

Uniting Presbytery of Tasmania



<https://ucatas.org.au/>

Issue No. 176

September 2019



KIDS CAMPOUT 2019

when? 28 — 29 SEPT 2019

where? SCOTCH OAKBURN
COLLEGE, VALLEY
CAMPUS, FINGAL

who can come? children in grades 3 – 6

what happens? great fun and activities, games, craft, singing, stilts

more information? Registration information and flyers have been sent to congregations. Contact the UCA Tasmanian Office: 6331 9784 OR tas.office@victas.uca.org.au for more information or registration forms.

Kids Camp Out is a wonderful missional activity - celebrating the good news of Jesus in a caring community environment. This year's theme, "**Welcome - A place to belong**" explores how we are continuously welcomed into God's family, brought home to where we belong, and called to live lives of welcome, bringing others to Jesus too.

Please pray that the Holy Spirit will bring peace, joy and hope to those who are involved with this event.

There is still opportunity to put your hand up and ask your church council if they are willing to send you as a leader. Cabins are available for those who are unable to stay in tents.

Please share Uniting Tasmania with others in your church community

Opportunities

Code of Ethics & Safe Church



Tuesday 3 September – Longford UCA, 3 High Street

Code of Ethics 9.30am-12.30pm

Safe Church 1.00pm – 4.00pm

Saturday 21 September – Glenorchy UC, 19 Kensington Street

Code of Ethics 9.30am-12.30pm

Safe Church 1.00pm – 4.00pm

Safe Church Training is for anyone who has not yet attended a Safe Church session or one since June 2017. All those in designated leadership positions are **required to attend** and others with Working With Vulnerable People cards / registration are **encouraged to attend**.

Please contact the Tasmanian Office if you intend to attend.



Share our stories, reflect on challenging journeys and celebrate our gifts. Intercultural Retreat is open to all leaders in the Synod of

Vic Tas who want to engage with intercultural issues to seek ways of how we can be meaningfully “intercultural” in our multicultural Church.

COST: Full fee \$160 (two nights) or one night \$100.

VENUE: Grantville Lodge, Grantville, Victoria

More information at <https://victas.uca.org.au/event/intercultural-retreat-this-is-us/>



Next Presbytery Gathering

9.45am Saturday 9 November 2019

Ulverstone Uniting Church

(NOTE CHANGE OF VENUE)

COMMON DREAMS 5: Sydney 2019

“Sacred Earth, Original Blessing, Common Home”

For four inspirational July days, about three hundred people gathered at Newington College, on the land of the Gadigal People of the Eora Nation, for the 5th Common Dreams Conference. As one of those people, this was a precious and faith-nourishing time for me, with dynamic spiritual leadership and input, stimulating conversation, and wonderful artistic and musical blessing.

The Common Dreams movement is described on its website as:

“... an alliance of Australian and New Zealand kindred organisations which promote the study, discussion and implementation of progressive Christian and other progressive religious streams of thought and action.” (commondreams.org.au)

As you might expect from such a statement the conference provided quite a diversity of thought, experience and expression, from participants and leaders alike. Space limits the sharing of more than a few highlights here, but there were many for me.

Perhaps foremost was the opportunity to engage with Matthew Fox, whose wonderful book “*Original Blessing*”(1983) was life changing for me as I began my ministry 25 years ago. Fox’s teaching was regarded as heretical by the Roman Catholic Church, and he no longer teaches within that system, having now spent many years as an Episcopal priest. His teaching at CD5 reflected the same fire and conviction about need for people of faith to take seriously the sacredness of the earth we share, and the peril in which humanity has placed it.

“The universe is the first sacrament of the divine”, he states, and goes on to say that Western society in particular (including religion), has seen fit to make ourselves the centre of everything, ignoring the divine all around us in the process. *“There are more stars in the universe than there are grains of sand on earth. How can that NOT cause us to wonder?”*

Twenty five years on from reading “*Original Blessing*”, Fox has changed my life again, with these words: *“We’re the first species in the history of the earth that has the ability to choose not to go extinct. We haven’t made that choice yet. ... If we say we love our children and grand-children, it’s only true, if we do something about the world they are inheriting”.* As an expectant grandfather,

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those words hit me between the eyes, and I have begun to take up action, as a faith calling.

