

# NEWSBEAT



NEWSLETTER FOR THE PRESBYTERY OF PORT PHILLIP EAST

MARCH 2021



A meeting of hearts and minds. A historic moment for these churches on page 2.

Wonderboy, Woodley, from Cornish is riding the waves of success... paddle to page 5 to find out why.



OUR very own Rev David Fotheringham - minister at High Street Uniting Church, Frankston - has been elected as Moderator Designate for the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania.

The honour was bestowed at a meeting of the Synod on February 26 to 28, and David says he was:

"Overwhelmed, humbled and grateful for this

expression of confidence from the Church."

David's new full-time role, providing leadership across the Uniting Church in two states, will run from July 2022 through to 2025.

More than 200 people attended the Synod meeting, some in person at the new Synod office at Wesley Place, Lonsdale Street, Melbourne. The rest joining online using a conference website and Zoom. Members of the public were able to watch the meeting. Visit for recordings <http://Synod 2021 YouTube channel>

We had 21 ministers and 21 lay people from Port Phillip East Presbytery there as members, taking part in small working groups and polls to fine tune and agree on proposals to call on commonwealth and state governments to address challenges of climate change, domestic violence, refugees, online safety for children.



## David selected as successor to Denise

Members were able to give feedback on a newly released resource on covenanting, "A Guide to the Church in Walking Together as First and Second Peoples". See the resource here.

<https://victas.uca.org.au/resources/covenanting/>

PPE Presbytery members Berlin Guerrero and Belinda Clear were elected to the Synod Standing Committee for the next three years. Port Phillip East Presbytery members working behind the scenes included General Secretary Mark Lawrence, facilitation team members Jay Robinson and Nicole Mugford, tech team members Greg Fry and James Douglas.

Synod worship services were pre-recorded at Glen Waverley Uniting Church, featuring Bible studies led by Kylie Crabbe, reflecting on disability and Biblical narratives.

**Words: Rev Duncan Macleod. Image: courtesy of Crosslight**



# New Years Day union celebrated at historic service

by Rev  
Julie Ross

On January 1st, 2021, High Street Road Uniting Church and St John's Uniting Church, both in Mount Waverley, officially became one congregation.

Our Inauguration Service on February 7th was a great celebration and despite the limitations of Covid restrictions, more than 120 people were able to attend. It began with an historic video where long-time members shared their stories from both Methodist and Presbyterian days.

Our Presbytery Chair Tom Spurling led the service declaring the inauguration, inducting Revs Julie Ross and Semisi Tauli'i and commissioning the new Church Councillors and Elders. Rev Duncan Macleod both preached (on Ephesians 4 and body-building) and live-streamed the service and Rev Anneke Oppewal presided at Holy Communion. Dr Craig Mitchell has produced an excellent video of the service which will become a permanent record on our website.

More than 50 folk enabled this joyous event to take place and we are so grateful for their grace and determination. It has been 15 years since we first started to ponder, like Mary, our coming to oneness, and we thank God that through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, this great blessing has finally come to fruition.



*Clockwise from top: Rev Julie Ross leads the Early Word, the induction by Tom Spurling, PPEP Chair, Rev Duncan Macleod emphasises the need for body-building, Rev Anneke Oppewal leads communion and the congregation spills out into the foyer for a CovidSafe celebration.*

**You can watch this momentous worship service on:**  
**PPE Youtube - <https://youtu.be/FavX2-twNf0>**  
**or Vimeo - <https://vimeo.com/516241970>**





Here's a photo of how we celebrated Pancake Day at High Street Uniting Church, Frankston, writes our new Moderator Elect Rev David Fotheringham. Featuring Gill Jenkins with some of the pancakes that she and husband Alan prepared and packaged before worship and had available for people to take home for a donation.



We were getting excited about fundraising for the Uniting Church Pancake Tuesday, but alas, we went back into lockdown.

