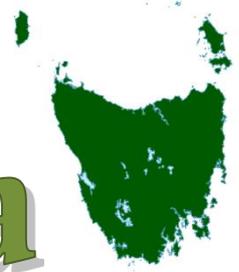


# Uniting Presbytery of Tasmania



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

Issue No. 174

July 2019



*“The Uniting Church believes that we hear the voice of God in the councils of the church. Church meetings that encourage community, and listening to one another in a spirit of openness and humility, are more likely to discern the will of God.” Rev Terence Corkin, former General Secretary UCA Assembly.*

The meeting of the VicTas Synod is nearly with us. Delegates will gather at Box Hill Town Hall in Melbourne with new Moderator, Rev Denise Liersch.

Synod has general oversight, direction and administration of the Church's worship, witness and service within its bounds. Synod meets on about an eighteen month cycle. The following meeting will be November 2020.

Issues to be discussed include: Issues to be discussed include a wide range of reports from the Church's many ministry areas, agencies, committees and presbyteries, as well as proposals related to increasing the involvement of adults under 50 years old in synod and presbytery leadership and shaping of the Church, a Church-wide disability action plan for 2019-2022, and response to Victorian legislation on Voluntary Assisted Dying that came into effect on 19 June 2019. Although the Victorian legislation does not apply to Tasmania, the Uniting Church includes a major hospital in Melbourne, and agencies such as Uniting AgeWell have facilities and staff in both states, in which voluntary assisted dying and conscientious objection may both be supported by Church policy.

Tasmanian presbytery delegates attending are Shirley Bowers, Marian Bisset, Brian Cole, Caro Field, Helen Geard, Annetia Goldsmith, Sherrin Jackman, Daphne Mitchell, Melanie Morris, Fiona Morrison, Ann Perrin, Rohan Pryor, Gospel Ralte, Grace Ralte, David Reeve and Denise Savage.

Information about the Synod Meeting including videos can be found at <https://victas.uca.org.au/about-us/synod-meeting/>

# Opportunities



## Next Presbytery Gathering

9.45am Saturday 9 November 2019  
Devonport Uniting Church

## Code of Ethics & Safe Church

Tuesday 3 September – Longford UCA

Saturday 21 September – Glenorchy UC

Code of Ethics 9.30am-12.30pm

Safe Church 1.00pm – 4.00pm

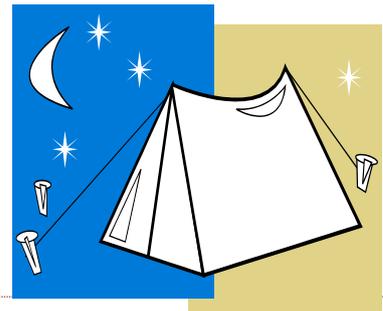


**Safe Church Training** is for anyone who has not yet attended a Safe Church session or one since June 2017. All those in designated leadership positions are **required to attend** and others with Working With Vulnerable People cards / registration are **encouraged to attend**.

## 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?** Look out for registration information and flyers SOON or contact the UCA Tasmanian Office: [tas.office@victas.uca.org.au](mailto:tas.office@victas.uca.org.au) OR 6331 9784

*Why on earth do we have to fill out a Keeping Children Safe Progress Report?*

*Why on earth do we need to obtain Working with Vulnerable People registrations?*

One of my many areas of volunteer work is with The Helping Hand Association Inc. in Longford, which is a local ecumenically run emergency relief organisation.

One day I was having a chat with one of our clients in the reception area and the issue of drugs entering the prison in Launceston came up.

Here I paraphrase the words of the client: *Prisons are institutions. Institutions run on routines and all routines have weaknesses. Prisoners have plenty of time to sit back and observe the routines and locate the weaknesses.* End of paraphrase.

Churches are at least to some extent institutions. They also have their routines and weaknesses. Those who would be predators of children and other vulnerable people have plenty of time to sit back and observe the routines and locate the weaknesses.

The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse showed the levels of success obtained by these predators and emphasised the responsibility of churches and other organisations to have appropriate barriers and responses to these issues. We are required to provide these barriers and responses in order to regain the respect of the community because even if we are squeaky clean we are tarnished in the eyes of the general public – the mission field. In order to share the good news, we need to show we are all safe.

