

Uniting



Tasmania

Presbytery of

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

Issue No. 164

August 2018

KUCA Camp Out

20 – 21 OCT 2018

SCOTCH OAKBURN
COLLEGE VALLEY CAMPUS

The Valley Campus is a
16.5 hectare property
in the Fingal Valley



*Reflect the Light –
the Light that
gives Life*



who can come? children in
grades 3 - 6

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



Uniting Church in Australia
Presbytery of Tasmania



KUCA Campout 2018 information will be mailed out to congregations very soon and there will be access to registration forms and other materials on the website to support this event.

It is time to start preparing children/grandchildren/others in the three months beforehand. If leaders haven't yet obtained WWVP registration or attended a Safe Church event there is still time available to be ready if you start soon.

Safe Church: Training in Safe Church issues is available in August. For more details see page 2. It is a requirement for all authorised leaders to participate in Safe Church Training. If you can organise a group at your place or in your region it may be possible to arrange a more local event with the Tasmanian Office.

Opportunities

Code of Ethics/Safe Church

Code of Ethics: 10:00am to 12.30pm

Safe Church: 1.00pm to 3.00pm



North – Tuesday 21st August Westbury Uniting Church

South – Saturday 25th August Glenorchy Uniting Church

Safe Church Training is for anyone who has not yet attended a Safe Church session or one since June 2017. **All leaders and those with Working with Children Checks** are required to attend.



UnitingWomen is a biennial conference hosted by the Uniting Church in Australia with Christian women coming together in God's name, finding acceptance, encouragement and inspiration.

Apply via the Tasmanian Office for one of our grants to assist you to attend.

Register here: <https://cre8itevents.eventsair.com/unitingwomen-2018/registration/Site/Register>



Church Council Field Day

9.30am – 4.30pm Saturday 13 October

Launceston North Uniting Church, Newnham

Building Consensus, Managing Conflict

(Postponed until early 2019)

Reflection

A report on the 15th Assembly meeting of the Uniting Church in Australia, by Shirley Bowers



The newly-installed President of the Uniting Church, Dr Deidre Palmer, compared the Assembly meeting to a marathon: that there was a time of preparation and a time of sustaining the energy to complete the race. The 15th Assembly of the Uniting Church was very much a marathon. The meeting went from 9am to 9pm most days, and from Sunday 8 July to Saturday 14 July. Part of the preparation was in reading the many reports and proposals that would be presented at the meeting. Then, once the meeting started – long days, more proposals and long discussions – often emotional or speakers having opposing views to other speakers – made the idea of a continuing marathon a very obvious image. The idea from the Basis of Union that we are always on the Way also came to my mind a number of times in this meeting and in thinking about this meeting afterwards. There is likely to be further “marathons” as the various proposals that were accepted are put into action.

This meeting was a hard meeting in some ways – however with over 300 elected members involved in the meeting there was also someone to talk to in the breaks. I met people that I knew slightly – some from the Vic/Tas Synod



meeting last year and some from my travels around Australia. There were also many new people to meet. Image sitting at a table where a number of people came from Perth – myself from Tasmania and the others from Western Australia. There was a guide dog at the meeting – named Wallace – who loved food, was very quiet but such a help to Bruce. I met a number of people from the Adelaide College of Divinity – real people that before had

only been names of the various lecturers. It was an opportunity to hear about other churches in Australia, it was a time to see how others were coping with the meeting, and a time to just share stories. A number of songs/hymns were sung during this meeting. One was written by David Busch for the anniversary of the Uniting Church. The Wesley College (Melbourne) Choir sang a number of songs on Saturday morning including "For you deep stillness of the silent inland". The final hymn sung was "Guide me O you great Redeemer" which was obviously well known and sung very loudly even in the big room we were meeting in.

Part of my preparation for this meeting was to knit scarves and beanies for the people attending this meeting, as many come from northern or tropical climates. I had learnt knitting from books about two weeks before the Synod meeting last year. I came back and encouraged people around me and across the state of Tasmania to knit for Assembly as well. There were over 50 articles provided from Tasmania to the Assembly meeting (Rohan tells me he took at least eight shopping bags full from Tasmania). The scarves and beanies were received with surprise and pleasure. I saw a number of articles being worn which I recognised, and when I spoke to some of the wearers they wanted to send their thanks back to the makers of the articles. I knitted during this meeting and by the end of the meeting had completed one 10 inch square and was three quarters of the way through a second one. Perhaps this shows how sustaining the activity of knitting was for the duration of this meeting.



