

# Morialta Vision

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## From our minister, Reverend Bob Hutchinson...

Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart  
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art  
Thou my best thought, by day or by night  
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

In the church year we celebrate a number of seasons – not Winter or Spring, Summer or Autumn, but the seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, Pentecost and the Ordinary Season (after Pentecost). Each of these seasons has a particular liturgical, scripture reading and music focus. This year during the month of June there has been a focus in our worship services of looking out, being mission focused and recognising where our faith connects with the world in which we live.

Sunday June 3<sup>rd</sup> was the day we recognised all those people who give so much of their time and talents in serving others - volunteers. During worship we gave thanks to God, who in Christ came to serve and not to be served, and the one who calls us to love (serve) one another. We recognised that the church exists on the nature of servanthood, always looking outward, living out our faith in Christ.

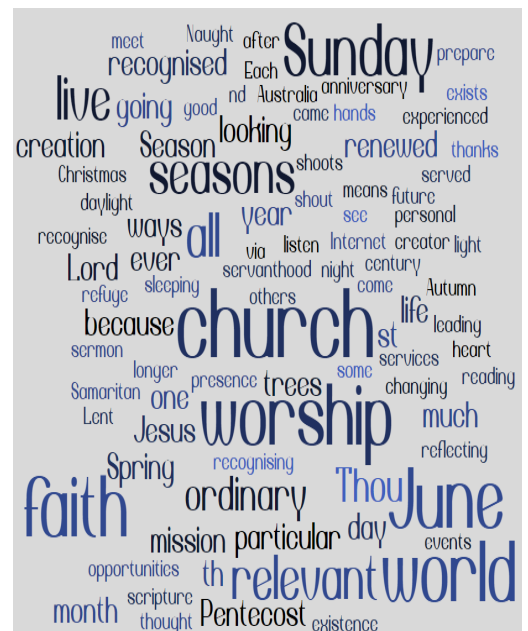
On Sunday June 10 our focus was on the environment, again reminding us that we live in this environment which sustains our existence. God's gift of creation. We celebrated our interconnectedness with the environment and experienced worship with the trees who clap their hands and all creation – mountain and hills and trees that sing and shout in praise to the Lord, the creator and lover of all that is, was and will be.

During the sermon on Sunday June 17<sup>th</sup> I said "Refugee Sunday is relevant to our worship because our faith is relevant to what is going on in our world." It is important to recognise that we live in a world where more than ever we are connected via media and the Internet. The lives of those seeking refuge and asylum are becoming more personal because we know more and see more and are more aware. For some biblical references to assist us in connecting our faith to world events, we might read Jesus' parable of the good Samaritan, or Psalm 137 or Matthew 25: 31- 46 and Hebrews 13:1-2.

On June 24<sup>th</sup> the focus of worship will be around the church, exploring what it means to be the church in this ever changing, technological 21<sup>st</sup> century world. We will have celebrated the 41<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the Uniting Church in Australia (Friday 22<sup>nd</sup>) and the members of Morialta Church Council will meet on this Sunday afternoon reflecting on future directions, mission opportunities and ways in which we - the Church - might live out and express our faith and witness to Jesus Christ in particular and relevant ways.

So the month of June is no ordinary time. It is not a season of hibernation but very much a time to celebrate, discern, share and look at how our worship and faith is relevant to what is going on in our world. It's time to celebrate that the days will start to get longer with more daylight hours, the seasons will change and with Spring will come shoots of renewed life. May we take this ordinary time to prepare ourselves for the renewed life in Christ as we continue to listen to the Spirit's call and leading.

Rev Bob



## Chairperson writes ....

### Discerning our Mission Priorities: What's it all about?

Discernment – a community process of listening to each other and the Spirit! It's what we do with the consensus method of decision-making in meetings, with the orange and blue cards, but it is broader than that, too. A community process of listening to each other and the Spirit! How does that work?

We've been involved in a discernment activity focussed on Morialta's mission priorities over quite an extended period now, as our recognition of the aging profile of the church builds. Identifying priorities is important, because once they are agreed, priorities help us decide what is the best possible use of our resources. If just doing everything we have done in the past is not practicable, what is most important for us to do now? What new things is the Spirit doing in the community beyond our walls that we should be joining? Rather than each of us pushing our own individual ideas, we need a yardstick to measure our ideas against. Mission priorities serve as that yardstick.

At this stage I think it is important to look back at what we've thought and done so far. This can provide us with a jumping-off place for our current and future discussions and discernment.

#### Dreaming:

Church Council set up a Future Mission Review process in late 2014, which came to be known as the Dreaming Process. This was a highly participatory discernment process – meetings were held with all groups in the church, and the findings were tested and refined in a whole-group meeting with green stickers (remember them?). The Executive Summary of the final report in 2015 highlighted three standout idea clusters for future directions that were strongly supported; I have inserted in bold type notes on our progress since the report was written.

1. Tap into modern thinking re finance and how best to do some forward planning: e.g. Sell College Drive house, use proceeds to redevelop Chapel Street house site (**underway!**); Sinking fund to ensure property maintenance is covered (**in place**); Communicate project costings and opportunities for us to contribute to them (**coming in our July congregation meeting**).

2. Contact younger generations: Use social media, e.g. Facebook, and link to Netball Club page (**done**); Explore development of new small groups for study, discussion, interest-based; engage people in faith matters (**new Community Centre interest-based groups – bridge, art, English conversation; Youth Group social gatherings monthly, Learning in the Library fortnightly; Gateways by day and evening and Lenten Reflections thriving, new evening SP@CE worship event monthly** (also picks up on these Dreaming recommendations: Engage more explicitly with community's

interest in spirituality, Act as a beacon for those finished with evangelical style or searching for credible renewal, and Allow for shift work and flexible work hours).

3. Redevelop worship space for better flexibility, including hire as conference facility: e.g. Replace pews with good-quality chairs; RC air-conditioning in the church; Make worship area more accessible; Ramp/handrail to podium (**need for appropriate AV equipment recognised, important replacements and upgrades taking place this year**). It is important to note that high-quality AV also enables and enhances the worship experiences that are foundational to what Morialta offers our community, including in our Beyond our Walls program – its continuation was strongly endorsed in the BoW Review conducted in 2017.

Another important aspect of flexibility in the worship space is seating, as the Dreaming suggestions confirm. A conversation starter on this topic has been provided for us by the temporary placement of some chairs in one part of the central space, following a re-arrangement of furniture for our Maundy Thursday re-enactment. We should recognise that there is currently no funding available for chair purchase! This is definitely an awareness-raising activity, rather than a precursor to imminent action! Council has asked the Worship and Faith Education MMT to set up a small group to gather information on seating options and costs, to further resource the conversation as we continue the broader task of discerning our mission priorities for the coming years.

#### Congregational Planning Workshop for 2018:

For this event in October 2017, I produced a provisional set of mission goals from available documents: *Morialta aims to be an inclusive, welcoming church community, living out and inviting others inside and beyond our walls to experience God's life-giving love, through*

*Worship and learning*

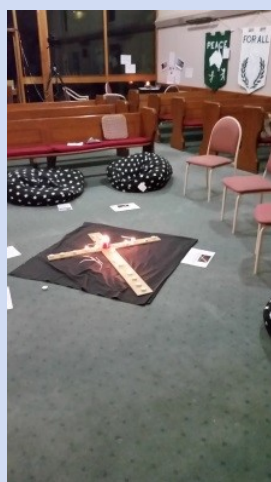
*Hospitality and inclusion – building community*

*Care for neighbours – our wider community*

*Justice and creation care*

In the event, however, this list proved rather too broad to serve the desired purpose of being a good yardstick for decision making. So – a wider-ranging discussion seems called for now, to enable us to talk and think and pray together about where the Spirit may be leading us. What are Morialta's priorities for mission in the coming years? Church Council is holding a Retreat Day on June 24<sup>th</sup> to work together on listening to the Spirit on this topic through readings, discussion and prayer. Watch for an update at the July 29<sup>th</sup> Congregation Meeting!