What to do? How can we fix this? Again it was St Andrews Black Rock 'Maskeraiders' to the rescue.

They slaved away over a hot stove (or a clever microwave) producing home-made jam for pancake topping and dropped three delicious toppings on each member's doorsteps with a

poem and a note. Apologies to "Ruby Tuesday" they wrote:

**Goodbye Pancake Tuesday**

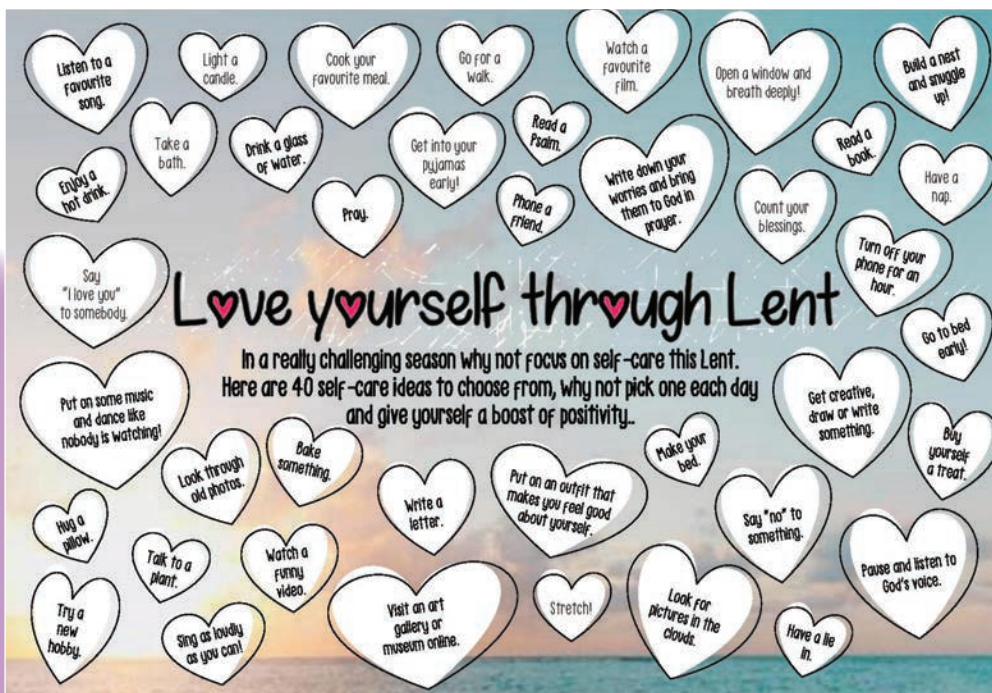
**Who could hang a virus on you?**

**We can get around this lockdown**

**Pancake jam is great to eat!**

The jars have been left with a note of encouragement to bring along a donation to our next face-to-mask service or to direct deposit into St Andrews bank account. Thank you again Maskeraiders for your creativity, hard work and the rescue of our Pancake Day Fundraiser.

**by Pastor Di Paterson**



Rev Anneke Oppewal, Presbytery Minister Pastoral Care, shares the above, saying: "For anyone who has come out of the snap lock down unsettled. Or anyone who is struggling, grieving, wondering or tired. This is for you..."





## WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2021 - VANUATU

Theme: "Build on a Strong Foundation" (Matthew 7:24-27)

THE 2021 World Day of Prayer worship service has been prepared by the World Day of Prayer Committee of Vanuatu this year and will be held on **Friday, 5th March** at a nominated church in your area.

Vanuatu is a Y-shaped tropical archipelago located in the South Pacific Ocean with over 80 islands, 65 of which are inhabited. Espiritu Santo is the largest island. Port Vila, the capital is on the south-central island of Efate. Vanuatu is a beautiful country made up of many islands with black and white sandy beaches, beautiful coral reefs and tropical fish. The forests are full of birds, flora and fauna, and waterfalls.