The breaks were also a time to visit the Assembly agency displays. Uniting Church agencies such as Frontier Services, Uniting World, the environmental unit and Uniting (Care) had displays with people happy to talk and often were giving away things – like an Akubra Hat Stick Pin from the Frontier Services

stand and a bracelet made overseas at the Uniting World stand. Mediacom had an area as well and many people took advantage of this to look at the books, purchase a few and then later wonder how they were going to get the books home.

An important part of the Assembly meeting was the times of worship. There was a worship time every morning, with worship led by a different Synod each day. There was a communion service on Monday morning and again on

Saturday morning. Two people led a Bible study each morning – Rev Dr Seforosa Carroll and Rev James Bhagwan – who sat on a mat similar to ones used in places like Tonga for the sharing of stories.

The decision making process was a long process for some of the proposals and very quick for others. For some the movers and seconders spoke and a decision could be reached immediately. For other proposals there were questions and statements from the floor and then a decision. However for a couple of the proposals there was a number of discussions on the floor of the meeting, as well as 20 working groups (meeting at the same time) to also consider and discuss the proposals and feed their discussions back to a facilitation committee who reported back on the results to the floor of the meeting, often giving the meeting a suggested way forward based on the comments they had received.



There were many decisions made during this meeting. The next President Elect is Sharon Hollis who is currently Moderator of the Vic/Tas Synod. The makeup of the Assembly Standing Committee for the next three

years was made – there was no Tasmanians elected. A couple of the proposals presented from the Congress were accepted – A Day of Mourning, to be held on the Sunday before the 26 January, and the recognition of the First Peoples as Sovereign. A proposal asking for support for the Roman Catholic Church Plenary Council to be held in 2020 was accepted. A proposal around the support and encouragement between North and South Korea was also accepted.

The major decision and the one that started Monday morning and was not decided on until Friday night was the many proposals concerning same gender marriage. There had been proposals made prior to the Assembly meeting for and against, along with requests for concurrence (which is to have the matter discussed by all Synods and Presbyteries and having to have a number of them accept the proposal before it can be accepted overall). After many discussions on the floor of the meeting and in small working groups, proposals started to come through about having two marriage statements standing side by side. After even more discussions, one of these proposals was accepted. This proposal has the 1997 statement on marriage – and a new one with one phrase changed to reflect the marriage of same

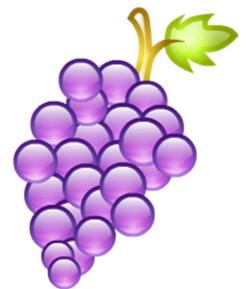
gender couples. This proposal allows people to accept which ever statement of marriage that they wish to believe. The proposal also has a statement about the diversity within the Uniting Church and this decision is one more example of this diversity that is part of the Uniting Church. Ministers will be able to conduct same gender marriages or refuse to conduct – depending on their religious beliefs. Church Councils will be able to allow or refuse the use of their properties for a same gender marriage.

This Assembly Meeting was a marathon in many ways. The meeting and the breaks had times of talking and support and times when there seemed to be many arguments and many ideas being presented. However I am also aware that the Assembly meeting was one week – there have been many things that had happened in my life before this meeting and there will be many things to happen after this meeting. Thank you to the Longford Congregation for my nomination and their support of me before, during and after the meeting.

I am now having down time – which I suspect that every member of this Assembly meeting is having in one form or another. For me this involves visiting my brother in Chinchilla (Qld) and then going onto Winton (Qld) to prepare dinosaur bones in a laboratory before returning to Tasmania.

A Grape or Two at Gala Kirk

The Uniting Church Faith Community at Gala Kirk Cranbrook on the beautiful East Coast of Tasmania, celebrated the end of the grape harvest with a harvest festival service held on Sunday the 29th April at 2pm [a very civilized time]



Cranbrook is a small but charming town which harbours the old Gala Kirk church. It remains almost as it was built: no electricity, no plumbing, pews big enough to seat entire families on each individual pew, a pedal organ which despite its age plays beautifully hymns from the TIS and a view that would challenge most country churches and all city churches.

The 29th of April saw the church contain some 32 people, some locals and some drifters in, an altar laden with grapes, red and white, locally



grown potatoes, pumpkin by the arm full, preserves of apricots and tomatoes in Fowler Ware, a loaf of bread and locally produced wine.

With a press provided by Stuart Macpherson we pressed the grapes which provided our communion grape juice, a loaf of Damper baked by

Patrol Minister Dennis Cousens and as we sang “Bringing in the Sheaves” some of our young people brought in some freshly cut sheaves and place them with the harvest gifts.