Margaret Cargill  
0439 954814



## SP@CE

SP@CE is described as a self-guided curated worship experience: holy communion / silent and participatory prayer / music / food / silence / sp@ce / creative expression.

A concept developed by Rev Bob Hutchinson, it "provides context for worship".

SP@CE will be at Morialta UC the first Sunday of each month commencing at 5.50pm.



Photos of the first SP@CE held on 3<sup>rd</sup> June





## Student house project

As you have probably noticed, progress on the houses is becoming visible. As I write this, the slab is down and curing and the timber frames are about to arrive. The carpenters to erect them will be on site later this week. As you read this that is probably underway. The bricklayers will be on site shortly after.

We have just learnt that in the process of excavating for the footings and old brick pit was discovered. Its origin is lost in the darkness of history. It needed to be filled with concrete and engineering tests made. As we have a fixed price contract with Rossdale Homes they have met the cost of this work.

In late May and early June we had a worrying time. The earthworks for the footings generated a need for a retaining wall along the boundary with our neighbour. If these could not be done before the framing and walls went up it would cause a delay to our whole schedule and be more expensive. Thanks to prompt action by Anne and excellent cooperation by our neighbor, we were able to get the wall built promptly. The neighbour also agreed to share the cost of the new fence.

Electricity is about to be connected to the site and the two new accounts set up.

The final payments to the surveyors have been made and they have lodged our job with the Lands Title Office. For reasons that I don't understand (it is a legal requirement) a conveyancer has to be involved in this process even though there is no change of ownership.

A sign is being prepared for the front of the building site explaining that the work is a project of our church.

The first major payment of 10% of the total cost has just been made. This is the first draw down on the loan arranged for the project through Synod Office.

Unfortunately, one of the consequences of extensive earth-works being done on our doorstep in winter is the risk of mud being carried into the foyer on our shoes. Thanks to Ray for repeated cleaning of the carpet. If you have to walk past the building site please do what you can to wipe the mud off your shoes before entering the church complex.

Any of the team, Anne, Graham or myself, are happy to answer any questions you may have about the project.

*Chris Ayles,  
For the Student Housing Project Team*



Blessing the land



Earthworks begin



Levelling the ground



Rain delayed the drain work



Drainage almost in place



The concrete arrives



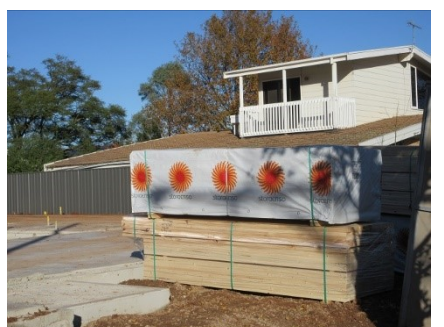
Pouring the concrete slabs



Slabs complete and curing



Bricks being delivered



Timber ready for framing



## Worship and Faith Education Mission Ministry Team

Report to Church Council  
November 2017 to May 2018

### Key Activities:

**Team membership:** Bev Tredrea, Pam Ayles, Katrina Mackenzie, Christine Secombe, Christine Garner, Bob Hutchinson with Jenny Swanbury joining as leader in January 2018.

### Worship

Advent and Christmas worship services were planned with our minister Bob Hutchinson. A review agreed that services were positive overall.

Lent and Easter worship services were planned incorporating icons of Lent along with Lent Event videos. Ash Wednesday service with Pilgrim Uniting Church was 'good grounding for the weeks ahead'. Palm Sunday included the youth leading. Maundy Thursday was appreciated by the 48-50 people who attended. Tables and chairs replaced pews in the centre of the church. A tremendous effort was made by those who put it together especially the minister and AV Team.

Good Friday worship had people sitting at the tables and in the pews. Easter Day was a great celebration and well attended. The five pews removed for Maundy Thursday were replaced by chairs. This is a trial of chairs instead of pews with discussions and responses currently being sought and received.

A review of Lent and Easter 2018 has been held. Recommendations made for Lent and Easter 2019 were: a stronger focus on Pancake Day at the beginning of Lent, going as a group to join Pilgrim UC for Ash Wednesday, consideration be given to inviting the congregation to be more actively involved in the worship, keeping the 'flower people' informed about each worship service, and consideration be given to forming three groups to organise Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

**Children and Youth:** It has been noted that bean bags, clip boards with suitable material, colouring in, and pencils along with a small table and chairs for toddlers and larger table are in the Eastern transept.

**Milpara:** Monthly leading of worship with Holy Communion continues as organised by Rhonda Amber.

**Commissioning of Elders and Recognising and affirming Ministry Team leaders:** This took place during worship on 6<sup>th</sup> May.

**Baptisms** were planned for 13<sup>th</sup> May

**Recognition of Volunteers** on 3<sup>rd</sup> June .

We have recommended **The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity on 13-20 May** and the available resources on Web link <http://www.ncca.org.au/faith-and-unity-resources>

**Copyright** issues have recently been addressed. Current copyright licences will continue for 12 months and then be reviewed again.

**Beyond our Walls Oversight Group:** John Drew, Christine Secombe, Chris Ayles along with Bob Hutchinson chairing the meeting and Jenny Swanbury representing W&FEMMT met in March. Issues discussed included a visit to Mannum congregation by John and Christine Secombe on 29<sup>th</sup> April, Holy Communion being included in filming, attention to music and leading the singing in worship, listening to recipients feedback re BoW services, insurance issues, and copyright.

**Blessing of the cleared land** for new student accommodation in Chapel Street was led by Christine Garner assisted by Anne Ind and Chris Ayles on 29<sup>th</sup> April during the worship time.

### Faith Development

**Four Lenten Studies** were offered and attended. They were: Beyond Belief: How we find meaning, with or without religion by Hugh Mackay at 'A Gateways by Day' group led by Christine Garner,

Sharing our Story: A study for church groups prepared by Australians Together led by Colin Cargill with support by David Purling, A Clearing Season by Sarah Parsons and led by Bob Hutchinson at a local cafe and The God we can know by Rob Fuquay and led by Chris Ayles. Around forty people attended the studies.

**Open Church, Open Heart** (This was an initiative of Social Justice team). The proposal from Church Council re time of reflection, prayer or meditation to be held during Holy Week during 2019 (instead of the Lenten length one of this year). Our team will take carriage of this.

**Gateways** continues to meet twice a month.

### Issues of Concern

Ease of access to dais in the church (Initiated by Social Justice Team). This is currently on the agenda in both Social Justice and Worship and Faith Education teams and continues in discussion for action to be taken.

The trial of using chairs in the church over Easter and the follow-up is in the throes of reflection and exploration with feedback from the congregation. Our committee along with others are part of the exploration of possibilities.

### Key plans for the next 6 months

Training for new readers and worship leaders including a session on using microphones in worship will be offered on Saturday 7 July with leadership by Bev Tredrea.

After having Advent and Christmas then the season of Lent so early after Christmas season the Pentecost season may be a little quieter but still plenty to consider and to action. As Leader of Worship and Faith Education Mission Ministry Team I am finding my way forward in this position. Our Team meets again on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2018.

Jenny Swanbury, Leader W&FEMMT

## Evolving Spirituality: Mysticism

by Michael Morwood - (Adapted from *Praying a New Story* – Michael Morwood. Orbis Books. Maryknoll. NY.)

We celebrate our common origin with everything that exists.

We celebrate the Divine Presence, the Ground and Sustainer of everything that exists, in whom we live and move and have our being.

We acknowledge this awesome mystery embodied in every human person, aware that each gives the Divine Presence unique and personal expression.

Here, now, the Divine Energizing Presence is everywhere present, visible in every human person who loves.

Here, now, his Presence comes to visible expression in each of us.

We give thanks for men and women throughout human history who sought to articulate human connectedness with the Divine and with all of creation.

