook and money manager, a dedicated member of the Pastoral Care Team, Magill Inter-church Council, World Day of Prayer leader, or doing the things on the ground that make our community life successful. She contributed immensely to the music of Morialta as an accomplished singer, always loyal and reliable.

Perhaps her most special contribution hasn't even been in these specific roles, but rather as a person of remarkable social ease, in whatever situation she may be. Such skill is a gift, something that can be practiced perhaps, but simply not so easy to do naturally. Margaret's willingness to welcome the newcomer, to engage the struggler, to always take an interest in others, to share the joy of friends, has indeed been a gift to us. We, the Church, have been blessed.



Margaret Dix

Without ever making a great noise about it, Margaret has quietly made a wonderful contribution to the life of Morialta and beyond for many years. Margaret has a very tidy mind, and a talent for never leaving to the morrow what she can do today. This proved to be a truly great gift when she took over the

role of treasurer to our Community Programs. Month after month, year after year, bank statements were accessed at the earliest possibility and reconciled against the many lines of financial activity, some quite complex, that fell within our orbit. Matters were followed up promptly, investments overseen, reports printed.

This same attention to detail has seen Margaret take a lead in the scores of blankets that have been beautifully knitted, sewn together and gifted to care agencies. She has been a core member of the Mission Team, the Fellowship Group, a cook for Lunch on Chapel, and beyond, and a no doubt super-efficient Meals on Wheels kitchen supervisor. Thus a sincere thank you is due to Margaret for all she has done, and continues to do.



The Gospel--the Good News--reconciles, heals, and restores ALL creation

While creation care as a ministry may not be as widely recognized as other Christian causes, it is nevertheless profoundly important. In fact, it is an essential part of the Gospel. The Gospel (the "Good News") heals, reconciles and restores ALL things. This includes ALL creation. As Colossians 1:19-20 reminds us, God works through Jesus "to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven."

The call of discipleship brings us together to express, fulfill and live out the Good News. Not only does God call us to speak out, but also to live out that Gospel in all we do.

This includes caring for creation.

Professor Bob White from Cambridge University, who regularly speaks at scientific conferences held at Tabor College, states that the four reasons why we should care for the earth are: God cares for it; It is a part of being human; Because we are called to love our neighbour; Because of our hope for the creation. In fact creation comes before anything else in the Bible, it was even before the word.

Those of you who have heard Bob White speak may be pleased to know that he was recently awarded a gold medal "for a lifetime of distinguished achievement in solid earth geophysics" from the Royal Astronomical Society.

From Climate Caretakers

A Prayer from Climate Caretakers

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Galatians 6:9

God of hope, our trust is not in governments or public perception, but in you and your coming Kingdom. When we feel discouraged in the work of educating and advocating for a stable climate, give us perseverance. When our hearts are cooled by apathy or disinterest around us, reignite them by the power of your Holy Spirit. May your will be done in your world as it is in heaven, and may we continue to be your servants, never tiring in doing what is right.

Amen.

Who are "Climate Caretakers"?

Climate Caretakers is a global community of Christians committed to **prayer and action** on climate change. They believe climate change offers the church an unparalleled opportunity to show the love of Christ in a new and exciting way. While the secular world may despair from the enormity and urgency of the problem, they believe that through hope founded in Christ, God has given us the tools to solve this crisis. They are motivated to action through love – God's love for us and our love for our neighbours.

www.climatecaretakers.org

For the young in body, mind and spirit

We plan to experiment in coming months by devoting one or two pages of Vision to articles that may be of more interest to young people still in school, or starting tertiary studies. We invite suggestions, as well as articles and photographs that feature young people and their stories.

How old is the earth and how do scientists know?

Adapted from an article by Alan Collins, Professor of Geology at Adelaide University published in the Conversation January 24, 2018

The world is actually like a big clock, and scientists just need to know how to read the clock. To do that, they have to think about what the world is made of.

The world, and everything in it, is actually made of very small things called "elements". These are the tiny, tiny building blocks. You might have heard the names of some elements before. Gold is an element, and so is silver. There are lots of other ones too, with strange names like krypton and selenium and plutonium. There are about 118 different elements on Earth that we know about so far.