Our prayers of thanksgiving were around the gifts given in abundance, grapes, a sprig of Lavender, a clutch of Spinning Gum branches and an empty cross, all signifying the gifts of God.



Stuart preached on the lectionary gospel for the day the “True Vine”, be prepared to be used for the Glory of God.

As we left, a cut up pumpkin was given out to everyone to use and to grow the seeds for the future.

We had a great celebration, we had some fun and we had a wonderful afternoon tea at the conclusion of the service in the tiny Cranbrook school house. Thank you to Jennie Amos and Pat Greenhill for your dedication to the faith community of Gala Kirk.

Rev Dennis Cousens Patrol Minister of the Midlands Glamorgan Patrol

Assembly Circles

are a new platform for learning and sharing, where you can contribute to the national work of Church. It is a space for deepening faith and listening to where God is leading us. Together we can make a difference in God's mission in the world.

Circle members must be 18 years or older and agree to abide by our Circle Code of Conduct. People who are not members of the Uniting Church are welcome to participate.



Walking Together as First and Second Peoples

Explore our Covenant relationship as First and Second Peoples



Working for Justice

Reflect and act on issues of social justice



Being a Multicultural Church

Build on our commitment to live faith and life cross-culturally



Discipling the Next Generations

Connect with and support young leaders in our Church



Growing in Faith

Explore how we grapple with faith in 21st Century Australia



Seeking Common Ground

Be in relationship with people of other faiths, no faith and with our Christian brothers and sisters from other denominations



Transforming Worship

Learn about and contribute to vital, healthy worship in our Church

For more information go to <https://uniting.church/circles/>



Devonport Uniting Church: Steps in a Journey

After having had all of the Devonport church property (church, hall, manse and car park) on the market for 3½ years, the congregation learnt in mid-June that the sale was finalised. With a 30 day settlement, Church Council kick started its 'Action Plan' which saw the sorting out, packing up, 2 Open Days, a huge garage sale, finding a storage unit, the arrangement of a temporary worship place and the Closing of Building Service all organised. AND – a bare week prior to learning of the sale, Church Council became aware of a possible new location for our worship home. We now anxiously await permission from Synod PART to purchase this property as we believe that with some alterations, this property would give us a great shopfront location.

The Open Days and the garage sale afforded us the wonderful opportunity of conversing with the general public as to our reasons for selling and moving. Many assumed that we were selling our property for the similar reason another denomination is doing so. But, we plan to move nearby for good reasons of ministry and mission.

We have formed a very special relationship with the new owners 'The Cultivate Group' – Ben & Sally Milbourne and we were delighted that they were present at our Closing of the Building service to tell the congregation of their dreams and plans for the property. They are a young local couple who both employ and train young people. Our congregation has held them in our prayers during this prolonged contract period and rejoice with them as they work on their future plans.

Whatever and wherever our future, we know that the Holy Spirit is certainly with us on this wonderful journey. www.devonportunitingchurch.org.au

Devonport Church Council

Interview with Clara Murray

Clara is a PYPS (Pregnant Young Parent Support) worker with the Launceston office of Uniting. PYPS is open to young mums and dads under the age of 25 years, and a great venue to encourage peer support, parenting education and child safety. There are usually between 3-12 parents in a group which encourage young parents in a variety of ways while being open to fluctuating life circumstances. Young parents come with a variety of life experiences and skills and love their children but may lack support and life skills that older parents enjoy. They meet to a timetable which is filled with guest speakers and relevant themes for all new parents. Privacy and help are assured.

Clara herself has a degree in psychology and a background in child protective services. Clara feels that one of the best advantages that this affords her is a professional understanding of research in the field in identifying what is current and what is good practice. This leads to a flow on into the PYPS programme of information gleaned from evidence-based peer reviewed research and leads to better client engagement, understanding and programmes!

When asked “Why does this programme interest you?” Clara responds with a smile and says that she loves dealing with the younger parents as they are a great group who love their children dearly. They are parents who possibly need more support because of their age as they face parenting with limited resources and possibly after greater trauma. Many face negative treatment in the wider community and from unwarranted judgement simply because they are young. Clara names that one of her greatest joys is in learning from the participants of PYPS as much as helping them.

There can be long term involvement with the PYPS programme for those who are over 25, and Clara is looking forward to the continued relationship with some as mentors to newer members of the group.

Enjoying working with such a well-known community services brand as PYPS, is only part of the positives here at Uniting for Clara. That it is a small local team, with such a high people and family focus, where professional back up and support is the norm. This leads to a much more professional and available service.

