

Beyond 2020 Vision

A Publication of Morialta Uniting Church

September 2022

Morialta Uniting Church—follow us on Facebook or check out our website at www.morialtauca.org.au

Welcome to our September edition

Colin Cargill, Editor and Helena Begg, Publisher

This month we feature an article about ‘Closing the Gap’ and why a ‘Change’ is needed if the gap is to close. The UCA supports the Uluru Statement as part of “Our Vision” and “Our Hope”.

We bring you an article about why winter feels so cold despite global warming and advance news of a coming concert at Morialta.

There is also news from Fellowship, a eulogy for Ralph Holmes and an article about who, and how many, view our livestreamed services.

The cut-off date for the October edition will be **30th September**.

To contribute an article to our October edition please either drop a copy in to Nicole in the church office or email it direct to Helena at helena@sbegg.com (Colin will be away)

Go well.

Uluru Statement from the Heart. Why does a Voice matter?

Change is needed to give Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people a say in the laws and policies that impact them. For over two centuries, Australia has seen policies created by government without enough engagement from the people who are directly affected by them. These policies have not delivered better outcomes.



In 2008, the Commonwealth, State and Territory governments committed to achieving equality for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in health and life expectancy within a generation through the Closing the Gap strategy.

Yet - over the past ten years, the life expectancy gap still remains and it is worse in more remote Indigenous communities. Life expectancy for non-indigenous females is 83.4 compared with 75.6 years for indigenous females. Life expectancy for non-indigenous males is 80.2 compared with 71.6 years for indigenous males

Yet - the gap in child mortality between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians is still too large – non-Indigenous children 67/100000, indigenous children 141/100000. Significant amounts of funds have been spent without delivering real outcomes.

Yet – after repeated policies, reports and Royal Commissions, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders are “Proportionally ... the most incarcerated people on the planet. We are not an innately criminal people.” – *Uluru Statement from the Heart*

A Voice to Parliament can help deliver the change needed. A Voice will give Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders a say over how to deliver better policies for their children and a say over the health, education, and government support policies to help close this gap.

A Voice to Parliament provides the foundation for better outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. They are the ones that have the best understanding of the challenges facing their families and communities. They know

the strengths of their communities and what can be achieved when they are involved in designing programs and services meant for them.



As he delivered the 2019 Closing the Gap Report, Prime Minister Scott Morrison admitted that “while guided by the best of intentions, the process (of Closing the Gap) reflected something of the hubris of this place. It did not truly seek to partner with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples”. He went on to admit that Closing the Gap was a top-down approach where “Canberra would change with lofty goals and bureaucratic targets. It was set up to fail and has, on its own tests.”.

Voice to Parliament will empower Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, allowing them to take ownership and responsibility for the challenges that they face, and work constructively with governments from any political party to develop the laws and policies needed to Close the Gap.



Update by Editor:

The latest report (2022) shows that five “Closing the Gap” targets are not on track, including:

- Children being developmentally on track when they commence school,
- Out-of-home care rates;
- Adult imprisonment;
- Deaths by suicide;
- Sea country rights and interests.

Some modest improvements were recorded in four Closing the Gap targets relating to:

- Life outcomes for children;
- Better early childhood development with healthier birth weights;
- Higher rates of school attendance; and
- Lowering youth detention rates.

Spring into Action *Pathway to Renewal and the Future*

Our 14 August event, Consultation 1, saw more than 50 members of the Congregation involved at tables and in supporting roles, comfortably located within the church where sound equipment enhanced the communication. All had taken up the invitation to participate in this first step of the discernment process.

Prior to 14 August there were comments and substantial ideas sent by email, and then by SMS and email on the day. There were at least ten hits/viewings of the Consultation in progress and each is likely to account for more than one viewer. Subsequently emails have reported thanks for the live-streaming and for the information and clarifications provided in the Report on the Consultation which has been distributed as widely as possible. It is also showing on the website together with invitations to respond. Morialta's use of live-streaming, Youtube access, the website, emails and SMS has been to the fore in presenting and supporting this process, thanks to our very capable technologists!

At this point in time, Morialta has a big and important task, to do with the future, a future which is our collective future, but more importantly the future for our younger people, for those in the area who may join us, and those who are continuing to join us through live streaming and other internet capabilities.