Our Progress Reports allow the VicTas Synod to honestly report how we as a synod are responding to our obligations to the Australian community.

Our WWVP registrations allow the VicTas Synod to honestly report how we take our leadership responsibilities seriously.

These things may not stop those who wish to cause harm, however they will reduce opportunities and ensure safeguards and responses are in place.

Graham Booth – Safe Church Project Office

## 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](mailto:tas.office@victas.uca.org.au) and [crosslight@victas.uca.org.au](mailto:crosslight@victas.uca.org.au)

## Cliff Walker – Minute of Appreciation



*The following Minute of Appreciation was presented by Beryl Osborne at the June Presbytery Meeting with Cliff and family in attendance.*

It gives me much pleasure, on behalf of Presbytery, to say thank you to Clifford Arthur Walker for 15½ years of service, that is to say 'paid' work, to the Presbytery of Tasmania. His actual preaching was over a period of 62 years.

I first heard of Cliff Walker in 1957 when he started playing badminton at Invermay Methodist Church Badminton Club and my father told me of this young man who had eyes for one of his badminton protégées, Pat Ellings.

Pat and Cliff married and became a team when he was 23.

I finally met Cliff when they came to live in George Town where Cliff worked at Comalco. He became active in the local Methodist Church as a leader and a Lay Preacher in the Lower Tamar River area.

Cliff was not quite 50 and wondering if he should follow doctor's orders and retire. Was it God's calling "Be still and know that I am your God" or Pat's interpretation "Stop trying to figure it out, you know what you have to do so just do it" that made the decision? For six months he worried, "What if it wasn't God" and then the calls came.

Firstly, two months at West coast Patrol relieving while Rev David Jackson, who had been Cliff's minister in George Town, went on Long Service Leave.

This was a time when Cliff says he learned to really rely on God; to learn, listen and ask for guidance, as full-time ministry was so different from Lay Preaching and he felt inadequate.

And so began 15 1/2 years of ministry. By this time their children, Karina and Stephen were independent and they were free to serve and begin a migratory life, starting with Sundays at Ross and Campbell Town to preach and provide pastoral care in that district. He did this for a few months but was not able to give the care he felt the people needed and as a result he found himself in full time ministry – 3 days at Ross/Campbell Town, 2 days on Flinders Island and 1 day at Rossarden. Then the time at Flinders Island and Rossarden ceased and was replaced by the Parish of Longford/Cressy.

After 7½ years of this migratory ministry the big move came when Cliff and Pat moved to King Island for a 2 year settlement, followed by a 3 year settlement at Break O'Day and living at St Helens.

This appointment lasted until the end of 2003 when “at doctor’s orders” he ceased full time ministry. These are Cliff’s words, but not those of the people of George Town where he and Pat retired, as he continued to preach, baptise, marry and bury in the George Town Uniting Church. The general population of George Town regarded Cliff as minister of the Uniting Church and respected him in that way. He went to great lengths to persuade the Church Council that he wasn’t.

After six years of suffering with cancer Pat was called to her Lord in May 2013 and last year, due to ailing health, Cliff could no longer lead a full service, reduced his preaching time and retired from Parish positions. However, he did ensure that ministry went on in George Town as he encouraged others, especially his daughter, Karina, and Garry Jones.

Finally, just this year, Cliff retired from all ministry and became inactive as a Lay Preacher. In Cliff’s words, “he remembers that a request to do 2 months ministry on the West coast lasted for 15 ½ years and he is very thankful for this. Because of lack of training in the early days he thought and stated many times that he was ‘only a Lay Pastor’ until one day a dear, elderly clergy friend said ‘if God calls you, you are never and only’. He gives thanks to God that he didn’t know too much and had to rely on Him. The 15 1/2 years of ministry was never Cliff’s alone but Cliff and Pat’s”. Thank you, Cliff.