We give thanks especially for Jesus of Nazareth. He inspires us to name ourselves as "temples" of the Divine Spirit and challenges us to live and act accordingly.

Jesus challenges us to look into our hearts, to examine the way we are neighbor, to overcome our prejudices, to put an end to divisions, to stretch our generosity, to overcome our fear of the mystery, to see the Divine present in our everyday loving, and to make the "reign" of love visible throughout our world.

We believe the same Spirit of Divinity that came to visibility in Jesus yearns for visible expression in us.

This is our common dignity whatever our race or creed, whatever our place or time.

We long to see our common dignity proclaimed honored and celebrated by all religions.

We pray that the one Spirit all people share may be given free and generous expression for the betterment of humanity and our world.

Amen.

## Morialta Uniting Church to host Peace Expo on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> August: 2 – 4.00pm

*Sponsored by the South Australian Council of Churches through Ecumenical Partners for Justice and Peace*

The Peace Expo is about sharing stories to inspire us on paths to justice and peace.

In February 2017, SA Council of Churches announced 6 successful projects that had received funding from a Bequest to assist in the work of Refugees and Displaced Persons.

These projects are now complete. You are invited to hear their stories, share resources and inspire one another on paths towards justice and peace.

On Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> June Morialta UC observed World Refugee Day and Rev Bob Hutchinson gave a clear message about “why we are called to support refugees”.

The Peace Expo offers a chance for us to witness the work that other organisations do in supporting refugees and how we as a Church may support them.

The stories and presentations featured at the Peace Expo will come from:

*Community Garden Coffee Connect* – a project of the Amazing Grace Gospel Church, Andrews Farm.

*Helping Refugees in Salisbury and Playford Local Government Areas to be linked to an Australian Friend* – a project by Baptist Care (SA) Inc.

*Sand Play Therapy* – a project by Circle of Friends Incorporated – Circle 111

*Asylum Seekers – understanding their lives and their contribution to our community* – a project by Justice for Refugees SA.

*Affordable Rental Accommodation Project and Asylum Seeker Assist* – a project by Migrant & Refugee Centre, St Vincent de Paul Society SA Inc.

There will also be displays about the education and support programs provided for refugees by two local churches – Clayton Wesley and Magill Pilgrim Lutheran.

The afternoon is designed as a “drop in event” and entry is by gold coin donation. Proceeds will support the work of SACC’s Ecumenical Partners for Justice and Peace. The Social Justice Mission Ministry Team will act as hosts on behalf of Morialta UC.

### Social Justice Mission Ministry Team Report to Church Council June 2018

#### Key activities

- Concerns about the treatment of Refugees continue to be one of our major priorities.
- Members of Morialta UC joined with other Uniting Church members and marched behind the Pilgrim UC banner on Palm Sunday. While we tend to agree with those who say that the humane treatment of people who seek protection is a lost cause, the march is one way that members of the Australian community can wear a compassionate face and stand with refugees and their advocates.
- SJMMT will host a Peace Expo, sponsored by the Ecumenical Partners for Justice and Peace (a committee of SACC), at Morialta on 4th August. The Expo will promote groups who received funding from a bequest made to SACC to provide programs that assist refugees in South Australia. We hope that 5/6 funded groups will attend plus Magill Pilgrim Lutheran Church and Clayton Wesley Uniting Church.
- Environmental issues also continue to be a priority for our team and we maintain close links with the Synod’s Environmental Action Group (EAG). SJMT led the Environmental Sabbath service (the Sunday after World Environment Day) with Rev Bob Hutchinson on Sunday 11th and sponsored a walk along the Torrens on 12th June.
- Members of SJMMT offered a Lenten Study entitled “Australians Together” which is designed to bring Non-Indigenous and Indigenous Australians together through learning about our shared history and to seek ways that we can come together as one community sharing a common destiny.
- Ease of access to dais in the church is another discussion initiated by SJMMT and is also currently an agenda item for Worship and Faith Education Ministry Team. We have approached an architect (Paul Gillett) for advice and suggestions.
- Political donations legislation – members of SJMMT wrote letters to all MPs and Senators from SA expressing concern that the legislation may affect the Church’s ability to advocate for minority and marginalised groups in society. We received

many responses from independent Senators acknowledging the seriousness of our concerns.

#### Issues of Concern

One of our major issues of concern is the Government’s lack of response to the Uluru Statement and we plan to discuss this further as NAIDOC Week approaches. We are also concerned about the lack of commitment shown by various Australian Governments to dealing with Climate Change.

#### Future Plans

- Promote discussion around Australia’s foreign aid and why Australia should be increasing the amount as a percentage of GDP.
- Discuss how we can involve other members of the congregation in the concerns we have expressed above. As outlined in previous reports this may be through an email network or via small regular discussion groups. We plan to seek suggestions after the COMT survey has been completed.
- Focus on Australian Aid and Aid in general on Social Justice Sunday (9th September) with invited speakers. The format is still under discussion and will be announced well ahead of the date.
- Promote the Christmas Bowl at Morialta in the lead up to Christmas, but we have decided not to support the street appeal.
- Support W&FEMMT in the lead up to NAIDOC week with articles in Vision and involvement in NAIDOC week service and activities.

#### SJMMT’s role and mandate

The SJMM Team acts on behalf of Church Council to promote issues relating to justice, human rights, reconciliation, the environment and ecumenism.

**Team members:** Adam Yearsley (Elder), Bruce Ind, David Purling, Judith Purling, Jenny Swanbury, Christine Secombe (corresponding member) and Colin Cargill (Team Leader).

*Colin Cargill, Leader SJMMT*

## Flower Arranging

From Christine Garner



My interest began through my daughter who studied floristry and became a qualified florist when she took time out from her nursing career to have children. It was something she had always wanted to do. When I retired from full time ministry and moved to Magill, I found myself living only a couple of streets away from a friend who is involved with Magill Lutheran Church Floral Art Club. She invited me to a meeting – that is now 8 years ago. It has opened up a creative pathway that gives me a great deal of joy as I work to create arrangements of beauty, harmony, colour and texture. Now I help with the flowers at the church on a regular basis. I am also able to put together flowers quickly and easily for friends at times of celebration or sorrow or “just because”.

Alongside floral art I enjoy poetry and through Poet’s Corner at Christ Church, Wayville I made the acquaintance of Russ Talbot. Russell discovered the pleasure of writing poetry after suffering an Acquired Brain Injury as the result of a brain tumour. Before his injury he had degrees in computing and management. Now with limited movement and speech he has studied Creative Communication. In his book ‘Things That Make Your Heart Beat’ he has two poems about flowers. He has given his permission for them to be printed in ‘Vision’.

### The Philosophy of cut flowers

The thing about cut flowers  
is that they put you in the moment.

With cut flowers  
the only place they make sense  
is now.  
Tomorrow they’ll be in the bin.

Like an ice sculpture.  
All that work,  
all that beauty,  
gone.  
‘Why didn’t they carve it in stone, then it’d last forever.’  
Exactly.

Beauty is honed by brevity.  
The poignancy of its brief existence  
not a tragedy  
but a piquancy.

With beauty, with cut flowers,  
if you’re not in the moment  
you miss the point  
entirely.

### Flower arranging

for Jessie

I watch you work.  
The considered selection  
and mindful placement  
of just the right bud  
just the right leaf  
just the right frond  
just the right colour.

I watch you judge.  
Your hand guided by an innate  
sense  
of beauty and balance,  
of what’s ‘right’.

I watch it bloom.  
The whole  
even more beautiful  
than its parts.

I watch you  
weaving your soul into your work.

And you say you’re not a poet.....



Adapted from the website  
[www.antipovertynetworksa.org/](http://www.antipovertynetworksa.org/)

Members of the Anti-poverty Network visited Morialta on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> June spoke to us about their campaign to increase the “Newstart Allowance”. Here is a brief summary of who the Anti-poverty Network is and what they hope to achieve.