Following the Consultation, positive signs, statements and happenings have demonstrated success in raising awareness and positive attitudes for participation in the discernment process:

- many said that they enjoyed being part of this church meeting;
- people have continued to raise ideas in conversation and by email;
- there is a strong sense that the current concerns around mission and financial viability really matter;
- lunch was a highlight - "a treat"; good food, ice-cream and good fun;
- satisfaction felt in being part of energetic, engaged and informative sessions;
- "new" participants in Morialta found it informative and enjoyable.
- strong affirmation of Morialta's on-line ministry and work of the AV Group;
- positive response to the affirmations, questions posed, and deeper thinking about our core business shared by Bob in his observations and reflection;
- uptake of the request to accept and not reject/criticise/censure/dissect ideas;
- a sense of expectation in going the next steps in the process;
- group reporting referenced a range of needs and social issues: children, young people and families, homelessness, domestic violence, etc;

Responses have continued, including further reference to the need for attention to ministry with children, young people and young families.

Overall there has appeared a sense of hope for the future and a willingness to engage in the process of discerning future mission and ways of financing it. There has also emerged a readiness to explore substantial projects and radically change the functions/purposes of the Morialta site to include both a Worship centre and other socially relevant services.

Together we have much to think about and to do.

The Working Group has made a post-Consultation report to Council which was discussed at it's August meeting. Council has now asked the Working Group to review all the suggestions made at the consultation, to classify them and recommend priorities for action. Council also discussed the need to be clear about describing the type of church we desire to be and how to become and to promote that.

Rev Bob Hutchinson shared Observations and Reflections in the latter stages of the Consultation, and raised a significant and potentially far-reaching question:

What is our "core business"?

Bob challenged our understanding and actions in relation to our "core business". Core business, not in the sense of "conservative flowery day-dreaming", but in the life, purpose, the ministry and the way of Jesus Christ. He asked for initiatives we might take in promoting who we are as Morialta UC and what are our key strengths. How do we promote or advertise that we are a Christian church which is progressive, spacious, liberal...welcoming, embracing, holistic, and allowing questions rather than giving answers? Do we put signs and advertisements in New Times, church newspapers? How do we show that we offer a haven for those who have been burnt out by other churches?

The quote with which Bob concluded his reflections underlines our challenge at this time:

"Our future is as important as our history".

Working Group: Bruce Ind, Rev Bob Hutchinson, Chris Ayles, Lachlan Mackenzie, Mary Thornley.

Outrageous Hope

From a reflection that Chris Ayles shared with Church Council, based on writing by someone with motor neurone disease.

For Christians, Easter is the "New Year's Day of the Soul." There is, in the human heart, a yearning for significance, a dream that life is more than we have yet experienced, a hope that life will ultimately win out over death, and that love will outlast it all.

As that great healer, Helen Keller, put it, "The world is full of suffering. It is also full of overcoming it." We saw in the consultation eight days ago that we share a strong sense of "passion for the possible."

That is the good news of Easter: "Never give up hope!"

As Christopher Reeves, the actor who played "Superman," put it so passionately from his wheelchair, paralysed with a broken neck: "Once you choose hope, anything is possible."

I believe that God creates life and intends life to continue... If not in one form then in another. We come from God and we remain with God eternally. All life is within God; and God is within all life – interwoven into the very fibre of our being, and each of our lives is defined by and interwoven with many other lives which God inhabits.

God is not "out there" somewhere; God is "in here" with us, in the makeup of every cell, every neuron, every thought, every emotion, every relationship. Everything is in God and God is in everything.

TIME is not on my side, our side. But HOPE IS.

We may sometimes feel discouraged. But there never was a NIGHT or a PROBLEM that could defeat SUNRISE or HOPE.

Having hope does not change anything, it makes US want to change it. It's true of medicine, of poverty, of war, of hate, of economics, of the environment, of concerns about our future, of everything.

Just saying, "I hope things work out" is a cop-out. Nothing is going to work out in the future without someone doing something different, something better, in the present.

Martin Luther King lived that dream: "We must accept finite disappointment," he said, "but we must never lose infinite hope.... If you lose hope, somehow you lose the vitality that keeps life moving, you lose that courage to be, that quality that helps you go on in spite of it all."