**The ACC invites all interested people to:**

## **The Bible and the Basis**

Date: Saturday 29 June

Venue: Ulverstone Uniting Church

Time: 10 am for 10.30 -12.30

Morning tea supplied BYO lunch

Participants will be asked to prepare for the event beforehand by reading the Basis of Union and doing the Quiz ‘How Biblical is the Basis’. See <https://confessingschooloffaith.com> then click on Basis of Union at bottom of home page, and select Basis of Union Quiz in the side panel. We will share our answers at the event.

Please contact Walter Abetz at <wkabetz2@bigpond.com> if you wish to participate in the teaching event at Ulverstone by ZOOM.

## Big Morning Tea



One hundred people attend Stowport's **BIG morning tea** fundraiser for Motor Neurone Disease Research on 4th June, which raised \$1934. It has been an annual event since 2008.

This event is organised and hosted by the community morning tea group that meets each Tuesday in the church hall, as an outreach within the rural neighbourhood.



## Stitching some warmth back into the community



HAVE you ever wondered what happens to old jeans when they “die”?

But old jeans don’t die – they don’t even just fade away. Clarence Uniting Church’s Connections Craft and Conversation group has a unique way of up-cycling old

jeans to provide benefits to the community – by refurbishing them into blankets for those in need.

Connections Craft and Conversation founder Claire Green said the group was established in 2007, but it wasn’t until 2012 when they began to make the blankets. “We were lamenting the fact that there were so many homeless people in Tasmania and how awful it would be to be in the cold,” she said.

“We saw the suggestion of using jeans to make blankets in a patchwork book, and we have our own Unicorn Opportunity Shop in Lindisfarne that has more jeans than they can sell, so they offered them to us, which we turn into beautiful new, warm blankets.”

Mrs Green said the blankets were made exclusively to be donated to organisations such as Uniting, Louis’ Van, City Mission and Bridgewater/Gagebrook Mission for distribution to those in need of warmth. “We have also put the pockets on the back, so they can keep something like a phone or some money safe while they’re sleeping,” she said.

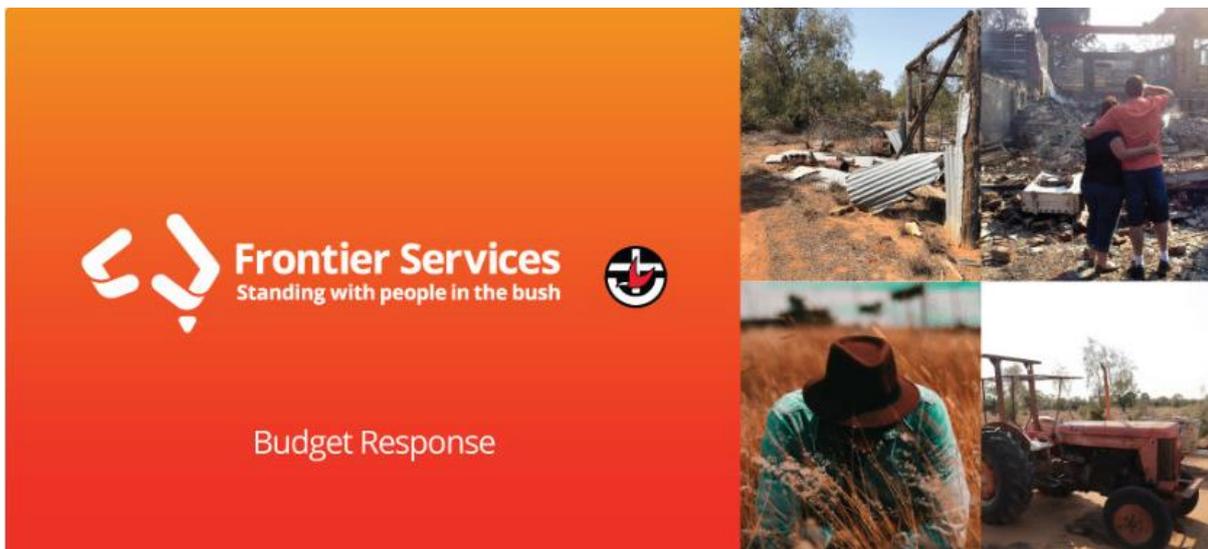
More than 300 blankets had been donated to date. Mrs Green said the group also made singlets for African babies and decorations for the ABC Giving Tree, as well as scarves, beanies or teddy bears for people that needed it most.