Through the worship service we hear the voices of the Vanuatu women, who invite us to focus on the bible story in Matthew 7:24-27. Jesus tells a story about the kingdom of heaven using the image of a house and the land on which the house is built. Choosing the land on which to build the house is an important decision for people in Vanuatu. The combination of considering the terrain and the climate is crucial in a tropical archipelago prone to earth quakes, cyclones, volcanic eruptions and rising sea levels. On April 6th,

2020, Vanuatu was hit by Cyclone Harold, which had made its way across the Pacific destroying many islands in its wake.

Vanuatu's susceptibility to cyclones is highlighted in the painting by Juliette Pita, who is Vanuatu's most well-known artist. It was chosen to represent WDP 2021, titled "Cyclone Pam II: 13th March, 2015". It shows a mother bending and praying over her child. The waves crash over her but a palm tree, able to withstand strong winds, bends protectively over them. The woman's skirt is modelled after the traditional clothing on Erromango Island. On the horizon (centre right) you can see small crosses representing the lives taken by cyclone Pam in 2015.



## Once the cameras have gone home...

A quick update on Mission Liaison Groups's response to pre-Christmas Cyclone Yasa's 350kph devastation wrought in Fiji and its 'milder' follow-up mid-January, Cyclone Ava.

Let's just say there were quite a few logistics issues, but one 20 foot container is now on its way and a 40 foot container will shortly follow.

The total costs will be some \$11,000 by the time purchase, cartage, and shipping bills are all in. Half of that was paid by one long-time MLG supporter and one congregation. Many smaller donations will probably cover the other half of the costs. Hopefully, despite the delays, the goods: food, clothing, tools, bedding and household effects will have reached those in need by Easter.

So, thank you from all at MLG to all those who gave goods, money or their labour. What you have done will mean much to many in Fiji. **by John Connan**

**Locations for World Day of Prayer Services near you can be found by visiting: [www.worlddayofprayeraustralia.org](http://www.worlddayofprayeraustralia.org) and click on Worship Services. Or simply call your church.**



## Show your support at the MLG Garage Sale

Mission Liaison Group is holding a Garage Sale of donated goods to raise funds for schools in the Pacific

will be held corner of Kars Street and Harcourt Avenue 142b Kars Street, Frankston South the March long weekend on Saturday 6th & Monday 8th, 9am – 2pm.

LOOK --- LIKE --- TAKE --- DONATE

- Bikes
- furniture
- clothes
- toys
- household
- garden goods
- knick-knacks and ornaments



# Cornish College student is on the crest of a wave after picking up silver at national championship

Woodley Hall recently competed at the National Kite Surfing Competition and in an outstanding achievement, the Year 12 Cornish College student, was placed 2nd in the Under 18s and 4th in the Open



Event - making him the fourth-best kiter in Australia! And the highest placing for a competitor under the age of 18!

Woodley has been surfing since the age of 8. After his dad bought him a kite surfing lesson when he was 13, Woodley knew it was the sport for him, so he bought a kite and bar and taught himself how to

get on the board, navigate the kite and ride the waves.

He competed in the Merimbula Classic at the end of 2019, finishing in second place overall and winning the Ben Wilson 'Kite surfer of the future' Award, which also included a trip to kite in Fiji.

After suffering an injury during the 2020 National Kiting Competition, which set him back several months, Woodley was determined to shine at the 2021 States and Nationals – and he certainly did!

All of Woodley's hard work and perseverance has paid off. Congratulations, Woodley! **by Cassandra Tonkin**  
*Photo by freedomkitesurf*



**HELP IMPACT THE LIVES  
OF YOUNG PEOPLE AND  
FAMILIES  
IN YOUR COMMUNITY**

**We are excited to announce  
Fusion is opening its second Op Shop on the  
Mornington Peninsula and we are looking  
for volunteers to join our team.**

Contact : Caitlin Swanton  
5974 1442  
or email  
morningtonpeninsula@fusion.org.au



## Situations vacant at new op shop

THRIFT is the new Fusion op shop on Progress Street, Mornington - opening TODAY March 1st! There's continuing work to do, and shifts will need to be filled, so if you are interested in volunteering we would love to hear from you.