"While I Breathe, I Hope"

Henri Nouwen, the Dutch priest, said it well:

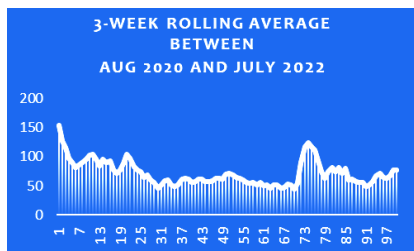
"Hope means to keep living
amid desperation,
and to keep humming
in the darkness.
Hoping is knowing that there is love.
It is trust in tomorrow.
It is falling asleep
and waking again
when the sun rises.
In the midst of a gale at sea,
it is to discover land
in the eyes of another.
It is to see that she understands you.
As long as there is still hope
there will also be prayer
and God will be holding you
in his hands."

Who and how many join us online every Sunday?

John Secombe and Colin Cargill

Every Sunday the Morialta AV team stream the service live on the internet, but do we know who, and how many are joining us online?

Thanks to John Secombe we do know the number of views recorded each Sunday, but of course we do not know how many people each view represents. It may be one, it may be a couple, it may be a family or group of friends, or even a church such as our friends at Kimba.



Being a scientist, I love playing with graphs and I have used John's raw data to produce a graph that shows the average number of online views over a 3-week period – one before and one after

each Sunday. Rolling averages are used to reduce weekly fluctuations to enable us to see longer term trends more clearly.

The graph covers almost 2 years of data from August 2020 until July 2022. Recording began when the state was coming

out of a lockdown in August 2020 and as expected numbers declined rapidly between 16th August and 20th September 2020. However, from 27th September until the beginning of Advent 2020 the number of views remained stable – around 90 to 100 for each service.

The numbers of views fell to below 80 during Advent 2020, but rose again – as high as 100 – during January. Following the January rise, numbers dropped again and levelled out around 60 (50 to 70) for each service until January 2022, when the number of views increased dramatically again. The 3 Sunday rolling average remained above 110 until February 2022, when it slowly declined to as low as 50-55 by mid-May 2022. However since May numbers have continued to climb and in recent weeks, we have averaged over 70 views for each service.

We can only speculate on the increases and decreases throughout the year. Do more people watch online in January because they are enjoying holidays? And is the increase with the onset of a cold winter in 2022 due to people preferring to stay home, or does it mean that our on-line congregation is growing? We do know that it provides a great link to our community for those members of Morialta who are no longer able to attend worship regularly every Sunday.

Whatever the reasons the data does demonstrate that online worship has become an important part of Morialta's mission.



Morialta concerts return

Community Building and Fundraising Team

Our first concert for almost three years will feature the Adelaide Male Voice Choir and will take place in the church on Sunday 14th October commencing at 2.00pm, followed by refreshments.

Tickets will be available from mid-September, online from TryBooking, from the church office or at the door.

The choir members come from several countries and many different professions. A love of music is the strong bond between them, and they unite with great enthusiasm in living up to the choir's motto: 'Achieving Choral Excellence.'

The choir was formed in 1884 and gave their first concert in the Norwood Town Hall in 1885. Since then it has performed in various venues in Adelaide and the metropolitan area and has undertaken several trips to country SA and interstate. In 2008 the Choir was an honoured guest at the inaugural Pemulwuy Festival of Male Choirs in Brisbane.

The Choir performs a wide-ranging repertoire, including opera and operetta, songs from musicals, religious music, folk songs, negro spirituals and arrangements of modern popular pieces.

Funds will be shared between AMVC and Morialta projects, so start organising now. Invite all your friends to buy a ticket and enjoy a pleasant afternoon of music and voice.

Fellowship News

From Arlene Lomman

Our speaker at Fellowship in August was Helen Bock, who is Arts Community Development Officer at Campbelltown Council.

Helen talked to us, and showed on the screen, the many art displays in the streets and parks of the Campbelltown Council area. Each display has a "story" - either about the artist or the school children who designed and painted or crafted it.



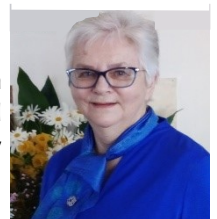
We all marveled at the talents which have made the area so attractive. They encourage discussions about the history and beauty of our surroundings.

There is a map showing where these art displays are so next time you drive to K-Mart or Target take time to stop off and check them out.

Next meeting is on September 15th and the speaker is Maureen Speed. Her subject is "Distant Horizons". Everyone is welcome at these meetings.

Congratulations

... to Jill, who recently celebrated her 80th birthday! Like many of us, Jill admitted that she finds it hard to believe she is really that old!



