



Uniting Church in Australia
Synod of Victoria and Tasmania
Presbytery of Yarra Yarra

PO Box 4308
Balwyn East VIC 3103

4th October 2016

Notes and news for Yarra Yarra Congregations and Institutions

While we spend a little time reworking the way we share information from congregations, the Synod and other parts of the Uniting Church, here are a few items that will be of interest. Please promote them through your own newsletters and other communication channels as appropriate. There is much going on, so please take a few minutes to review.

STRENGTHEN YOUR RELATIONSHIP at a wine and cheese evening on Thursday, 6th October, 7.00PM to 9:30PM at Habitat Hawthorn, 2 Minona Street, Hawthorn. Developing healthy relationships involves asking questions: Why do I do what I do? Are there personality traits that irritate me? How do I respond? Am I a person who: avoids conflict, withdraws, lashes out, or just gives in? These are learned behaviours. With awareness and understanding you can learn to respond positively without just reacting. You will be introduced to the Enneagram personality system. For more information contact Margaret Loftus on 0418 375 229.

RETREAT DAY – CONFLUENCE

Friday 7th October, 10.00AM – 3.00PM at Habitat Hawthorn, 2 Minona Street, Hawthorn. Join Joan and Amanda in an ongoing dialogue about the confluence of Buddhism and Christianity in their spiritual practice. Be open to the confluences in your inner journey as we walk the labyrinth explore parkland and discover the Merri Creek and Yarra River confluence. For more information, visit the Habitat website www.habitatforspirituality.org.au.

A **Twilight Market** will be held on Friday 7th October from 5pm to 8pm at Hawthorn Community House, 32 Henry St, Hawthorn. Food, Entertainment, Art/Craft and goodies for sale, Fun for the kids. This market is organised by people living with a mental illness and organisations who support them.

Transform Gatherings are occasional get-togethers for young adults to get together for learning, friendship and worship. Transform next meets on Saturday October 8, 5-7pm at Brunswick Uniting Church. Our guest will be John Flett, who teaches on church and mission at Pilgrim Theological College. He will be leading a discussion on "What the church is for?" The evening will include a pizza meal following the discussion, for those who can stay! See more information at <http://transformgatherings.com>.

The Presbytery Outer Eastern Mental Health Ministry Reference Group will sponsor a free public information session about **Depression and Wellness** on Wednesday 12th October at Mountview UC, 559 Whitehorse Road, Mitcham. Enquiries to Lionel Parrott, 9723 3347

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HAWTHORN UNMASKED is a sound and art installation presented at Kew Uniting Church. The work utilises masks created by and the creative writing of people living with mental illness in the City of Boroondara. A short performance, with participants and community volunteers will take place within the installation site, in the church. The performance utilises an original sound design, incorporating the voices, thoughts and writings of the performers. Friday 14th October, 7pm, at Kew Uniting Church, 23 Highbury Grove. Free Admission. Bookings can be made at <https://www.trybooking.com/230317>.

The Presbytery leadership team has organised a half-day seminar for **Congregation Leaders**, to be held at the Koonung Heights Church from 9am on Saturday 15th October. Information to be shared will be important for all chairpersons, secretaries and treasurers of congregations, so please plan to attend.

Yarra Yarra Lay Preachers' Association will present a Seminar at Boronia Uniting Church on Sunday 16 October 2016, commencing at 2.00pm. Rev Ann Sculls will talk on 'Make Humus, not War'. All Lay Preachers, Worship Leaders and anyone interested in hearing Ann is invited to attend. Following her talk and question time there will be an afternoon break followed by the AGM of the Yarra Yarra Lay Preachers Association. Enquiries to Alastair Davison on 0412 653 218.