Other leaders included Rev Dr Anne Pattel-Grey, Rabbi Jonathan Keren-Black, Fr Rod Bower, Ms Ro Allen, Rev Margaret Mayman, Rev Robin Meiers (another of my theological heroes!), and a wide variety of wonderful artists, musicians and performers.

This was a truly wonderful faith experience, and I cherish it as a time of deep blessing.

Rod Peppiatt

Presbytery Office Bearers

The Search Group for our next Chairperson now has a wider brief. As the Presbytery Office Bearer Search Group its task is to help find suitable nominees for 3 positions:

| | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| Chairperson | Vacant November 2019 |
| Secretary | Vacant February 2020 |
| Treasurer | Currently vacant |

We seek Expressions of Interest and names of people the Group could approach, not only because these are roles essential to the leadership of the Uniting Church in Tasmania, but also because they offer opportunity for growth and development in skills and in Christian discipleship.

We are not necessarily seeking people who already have all the skills and experience to step into these roles, but people who sense the call of God to serve and are open to learn and grow within a leadership team.

The Search Group is open to conversation about how these roles might work and to what extent some remuneration from the Presbytery may be required.

We invite members of the Uniting Church across Tasmania to pray for discernment for the Search Group and for the Presbytery, which elects the chairperson, and to consider your own involvement.

Please direct comments and suggestions or Expressions of Interest to the Convenors of the Search Group:

Brian Cole bmcole1@bigpond.com David Reeve dareeve@inet.net.au



Child Safe
Organisations
National Principles

National Principles for Child Safe Organisations

1

Child safety and wellbeing is embedded in organisational leadership, governance and culture.

6

Processes to respond to complaints and concerns are child focused.

2

Children and young people are informed about their rights, participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously.

7

Staff and volunteers are equipped with the knowledge, skills and awareness to keep children and young people safe through ongoing education and training.

3

Families and communities are informed, and involved in promoting child safety and wellbeing.

8

Physical and online environments promote safety and wellbeing while minimising the opportunity for children and young people to be harmed.

4

Equity is upheld and diverse needs respected in policy and practice.

9

Implementation of the national child safe principles is regularly reviewed and improved.

5

People working with children and young people are suitable and supported to reflect child safety and wellbeing values in practice.

10

Policies and procedures document how the organisation is safe for children and young people.



For information and resources, go to
<https://childsafe.humanrights.gov.au>





It's about showing up and showing people you care

Frontier Services recently partnered with Qantas Cabin Crew Team to bring twenty skilled volunteers to farms around the township of Moree, New South Wales. By the end of a week, lifelong friendships had been forged and jobs that had been neglected for years were finally complete.

For Greg Stace, farming runs through his veins. His parents started on a station in Armidale when he was younger. They built up then sold properties, working towards bigger stations to develop until finally arriving at Wyandra, where they graze cattle, sheep and goats.

Now married with five children in tow, Greg and his wife Bethany live on the station with Greg's parents – three generations on the family farm.



Right now, water is the biggest issue facing farmers in the area. The soil is simply too dry to grow any grass, forcing them to de-stock or pay ever-increasing prices for hay.

Every day, Greg heads out with his father to feed the animals while Bethany looks after and home-schools their children. They have two-hundred head each of cattle and sheep, and over a thousand goats. They normally have double those numbers but the last few years have been really tough.

“It's by far the worst drought I've seen,” Greg said. “I've spoken with other farmers and they all say the same thing. Everyone is struggling financially.”

The daily demands around the farm have prevented the family from repainting their home. It's been seventeen years since it's last coat of fresh paint! But that all changed when our volunteers arrived.

Leading the team was one of our seasoned volunteers, Royce O'Neill. He understands that when times get tough in remote Australia, a lot of jobs around

the home get neglected. Royce knows that a few extra hands can make a really big difference.



“Painting a house can take a lot of time and the demands of feeding their animals every day makes things difficult,” he said. “So we’re more than happy to lend a hand.”