Uniting Church Vic/Tas Synod no longer supports Uber

The Uniting church has told staff in Victoria and Tasmania to avoid using Uber services as the company does not align with its values.

The Church's decision is based on the company's unethical foundations and was made in part because of The Guardian's Uber Files investigation. In communications sent to staff this month, the church, which is one of the largest non-government providers of community services in Australia, said Uber had built its business on "unethical foundations".

It said this included treating its drivers as independent contractors and adopting a legal structure that was designed to avoid paying income tax on significant parts of its profits.

The Guardian's Uber files investigation uncovered how the company broke the law, duped police and regulators and secretly lobbied governments across the world.

From Vic/Tas Synod newsletter



UCA Stamp Group – Sally Stamp

Our volunteers are back in the Synod Office to work and they are running out of stamps to sort.

We hope to maintain a good selection of Australian stamps for sale. We can also sell pre-stamped envelopes or First Day Covers (must be whole). Private stamp collections, no longer used, are also welcome.

Purchases are available from 212 Pirie Street Adelaide.

The group is looking for people interested in stamps to volunteer each Monday from 9.00am until 12.00 noon.

Thanks to those who contribute stamps. Please place them in the "Stamps for Mission" pigeon hole at Morialta or give them to Doug Hosking.

The funds raised from selling stamps are distributed to international mission projects.

Why was winter so cold despite global warming?

Adapted from an article by Michael Grose, CSIRO Climate Projections Scientist – published in the Conversation, June 2022

A frequent offhand joke of late – *it's freezing, can we get a bit more of that global warming right about now?*

But how should we really conceive our day-to-day weather in the context of climate change, especially when Australia's east coast has endured a colder than normal winter?

While parts of Australia haven't experienced such cold conditions for decades, they aren't unprecedented. In Melbourne, the first two weeks of June were coldest since 1949. In Brisbane, they were the coldest since 1990. Under the global warming trend, cold events such as these are becoming less and less likely. But Australia naturally has a variable climate, which means they still do occur. And given Australia's records go back only 112 years, it's still possible we'll see new record cold temperatures, even in a warming climate.

On the other hand, record hot temperatures in Australia are being broken 12 times more often than cold ones. The climate would need to be warming incredibly fast for there to be zero cold records broken, and no one suggests this is the reality.



If we take an individual day – say Tuesday June 13th – it was certainly colder than the 1979-2000 average in eastern Australia and Tasmania. But it was warmer than average in parts of Western Australia and many places around the world, including large parts of Africa. Meanwhile, parts of the United

States and Europe were experiencing major heatwaves. In fact on June 13th, the global average was 0.3°C warmer than the 1979-2000 baseline, and this baseline was around 0.6°C warmer than the pre-industrial climate.

This is exactly what you expect from weather variability in a warming climate – variations day to day and place to place, but a consistently warmer climate when you take the wide view.

Oceans are also warming. For example, warming in the East Australian Current is gradually extending further south bringing warmer water down the southeast coast. This, in turn, is driving fish species further south and devastating kelp forests.

Overall, the planet has warmed 1.09°C since pre-industrial times and we can confidently state that cold extremes are now less likely than they would be in a world without climate change, while heatwaves and extreme heat events are far more likely. For example, climate change made the recent devastating heatwave in India and Pakistan 30 times more likely.

One of our problems as humans is that our brains are not perfect data loggers over decades, and our memories are subjective. To obtain a broader picture, we need to feed our intuitions more input. Data are important. And while it is instinctual to doubt the idea the climate is getting warmer when you're feeling cold – next time consider the broader picture.

Two videos produced by the CSIRO that you may care to watch – Cost of climate Change <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DT74khAyyvQ&t=103s>

and Carbon Footprint <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bYb7YLSXvzg>

For the full article <https://theconversation.com/4-ways-to-understand-why-australia-is-so-cold-right-now-despite-global-warming-184834>

Your next PCR or RAT could be a 'sniffing canine'

Adelaide University and PLOS One - Dominique Grandjean et al.



Throughout the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, testing individuals using an invasive naso-pharyngeal swab has remained a key strategy. However, a new non-invasive approach to rapid detection of patients infected with COVID-19, using the olfactory capacities of trained detection dogs, is being piloted in Adelaide.

The method is based on the fact that volatile organic compounds (VOC) in sweat or saliva have the potential to become a revolutionary and non-invasive approach to medical diagnoses for conditions such as cancer, and degenerative and infectious diseases.