Most of these elements stay the way they are forever. Scientists call these ones "stable" elements.

But there is a second type of element that actually changes into something else over time. These aren't as common, but they are present in everything. They're

called "unstable" or "radioactive".

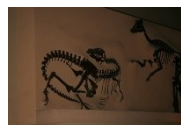
Imagine that - some part of you is actually changing into something else! But don't worry, most of these changes take a very, very long time. Some take billions of years to do any really serious changing.

Your teeth have an element called potassium that is one of these changing elements. Your TV, computer, the soil in your garden, in fact everything, has some of these changing elements. The changing process is called "radioactive decay".

As you might have guessed, rocks also have these unstable elements in them. And scientists have measured how long it takes for one of these elements to change into another one.

For example, if we had some stuff that contained an unstable element called ^{14}C (carbon 14), we know it takes about 5,730 years for about half of all the carbon 14 in our sample to change into another element called nitrogen 14.

Knowing how fast these elements change from one thing into another gives us a very big clue about how old the Earth is.



A fossil preserved on the face of a rock

So how do we measure how old the Earth is?

We first measure how much of the unstable elements are still left in the rocks of the Earth - these are the elements that haven't changed yet, but *will* change over time because we know they're unstable.

Then we measure the amount of the element they change *into*.

Once we know this, and we know how long the change takes, we can work out how old the world is!

It turns out that the world is about 4,600,000,000 years old. That's 4.6 billion years. That's pretty old!

This article was published in a series for children called Curious Kids. Children are invited to send in questions they'd like an expert to answer. All questions are welcome - serious, weird or wacky!

Oaktree - young people leading a movement to end poverty

Condensed from www.oaktree.org/

Oaktree is a group of young people leading a movement to end poverty. For Oaktree members, change starts with a simple belief - that extreme poverty is unacceptable. Beliefs turn into action, and enough informed action will end extreme poverty in our lifetime. Oaktree is Australia's largest youth-run organisation with over 150,000 members.

In 2003, Oaktree had no office and no budget and only a small team of people. They met in living rooms, cafes and school classrooms, to pursue an audacious goal: young people working to end extreme poverty in our lifetime.

For six years, Oaktree worked directly with high school students, through their Schools 4 Schools program. They provide knowledge and leadership training, so that students can turn their passion into well-informed, well-directed, influential action. Working in more than 50 schools, they say they have encountered thousands of early leaders of social change - students making a difference in their school communities.

From 2008, a similar program, Generate, was on offer for university aged students.

Generators have been some of our most committed campaigners, and highest "Live Below the (poverty) Line fundraisers" - raising just under \$6 million in four years.

Oaktree's first overseas partnership was with an organisation called Sethani, in Kwa Zulu Natal, South Africa. Between 2006 and 2008 members of Oaktree worked with Sethani to invest \$83,000 - funding the establishment of a community and education centre for 750 young people. Since then, Oaktree has partnered with three other South African organisations, as well as organisations in Ghana, East Timor, Cambodia, PNG and the Philippines.

In 2011, they shifted their entire focus to the Asia Pacific and have worked with over 10 local partners on projects in the region, directly benefiting almost 20,000 people. Overall, Oaktree has invested over \$8 million in overseas partnerships - and every cent of that has come from their supporter base in Australia.



Beacon Schools Initiative Cambodia is an example of their projects in Asia. This picture shows students reading in a new library built in one of the Demonstration Schools as part of Oaktree's Beacon Schools Initiative in Cambodia.

Raising awareness and influencing policy

One of the events still talked about is the 2006 MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY concert at the Sydney Opera House. It was attended by 15,000 people with over three million watching on TV. As a result, over 50,000 Australians signed up as MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY supporters. From there came the MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY ZEROSEVEN Roadtrip, and the End Child Slavery campaign; where 800 young people directly engaged with companies like Cadbury, to ensure their supply chains were slave free. In 2009 Cadbury announced their dairy milk range would become entirely Fairtrade. Most recently, Oaktree has run two more Roadtrips (in 2010 and 2013) and launched Live Below the (Poverty) Line - one of our most impactful campaigns to date. For ten years, young people have been at front and centre of our campaigning.

