



Uniting Tasmania

Issue No. 229 | September 2024

Pen to paper seals deal



The Memorandum of Understanding signed on Wednesday formalises the relationship between the Tasmanian Chin Christian Church and the Launceston North Uniting Church and Presbytery of Tasmania.

By Rev Caro Field

Whoa, Wednesday's church council meeting was probably the wildest and most exciting I've experienced in a long time. Settle in, this is a story ...

Our Chin brothers and sisters of the Tasmanian Chin Christian Church are currently hosting a retreat/conference for 23 pastors from the Australian Chin Christian Church from across Australia.

Late on Wednesday afternoon I had a complex text message conversation with the lovely ...

Continued on page 2.

Photo and text courtesy of Crosslight. Ed.

West Coast Tas induction & commissioning:

Join the Presbytery and Frontier Services to induct Rev. Peter Harvey and commission Shirley Scolyer.

Thursday 19 September at the Queenstown Senior Citizen building in Driffield Street, with Zoom stream available. Contact UCA Tas Office for more details!

Marian returns



Presbytery of Tasmania Chairperson Rohan Pryor is delighted to announce that Rev. Deacon Marian Bisset has accepted the call of the Church to the ministry placement of Presbytery Resource Minister for North Tasmania, and Presbytery eLM Minister for Tasmania. From her earlier ministry experience in Bridgewater-Gagebrook following the devastating church fire there in 2017, and then in the Omeo-Swifts Creek area following the devastating bushfires in 2020, it is clear that one of the gifts Marian brings is getting alongside people in their loss and grief, supporting the next steps in recovery, and stepping into the future with renewed hope and energy. Marian will formally commence ministry placement from December 1, with an induction service of the Presbytery to be arranged.

PEN TO PAPER SEALS DEAL

Continued from page 1.

Late on Wednesday afternoon I had a complex text message conversation with the lovely Ngun, our main contact from the TCCC, about their booking to use the church, and manoeuvring around the fact that our church council normally meets in the church.

What eventuated was an invitation for our church council to join the fellowship dinner with the Chin pastors: dinner at 3.30pm.

This was the first time that I'd heard any details about this event, so I was able to find out about it, and also let Presbytery Chairperson Rohan Pryor know, as it might make a good photo opportunity with the visitors.

So, we sorted it all out, and I said I'd come early to meet the visiting pastors, so from about 3.30pm on Wednesday our church hall was full of people feasting on spectacular food.

Our church council meeting was due to start at 4.30pm, but a few of us came early to join the feast, at least for a little while.

Pastor Tial herded all the visiting pastors into a photo along with me, Chris and Di from our church council.

Now, you need to know, dear readers, that the TCCC is currently on a journey to be formally recognised as a faith community of the Uniting Church.

One of the steps in that journey is to formalise their relationship via a Memorandum of Understanding with the Launceston North Uniting Church and the Presbytery of Tasmania, as they will be under the auspices of the LNUC in relation to the structure and ordering of the church, and also under the pastoral oversight of the Presbytery.

All parties had agreed to sign the MOU, but hadn't yet put pen to paper. So, Rohan had this bright idea. We had all three parties present under the one roof, so why not do it now? We also had leaders from Chin churches across the country, so what a great cloud of witnesses!

So, Rohan bolted to his office to print out three copies of the MOU document, and we gathered in the church with the Chin pastors and explained the history of the TCCC-LNUC relationship and the purpose of the agreement, we offered prayers of thanks, and we signed, in triplicate.

Such a joyful moment (I even shed a tear or two).

The next step in the process will be for the Presbytery, at its meeting in November, to consider a formal proposal to officially recognise the TCCC as a faith community of the UCA.

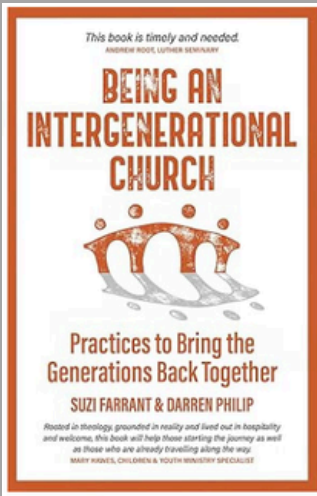
Bring it on!