Clara’s big goal with PYPS is aimed toward engaging more young dads into this and perhaps other supportive programmes. Young fathers face unique challenges and can become isolated and lost from family support services

and families themselves, as they are often painted undeservedly in negative lights as offenders or addicts. Clara feels that there are more support services offered for young dads in seeking employment, or in rehabilitation of violent offenders and more could be done to improve their parenting skills. One attempt made to encourage young dads to seek support for parenting, has been the reworking of the current PYPS brochure by changing the colours to a more gender inclusive soft orange and including gender neutral images such as a gentle fist bump greeting between parent and baby.

Other long-term goals Clara would love to see would be an easily accessible outdoors space and playground area for PYPS families to enjoy. A dedicated space for PYPS to meet would also be on the agenda!

For Clara it's all about the people. Young parents come from all walks of life and from all geographical areas. They are loving individuals who are trying to do the best for their children. This is reflected in their abilities, from some confident in baking special child friendly biscuits to those struggling to implement good nutrition. And yes, Clara enjoys her work and would recommend Uniting and PYPS as a great space in which to work!

Annetia Goldsmith

Church Council Field Day

Building Consensus, Managing Conflict

When: 9.30am – 4.30pm Saturday 13 October

Where: Launceston North Uniting Church, George Town Rd, Newnham

What: A day to equip, strengthen and resource church councils in their decision making processes and management of conflict.

Who: Rev Terence Corkin, former General Secretary of the Uniting Church Assembly and Julia Wallace

Who For:

- ◆ Church Leaders
- ◆ Elders/Church Councils
- ◆ Worship Leaders
- ◆ Ministry Workers

Cost: \$35 includes morning & afternoon tea and lunch plus great speakers

Register: Phone 6331 9784 or Email tas.office@victas.uca.org.au with name, congregation and role details by **Monday 8 October**



Synod of Victoria and Tasmania

LAY PREACHERS' ASSOCIATION

Lay Education Day – Saturday, August 4, 2018

Centre for Theology and Ministry— 29 College Crescent Parkville

9:30 am – 4:00 pm (*registration from 9:00 am*)

PRESENTERS

- ✚ **Rev. Dr. Sean Winter** – Head of College, Pilgrim Theological College; Director of Education and Formation for Leadership UCA, Vic/Tas *'The Sermon is in the Details: Making Use of Commentaries in Preaching'*
- ✚ **Wendie Wilkie** - Lay Preacher and retired Presbytery Minister Mission and Education Northeast Vict. *'Exploring the Advent themes of mystery, waiting and hope, and others as we discover more about Elizabeth and Mary – the two key women of Advent from Luke's Gospel – the gospel of this coming season'*
- ✚ **Rev. Ian Ferguson** - Currently Minister at Brunswick UC but prior to ordination came from a background of dance *'Worshipping in the Body - exploring communal aspects of worship as the Body of Christ, and the ways our own bodies are engaged and involved in worship'*
- ✚ **LPA COM members** - *'Continuing Education – What's out there and how can we make the most effective use of it?'*

WHO IS INVITED?

Lay preachers, candidates, other worship leaders and interested people – in short, everyone.

COST

\$30 to be paid in cash or cheque on the day; includes lunch and refreshments

VENUE

The Centre for Theology and Ministry, College Crescent, Parkville, across from the gate to the Melbourne Cemetery.

REGISTRATION

For registration form (due back by Thursday, July 26)

Secretary Synod LP Assoc Heather Cowled 7 Marys Hope Rd, Rosetta Tasmania 7010 or e-mail lpasecretary@victas.uca.org.au



Leadership Formation

We all make decisions. Some are small, some are big. Some are made with other people, some have to be made on our own. Some will affect another, some will not. How do you make decisions? How do you interact with others as they make decisions?

Here's an exercise to try - think of one big decision you've made in your life. Write down, what prompted or meant you had to make that decision. Now write down, what went into making that decision. What were all the things that needed to be considered? And finally - did the decision stick, or did you have to revisit it and do something different.

Have a look at each the things you've written down. At each point there a moment that as someone you know who is making a big decision can be cared for. What kind of responses from other people might be useful for you in those moments of decision making? This is how we can be helpful and be moments of sharing something of who God is with another. Whether it be in how we care for another in that moment of the way we share conversation.

Another point of considering decisions is when we need to share decisions in community. We can find ourselves having to work difference

of opinion, of understanding, of experience. Understanding that we each see things from a different perspective can be helpful in making decisions together.