People wishing to contact Oaktree can find them on Facebook "Oaktree" or at www.oaktree.org/

An eye witness view of the Rohingya crisis in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh

Adapted from a report by Arunn Jegan in the *Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) Newsletter 27 December 2017*



Photos © Arunn Jegan / MSF

When I got to Cox's Bazaar the numbers were unimaginable and the needs were increasing by the minute. It was like the entire population of the eastern suburbs of Sydney being forcibly relocated overnight without warning; being moved to a country where they've never lived before; received into a very precarious situation, with little or no chance of going back.

Although more than half a million refugees had arrived by October, hundreds more were crossing daily. MSF had established a small response team of four medics who could be at the border within an hour, providing critical medical triage and distributing oral rehydration salts.

We saw people wading through neck-deep water, with children above their heads, so we got them into boats instead. The military also played a role in pulling vulnerable people out of the water and guiding them to safety. But above all, it was human presence that made a difference at the border – being there with them, offered a fraction of hope.

We guided new arrivals to the transit centres – then to the settlements. And we referred vulnerable patients to the MSF clinic in Kutupalong. This was always difficult because patients feared being separated from their families. For the Rohingya population, family isn't just the immediate household: it is relatives and the extended community. They had been through so much pain and suffering that the threat of separation would cause them to think twice about accessing health services.

One of the most striking moments happened while transporting an older man to the clinic, where he was to be reunited with his wife. The man had walked 60kms in gruelling conditions to become stuck on the berm (*a flat strip of land, raised bank, or terrace bordering a river or canal*) for 4 days, while being faced with photographers interested only in capturing him in that single moment of desperation. Now, he was in the ambulance and seeing the camp for the first time, he broke down in tears. What got to me was not the fact that there was an older man crying inconsolably: but that I did not know why. Was he mourning the loss of his home and family? Was he overwhelmed? Was he scared? Or was he thinking 'I finally made it, this is the end of my journey'. I don't even know if he knew. It's moments like these that don't escape you.



Later a colleague and I spotted two young kids walking in front of us – a pair of hopelessly innocent kids, laughing and holding hands, and walking through a refugee camp. We wondered what life would look like for these two kids in 10 years' time. I had a lingering hope that one day, back in the comfort of my own home; I would turn on the TV to see a Rohingya refugee success story. It would be an incredibly pivotal moment to see even just one refugee realise their hopes and dreams, succeeding through education to a profession. If one person could come out of this with some level of success, I think it would be a remarkable achievement for humanity.

But having seen the magnitude of the crisis and the flows of people still streaming in, I am sceptical. People are still crossing the border. When you hear these stories, it's difficult to expect that the Rohingya will ever escape ongoing struggle.

It's important to feel angry. It's important to feel sad. It's going to be difficult to disconnect from what I've seen in Bangladesh. However, the resilience that the Rohingya have shown is remarkable. And the compassion of the Bangladeshi population is inspiring. With the combination of these two things, there can be a positive outlook.

Médecins Sans Frontières is an independent organisation for medical humanitarian aid, providing assistance to people caught in crises around the world. You can read more about MSF and how to support their work at: <https://www.msf.org.au/>

Words associated with refugee

Jan Thornton penned a few of the words that came into her mind after speaking with a Syrian neighbour who is a refugee

Displaced, hurt, alone, unloved, insecure, fearful, broken, confused, damaged, unheard, lost, without hope, without direction, without value, friendless, uncertain, confused, unknown, alienated, torn, frightened, sad, bereft, stigmatised, betrayed, depressed, shunned, vulnerable, incomplete, isolated.

A q & an a

Those world-wide sixty million urgers
bobbing in their boats
all threatening to squat *en masse*
across our CBDs
and nailing up our own four hundred,
give or take a few,
to crosses cut from tropic palms
via chainsaws made in China,
intending that the westward waft
from all the dried and dying
will stop those wallowers in Java
from putting out to sea?

No way, we say (bipartisan
and fully-phalanxed).
Remember there are sixty million.
No need for any fuss.
Crucifixion worked for Rome
and it'll work for us.

Geoff Page, published in Eureka Street, 30.01.2018.

Geoff is based in Canberra and has published 22 collections of poetry, two novels and five verse novels. His recent books include Gods and Uncles and PLEVNA: A Verse Biography.