A seminar entitled **Getting Ready! Implementing the Victorian Child Safe Standards** will be held on Wed 19 October from 10am-3pm at Donvale Presbyterian Church, 5 McGowans Rd, Donvale. Victorian law requires organisations, including churches, that engage with children, to meet the Victorian Child Safe Standards by 1 January 2017. Whether you are wondering where to start or are already on the journey toward implementation, the Getting Ready! one-day workshops will enable you and your congregation to increase your awareness of the available support and resources and develop your process for implementation of the Child Safe Standards. Getting Ready! is a FREE (if pre-registered) ecumenical event suitable for church leadership teams, ministry teams and individual leaders engaged in ministry with children and their families. Ideally, participants will attend with others from their church team. More information is at [Getting Ready!](#)

Uniting AgeWell is beginning to design the buildings (Broadmead and Moorfields) as they redevelop the Hawthorn site which fronts both Manningtree Road and Wattle Road in Hawthorn. If you are interested to hear how the plans are developing and wish to make your own comments you are invited to a **community consultation meeting** to be held from 4.30 pm to 6 pm on Thursday 20th October (includes refreshments), at the Eileen Pawsey Room, Auburn Uniting Church, Cnr Oxley Road and Hepburn Street, Auburn. You will hear what plans Uniting AgeWell have, answer any questions, be able to offer your own comments and look forward to how this new retirement and aged care facility can support the local community to age well. Please invite anyone you know who may be interested to come along as well. RSVP by 17th October to: Rev John Clarke, Director of Mission, Uniting AgeWell, at jclarke@unitingagewell.org or on 9251 5209.

The Victorian Chapter of the **Australian Church Library Association** is meeting on Saturday, 22nd October, 2016 from 10.00am to 3.00pm at South Croydon Anglican Church 199 Bayswater Rd., Bayswater North (Melway 50 G10). For more information please ring Rachel on 9850 4828 or email alanrachelh1@bigpond.com. See the attached flier for details.

Gather for a **Practising Presence** reflection on Wednesday 26th October, 10:30AM – 12NOON at Habitat Hawthorn, 2 Minona Street, Hawthorn. Would you like to join a retreat to grow in your relationship with God, but find it hard to get out or make the time? Then this retreat is for you! With support, resources and common intent, develop a prayer practice as part of your daily life. Begin and end the month reflecting with others on your experience; engage at home with the daily prayer and grow in your relationship with God. Facilitated by Rev. Joan Wright Howie and Margaret Loftus. Cost: by donation. For more information, visit the Habitat website www.habitatforspirituality.org.au

Also attached is a flier for the **Christian Perspectives on Treaty, Sovereignty and Constitutional Recognition** forum that the Synod Justice & International Mission unit helping to organise on behalf of Victorian Council of Churches' Social Questions Commission. The forum will be held on Wednesday 9th November at Wesley UCA in Melbourne and is a really important discussion for the Churches to be having together. Many key indigenous and non-indigenous leaders from within our denominations are giving their time and come and be part of the evening. Stuart McMillan the UCA President and Ken Sumner the State Director of Congress Victoria are the two keynote speakers. The event is free, but registrations are essential – and you can RSVP at: <http://bit.ly/VCC Treaty>.

The second **Frank Byatt Memorial Lecture** will be presented by Rev Dr D'Arcy Wood at St John's Uniting Church, Buckley Street, Essendon, at 3.30pm on Sunday 13th November. The subject will be "The Christmas Bowl: What it was and what it is". Enquiries to Jeff Wild (NCCA) on 9650 6811.

Banyule Network will be sponsoring an **Extended CPE course** which will run from 13th February to 4th December 2017. This program for up to 6 participants is based on a relaxed rather than intense scheduling. Extending over 43 weeks the unit will run from 13th Feb to 4th Dec, with breaks for public holidays, at mid-year and the September School holidays. During this program the participants will need to attend 30 of the 33 scheduled education days held on a Monday. Over the 43 weeks participants are required to provide and keep a log of 200 hours in their assigned placement. One hundred of these hours shall be in the actual practice of pastoral care. Enquiries to Jennifer Gibbons on 0418 318 589 or to <http://banyulenetwork.unitingchurch.org.au/cpe>.

Are we talking to the right people?

If you have not responded to the request for an update of names and contact details for your congregation (refer to the last newsletter), please take this as a reminder that we do need to ensure we have updated information. Even if there have not been changes, please respond to the request so that we know we have current information.

Please send details to pyy.secretary@victas.uca.org.au