Dogs are the logical choice as they possess up to 300 million olfactory receptors in their noses, compared to about six million in humans, and the part of their brain that is devoted to analysing smells is about 40 times greater than ours.

Dogs trained at the Adelaide University's School of Veterinary Medicine are currently being used in a trial at Lyell McEwen Hospital to detect human visitors infected with COVID-19.

In a completed study in France, involving 335 patients the overall sensitivity of canine detection was 97% in symptomatic individuals and specificity was 91% for asymptomatic individuals. Although the sensitivity of canine detection was higher than that of nasopharyngeal antigen test (PCR), the specificity was lower. In others words there were fewer false negatives but more false positives.

The results demonstrate that non-invasive detection of infection by canine olfaction could be one alternative when results are required very quickly. It also avoids the use of highly technical equipment and facilities.

We are used to "man's (or woman's) best friend" entertaining, supporting and guiding us in many ways. However, using them as a 'rapid diagnostic aid' is something new.

'PLOS One' is a peer-reviewed open access scientific journal published by the Public Library of Science.

Left-brain Christianity or right-brain faith?

Adapted from an article by Vance Morgan in <https://www.patheos.com>

Jill Bolte Taylor, a Harvard trained brain scientist, woke one morning with a splitting headache. Over the course of four hours she lost her ability to walk, talk, read, write, or recall any of her life. She had suffered a massive stroke in the left hemisphere of her brain. As a result she had lost much of her cognitive skills which she used to define her self-image and navigate her daily existence.



Most of us understand that between our ears and behind our eyes are the left and right brains. The two hemispheres are joined by the corpus callosum, the part of the brain responsible for communication between the hemispheres. Briefly put, the left brain is responsible for the concept of time whereby our moments are divided into the past, present, and future. Facts, individuation, logic, separateness, sharp boundaries, details, hierarchical categorization, and the self-image that defines us as uniquely different. Although it took 8 years of difficult and challenging rehabilitation to recover – in Jill’s estimation it was in many ways a blessing. It allowed her right brain, for the first time, to be unencumbered by its partner.

For the right brain, frequently dominated by the left brain in Western culture, no time exists other than the present moment. While the left brain maintains separateness, difference, and autonomy, the right brain’s energies are directed to oneness, similarity, and connectedness with all things. Our right mind perceives each person as equal members of the human family, generating our ability to be empathetic, to walk in the shoes of another and feel their feelings.

I first met my right brain unencumbered by its neighboring left brain in a far less dramatic way. While on a sabbatical, I spent several times a day saying prayers and the psalms with the

Benedictine monks at Saint John’s Abbey. It took a while to stop allowing my mind’s incessant chatter to dominate the underlying stillness and peace that began to poke its head through the quiet contemplation. I learned for the first time what the psalmist meant by “be still and know that I am God” (Ps 46:10).

What I experienced at prayer with the monks changed my life. Even on the most complicated and challenging days, when I find myself bombarded simultaneously with demands from students, colleagues, administrators, friends, family, and the world at large, I can choose to let joy and peace replace frustration and disconnectedness. I can choose to be welcoming rather than judgmental, cooperative rather than combative. But it takes work. As Taylor writes, “If I want to retain my inner peace, I must be willing to consistently and persistently tend the garden of my mind moment by moment.”

The message of the Gospels is infused with right brain energy. We are called to love those who our left brain identifies as different, step aside from our autonomous selves in the interest of serving others, and build communities of inclusion rather than of separateness. The sad truth, however, is that Christians often present themselves as more interested in splitting doctrinal hairs and sharply defining the differences that separate us both externally from non-Christians and internally from each other. We would do well to ask ourselves what difference it would make if we decided to infuse our daily faith walk with right brain rather than left brain energies.

When Jesus told his followers to stop worrying and “consider the lilies,” he was inviting them to “retain their inner peace”. As the leader of a retreat once told me – we need to remind ourselves frequently to “be where you are, and do what you are doing.” To my left-brain ears, this advice sounded both simplistic and impractical at first. But it has become one of the most important things anyone ever told me. Be mindful. Listen. Be quiet. And above all, be at peace.



Uniting Church in Australia
SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA



TRANSPARENCY
INTERNATIONAL
AUSTRALIA

Help end gambling advertising

You are invited to join the Victoria and Tasmania Synod of the Uniting Church and Transparency International to help stop gambling advertising for good. You can express your concern at the shocking number of gambling advertisements for sports betting that bombard us, by sending a signed post card to the Federal Minister.