Maurice Cundy 1921-2018



Born in 1921, and growing up in an affluent home which backed onto the tennis courts at Tod St church in Gawler, ensured a life long association with tennis and church.

Maurice's father, Oswald, who had lost both his father and only sibling on the same day from typhoid when he was only 9, had become a successful and respected businessman in the Gawler community. By the time Maurice was born, the second of 3 sons, Oswald owned a newly built mortgage fee house, and was an active member and trustee of Tod St church. In many respects the father's values were adopted by the son who embraced similar roles during his life.

After a birth that he was not expected to survive, his primary school days were lived through the depression. Though not personally affected, he always remembered the plight of others, and witnessed their struggles and hardships. - surely an influence on the compassionate man he was to become.

Maurice attended Gawler Primary and High School before transferring to Kings College (now Pembroke) as a boarder for his final 2 years. He never sat his final high school exams as a job offer from the ES&A Bank just before those exams required that he start immediately, and such jobs were hard to get.

In 1941, he enlisted in the army and spent time in Queensland training in tanks with the 2/9th Armoured Regiment. It was not the best of living conditions, but having grown up sleeping in an unheated (or cooled) sleep-out in Gawler, with only cold showers in the backyard, he was somewhat accustomed to army life. Following recovery from a serious training accident he was sent to fight the Japanese in Borneo serving in the 2/9th Armoured Regiment as tank crew.

The living conditions were worse in Borneo and the danger much greater. Maurice always referred to these years as 'wasted years'. This taught him the futility of war and he returned with nothing but a resolve to get back to normal life.

After discharge in 1946, he re-joined the ES&A bank and was posted to a number of small rural communities, including Saddleworth and Tarlee, where he would board, usually in the local hotel. He spent his leisure time playing tennis.

In November 1947, he met Mary at a Strawberry Fete in Tarlee, and arranged to see her again on Christmas Eve at a dance in Wasleys. He arrived just in time for the last dance, and was so reticent in asking her father if he could drive her home that in the end she had to ask. He proposed just 3 months later but it took her a couple more months to accept. However, in those post-war years they were unable to marry until they could find a place to live. Hence it was another 9 months until on February 12, 1949, just over 69 years ago, they married. By then Maurice was working in Tanunda and it was here that both Sue and Jim were born. Simon was born soon after they were posted to Port Pirie in 1956. Maurice, Mary and family had 5 very happy years in Port Pirie, followed by a short period in Adelaide, 2 years in Manoora, then back to Port Pirie as manager in 1964.

Maurice wanted nothing but to create a future for his children and to give them opportunities to flourish and succeed.

In 1966, Maurice was appointed manager of the Grenfell St branch of the ANZ bank, with which the ES&A had merged. For the first time the family lived in their own home rather than bank-supplied housing. This was the family home until Mary and Maurice moved to Langton Park in 1992.

Tennis gave way to golf, a sport in which Mary was able to join him, and not only did they play regularly, but in retirement they became golfing nomads, enjoying many holidays moving from golf course to golf course. They also enjoyed a number of overseas holidays, many including visits to children living overseas.

A generous man, who would help anyone in difficulty and ask for no recognition, Maurice was always interested in others. He loved sport, particularly playing tennis and golf, but also watched many other sports.

His love of Mary was steadfast, and she was the central figure in the family's home life. During Mary's illness Maurice never gave up hope as he worked at getting her home again. Because of his devotion she was able to spend her last year with dignity back at Langton Park with him.

With the passing of Mary his resolve was to carry on and live his life to the fullest and this was the attitude he carried with him to the Lerwin Nursing Home. As he would frequently say: "I'm making the best of this situation".

Throughout his life he saw some amazing changes the likes of which many of us will never see. He saw the introduction of television and computers; he witnessed massive improvements in cars and planes, and the start of space travel. He oversaw incredible changes to the banking industry. He adapted to all these changes and even in his 80's he was using the internet.

Maurice was a strong, compassionate and generous man, who will be well remembered; certainly, a life well lived.