Anti-Poverty Network SA is an alliance of people affected and concerned by poverty and unemployment, including job-seekers, low income workers, sole parents, age and disability pensioners, students, community and welfare workers, and others.

Their mission is to advocate for the dignity, rights, and well-being of people on low incomes, particularly those receiving income support from Centrelink. They also help to create community networks

that provide emotional and practical support to those affected by poverty, unemployment, and people receiving income support from Centrelink.

They try to be a voice for and of people living in poverty, which aims to highlight the personal experiences and insights of people on low incomes and they continually challenge myths about poverty, income support, and unemployment.

The Network is committed to the ideal of an adequate, fair, non-judgmental welfare system that treats people with respect, instead of punishing and micro-managing them – all people must be allowed to fully participate in economic, community, and public life.

Another of their aims is to promote a safety net that properly protects low income and vulnerable people.

They oppose policies that assume that if you are struggling financially, or out of work, it must be your own fault, it must be because you have not tried hard enough. These are unproven assumptions often voiced by sections of society.

Rather they argue that unemployment exists because there are not enough jobs, and because job-seekers outnumber jobs.

The Anti-poverty Network also seeks to provide emotional, practical, and social support to people on low incomes, to enable people to network and share experiences and insights. They regularly organise campaigns against what they see as unjust policies that unfairly target the poor, and they argue that welfare is a right, not a privilege and should be freely available to all on the basis of need.

It is part of living in a civilised, humane community. It is not something that people should have to beg or grovel for. Anyone who needs income support, or other services, should have access without having to feel ashamed and having to prove themselves worthy.

More information is available on the website listed above.





## Reflection on Life's Happiness

Happiness is a decision made every morning when we awake because every day we are presented with a choice. We can spend the day in bed, relating the difficulty we have with body parts that no longer work, or get out of bed and be grateful for the parts that do. Each day is a gift, and as long as our eyes open we should focus on the new day and all the happy times that we have been storing away.

Old age is like a bank account and we can only withdraw from memories we've put in. Sometimes our speculation doesn't work out and we are disappointed when what appeared a sound investment, turns out to be a loss. However, even the cleverest financial advisor knows that they can't control all outside influences and despite their expertise, they have to be prepared to risk losses – and occasionally they have to draw a line under an event and start all over again. We should also acknowledge that sometimes we have to walk away from a situation or a relationship in order to rebuild our assets and hold on to whatever reserves we have left. That's not showing a weakness that we should chastise ourselves about, but strength in knowing ourselves and our limitations.

Life comes with few guidelines for happiness and not all of us will find ourselves enjoying the tranquility of quiet contentment in our 'golden years'. Not until today has become tomorrow, will some accept that yesterday might have been better. Worry never steals the fears of tomorrow, but does drain today of its joy.

Some folk seem to have the knack of always keeping happiness close by, while many are defeated the first time that happiness is taken from them. Some people are unhappy and always wait for others to supply their joy, which is a futile task for everyone concerned. No one can permanently prop up another's happiness without finding themselves drained of cheer themselves. Negativity is a toxic illness that affects both patient and assistant.

So let's make sure we deposit a lot of happiness in our bank account of memories. We may lose some investments when we find we have placed too much faith in unsound enterprises, like the time we thought we would be able to call on others for support, only to find them as insubstantial as soap bubbles. Nevertheless, no experience is ever wasted and other investments, though small, can generate unexpected gains. Just when we are at our most needy, others may be the guardian angels we've been praying for, bringing comfort in their wake.

The more we put into our 'happiness account' over the years, the more likely it is that we'll be able to withdraw some accumulated joy when it's most needed. For whilst we give of ourselves to those needier, we unconsciously add to our own store of good memories; the happiness that will help us through times of inclement weather. That rainy day could happen at any time. It may be here tomorrow

Jan Thornton

## Microbes aren't the enemy – they are part of us

*Adapted from the Conversation, by the Editor (and Veterinary Microbiologist)*

*Modern diets are changing the compositions of our gut microflora, and with that, our personalities .*

Scientists have long believed that “good” immune cells recognise and defend against “bad” microbial invaders. That's why a large proportion of medicine has been directed at killing microbial enemies and conquering microbial infections.

This militaristic understanding of immunity reflected the culture of the 20th century, which was dominated by nation building and world wars between “us” and “them.” It was a time when “survival of the fittest” came to be seen as the driver of evolution and competition and war were considered a natural part of what it is to be human.

But the discovery that only 50% of the cells in our bodies are human has caused a radical rethink of the relationship between humans and microorganisms. The other 50% of cells in the human body are microbes, such as bacteria, yeasts, viruses, and even insects. Together, these make up the microbiome. These microbes produce proteins that help us digest food and also support our immune systems.

We have evolved with microorganisms on us and inside us. We have specialised communities in our guts, on our skin, and in our mouths. Our microbes are so critical to our existence that many scientists consider us to be symbiotic organisms – that is with a host (us), microbiome (microbes) and environment – called the “holobiont”.

### **Microbes and diet – We really are what we eat!**

What we eat determines our gut flora. If we change our diet, our gut flora will change within 2 days. The species in our gut are also relevant to health and disease. Some species are linked to improved glucose tolerance and are more prevalent in the gut of hunter-gatherer societies. The lack of these species in western populations is thought to partially explain modern epidemics such as diabetes and obesity.

Microbes can also shape our food choices to ensure their own survival. By-products (metabolites) of microbial digestion can make us feel hungry, full, or crave certain foods. One study of chocolate-craving and chocolate-indifferent people found

different microbial metabolites in their urine, suggesting different bacteria were present in the gut. *So can we chocolate lovers blame our microbiome?*

### **Changing the game**

Humans are ecosystems, whose members are intricately balanced by cooperation and competition. Microbes are neither good nor bad but if we change the game they can become bad.

For example, when we use antibiotics and sanitisers, or hormone and immune system treatments, we interfere with our ecosystem.

The hygiene hypothesis argues that infections help build our immune system but overuse of antibiotics has also changed our microbiome and the proliferation of sanitising disinfectants could be contributing to skin allergies and respiratory conditions.

Our definitions of good and bad are cultural as much as biological. Body odours and stale breath are caused by microbes and are not inherently unhealthy, but the market for antiperspirants, deodorisers and mouthwashes is flourishing.

Our diets have also changed rapidly and the flow-on changes to both human and microbial health are apparent. Non-communicable disease epidemics such as obesity and heart disease are clear consequences of highly processed foods and increasingly inactive lifestyles. When mice were fed low fibre western diets some bacterial strains disappeared from their gut and did not return even in the grandchildren of the mice when they were fed a high-fibre diet.

### **Rethinking the metaphor**

For most of the twentieth century, humans have been at war with their microbes. The teaching was that a vigilant immune system defended against vicious and sneaky microbial attacks.

We have to rethink this militaristic metaphor. If we are a complex ecosystem which relies on the microbes in it, we cannot wage war against them. As holobionts, we need to figure out how to live with all the members of our bodies.

**How might our world (and bodies) be different if we behave as resilient communities where the “others” are different selves, rather than invaders, terrorists, colonisers, or competitors?**

## Environment Sunday at Morialta

Twenty members of Morialta UC, plus 2 dogs, enjoyed a leisurely walk along the Torrens to celebrate the Environmental Sabbath on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June. The weather was perfect, scenery was stunning, coffee was great and the company was even better!



### The Environmental Sabbath: Why should we recognise it?

*Two statements by His All-Holiness  
Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I*

#### Sacrament and Sin

We have traditionally regarded sin as being merely what people do to other people. Yet, for human beings to destroy the biological diversity in God's creation; for human beings to degrade the integrity of the earth by contributing to climate change, by stripping the earth of its natural forests or destroying its wetlands; for human beings to contaminate the earth's waters, land and air – all of these are sins.