Rev Caro Field is Launceston North Uniting Church Minister

Tamar wetlands walk 21/9

Join a spirited walk through creation in the wetlands on Saturday 21 September. Meet at the Tamar Island Wetlands Centre for 11 am. We will break to commune with each other and with nature on this walk and will share more information. A reasonable level of mobility is required for this activity. For more details contact the Pilgrim UC Office: pilgrimoffice1@gmail.com

HOW WE GATHER MATTERS



This book from a Church of Scotland background explores the strategies of developing an Intergenerational Church with theological insights based in the thought of Dietrich Bonhoeffer.



ReFocus seeks to connect generations at church and at home.

This seems to be a good opportunity to apply for a Presbytery grant to cover costs if you feel that this is an opportunity that could bring useful strategies into your place of ministry. Contact the Tasmanian Office for more information.

Editor

How we Gather Matters Melbourne (Oct 29) Geelong (Oct 30)

Whilst, unfortunately, there are no events in Tasmania, given the significance of the content I'm hoping that the Melbourne (Parkville) offering will be seen as a great opportunity for those that are able to fly and the Geelong offering will be an option for those who would prefer to sail!

These events are exceptional opportunities for the whole of church leadership, ministry teams and individual leaders/volunteers to engage in. If you could appropriately highlight these events across the Presbytery I would be extremely grateful!

Aimed at ministers, pastors and church leaders, as well as being suitable for those with a specific generational focus, How We Gather Matters is the most significant intergenerational ministry resourcing opportunity we are yet to have offered in Australia.

Contributions from Darren Philip (UK, author of Being an Intergenerational Church), Christina Embree (USA, from ReFocus) and Tammy Preston (Australia, focusing on the practical outworkings of her recent doctoral work) .



HOW WE GATHER MATTERS

A day of inspiration facilitated by Tammy Preston

with special guests Christina Embree (USA) and Darren Philip (UK)

- 📅 26th Oct - Traralgon
- 29th Oct - Parkville
- 30th Oct - Geelong
- 31st Oct - Bendigo

🕒 9AM - 3:30 PM

[REGISTER NOW](#)

www.intergenerate.com.au



INTERGENERATE

Australia + New Zealand

MESSY CHURCH TASTER

**Saturday 12th October, 1-3pm at
Glenorchy Uniting Church.**

Soup and bread light lunch from 12 noon.
Facilitated by Sandy Brodine.

Come and learn about Messy Church and the 5 core values at the heart of it. Gain an understanding of the shape of Messy Church and how each session works. Experience a Messy Church Taster based on a Christmas theme that you could use in your own community.

Rev. Sandy Brodine:

Sandy Brodine is a Minister in the Uniting Church in Australia with a passion for finding creative new ways to help people follow Jesus and engage with their faith.

Photo and text about Sandy Brodine from <https://uniting.church/sandy-brodine/>



Sandy ministers with a number of new faith communities in the Banyule Network of Uniting Churches: A Messy Church, an Intergenerational interactive Sunday community called Common Ground, and SPACE, a Contemplative Community. Prior to ministry, Sandy was a teacher of Chinese, English and RE in Secondary School. Sandy is married to Brendan, and they have a daughter Sophia. In her free time, Sandy enjoys fibre arts, painting icons, genealogy, cooking and travel.

SERF Fund Now Open for Applications

At the November 2023 Vic.Tas Synod meeting, it was resolved to establish a Synod Emissions Reduction Fund (SERF) “to be accessible to Congregations and Presbyteries for any spending that will reduce emissions in their operations and activities”.

The Synod has set aside \$100,000 as the initial funding for the SERF to enable Congregations and Presbyteries to decarbonise.

Three considerations:

- buildings still in UCA in 2040
- most reduction in emissions
- due diligence re ethical supply

SERF will be accepting applications for the current round until Thursday 31st October 2024. Further application rounds will be initiated depending on the funds remaining in the SERF.