A prayer by Jon Humphries posted in Prayers That Unite - August 20 2016

Weapons of Massive Consumption God
who conceived creation,
And breathed it into being with the Word,
You have observed the eons pass,
You have seen the cosmos evolve,
And give rise to our humanity.
We have come to know of you and even
to know you
But we fall so short in who we could be in
relationship to you.
We fall out of relationship with you and
creation,
We fall out of relationship with each other
and ourselves.
In our small-minded self-interest,
In our self-centred drive for ever-
increasing comfort,

In our pursuit of our wants and the illusion
of power over the earth,
We have become the outsiders, setting
ourselves beyond the natural order of
creation.
We are the only living things whose waste
cannot be broken down and reintegrated
in the living cycle.
We have unrelentingly taken from the
resources of the planet with a
domineering mindset and a disregard for
impact on the world or the future.
We have been the cause of desecration,
degradation and destruction, In our
obsession with more and better.
We have become ecological weapons of
massive consumption,
Destroying ecosystems,
Polluting the planet,
The damage has been done to a point of
irreversibility.

Is there hope for redemption of what we
have done,
Or all that can be done now is to wait of
creation?
May this not be so.
May we be converted and transformed.
May we become agents of your healing.
May we work to change our ways through
the inspiration of your Spirit,
God of creation,
We pray for this world which we do not
respect.
Heal our ignorance and apathy,
So that your will may be done.
This should be our prayer,
Not just now, but always. Amen.



Morialta Magpie

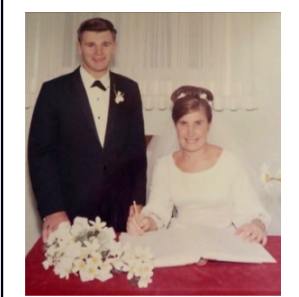


Brian Corrigan, 90 years old, goes flying again in the Tiger Moth!

Brian and Dale's children organised a gift voucher at Aldinga Airfield for Brian's 90th birthday.

When he first looked at the voucher, he couldn't believe it as the first plane that he ever went in was a Tiger Moth in Auckland, New Zealand whilst in the Air Cadets when he was just 17.

"It was just wonderful being in an open cockpit again!" he says.



Congratulations to Ray and Margaret Clogg, who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in January.

Congratulations to Pauline Norman, who celebrated her 80th birthday at Lunch on Chapel in February.



Congratulations to Lorraine Powers, our librarian, who celebrated her 70th birthday in January.

Congratulations to Betty McCormack, who also celebrated her 80th birthday in February.



Our best wishes to Shirley Maywald, who has moved and received a quilt from friends at Morialta.



Fellowship News

Fellowship began the year with a "Picnic in the Park" on a lovely cool summer evening at The Gums, in February. Twenty one ladies and gentlemen attended an evening of fun and fellowship, while enjoying their picnic tea, followed by a trip to the local McDonalds for coffee and cake.

An interesting program has been planned for the year ahead. Everyone is welcome to attend our meetings. More information is available from Margaret Clogg.

PAWS FOR THOUGHT...

Boy, it has been hot lately!

I don't mind getting old most of the time, but during the hot weather I find it pretty difficult!

And, when I get out in the sun to warm up my joints a little Bruce and Anne are right there telling me to move into the shade. Don't they know I am sun smart and only stay out in direct sunlight for a short time?

What's worse is that Wallace has started to get into the act. If he thinks I'm puffing too much he comes around and looks worried. If I go out on the lawn when he is outside he stands over me to provide shade.

I suppose I should be pleased. At fourteen and a half I'm in pretty good shape and I have family to look after me. I hope you all have the same!

But remember, when it gets hot again, to use your air conditioners and stay hydrated. That's another thing. If I don't drink enough they stand me in front of the water bowl and then I have to go to the toilet again!

Hope autumn comes soon....

Keely



You aren't out in the sun again are you?

No Wallace. I'm just in the shade, enjoying the breeze!

OK. Make sure you stay there then!

Looking forward – (new) roles for 2018?

At Morialta we now have a chance to put into action the call issued by President-elect Dr Deidre Palmer: "In a time where we could focus on scarcity ... God's gift of abundant grace calls us to be a people who share our gifts, resources, time and energy generously." It is time to consider how our particular gifts and insights might be shared generously in supporting the life of our church community. There are many roles to be filled!