We are treating our planet in an inhuman, godless manner precisely because we fail

to see it as a gift inherited from above. Our original sin with regard to the natural environment lies in our refusal to accept the world as a sacrament of communion, as a way of sharing with God and neighbour on a global scale. It is our humble conviction that divine and human meet in the slightest detail contained in the seamless garment of God's creation, in the last speck of dust.

#### Climate Change and Social Justice

If human beings were to treat one another's personal property the way they treat the natural environment, we would view that behaviour as anti-social and illegal. We would expect legal sanctions and even compensation. When will we learn that to commit a crime against the natural world is also a sin?

The way we respond to the natural environment directly reflects the way we treat human beings. The willingness to exploit the environment is revealed in the willingness to permit avoidable human suffering. So the survival of the natural environment is also the survival of ourselves. When will we understand that a crime against nature is a crime against ourselves and sin against God?

*Bartholomew I is the 270th and current Archbishop of Constantinople and Ecumenical Patriarch, since 2 November 1991. He is widely regarded as the primus inter pares (first among equals) in the Eastern Orthodox Church, and as the spiritual leader of 300 million Orthodox Christians worldwide.*



### It seems that a mammal's reaction to sound depends on the sound.

*In the last Vision we published an article under the heading "Your drive to the shops makes life pretty noisy for whales". The piece was based on an article published in the Conversation February 22<sup>nd</sup> 2018, by Andrew J. Wright, Marine Mammal Researcher, Fisheries and Oceans Canada*

One reader correctly pointed out that whales are very noisy themselves and in fact the sound of a birthing female can be as loud as the blast from the high-pressure air gun described in the article.

So I decided to talk to an "expert" at Flinders University, who does research on marine mammals, to learn more. Our

"expert" also discussed the issue with other biologists who study other mammalian species.

Like all things biological, nothing is simple and nothing is 100%.

It seems that like humans the actual origin of the sound is important. For example, if we love Jazz, we are happy for a friend who plays a brilliant saxophone to titillate our eardrums with their rich melodious sounds. But if our next door neighbour's dog, or a road worker with a jack hammer, blasts us with fewer decibels, it may not only irritate us, but also disorientate us to the point that we become irrational and behave totally out of character.

It seems marine mammals are similar. Sounds made by a birthing female maybe loud, but it is a normal biological sound for a whale and they may even enjoy the sound of new life arriving (who knows). On the other hand, regular repetitive

blasts from a high-pressure air gun are not natural (for a whale) and can disorientate them. If the exposure is over an extended period of time, it can cause loss of hearing. Whales are also curious creatures, like cattle, and may even head towards the origin of the blast to investigate.

Because whales rely heavily on sound for communicating and finding food, anything that affects their hearing is a concern.

It seems that unusually loud repetitive sounds can disturb whales' behaviour just as several hours of the road worker with a jackhammer can drive us to drink, or worse.

*Of course the main thrust of the article was to encourage you to walk to the shops so you can feel self-righteous and enjoy the coffee and sticky bun more.*

*The Editor*



## Water it down – A Beyond Carbon Neutral Initiative

Adapted from *Uniting Communities*

### Why Save Water?

Water is the essential for life, and we live the driest continent on earth. We can't do without water but we can reduce how much we use. We can save money and reduce our environmental impact. Water needs energy for treatment, transport and pumping to our taps, so saving water is a double saving – for your local Congregation, for SA and for the planet.

How much water do you use – in your congregation and at home?

### The Challenge – for Work and Home

Things you can do	More Information
Swipe right for cold	Using hot water uses more energy and cooler water is better for your skin.
Report leaks immediately	A leaking tap can waste as much as 2,000 litres of water/ month.
Only turn on the dishwasher when full or nearly full	Most modern washing machines do a good job of cleaning dishes but hand scrape them first into the organic bin. Dirty dishes can sit for a day or two without going mouldy.
Install a rainwater tank	Why pay for water when you can store it and use it later. Rainwater tanks now come in all shapes and sizes.
Half flush, or even better, pee while you shower	Half flush uses around 1.5 litres less than a full flush. Wash n wee – it all goes down the drain and saves on toilet paper.
Low flow shower heads	Available at Bunnings and through the Residential Energy Efficiency Scheme: <a href="http://www.sa.gov.au/topics/energy-and-environment/using-saving-energy/retailer-energy-efficiency-scheme">http://www.sa.gov.au/topics/energy-and-environment/using-saving-energy/retailer-energy-efficiency-scheme</a> A standard shower head may use up to 25 litres of water per minute, when a water-efficient shower head can use as little as 7 litres per minute.
Take shorter showers (less than 3 mins)	Shower timers can be bought from Bunnings.
Don't buy bottled water	Why is bottled water so popular? Marketing! Plastic water bottles are the largest source of ocean waste. Buy a refillable drink bottle – it's cool and cheaper to refill. For those that prefer bubbles in their water, consider investing in a Soda Stream. Today drinking tap water is perfectly safe. If you drink 1 litre of tap water a day instead of bottled water, you'll save \$555 in a year. Plus you will save all the materials and energy that go into making, transporting and disposing of plastic bottles. The plastic required to bottle a litre of water every day for a year costs the Earth 913 litres of water and 427 kilowatt- hours of energy. It also produces about 6kgs of landfill.
Buy appliances with high-water efficiency rating	High water and energy rating products save you money. Look for the star rating label.
Keep the garden green	Our parks and gardens are an essential part of our Australian lifestyle, promoting good health and wellbeing while outside. Around 40% of household water use is outside the home. Set up an irrigation system that waters the garden early in the morning (before 9am) and ensure that worn nozzles and broken seals are replaced to prevent leaking. Use mulch in the garden to help retain moisture. Turn off your irrigation system in winter and when rain is forecast. Buy water wise plants. Natives are usually the best to cope with our climate.
Take care where you wash the car.	Washing the car in the driveway can be an environmental hazard. Chemicals in the waste water can run-off into the storm water system - then into rivers and the sea.

### Useful Links

SA Water: <https://www.sawater.com.au>

Why do we continue to buy bottled water? <https://www.1millionwomen.com.au/blog/science-behind-bottled-water-why-were-still-buying-it/>

Watch the Plastic Ocean video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uDDFUZRyols>

<http://worldwaterday.org/> Choice has lots of water saving ideas including reviews on water saving appliances.

## Paws for thought...

Oops, I guess you will have to blame old age. I was so busy enjoying the sun a little while ago that I ran out of time to do my piece for the Vision.

Oh well, I hope that you all have an opportunity to get out in the sun soon so that you can increase your vitamin D count.

Only thing is, don't do what Bruce does! Any time he sits in the sun he ends up going to sleep. I wouldn't mind that, but, he snores louder than Wallace!

Keely



## Fellowship News

May and June have been very interesting months for the Fellowship group.

In May, Rev. Sue Page spoke to us about her work as an RAAF Chaplain. Her work involves marriages and relationships, workplace matters, relocation on placements and deployments, help with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), practising faith and leaving the RAAF. It was extremely interesting.



Our Bonus meeting in May was lunch at Cafe de Vili's. This was a lovely social occasion with much food, fun and fellowship.



In June our guest speaker was John Thornton with "This Is Your Life". What a wonderfully interesting life John has had. Born in Arbroath, in Scotland, travelling the world on naval ships and in nuclear powered submarines, and now enjoying a more relaxed life with his family which includes quite a few beautiful grandchildren and a gorgeous dog.

Every-one is welcome to attend any of the Fellowship meetings.

Margaret Clogg

## Life

When you find your path, you must not be afraid. You need to have sufficient courage to make mistakes. Disappointment, defeat, and despair are the tools God uses to show us the way.

When we least expect it, life sets us a challenge to test our courage and willingness to change; at such a moment, there is no point in pretending that nothing has happened or in saying that we are not yet ready. The challenge will not wait. Life does not look back. A week is more than enough time for us to decide whether or not to accept our destiny.