Three-quarters of children aged 8 to 16 think betting on sport is normal and can name one or more sports betting agencies.

There will be a supply of postcards available in the foyer at Morialta. Collect one, sign it and post it. You can take action (if you wish) to 'End Gambling Advertising'.

Prayer – The Salt of the Earth

Jesus, bright morning star,
You say we are salt – the salt of the earth.
Forgive us when we would rather be an army.
Set us free from our longings for crowds and castles.
Tear down our walls and tear up our to-do lists.
Help us to rest in the palm of your hand
as we are little grains of salt – each one of us – beloved.
Help us to let you hold us so that we can uncoil.
Help us to relax into our smallness and trust in your vastness
so that together we may become pockets of compassion –
as you call us to be.

Amen

From 'The Church as Salt' by Rev Sally Douglas.



Ralph Holmes 1920-2022

Adapted from the family eulogy provided by Ruth Dunning

When Ralph was asked what he thought was most important, he would always answer 'family'. He was very proud of his array of family photos on his whiteboard at Belalie.

Ralph was born in Port Pirie on 13th June 1920, but his parents, concerned with the lead and sulphur levels in the city, moved the family into the foothills of the Flinders Ranges – eventually to the General Store in Gladstone.

As a boy Ralph helped his dad, who sold hand-cut timber to the baker in Pirie during the Great Depression. It took a day's journey each way, then sleeping in the back of the cart overnight – all events were fondly remembered and recounted often.

Ralph began his career as a linesman for the Adelaide Electric Supply Company but with the advent of World War Two he was called into the CMF. He completed RAAF training in Melbourne before being posted to Darwin to work on the Spitfires with the RAF. On returning to Caltowie he was met by his Dorothy waiting beside her dad's car.

Ralph and Dorothy shared a very happy married life, first at Gladstone, followed by Loxton, Berri and Adelaide (for 43 years) before downsizing to Laura into the house where Dorothy was born. Their final move was to Belalie Lodge in Jamestown in 2012. Dorothy was the centre of his life.

Ralph took a lot of photos and is remember as being insistent that in every photo he took, someone must be wearing red!

He also entertained Belalie residents with slide shows of his extensive travels in Europe, North America, the UK, Asia, New Zealand and nearly every country town and city in Australia. Daughters Rhonda and Val were both research assistants and 'fact checkers' for these shows. He also loved this RED rose garden and carted many trailer loads of manure from family farms to encourage growth.

Ralph was a planner and his managerial and organisational bent shone through. Daughters Rhonda and Val remember the practice sessions of tent erection before even going on holidays - Ralph, Dorothy, Rhonda and Val held a corner pole each and whizz bang, up went the large canvas tent in minutes. Great family memories!

Ralph lived a life of service to many and saw his community as special. He was a district foreman and later a supervisor with the Electricity Trust of SA, served his church as a circuit steward, elder and trustee, volunteered in Rotary, and Meals on Wheels. With the Men's Shed at Morialta he assisted with the endless paper drives and many other activities. This continued right up to his passing, with his financial support to goodness knows how many charities.

Ralph and Dorothy were very much a part of the Morialta family, having been stalwarts of the Rostrevor congregation before our coming together. Ralph continued his interest in Morialta until the end and was always keen to hear news via Ruth Dunning and others. His passing means that Vision has lost one of its greatest fans!

Vale Ralph – 'Weep not he has gone, but smile that he has been'!

Scandinavian Highlights

From Ruth Dunning

It was July, 1986, and our little close-knit group of just sixteen people arrived in Lofthus, Norway. Our hotel was the superb Hotel Ullensvang situated right on the edge of the fjord.

Excited groups of four took flights across the fjord in a single engine plane and Bruce videoed them as they boarded. Finally it was ours and Harry's turn. It was breathtaking – deep blue lakes, snow, sheer cliffs, waterfalls, little villages, winding roads around the edge of the fjord and the mighty Folgefonner glacier.

I thought Harry, with camera poised, was a bit cheeky saying to the pilot, "Can you dip her to the left/right? I didn't know until later that he had once been a pilot himself before becoming a headmaster, now living in Lismore, NSW, or that post-tour he and I would correspond regularly for many years until he eventually passed away.