Nominations for positions as an **Elder on Church Council** are **open until Wednesday 7 March**, with elections at the Congregation AGM on Sunday 25 March – details of this role are overleaf. Several positions are available! – with term lengths of 1 to 5 years, as requested. Three Elders finish their terms this year, with one of these available for re-nomination, and three other vacancies exist.

Chair of the Congregation and Secretary of the Congregation are both required to be elected annually.

Nominees must be Confirmed lay members of the Uniting Church. **Nomination forms** are available in a folder in the foyer and also from the Church Office. Completed nomination forms should be placed in the collection box in the foyer labeled "**Nominations for MUC Office Bearers**". The brief personal profile requested on the form, which will be made available to members of the congregation, can be written on the form or emailed to the Congregation Secretary, Christine Secombe, at christine.secombe@bigpond.com.

In addition – Council appoints a **Treasurer**, and Carole Lyons has let us know that she will retire from this role as from the March 25 Congregation Meeting.

Council delegates many aspects of its responsibilities to our teams – Mission Ministry Teams and Operational Ministry Teams. **The following teams are urgently needing new members with passion, ideas and energy for their tasks:**

Finance OMT – skills/interest needed in book-keeping/ accounting and in financial analysis and direction

Children, Youth and Young Adults MMT

Worship and Faith Education MMT

Please consider these needs prayerfully, and how you may be able to contribute – and talk with Margaret Cargill, Christine Secombe or Bob Hutchinson if you'd like more details or have questions we can answer.

Elders on Church Council

Morialta is an active Congregation of the Uniting Church. Church Council fulfils a central role in its life.

It welcomes those who bring commitment, energy, skills and willingness to participate in exploring, discerning and building vision, and who will work with faith, hope and grace to enable the life and mission of this worshipping community.

The Uniting Church describes the Role of Elders this way:

The ministry of Elder is one of spiritual oversight, and may also be exercised in pastoral visitation, teaching, encouraging members of the Congregation to share in mission, and assisting the Minister in leadership of worship and administration of the sacraments and other areas in the life of the Congregation.

Elders who serve on the Church Council have a particular responsibility to ensure that matters of spiritual oversight, pastoral care and the mission of the Church have priority in the work of the Church Council.

The following statements developed here at Morialta complement the Regulations and guide our practice.

Elders and Minister(s) on Church Council share the responsibilities of the Council.

All Elders are not expected to do all things. This would be unreasonable, unnecessary and unhelpful. Rather, each Elder is valued for their particular strengths and gifts, and is encouraged to share these in fulfilling the mission.

As members of Mission/Operational Ministry Teams, Elders

provide conduits between Council and the Teams, maintaining close liaison between the Team and Council;

assist the Teams in developing the mission focus, with a sense of the visionary overview and direction;

at Council's request, collaborate with the Team Leader and Team to submit written reports with an assessment of the Team's progress to Council;

offer pastoral care to team Leaders.

Elders are not directly representative of Teams in their membership of Council, or in their contribution to discussion and decision making, but share in the discernment of mission.

Please talk with Margaret Cargill, Christine Secombe or other Elders on Council for further information.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I would like to thank the Editor for his inclusion of the article "Libraries adapt to the age of free information" by Neve Maloney in the August 2017 edition of Vision).

That article is about how libraries have changed because they now compete with the internet and ebooks, and points out that even although this is happening people are still visiting libraries.

I visited Burnside Library (I hadn't been there for a while) and found just that. There were a lot of people visiting the library.

There was a group of children and parents enjoying an exercise class at the front of the building. There was a children's holiday program happening in the main foyer. There was a jigsaw puzzle set up in the Better Living Lounge and

someone with a disability was being helped. This new special collection is designed to help the mentally challenged, elderly and disabled. The library foyer area offers community information and access to upcoming events. Library staff members were easily found and willing to assist people.

All of this gave me ideas of how to recreate our library at Morialta. I started with the children and purchased a trolley to store colouring in activities including adult mindfulness and calming, relaxing colouring in mandalas to do.

I replaced all the library signage giving it a fresh new pale blue and white look and added the word "HUB" to give a friendly feel.

The information rack on the front door of the Library now holds useful community information like bus timetables.

After church you can take your cuppa into

the library and sit and enjoy a chat in air-conditioned comfort.