We learned that Greg had earlier received a quote – for \$10,000 – to repaint their home. But that was over two years ago! The painter didn’t show up for the job. It’s a story that’s all too familiar among our farmers. Sometimes, the distance is simply too great for skilled labour to travel. But there’s always a silver lining, as Greg pointed out.

“It’s been really difficult with this drought, so having these volunteers really saves us,” he said. “Ten thousand is a lot of money, and it’d be hard to find that this year.”

“Plus the volunteers have been great. You can sit down and have a chat over a meal. It gives you a mental break from the daily stress.”

By the end of the week, the house started to look more like a home and Royce could feel the morale had lifted on the property.

“You can see that being out here really helps lift everyone’s spirits,” Royce said. “We know it’s not life-saving work, but it’s work that helps out the community.”

Our farmers have endured so much for so long. But what’s getting them through is knowing that other people are there for them. People who care and people who are willing to give them a hand up.

22 Jul 2019 In General by Felipe Beltran – from Frontier Services website

Great Outback BBQ



You can show Aussie farmers that you care. Register to host your Great Outback BBQ this September, buy Australian grown and share our farmers’ stories with your friends and family.

Visit www.greatoutbackbbq.com.au for more information or call on 1300 787 247.



Leadership Formation

Remember a time when you seemed to suddenly grow in who you were? When your idea of God began to deepen and sense of God's presence become more real? What was going on for you at that point in time?

Those moments of growth nearly always come with being stretched in our experience of life. Something more is asked of us than we thought was possible. I have had several people share with me stories of when they found themselves in situations where they had to 'step up the plate'. They didn't think they had it within them, but somehow they became aware of God holding them into the new challenges.

As a 17 year old I had been asked if I might consider being an elder with our local congregation. I didn't think I had anything to contribute, had no idea what it was even about except that I knew it had something to do with visiting, and handing out the communion elements. As a quiet shy 17 year old, I was suddenly growing into the new challenge.

Our faith and sense of self grows as we lean into the opportunity to serve, to rise to new challenges and to discover in faithfulness who God calls us to be. As a presbytery and in our congregations and faith communities, we are being stretched as we discover ways of being church differently. We have many around the place who can offer ideas and insights that we haven't thought of yet. God is at work. People who are challenged to think through God's call, who lean into the challenge, who discern and offer themselves are often surprised at how God uses them, at where God invites them to discover new things about themselves. The Uniting Church holds a value and belief lifted from Scripture about the Holy Spirit equipping the people of God as needed. That the church has places where the people can use their gifts as equipped by the Spirit. I remember when I was being ordained that much of what lay ahead seemed daunting. Yet to hold to the knowing of God's Spirit equipping me, enabled me to lean into the call with faithfulness. That I would have what I needed, when it was needed. So far this has proven to be so.

Where is God leading you? Where are you being challenged for service in the life of the church, or in the wider community? Where does the challenge for stretching lie for you? Perhaps it might be in considering a role of leadership within the life of the church - to help others grow in their faith, and create spaces where that might be possible. Perhaps it is to serve the local community in a

particular way with an area of passion you have for other people. I wonder where God is calling you into new challenges in life

If you would like Denise to visit your congregation, to listen and share around leadership formation, contact us via the Presbytery Office 6331 9784 or Denise 0427 647 395 or denise.savage@victas.uca.org.au.



**BRUNSWICK
UNITING
CHURCH**

Student House

Moving to Melbourne for tertiary study next year?

Are you Interested in being part of a Christian student house in Brunswick?

Our program provides affordable housing close to university and public transport in Melbourne's inner-north. Students explore their faith with fellow young Christians and actively participate in the life of Brunswick Uniting Church.

If you are interested in joining our vibrant community, and need more information, visit our website:

www.brunswick.unitingchurch.org.au/student-house-program

and contact our Student House Support Worker at:

studenthousebuc@gmail.com



Uniting Church in Australia
SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA

0269

Uniting Tasmania provide a range of services to support vulnerable people to improve their health, wellbeing, and inclusion in their community.



Child, youth and family

Pregnant and Young Parent Support Program - pregnant women and parents under 25 to build the skills and knowledge to be the best parents they can be with groups in Launceston, George Town and Bridgewater.