Paulo Coelho (de Souza) - 1937-

## UP

Source unknown

Up is one word in the English language that can be a noun, verb, adjective, adverb and preposition. It has more meanings than any other two-letter word used in the English language. It is listed in the dictionary as an [adv], [prep], [adj], [n] or [v].

It's easy to understand UP, meaning toward the sky or at the top of the list, but when we awaken in the morning, why do we wake UP?

At a meeting, why does a topic come UP? Why do we speak UP, and why are the officers UP for election and why is it UP to the secretary to write UP a report? We call UP our friends, brighten UP a room, polish UP the silver, warm UP the leftovers and clean UP the kitchen. We lock UP the house and fix UP the old car.

At other times, this little word has real special meaning. People stir UP trouble, line UP for tickets, work UP an appetite, and think UP excuses.

To be dressed is one thing but to be dressed UP is special

And this UP is confusing: A drain must be opened UP because it is stopped UP.

We open UP a store in the morning but we close it UP at night. We seem to be pretty mixed UP about UP!

To be knowledgeable about the proper uses of UP, look UP the word UP in the dictionary. In a desk-sized dictionary, it takes UP almost 1/4 of the page and there can be UP to about thirty definitions.

If you are UP to it, you might try building UP a list of the many ways UP is used. It will take UP a lot of your time, but if you don't give UP, you may wind UP with a hundred or more.

When it threatens to rain, we say it is clouding UP. When the sun comes out, we say it is clearing UP. When it rains, the earth soaks it UP. When it does not rain for a while, things dry UP. One could go on and on, but I'll wrap it UP, for now . . . my time is UP!

Now I'll shut UP!



## Mission Networks

*Bruce Ind*

The Uniting Church's structure of a number of interrelated councils ensures a degree of autonomy for congregations as they undertake the important role of mission within the community.

The diversity of the Uniting Church was under threat during the early 2000's when South Australia along with other synods faced division around matters related to sexuality and other doctrinal ideas.

One of the solutions, for South Australia, came in the amalgamation of its seven presbyteries into one. Along with this change the idea of Networks was developed.

While Mission Networks are not beholden to the regulations that provide flexibility and diversity to the foundational councils of the Uniting Church, they are required to adhere to Rules that were developed to assist the function of networks as they relate to one another and the congregations that comprise their structure.

Each congregation is a member of a Mission Network; Morialta Uniting Church is part of the Urban Mission Network. Each network operates differently.

Since its inception the Urban Mission Network (UMN) has held regular Gatherings, supported congregations by assisting on Joint Nominating Committees and consultations, provided a voice on pastoral Relations and Placement committees of presbytery and also sought to support ministers in placement in the congregations that comprise the UMN.

Mission Networks do not have any administrative authority within the structure of the Uniting Church, but, the relationships created across congregations and the opportunities for resourcing congregations and individuals is an important support task for UMN.

From its beginnings the UMN has been supported by a Reference Group of lay and ordained members from its congregations. Meeting regularly the Reference Group takes seriously the pastoral support of ministers and congregations within its purview. Planning the gatherings and responding to issues important to the life and witness of the Uniting Church in South Australia are just a couple of ongoing agenda items that occupy its time. As an original appointee, I am the only member of the reference group to have served since its commencement.

Early on the need for a part-time paid Network Coordinator was recognized and Christine Secombe was the first appointee. The coordinator undertakes an administrative role, representing the UMN on Placement and Pastoral Care, preparing the monthly bulletin, assisting in the planning and preparation for gatherings as well as many other tasks. Suzan Burt presently occupies this role.

While networks don't have regulatory authority, they do perform an important bridging function with the constituent congregations and the wider church.

One disadvantage of the move to one presbytery and a number of networks is the loss of opportunity for diverse views and ideas to be debated and considered. This now occurs only at the large Presbytery-Synod meetings held less frequently than once were.

While many members of the Uniting Church have limited interest in the machinations of the wider church, it is interesting to remember that the Uniting Church undertakes His Mission in the world with the support of congregations, presbyteries, Synod and the Assembly, as well as networks. We, each one of us, are part of a much larger whole than we realise.

## Gateways Getaway

A full roll-call of Gateways members spent a restful and fun week at the Mannum Caravan Park exploring the river, the local sites, reading, walking, but mostly chatting and eating!



Everyone enjoyed the fellowship and food



The silence of the river was mesmerising



We all enjoyed a sunshine river cruise



Colin Sampson was in machinery heaven



Some were captivated by the bird life



Some enjoyed ice-creams



Some found a new friend



It was a great week!



## Jesus wasn't white: He was a brown-skinned, Middle Eastern Jew. Here's why that matters

Adapted from an article by Robyn J Whitaker, Bromby Senior Lecturer in Biblical Studies, Trinity College, University of Divinity, published in the *Conversation* in March 2018

Back in the 1970s, when photos of Jesus hung on many bedroom walls, he was usually depicted with light-coloured haired, blue-eyes and very white skin. You would be forgiven for thinking otherwise even today, when you enter a western church or visit an art gallery. While there is no physical description of him in the Bible, there is little doubt that the historical Jesus, the man who was executed by the Roman State in the first century CE, was a brown-skinned, Middle Eastern Jew.

Does any of this matter? Yes, it really does. As a society, we are well aware of the power of representation and the importance of diverse role models.

After winning the 2013 Oscar for Best Supporting Actress for her role in *12 Years a Slave*, Kenyan actress Lupita Nyong'o shot to fame. In interviews since then, Nyong'o has repeatedly articulated her feelings of inferiority as a young woman because all the images of beauty she saw around her were of lighter-skinned women. It was only when she saw the fashion world embracing Sudanese model Alek Wek that she realised black could be beautiful too.

If we can recognise the importance of ethnically and physically diverse role models in our media, why can't we do the same for faith? Why do we continue to allow images of a whitened Jesus to dominate?

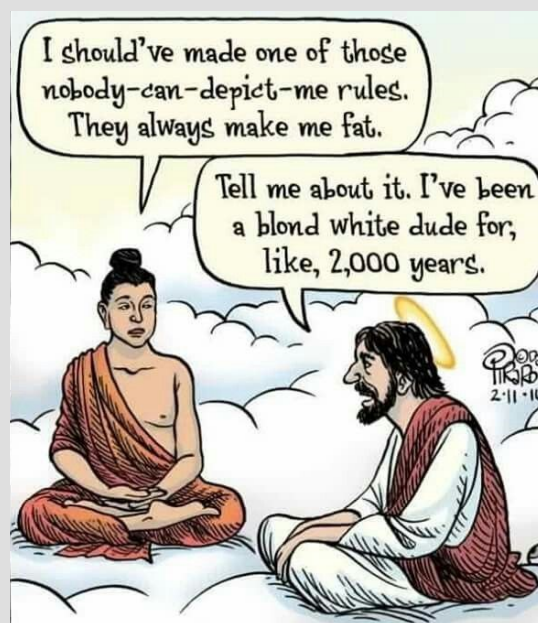
Many churches and cultures do depict Jesus as a brown or black man. Orthodox Christians usually have a very different iconography to that of European art – if you enter a church in Africa, you'll likely see an African Jesus on display.

But these are rarely the images we see in Australian Protestant and Catholic churches, and it is our loss. It allows many Australian Christians to separate their devotion to Jesus from a compassionate regard for those who look different.

Maybe this creates a cognitive disconnect, where people can feel deep affection for Jesus but little apparent empathy for a Middle Eastern person. It also has implications for the theological claim that humans are made in God's image. If God is always imaged as white, then the default human becomes white and such thinking undergirds racism.

How might it change our attitudes if we could see that the unjust imprisonment, abuse, and execution of the historical Jesus has more in common with the experience of Indigenous Australians or asylum seekers than it does with those who hold power in the church and usually represent Christ?

Perhaps the most radical question of all is "what might change if we were more mindful that the person Christians celebrate as God in the flesh and saviour of the entire world was not a white man, but a Middle Eastern Jew?"