**Contact Caitlin on 5974 1442**

"Thank you for supporting our crazy, big ideas"  
#ittakesavillage #togetherthereslife #community



## Uniting Voices sing out for a new leader

The Choirs of the Presbytery and Methodist churches in Glen Waverley came together when the Uniting Church came into existence in 1975. Over the years we have seen members come and go, but many of the original choir members are still present and enhance worship at the 11am service.

During 2020 singing was made difficult due to the Covid-19 restrictions, but the most difficult and sad event, was the passing away of the Choir Leader, Lyn Bromage, whose love of choirs saw her travelling to Glen Waverley from Lilydale. She was much loved by all in the congregation and is sorely missed.

In the interim of finding a new Choir Leader, Uniting Voices has been invited to join one of our other choirs, Free Spirit, which is under the musical direction of Deb Leigh. The dedication of Free Spirit and The Band during this period enhanced our worship as we listened to them through Zoom and our broadcast ministry.



The enthusiasm of our choirs has meant that as we think of working towards reopening our church for worship, Uniting Voices is ready to practice again for the 11am worship service. Many now sing in both choirs yet Uniting Voices still needs a Choir Leader.

So why persist with a Choir? Mitch de Klein is a Techno producer and DJ from the Netherlands who says there are eight reasons why music is important:

- It is the universal language
- It creates ambience
- It brings people together
- It helps us to focus
- It does great things for one's mood
- It lets your imagination flow
- It is good for one's memory
- It is just pleasure

I would like to add to this list that as people of God it is also fulfilling the command to sing God's praises (there are many references in the Bible to sing - Psalms 104:33 and the Levite priests sang in the Tabernacle and Temples.

*by Susan Karoly*

**Invitation to Craig's creative collection launch**

**8.00 AM WA**  
**9.30 AM NT**  
**10.00 AM QLD**  
**10.30 AM SA**  
**11.00 AM**  
**VIC/TAS/NSW**

Author  
**Craig Mitchell**

With special guests  
 Sarah Agnew  
 Amelia Koh-Butler  
 Jock Dunbar  
 Grace Mitchell  
 Music by  
 Leigh Newton  
 David MacGregor

**TUESDAY 2 MARCH**

**Launched by Dr Deidre Palmer, UCA President**

A rich collection of prayers, creative liturgies, drama scripts, guided meditations, prayer stations, songs and blessings.

JOIN US ONLINE at [facebook.com/craigmitchell99](https://facebook.com/craigmitchell99)

The Presbytery invites you to share with Dr Craig Mitchell in the launch of his new book of creative worship resources - *Deeper Water* - on Tuesday, March 2, online as listed above.

### Uniting Voices need you

If you're passionate about music and want to share it with others, and you enjoy attending church, then we would like you to become our Choir Leader.

Uniting Voices sing twice a month at the 11am Sunday Worship Service at Glen Waverley Uniting Church and practice weekly on a Thursday evening.

This is a voluntary position but a Remuneration for travel expenses is negotiable.

Contact Susan Karoly  
 on 0433 692 862 or [susan\\_karoly@hotmail.com](mailto:susan_karoly@hotmail.com).  
 for further details

# EcoFaith action needed now - are you in?

WE'RE calling on Port Phillip East churches to get behind a climate change initiative with your congregation, and if possible post a video or photo of it to our new PPEP Instagram or Facebook page.

On **March 11** join faith communities around the world for the biggest-ever multi-faith Day of Action called **Sacred People, Sacred Earth** as part of a program to encourage nations to join a stronger fight to overcome the worst aspects of climate change.