Newpin - a centre based program focusing on parenting skills and the importance of bonding and attachment between a parent and child to help break the cycle of abuse and neglect for parents whilst building strong and healthy relationships within families.

Family Futures - outreach version of the Newpin program with flexibility that supports families in the Southern region of Tasmania.

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren - offers family support, advocacy, information and referral services to grandparent and kinship families across North West Tasmania.

Rural Outreach Support - provides case-managed support to families across the Central and Southern Midlands.

Play for Change - therapeutic play with children up to 12 and their families to address behavioural issues and reduce the incidence and impact of mental health.

Early Learning

Support children and families to create, learn and grow through high-quality education and care services.

Scots at Melville Street Hobart; Scots at Campbell Street Hobart - Pre-Kinder and Kinder; Scots at Campbell Street Hobart - After School Care and Vacation Care; Scots at Mt Stuart Before and After School and Vacation Care; Pilgrim Occasional Care Centre at Paterson Street Launceston; Collinsvale Primary School and Kempton Primary School After School Care.

Emergency Relief

We provide support to individuals and families in the form of material aid – food, clothing and household goods, back-to-school costs, access to online communication channels, bill payment assistance and financial counselling to people living in disadvantage at Hobart, Gagebrook, Kingston and Cygnet

Disability Services

A registered Australian Disability Enterprise, TADPAC Print has been supplying quality print products to Tasmanian businesses and services for over 50 years.

This 'n That

■ **JIM** (Justice & International Mission) News. See: <https://victas.uca.org.au/ministry-mission/social-justice/>

■ **Assembly National Update** available at <https://assembly.uca.org.au/>

■ **Presbytery of Tasmania website:** <https://ucatas.org.au/>

■ Chris Barnett's **Tasmania Children and Families update** by email contact Chris.Barnett@ctm.uca.edu.au Previous Updates are available at [Monthly Updates](#)

■ **A Climate of Change: Tomorrow's Moral Imperative Today Justice and International Mission Conference 2019** will be held at the Centre for Theology and Ministry on Saturday 7th September. For more information ring Ann Byrne (03) 9340 8815 or email: ann.byrne@victas.uca.org.au

■ The Lay Preachers' Committee of Management is supporting a **history of lay preaching** in the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania. If you have any biographies of lay preachers that you can provide email Daryl Pedler at darylmargpedler@bigpond.com

■ Combined **Skype Service** with Northstead Methodist Church, England will be held at Scots-Memorial Uniting Church, 29 Bathurst Street, Hobart on Sunday 8th September at 7.30pm

Praying for the Presbytery

This month please remember
in your prayers:

- For **Kids Campout organisers** as they prepare for Kids Camp Out
- For **Annetia Goldsmith** as she continues her journey towards ordination as an exit candidate.

what's On

September

| | | | |
|------|----|---------|--|
| Tue | 3 | 9.30am | Safe Church and Code of Ethics, Longford UC |
| Thur | 5 | 10.00am | Presbytery Standing Committee |
| Sat | 21 | 9.30pm | Safe Church and Code of Ethics, Glenorchy UC |
| Mon | 23 | 11.00am | Resource & Development Committee |
| Tue | 24 | 10.00am | Pastoral Relations Committee |
| Sat | 28 | Sun 29 | Kids Campout, Fingal |

October

| | | | |
|------|----|---------|----------------------------------|
| Thur | 17 | 10.00am | Presbytery Standing Committee |
| Mon | 21 | 11.00am | Resource & Development Committee |
| Tue | 22 | 10.00am | Pastoral Relations Committee |

Please check our Presbytery Calendar of events on the [Presbytery website](#)



Got a good news story or a great photo?

Share your good news with the Uniting Church across Tasmania and Victoria! Send your information to tas.office@victas.uca.org.au and crosslight@victas.uca.org.au

Photo: Induction of Rev. Hoon You with Rev. Ann Perrin (Presbytery Chairperson)

Published and distributed in the week before the last Sunday of each month.

Contributions received seven days prior to publication.

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Presbytery of Tasmania website: <https://ucatas.org.au>

The map of Tasmania including King and Flinders Islands has been adapted from a Creative Commons file https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Australia_Tasmania_location_map_blank.svg