From *Religious Humour* – Contributed by Carole Lyons

## NAIDOC Week

From the SJMMT

NAIDOC Week 2018 – under the theme *Because of her, we can!* – will celebrate the invaluable contributions that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women have made – and continue to make – to our communities, our families, our rich history and to our nation.

NAIDOC Week 2018 will be held nationally from Sunday 8 July and continue through to Sunday 15 July.

As leaders, trailblazers, politicians, activists and social change advocates, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women fought and continue to fight, for justice, equal rights, our rights to country, for law and justice, access to education, employment and to maintain and celebrate our culture, language, music and art.

They continue their influence as doctors, lawyers, teachers, electricians, chefs, nurses, architects, rangers, emergency and defence personnel, writers, volunteers, chief executive officers, actors, singer songwriters, journalists, entrepreneurs, media



personalities, board members, accountants, academics, sporting icons and Olympians, the list goes on.

They are our mothers, our elders, our grandmothers, our aunts, our sisters and our daughters.

Sadly, Indigenous women's role in our cultural, social and political survival has often been invisible, unsung or diminished.

For at least 65,000 years, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women have carried our dreaming stories, songlines, languages and knowledge that have kept our culture strong and enriched us as the oldest continuing culture on the planet.

Their achievements, their voice, their unwavering passion give us strength and have empowered past generations and paved the way for generations to come.

**Because of her, we can!**

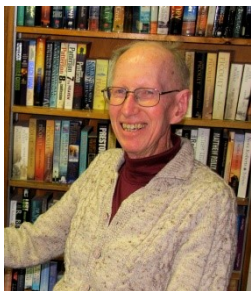
NAIDOC week is also a time to reflect on The Uluru Statement of the Heart and recognise it for what it is – a statement from the heart.

The statement can be found at

[https://www.referendumcouncil.org.au/sites/default/files/2017-05/Uluru\\_Statement\\_From\\_The\\_Heart\\_0.PDF](https://www.referendumcouncil.org.au/sites/default/files/2017-05/Uluru_Statement_From_The_Heart_0.PDF)



## MEET BRYAN FORBES



This is the revised standard version of his profile written by him following popular demand! Currently he can be seen in the Church library on Sunday mornings, supposedly helping to return books to shelves, but also enjoying the comforts of air-conditioning and conversation with the Chief Librarian. He was born 1930 to Emily Irene Humphreys, daughter of a Brookton, WA farmer, and George James William Forbes, popular salesman of agricultural machinery in Beverley and Brookton. Sadly, George and Rene, as she was known, divorced when he was about six years old, and he subsequently lived mainly with his mother. He remembers amusing himself lighting little fires on roadsides around Brookton and was known to light rags, put them in a tin and then under the bed so his mother wouldn't notice.

At primary school age he was living with his mother and her mother in St Georges Terrace, Perth developing a love of comics, then books, scootering through Kings Park and spearing jelly fish with bamboos along the banks of the Swan. He bussted to Claremont Infants School, but later, when he was living for a few years with his lovely Granma Forbes at Nedlands, he rode a bike to Claremont, built bush shelters on vacant blocks and taught impressionable friends to smoke cigarettes. Their mother put a sudden stop to this. He was such a bookworm that he resented his Gran giving him jobs in the garden because that interrupted good reading time.

Early in 1942 he agreed to travel to Murray Bridge SA to live with his father and young wife Dorothy. The train trip across the Nullarbor should have been thrilling, but was spoilt by stomach upsets and perpetual thirst. On meeting George and Dorothy on the Adelaide platform his first request was for a drink. Despite being well cared for - including regular attendance at the Presbyterian Church - the stay at Murray Bridge was fairly unhappy - trouble in making friends in a different environment, weeping through practical woodwork at school because he had never done this before, and realizing that he missed his mother. In the end George sadly farewelled him on the train back to Adelaide where he rejoined Rene, working as housekeeper for a dentist at Rose Park. Here he successfully finished Year 7 at Rose Park Primary where to his delight there was no practical woodwork

and more singing in class than he had experienced before. A life long bonus was being sympathetically befriended by two bright boys, Alan the affluent intellectual, and Ron the humourist. At a combined age of 264 years Ron and Bryan now lunch together every few months and Alan has lunched with them once in the last few years, coming from Sydney.

Secondary schooling was at Unley High, into his 17<sup>th</sup> year (1947) maintaining about a middle of the class position. Ron was also at Unley, doing a commercial course and Alan at St Peters College. Ron influenced him to join the 2<sup>nd</sup> Linden Park Scouts, run by "Skipper" Threadgill. This boosted his morale considerably with good company on hikes in the hills and summer camps near Belair. Rene and Bryan lived in an asbestos hut in the grounds of a boarding house at Wayville, from where Rene travelled to work in a munitions factory. Later she worked for the landlady and subsequently took a live-in position a few doors away - much more comfortable. Bryan confirmed a love of classical music and even used to cycle home from school lunch hours to hear a favourite music program on the radio. One teacher at Unley, Ted Smith, even tried to spark boys' interest by playing Schubert's Unfinished Symphony one lunch hour - heavenly!

Bryan resumed family life in 1948 when Rene married a great guy, Bert Powell, and they all shifted to a flat near the beach at Semaphore. Bryan enjoyed study at the University of Adelaide, partly as a cadet in the Mining Department for one year. He gave his supervisor in the workshop a hard time training a boy with no handy-man experience and disappointment when he decided geology was the thing. Luckily Sir Douglas Mawson was looking for a cadet and he enjoyed the advantages of working in the Geology Department while studying. With the help of Rene and Bert and scholarships he was one of Mawson's last Honours Geology (4<sup>th</sup> year) students in 1952. His project was geological mapping of a forested hilly area near Spring Mount, S.E. of Myponga. Some work experience was gained in January 1952 as a student geologist with the Snowy Mountains Hydroelectric Authority. The University next invited him to stay on to do a PhD degree. This took until late in 1955 when he married his favourite blue-eyed blonde, Judith Newmarch. This would not have happened but for his decision to renovate his social life about 1948. Being baptised Methodist he stepped into the Semaphore Methodist Church and was quickly made welcome. Toward the end of his period there he was recruited into The Local Preachers and taught for a period in the Sunday School. This ended when a pupil decided to go home and complain after being sent out of the lesson for disobedience. On the other hand, during a class hike up Morialta way he allowed the boys to have

a dip in the creek, seeing it was hot. In 1955 Judith kindly typed his thesis, an attempt to find out the origins of an unusual rock rich in magnesium carbonate which he had happily examined between Torrens Gorge near Adelaide and the Willouran Ranges near Marree.

After their marriage by Rev. G Bellamy Stribley at Semaphore Methodist on September 10, 1955 he and Judith embarked on the Strathaird to take up an unexpected scholarship at the University of Durham. Not knowing Durham, he hopefully wrote to "The Methodist Minister" about accommodation and the Rev. Michael Skinner kindly offered temporary quarters at the manse, Durham, dominated by a Norman cathedral, was an interesting place to live in, and there were useful connections with the Methodist Church and academia. Bryan even found himself doing some local preaching to sober congregations in outlying villages. In lieu of a college he was obliged to join St Cuthbert's Society and had to purchase an academic gown in order to be properly dressed at dinners. In August 1956 he and Judith tripped to Vienna, Austria to do a short German course. Beautiful Vienna has now become the city of his dreams. That must have had something to do with the fact that his and Judith's first child, Michael, was born at Dryburn Hospital, Durham in May 1957. Apart from gaining a lovely boy, Bryan concluded from experience at Durham, that geological survey work would suit him better than academia.

He launched into a happy career with the S.A. Geological Survey (Department of Mines and Energy) from December 1957 to June 1987. Initially this involved travelling widely around the state examining non-metallic mineral deposits such as gypsum, barite and beryl. Later he was doing geological mapping in the Clare area, Olary, Ororoo, Marree and the Birdsville Track. The survey was blessed with a skilled drafting branch that produced beautiful geological maps that might have one's name on them. He was eventually in charge of the regional mapping section but felt his staff was much better at it than he was.