If you would like to know more about the SERF, or how to make an application, call (03) 9340 8807 or email Mark.Zirnsak@victas.uca.org.au

Share Sunday Appeal

Draw near.

Responding in compassion to human need, together we participate in God's mission.

Donate today

Call us
1800 668 426

Visit
[unitingvictas.org.au](http://unitingvictas.org.au/share-sunday)
/share-sunday

“We support people to make a better life for themselves.”

- Kristie Looney, General Manager
Housing and Property



Scan to donate.



Uniting is the community services organisation of the Uniting Church in Victoria and Tasmania.



Uniting

Feast of Faith

This weekend, we will focus on what it means to be a 1.5/2nd Generation CALD member in the Uniting Church in Australia (UCA). We'll explore the joy we receive along with the struggles and obstacles we face, as 2nd Generation followers of Christ. We'll discuss how we can continue to equip, enrich, and empower each other in this journey of life.

MORE INFO

WHEN:

Friday 20th – Sunday 22nd of Sept 2024

WHERE:

Peninsula Outdoors (Merricks)

WHO:

UCA CALD members aged 18-40

TIME:

Starts 7pm and finishes Sunday 11am
(Morning Tea time)

COSTS:

Full weekend \$100 (this includes all meals and accommodation)

REGISTRATION LINK:

<https://events.humanitix.com/feast-of-faith>

CUT OFF DATE FOR

REGISTRATION:

1st of September 2024





PROGRAM

9am Gathering and registration Tea and coffee provided on arrival	12.35pm Lunch
9.30am Introduction Acknowledgement of country and opening worship	1.15pm First round of workshops
9.45am Keynote address	2.00pm Shortbreak
10.30am Morning tea	2.15pm Second round of workshops
11am New AI discussion Food and social justice	3pm Discussion The direction and work areas of the JIM Cluster
12.20pm Learning talks Five minute presentations about what you are doing in your church or community on Food Justice. Please register your interest in advance if you would like to make a presentation	4pm Closing worship
	4.15pm Finish

WORKSHOP OPTIONS

Please list your top three workshop options when you register online. Workshops will be run based on the number of participants and will not run where there are not enough participants to make them worthwhile. Each workshop will aim to look for a specific way forward in each area.

- 1 Food and global financial poverty
- 2 Reducing emissions through what we eat and reducing what we throw away
- 3 Talking about reducing stigma around weight in congregations - Weight Issues Network
- 4 Supporting workers in the Australian food industry from the Pacific Islands - United Workers Union
- 5 Campaigning for healthier food - Jane Martin, for Health Alliance
- 6 Promoting healthy food in your congregation
- 7 Corruption in the food industry - Mark Zrnsek, Senior Social Justice Advocate, Synod of Victoria and Tasmania
- 8 Protecting babies and toddlers from unhealthy foods
- 9 Practical tips on having a community garden at your congregation - Community Gardens Victoria
- 10 The benefits of reducing meat consumption - Animals Australia

Online registration

events.humanitix.com/justice-and-international-mission-convention-2024
Register by Monday, September 23

Cost: \$40 for metropolitan participants.

\$10 online participants (morning sessions only)
Tea, coffee and lunch included.

For further details or should you need assistance to register online, contact:

Alicia Torres on (03) 9340 8815


alicia.torres@victas.uca.org.au



JUSTICE AND INTERNATIONAL MISSION CONVENTION 2024
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5
GIVE US THIS DAY
OUR DAILY BREAD
FOOD AND SOCIAL JUSTICE



 **equipping Leadership for Mission**
Justice & International Mission

 **Uniting Church in Australia**
SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA

WHEN Saturday, October 5, 9am - 4:15pm

WHERE Centre for Theology and Ministry,
29 College Crescent, Parkville

COST **\$40** for metropolitan participants
\$25 concession and non-metropolitan participants
\$10 online participants (morning sessions only)

Food is an integral part of our life in our Christian communities. There are many social justice dimensions to what we eat. These include:

- Making sure everyone has enough healthy food to eat
- Impacts on climate change, with emissions related to food making up a third of global greenhouse gas emissions
- Multinational food corporations that put their profits ahead of people's health
- Fair employment conditions for those that produce our food and
- Not stigmatising people for their weight when ultra-processed foods are designed to be addictive.