That evening, in my sister Ailsa's room, Bruce showed the video to everyone. There was much laughter as they saw the concerned close-up expressions on their faces as they boarded the plane. Shirley and John from Port Lincoln were two of the group and we still keep in touch.

Svolvaer was eerie with the effects of the midnight sun. Thick swirling mist hung around initially and the light was constantly changing. There was what appeared to be a glorious sunset – but darkness didn't fall. I didn't want to sleep that night in case I missed something.



Reaching the Arctic Circle really grabbed me. The landscape was lichen covered but otherwise bare, with distant mountains partly covered in snow. A stone pillar

bore the words "Polarcirkel 1937" and nearby etched in white on a black tablet were the words:

*Mightier than the thunders of many waters,
Mightier than the waves of the sea,
The Lord on High is Mighty! Psalm 93: 4
God is always greater than all of our troubles.*

Ivor's journey across Australia raising money for refugees

Adapted from Act for Peace

Ivor's story began a few years ago when he met a friend in India and they decided together that Ivor would walk across Australia at the same time his friend would walk across America. When Ivor's family welcomed a family of refugees from Malaysia, he knew that he wanted to do this walk to raise money for others.

Ivor walked an incredible 4,000km from Perth to Sydney starting in May 2021 and arriving at Bondi Beach on 28th November. Ivor started his trip with a swim in the Indian Ocean before walking, camping and eating roadside through WA, SA and NSW, where he sealed his journey with a dip in the Pacific Ocean.

Ivor defied all odds, walking across the vast plains of the Nullabor, sleeping on the side of the road in his one-man tent and eating tinned and dried food. But he humbly concedes that his trip felt vastly different to the trip a refugee may have to make.



"It's just crazy that I'm a 22-year-old that can freely walk 4,000km across Australia ... but if you think about all the other countries across the world, where there's so much violence and so much trouble and conflict, it's really crazy that I can walk freely and feel safe."

Ivor has reminded us how important it is to remember how difficult life can be for those who find themselves caught up in the devastating effects of war or natural disaster. Ivor chose to raise money for both the Blue Mountains Refugee Support Group and Act for Peace and so far has raised \$26,220, allowing supporters to follow his incredible journey via his website On Foot Across Australia, which he set up to allow people to follow his location each day.

We met Ivor at the finish line along with a gathering of his family and friends for what was a very emotional morning where there were many gathered to celebrate his journey and achievements. However, for Ivor, it was very difficult to accept any sort of praise for his experience.



It was an emotional finish line where Ivor was met by family, friends and supporters.

To donate to Act for Peace go to

<https://www.actforpeace.org.au/Give-Today>

Buy a 'Hug Mug' and support the work of 'Be Slavery Free'



From Be Slavery Free

July 30th was "World Day Against Trafficking In Persons" and 'Be Slavery Free' are partnering with 'For Dignity' to raise issues about the signs and impacts of trafficking in persons and modern slavery.

You can support the work by buying a 'hug mug' (with or without a jar of hot chocolate) from 'For Dignity' and \$3 from every purchase will go to the work of 'Be Slavery Free'. Your gift will help remove the risk of people being trafficked before there are any victims.



So go to 'For Dignity' <https://www.fordignity.com.au/> and browse their range of ethically sourced hug mugs and Robert Gordon Pottery. You will also find many ethical gifts and fairtrade homewares. Items from bags and bracelets to candles, duffle jackets and more for friends, family, or colleagues and help 'Be Slavery Free' end modern slavery together.



**FREEDOM
BUSINESS
ALLIANCE**

'For Dignity' is part of the Freedom Business Alliance which is an incredible line up of enterprises doing amazing things. They were

recently awarded the Ethical Enterprise Award. Their quality collection is curated from freedom and fairtrade businesses and they are building a strong community of empowered people who empower others. "Just imagine what we can achieve by working together!"

English to confuse non-native speakers

Anonymous source

English is the only language where you **drive** on parkways and **park** in driveways.



It is also the only language where you **recite** in a play and **play** in a recital.

The word **queue** is just Q followed by 4 silent letters.

Jail and **prison** are synonyms. But **jailer** and **prisoner** are antonyms.

Your fingers have **fangertips** but your toes don't have **toetips**. Yet you can **tiptoe** but not **tipfinger**.

When you transport something by car it is called a **shipment**. But when you transport something by ship it is called **cargo**.