Young people learn who we are as people of faith when we share with them what it is to make decisions. And we can help them - whether we live with them, or have grandchildren, or nieces and nephews, or friends with children.

Another learning opportunity for how we can make healthy decisions together is coming up in October. See the events page on the website or in this publication. For further information you can also contact the presbytery office, or one of the Presbytery Ministers

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



This 'n That

■ Marilyn Goninon has copies of **Australian Hymn Book** buried in a shed at Glenorchy and even some Methodist hymn books – does anybody have a need for these?

■ Wanted: to borrow for KUCA Campout – a nine branch Hanukah Menorah and a small terracotta oil lamp. Contact the Tasmanian Office.

■ The Tasmanian Office has copies of *Building Emotional Health and Wellbeing – A Pastoral Handbook for Ministry with Children*

and their Families available at no cost.

■ **Wanted: Pulpit size Good News Bible** in reasonable condition for an elder from Vanuatu to take back to his country for use locally. Contact Rev Colleen Grieve on 0437589755. Thanks for the response to this. Another of the group has a similar need if you are able to find a copy.

■ The Tasmanian Office has a **large data projector screen** available to a good home as well as a bracket for hanging a data projector from the ceiling. For more information contact the UCA Tasmanian office.

■ **Bible Society** are running a presentation in Hobart at 7.00pm on Tuesday 4th September at Southern Christian College entitled The Good Book Talks and a Masterclass designed for students at 9-12 level on Thursday 6th September with registration through www.masterclass.org.au These events are free.

■ **Congregation Checklist for July/August:** Have you sent a copy (hard or electronic) of your **Annual Maintenance Logbooks** due by the end of June. What about the Review of your **Safe Church Policies**?

Presbytery Directory 2018

These are available through the UCA Tasmanian Office. A hard copy directory may be purchased for \$5 or a copy can be sent to you by email at no cost by contacting the UCA Tasmanian Office. The Presbytery Directory may be used by ministers and employees of the Presbytery and agencies, and office bearers of congregations to undertake the functions and activities of the Uniting Church. Contact us at 6331 9784 or tas.office@victas.uca.org.au

Praying for the Presbytery

This month please remember in your prayers:

- For us as First and Second Peoples
- For unity in diversity as reflected in our Uniting Church
- For the faith journeys we make



Each Sunday at Launceston North, we acknowledge the First Peoples of our region. We recognise that, for millennia, they trod softly on this land. We recognise that Second Peoples in Australia have not always accorded honour to our First Peoples, and we offer prayers for reconciliation and hope. On Sunday 17th June, I enjoyed the privilege of sharing worship with the nearby Uniting Aboriginal & Islander Christian Congress (UAICC) fellowship. This was led by their Pastor, James Hughes, who kindly transported and introduced me. What a joy this experience proved to be.

Meeting as a home church, the group comprised a wide age range from young children, to parents, and a quite elderly gentleman. The primary school age children dominated, with older children electing to absent themselves at an early stage.

The congregation of Rocherlea are Tasmanian Aboriginal people, and their focus is directed to their family and getting on with life. They are proud to acknowledge their Aboriginality and responded positively when I introduced myself along the lines of my opening paragraph.

UAICC is an important branch of the Uniting Church which exercises a degree of independence, but is both supported by, and represented on, the councils of the Church. You are encouraged to reach beyond acknowledging our First Peoples at meetings and become acquainted with UAICC. You will be blessed in doing so.

Ian Farquhar

(from Launceston News –combined Launceston UC newsletter – edited)

what's On

July

- Fri 27 7.30pm Induction of Rev Fee Morrison into the Cradle Coast Parish, Burnie Uniting Church
- Sun 29 King Island ecumenical service and Assembly report-back for UCA folk

Aug

- Sat 4 2.00pm Assembly report-back – Clarence Uniting Church, 2 York Street, Bellerive
- Thu 16 10.00am Presbytery Standing Committee, Launceston
- Tue 21 Code of Ethics and Safe Church – Westbury
- Sat 25 Code of Ethics and Safe Church - Glenorchy
- Mon 27 Resource and Development Committee
- Tue 28 9.30am Pastoral Relations Committee, Launceston

Uniting Church in Australia Presbytery of Tasmania



Church Council Field Day

Building Consensus, Managing Conflict

Presented by Rev Terence Corkin and Julia Wallace



9.30am—4.30pm
Saturday 13 October

Launceston North Uniting Church
Georgetown Road, Newnham

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Presbytery of Tasmania website: <https://www.victas.uca.org.au/tasmania>