Noticeboards are full of interesting and fun captions about readers and books.

A computer is available with internet access for your use and there is wi-fi access in the library.

You will find a large table and chairs to sit at for meetings.

So, many thanks to our Editor, Colin Cargill, for inserting this interesting article in the Vision. Little did he know what repercussions that article would have!

May the changes to the Library result in many a pleasant visit by people who simply enjoy the space provided for them.

*Lorraine Powers,
Morialta Uniting Church Library*

Welcome to the Morialta UC Community Library Hub

From the Librarian....

New Life Comes to our Library

During January our library has undergone a transformation and it has a fresh new pale-blue and white appearance.

All signage has been replaced and all noticeboards have been given a new look. We have a new trolley to store colouring in materials for children and adults.

A small table has been purchased to display the most treasured book in the library. It is a book of pictures of all those people who have received a quilt, made

with love by Judith Purling, when they have moved into an aged care facility or moved out of the Magill area.

The changeover of books and removal of old barcode labels, so that ISBN barcodes are visible and useable, is complete, and a stock take has also been completed.

We hope this creates a more enjoyable space and quicker processing of books, for the people of Morialta and beyond,

Exploring Faith & Spirituality

Easter and Lent are times to grow in our faith. Our library has a variety of books

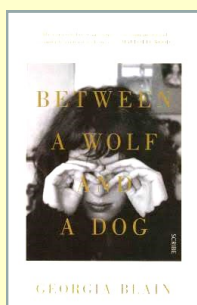
and other resources to help us do just that. An array of Lenten Resources is on display for you to browse and/or borrow. Come in and have a look.

Cards, jams, relishes and mustard are now on sale outside the library.

Not to be missed are homemade cards made with love by a number of library supporters and homemade jams, relishes and mustard, freshly grown and produced on the farm of Lorraine's daughter and son in law at Williamstown.

Lorraine Powers
Librarian

Book Reviews



FICTION

Between a Wolf and a Dog

by Georgia Blain

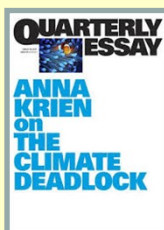
The setting for this novel takes place largely over one rainy day in Sydney. Ester is a family therapist with an appointment book that catalogues

the anxieties of the middle class – loneliness, relationships, death. She spends her days helping others to find happiness, but her own family relationships are tense and frayed.

She writes this portrayal of family relationships in a way that is heartfelt, but not sentimental, focussing in on love and forgiveness.

This is the final novel written by Blain – a well-loved Australian author, she died shortly after its completion in 2016 a book well worth reading.

Reviewed by Jill Kerr



The Long Goodbye:

Coal, coral and Australia's climate deadlock by Anna Krien

This is a great piece of scholarly investigative journalism, gained by travelling far and wide around the country and chatting to people, throwing much behind-the-scenes light on Australia's politics and its environmental effects. To become tiresome, I declare this a "must read" like the last Quarterly Essay, "The White Queen" by David Marr (and at the end of Krien's contribution there is the interesting bonus of correspondence relating to "The White Queen!"). Much of Krien's wide-ranging information would not enthrall the rich and powerful: scientists weep at the extent of bleaching of the Great Barrier Reef and coin a new name "Myxocene", for our era of the emissions, deforestation, overfishing and pollution"; aboriginal residents grapple with the likes of Adani, endeavouring to use their land for coal mining, while out-of-work townspeople favour development for its employment potential; and Port Augusta looks forward to a solar-powered future. Things we common Australians should know about.

Reviewed by Bryan Forbes



BIOGRAPHY

Emergencies Only

by Amanda McClelland

An Australian nurse's journey through natural disasters, extreme poverty, civil wars and general chaos.

Page 127, picked at random, reads "One of the most remote villages we visited was at the top of a mountain. It felt like the end of the world. We arrived late in the evening and I realised that it was actually quite cold. We'd walked up out of the jungle and into the Himalayas.

If you pick any page in this book it is packed with incredible stories and a real sense of the amazing person that Amanda McClelland is to have faced so many huge challenges. She faced each one, however tragic, with courage, compassion and good humour. A book which will make you feel better about humanity.