The nature of Bryan's faith has changed through a scientific education, but he clings to Jesus' Kingdom of God, in the picture of people enjoying a meal together, on an equal footing, and he accepts the sacredness of the cosmos (including you and me). On returning home in 1957, Judith and Bryan first lived at Hillcrest, where they joined Greenacres Methodist Church. Michael and sisters Helen and Kathryn joined Sunday School there. The family shifted to Rostrevor in 1967 where they were welcomed by Newton Methodist before they had barely unpacked - and then Rostrevor - and then Morialta. This is the Day of the Lord - Let us be glad in it!



# Morialta Magpie



Katrina performed with the State Opera of SA in Georges Bizet's opera The Pearl Fishers



We celebrated the Sacrament of Baptism with the families of Bailey and baby Leila.



We welcomed Pastoral Care Workers Katherine (Magill Primary) and Daniel (Norwood Morialta) to our worship.



Happy Birthday Kenny!



Happy 80th Birthday to Jey!



Happy Birthdays to Beverley and Merv!



Thanks to all our flower ladies and especially to Jan Sillett for these on Mothers' Day!



Thanks to all who supported our "Animal Antics" afternoon which raised almost \$800 for church projects.



## WELCOME TO THE MORIALTA UNITING CHURCH COMMUNITY LIBRARY HUB

### From Your Librarian

The noticeboards in the library are full of pictures and quotes about all that depicts **WONDER**, whetting your appetites for what is to come in our "Wonder High Tea".

### COME ON IN AND HAVE A LOOK!

Undoubtedly, May and June have been busy months, with our attention drawn towards Aboriginal Reconciliation Week, Environment Week, Refugee Week, History Month, Animal Antics and Wonder floating through our heads.

To further your thought processes, the library has information, books and DVD's on all of these subjects.

Items you may be interested in borrowing are available for the following categories. Look for the shelf heading eg. Indigenous or look on the display shelves as you come into the library.

### INDIGENOUS

Our Mob, God's Story by Louise Sherman  
Benang: From the Heart by Kim Scott  
I'm Australian Too by Mem Fox - (I think a Children's book has a strong message for adults too!)

### HISTORY UCA

Magill Methodist Church Centenary History 1855-1955 by Septimus Lillywhite

### FICTION (HISTORICAL)

Do Not Say We Have Nothing by Madeleine Thien

### ENVIRONMENT

Rainbow of Mysteries by Norman Habel  
Spiritual Ecology by Vaughan-Lee

### ANIMAL ANTICS

Doctor Hugh: My Life with Animals by Hugh Wirth  
Hope for Animals and their world by J. Goodall  
Unlikely, Friendships by J. Holland

### DVD's – MOVIES

Red Dog, The March of the Penguins, Babe, Finding Nemo.

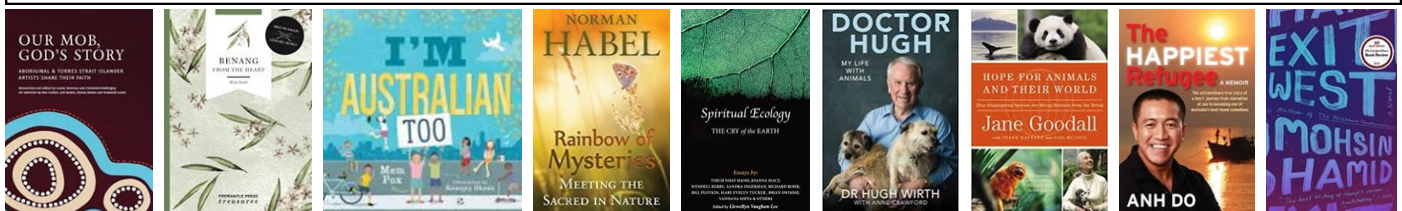
### REFUGEES

The Happiest Refugee by Ahn Do  
Exit West by Mohsin Hamid

**WONDER HIGH TEA** on **SUNDAY 15 JULY, 5.00 to 7.30 pm**

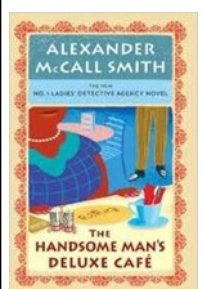
**Tickets** will be on sale from Sunday 24 June in the main foyer or from Helena during the week. **Cost** \$12.00.

For further details about the High Tea please see the poster in the library or on the noticeboard, or talk to Lorraine.



### BOOK REVIEWS

#### FICTION



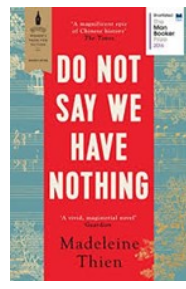
#### THE HANDSOME MAN'S DELUXE CAFE

by Alexander McCall Smith

Mc Call Smith has devised another unpredictable plot concerning one of his old favourites, Precious Ramotswe and her No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency of Botswana. The Handsome Man's Deluxe Café was a trouble-filled endeavour of the prickly Grace Makutsi, assistant to Precious. Other drama surrounds the careless and immature young recruit to the agency, failed motor mechanic Charlie, and a mysterious Indian woman hiding illegally in Botswana to avoid her violent husband. A web of Botswanan wisdom and goodwill is revealed in the last few pages. The steady pace of life in this Botswana should help to bring some calm to readers who feel life can be too busy.

*Reviewed by Bryan Forbes*

#### HISTORICAL FICTION



#### DO NOT SAY WE HAVE NOTHING

by Madelien Thien

A hugely ambitious tale with many characters and shifts in time and place, it's a spellbinding read.

Moving from China before Mao Zedong's Cultural Revolution, and on to the present time in Canada, this is a study of human courage and endurance and a frightening revelation of how a whole country can be brainwashed into servility.

The Great Leap Forward instigated by Mao, resulted in a staggering loss of life which is believed to be as many as 35 million. It's an incomprehensible number, but each of those lost had families, ambitions and hopes. In this story Thien attempts to make the reader see people, not the numbers, and uses music as a metaphor for what is happening in the world that they inhabit. Her characters are interlocked by fate but held together by music and their love for it.

Madeleine Thien has produced a tale of unforgettable narrative that swings back and forth in time. Read this and you will not regret the time spent. Thien is an extraordinary and complex writer and this is a rich and compelling novel.

*Reviewed by Jan Thornton*

#### CONSUMER AND BUSINESS SERVICES BOOKLET

#### THE SAVVY CONSUMER

Thanks go to Rob Cheel for tracking down this useful guide to your rights when buying goods and services and giving it to the library.



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



## Life's journey

We are travelers on a cosmic journey, stardust swirling and dancing in the eddies and whirlpools of infinity.

Life is eternal.

We have stopped for a moment to encounter each other, to meet, to love, to share.

This is a precious moment.

It is a little parenthesis in eternity.

*Paulo Coelho (de Souza) – 1937-*

## Diary Dates

Sunday 1 July 2.00pm	Anita Wardell Jazz Quartet Concert
Sunday 1 July 5.50pm	SP@CE Self-guided, curated worship experience
Saturday 7 July	Worship Leader Training
Sunday 15 July 5.00pm	Library High Tea and Literary Delights
Tuesday 17th July 7.30pm	Church Council Meeting
Thursday 19th July 9.30am	Fellowship Speaker: Joy Machin
Sunday 29 July 5.00pm	Pot Luck Tea
Sunday 5 August 9.30am	Mission Sunday
Sunday 5 August 2.00pm	Peace Expo at Morialta
Sunday 5 August 5.50pm	SP@CE Self-guided, curated worship experience
Tuesday 21 August 7.30pm	Church Council Meeting
Sunday 26 August 9.00am onwards	Pop Up Book, DVD and CD sale

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## Living Streams ~ Giving Life



**Deadline  
for the next Edition**

**1 August**

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

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