Large food corporations are producing unhealthy and addictive food products that drive up unhealthy food consumption. The foods in question cause various health problems, including obesity, cancer, heart disease and depression. Ultra-processed foods have been progressively tailored by scientists and technicians through combinations of sugar, salt, fat and flavour enhancers to bypass our natural mechanisms of appetite control.

Clearing forests for farms and ranches comprised 29% of the food-related greenhouse gas emissions. Thus, strategies by food corporations to drive up food consumption and obesity also impact global greenhouse gas emissions.

The Convention will explore the social justice dimensions of food production and how to incorporate them into the church's life.

SPEAKERS & PANELLISTS

**Keynote speaker,
Dr Jonathan Comford**



Jonathan is one of the founders of the community group Marra Gum. He has a background in international development, working for a decade as an advocacy coordinator for Orisim Australia, focussing on natural resource management and international financial institutions in the Mekong region. Jonathan also lived and worked for three years as a mission coordinator for Urban Seed in the heart of Melbourne. He has a PhD in Political Economy and Theology.

**Panellist Dr Sureka Goringe,
National Director, Uniting World**



Sureka became National Director in July 2017. Sureka's work at UnitingWorld answers a life-long calling, weaving her global childhood, her faith, and her passion for justice with all the skills gained through her professional life.

An Australian since the nineties, Sureka comes via university studies in England, and a childhood in Botswana, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. Sureka is married to a UCA minister, and the mother of two kids and a dog.

**Panellist Theresa Thompson
Weight Issues Network**



Theresa is a First Nations woman from Gundjina country (Warrnambool), born in Melbourne and raised mostly on Wathaurong lands (Ballarat). She is a single mother with two girls, Emma, 9 and Stevie, 7. Current titles include: mother, baker, advocate, Operations Lead, singer, and (not very good) guitar player. She has a varied career working in several First Nations roles including public housing, training, management and board roles. She is a natural advocate for equality in all areas and a representative of the Weight Issues Network (WIN).

**Panellist Jane Martin
Executive Manager, Food for Health Alliance (FHA) and Alcohol and Obesity Programs at Cancer Council Victoria**



Jane leads the Food for Health Alliance, a partnership between Cancer Council Victoria, Vch-Health, and the Global Centre for Preventive Health and Nutrition (GLOBE) at Deakin University. Food for Health Alliance is a leading policy and advocacy voice working to improve diets and prevent overweight and obesity in Australia, particularly for children. It advocates to governments to improve food environments – the way food is made, labelled, sold and advertised.

For more than thirty years, Jane has worked in public health advocacy, engaging in tobacco control, alcohol policy and obesity prevention. She is active in the media as a commentator and advises state and federal governments on food and nutrition policy.

**Panellist Caterina Chinnai
Director of Farms at the United Workers Union**

Caterina currently leads the campaign team which organises to expose slave-like conditions across the supermarket and food supply chain in Australia. The United Workers Union farm team organises thousands of permanent and temporary migrant workers from all over the world and has empowered farm workers to speak out and resist wage theft, dodgy contracting arrangements and sexual harassment. Caterina is also the Vice-President of the International Union of Food, Agricultural and Hotel Associations which fights for justice and freedom of association across the global agricultural and food supply chain and helps support independent democratic global worker union organisations.



WHAT'S ON!

SEP- OCT 2024

SEP 03 | Pastoral Relations Committee
10am -3pm

OCT 01 | Pastoral Relations Committee
10am -3pm

SEP 10 | Resource and Development
Committee 10.30am - 2.30pm

OCT 08 | Resource and Development
Committee 10am - 2.30pm

SEP 19 | Induction Service of Rev Deacon
Peter Harvey, Queenstown

OCT 31 | Presbytery Standing Committee
10am - 3pm

SEP 26 | Presbytery Standing Committee
10am - 3pm

MONTHLY CHECKLIST



**Log Books are now
overdue, please forward to
the Presbytery Office as
soon as possible**



**Review of Safe Church
Policies**