You can join the Day of Action by making your church one of hundreds of places all around the world 'sounding the alarm' for the climate at around **12 noon**.



Ringing bells if you have them, playing bagpipes or instruments, or singing... all publicly.

This is being organised in 14 countries by a network of organisations known collectively as GreenFaith International. Here in Australia the organisation leading the way is the Australian Religious Response to Climate Change (ARRCC).

This will be the start of a multi faith Year of Action around the world leading up to crucial international climate negotiations in Glasgow in November 2021.

Look up Instagram on your phone or tablet, download app, then search @ucappep and hit Follow. Or post it on your own Instagram page and tag #ucappep in your comment. Or send to newsbeat@ucappep.org



## JOAN STOTT UCAF BURSARY

### ARE YOU:

- committed to or already studying for leadership or theology within the ethos of the Uniting Church
- under 35 years of age

### COULD YOU USE FUNDS TO:

- pay fees to your "Place of Study"
- pay for additional courses or resources

Apply now for a Joan Stott Uniting Church Adult Fellowship (UCAF) Bursary for study in 2022

### CONTACT:

Lencie Harding for more information and an application form **E:lencie.harding@gmail.com**

**Applications closing date is Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May**

## 10 Key Lessons from Churches in 2020 - watch the webinar recording

VictTas church leaders shared their insights to encourage Christian Communities (45 mins):

- Introduction: Rev Mat Harry
- *Creative Worship* - Rev (Deacon) Peter Batten
- *Redefining Eucharist & Hymn Singing* - Rev Hoon You
- *Connecting with Different Audiences* - Brian Spencer
- *Can we have Blended Faith Formation?* - Craig Mitchell
- *Pooling Worship Resources* - Rev Linley Liersch
- *Curate or Create* - Rev Mat Harry
- *What Type of Leadership do we Require?* - Rev Rose Broadstock
- *Creating a Space for Family Worship* - Rev Hoon You
- *Outdoor Worship* - Rev Trevor Bassett
- *Our Relationship with Buildings* - Rev Sunny Chen
- *Conclusion* - Rev Mat Harry.... To watch visit [www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Y4g7d9Njgo](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Y4g7d9Njgo)



*An open and curious faith learning environment*

## 2021 COURSES



### Believing in our Contemporary World

As Christians, how do we reconcile tensions between being educated in a rational, secular context while drawing on ancient texts as the inspiration and guide to our faith? In three video sessions you'll hear scholars and pastors unpack these issues.

**Dates:** 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, & 18<sup>th</sup> March (3-week course)  
**Time:** 7 - 9pm  
**Format:** Face-to-face  
**Location:** Ormond Uniting Church, Cnr Booran and North Road  
**Cost:** \$30  
**Facilitators:** Andrew Boyle and Brad Denniston



### Exploring the New Testament

Delve deeper into these ancient texts, the basis of our Christian faith. This course offers a literary, theological and personal exploration of the New Testament. You will discover the world in which they were written and how the faith of their writers informs our faith today.

**Dates:** 3<sup>rd</sup> June to 28<sup>th</sup> August (12-week course, Thursday nights)  
**Time:** 7:30 - 9pm  
**Format:** Online  
**Cost:** \$120 + course text (eBook or hard copy)  
**Facilitators:** Andrew Boyle and Brad Denniston



### Third course TBC

Our third course for 2021 will run over 3 weeks in October. Subject matter and dates to be advised. Watch this space!

## WELCOME TO THE HUB

Do you want to deepen your understanding of Christian faith in an open and curious learning environment? Do you have questions about the Christian faith that you've always wanted to explore?

The Ormond Learning HUB is an exciting new faith-learning project offered by Ormond Uniting Church. The call to follow Jesus is life-long and through the HUB we hope to offer you the opportunity to deepen your understanding and faith through interactive learning.