Reviewed by Lorraine Powers

For more book reviews go to www.morialtauca.org.au/resources/library

Message from the Woomelang Congregation – January 2018

I just wanted to tell you how pleased we have been to be able to use your Morialta Services (*Beyond our Walls*) – it's letting us hold our small community of faith together here in Woomelang.

With a little bit of juggling, I have been successful in combining your Bible

Reading & Sermon Videos with the relevant service sheets prepared in the past by a former minister.

Some help from the local music shop has given us a more mellow sound from our speakers, providing better clarity for all worshippers.

Earlier in January, a few extra people joined us and there were 15 worshippers, up from the usual 9 or 10.

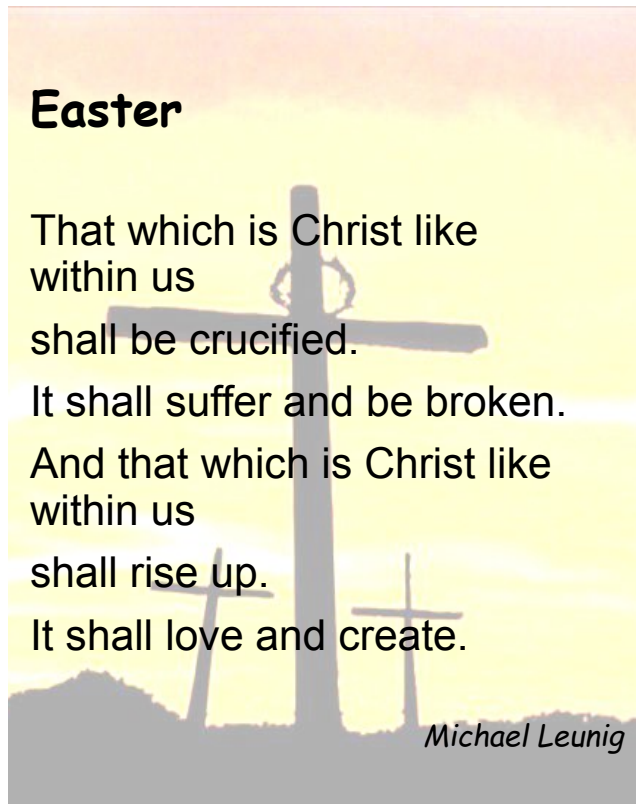
Woomelang has just put in two air conditioners. We can't believe the church can be kept so comfortable on a hot Sunday morning.

With the new air conditioners and Morialta service sound coming out of our church speakers, we all thought things were pretty good last Sunday!"

Jan Adcock

Diary Dates

Friday 2 March 10.00am	World Day of Prayer Service at Morialta UC
Friday 9 March 7.30pm	Gateways
Monday 12 March from 11.00am	Adelaide Cup Holiday Picnic at Morialta Conservation Park
Tuesday 13 March 7.30pm	Church Council Meeting
Thursday 15 March 9.45am	Fellowship Meeting led by Ruth Pitt
Friday 23 March 7.30pm	Gateways
Sunday 25 March 10.45am	AGM of Congregation
Thursday 29 March 7.00pm	Maundy Thursday Worship
Friday 30 March 9.00am	Good Friday Worship
Sunday 1 April 8.15am and 9.30am	Easter Worship
Monday 23 April 9.30am	Bus trip to Mount Lofty Botanic Gardens



Bus tour of Mount Lofty Botanic Gardens

Our next "Choices" bus trip from Morialta will be on Monday 23rd April leaving the church at 9.30am.

We will be travelling on the Burnside Community Bus to the Mount Lofty Botanic Gardens, where we will be joined by an experienced guide, who will take us through many of the specialised areas of the garden. We hope the timing of the tour will coincide with the autumn colours at the gardens.

We will then travel to Stirling for a short walk around the town and lunch (at your own expense) before returning to the church around 3.00pm.

Cost is \$15 per person, which includes a donation to the Mount Lofty Botanic Garden.

Book your seats and make your payment at the church office.



Acknowledgements

Brian Corrigan and others for photos throughout this edition.

Stories and texts from those identified throughout.

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Publisher: Helena Begg

Living Streams ~ Giving Life

Deadline for the next Edition

1 April

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



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