The Hub course facilitators, Andrew Boyle and Brad Denniston, will deliver three courses per year (both face-to-face and online). Each course draws on resources from Uniting Learning, the National Assembly's lay-learning platform, as well as from local educators. Our courses will honour your questions, your curiosities and your doubts.

By undertaking a HUB course, you can be confident in building your understanding and confidence as one of Jesus' disciples. We are committed to ensuring the Hub is a safe place for conversation and collaboration.

## ENQUIRIES & ENROLMENT



[learninghub@ormond.unitingchurc.org.au](mailto:learninghub@ormond.unitingchurc.org.au)



Visit our website [here](http://here)





# Presbytery to meet again from March - both online and face-to-face



## In case you missed it

We are expanding our social media presence by adding Twitter and Instagram. You can now find and follow Port Phillip East Presbytery here:

### Facebook -

[www.facebook.com/ucappep.org](https://www.facebook.com/ucappep.org)  
Or search for Presbytery of Port Phillip East and click Follow.

### Facebook group for ministry agents -

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1327677360638849>

### Twitter -

[www.twitter.com/ucappep](https://www.twitter.com/ucappep)

### Instagram -

[www.instagram.com/ucappep](https://www.instagram.com/ucappep)  
hit Follow. You can also post your own photos to Instagram and tag them with #ucappep

### Youtube -

<https://bit.ly/PPEPYoutube>

Join and and get connected.

Planning for events in 2021 can be quite tricky, when you're weighing up options of online or in-person gatherings. The first meeting of the Port Phillip East Presbytery will be on **Saturday March 20**.

On the agenda is inspiring worship, recognition of Sang Hyun (Sam) Joo as a UCA minister, celebrating the ministry of school chaplains at Wesley College, electing a new Presbytery secretary, and hearing from Sean Winter, Head of School at Pilgrim Theological College. We'll be looking at a vision for the Presbytery focused on healthy church, leadership, mission, discipleship, whole-of-church connections and relationships, and we'll have a look at strategies and plans that flow out of these priorities.

Details of where and when we are to gather in-person will be published and distributed soon.

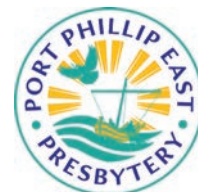
**by Duncan Macleod**  
**Presbytery Minister:**  
**Team Leader**

## All Presbytery meeting dates 2021

The Presbytery Standing Committee has decided to hold four meetings of the Presbytery in 2021, two on a Saturday, in person if possible, and two on Wednesday evenings, using the Zoom platform.

Dates are:

- **Saturday, March 20, 10am**
- **Wednesday, June 16**
- **Saturday, August 21, 10am.**
- **Wednesday, November 17.**



AT the end of each year the Presbytery sends out the prayer calendar for use in worship. It is also uploaded onto the Presbytery website [www.ucappep.org](http://www.ucappep.org). Here's the prayer list for the next eight weeks:

## In our prayers

<b>7 March</b>	Endeavour Hills Uniting Church - minister Mike You, chair Pam Cowley Elsternwick Uniting Church - supply minister Lyn Dungan, Michael Forbes & Cathy McNicol
<b>14 March</b>	Uniting Agewell, CEO Andrew Kinnersley, General Manager Victoria Jacques, Director of Mission Clare Brockett
<b>21 March</b>	Defence chaplains Steve Terrell (Army Reserve)
<b>28 March</b>	Stonnington Community Uniting Church Minister Greg Crowe, chairs Dick Carter & Marlene Butterley

The Port Phillip East Presbytery website is an exciting additional resource tool for communication across our churches, agencies, schools and communities. We welcome submissions to the website, Newsbeat and Facebook, but should advise that photographs may be used across all, unless instructed otherwise when submitted.

Visit the Presbytery website at [www.ucappep.org](http://www.ucappep.org) and [www.facebook.com/ucappep.org](https://www.facebook.com/ucappep.org) for news, events and more....