“That’s what we like to do as a church community – we like to help the community in any way we can,” she said. “We’re just a friendly group that have fun doing what we do, and hope that we are helpful to the community.”

On 13 July between 10am and 2pm, members of the Connections Craft and Conversation group will be holding a Craft Expo to demonstrate the jeans to blankets process. Other craft items will be on display and there will be an opportunity to produce bags to take home.

Connections Craft and Conversation group is open to the community and meets every Wednesday morning between 10am and noon at the Clarence Uniting Church.

For more information, visit [www.clarenceuca.org.au/Programs.html](http://www.clarenceuca.org.au/Programs.html)



As an agency of the Uniting Church in Australia, Frontier Services is in full support of the [2019 Budget response statement released by President Deirdre Palmer](#).

Frontier Services' National Director Jannine Jackson welcomed extra funding of \$5.5m over four years for mental health services for people in Tasmania, Victoria and Queensland who had been affected by natural disasters.

“Given our recent and ongoing experience with drought, fire and floods we’re continuing to express our concern for the growing disparity between metro and remote Australia.

“We hope that some of this funding and the overall increase on mental health spending will be accessible to those living and working in remote Australia,” said Ms Jackson.

## Congregation Reminders:

- Online Church surveys/reports – Heartbeat of the church for Church Council Secretaries AND Treasurer’s Questionnaire
- Annual Maintenance Statements (Log Books) due back at UCA Tasmanian Office
- Manse Inspection Reports due at UCA Tasmanian Office
- Annual Reports should now have been sent to UCA Tasmanian Office (due April)



# Theological reflection from Presbytery Gathering

*Edited notes from which Rev. Fee Morrison gave her reflection at the June Presbytery Meeting.*

- ❖ Today we have heard many words, plus more words and I am invited to share some more words... I invite you for a moment to spend some time in private thought and reflection on the words we have heard and how we can continue to share and live out these words in actions and by being.
- ❖ We are one body in Christ but with many gifts, every member has gifts and we are a diverse people with a diversity of gifts, but we are still the one body in Christ
- ❖ Grow people of faith in mission and discipleship
- ❖ All are invited to share on God's mission in the work of the presbytery
- ❖ A pilgrim people who share in God's vision with others but not always in the same ways as others
- ❖ John 10:10 we are called to abundant life and to share that abundant life in abundance
- ❖ What is justice and what does it look like in the UCA and in the world?
- ❖ Continuing to build and foster relationships with Uniting and our partnership together in God's mission
- ❖ Worship and faith development is at the heart of what we do, this helps us to partner with God in God's mission
- ❖ We gave thanks and remembered Rev Max Stansall, his passions and heart for the gospel and for the communities he was called to in ministry with.
- ❖ Scottsdale and Bridport - North East UCA – concern about what the future holds for our congregations
- ❖ Launceston South Esk - uniquely different but share the vision of sharing in God's mission
- ❖ Rohan reminded us: The Jesus we meet in the scriptures, again and again calls for freedom and for justice and for healing and for wholeness; for a change of heart for the individual and for the whole world: turn around, look anew, for God's loving way is the way that brings abundant life for all.

# Thriving Ministry Leadership

## Lessons from a duck, an echidna and a tree



ANDREW MCDONOUGH,  
BEST KNOWN AS THE AUTHOR  
AND ILLUSTRATOR OF THE LOST SHEEP BOOKS,  
IS COMING TO TASMANIA!



**Andrew McDonough**, best known as the author and illustrator of the Lost Sheep books, is coming to Tasmania! *Jesus' best command ever is 'look at the birds'. It's where to start if you're following Jesus. Now, if you're in ministry leadership, we recommend you pay attention to all of God's creatures. If people drive you bonkers, if you're exhausted from helping everyone, if your last sermon was described as 'nice' and if the phrase 'fruitful ministry' fills you with determination and despair then join the duck, an echidna, a caterpillar, a tree, Andrew McDonough and other new ministry friends in a workshop that will be fun and possibly of some value."*

**Who:** everyone in local leadership roles, ministers, and pastors

**Dates:** **Fri 9<sup>th</sup> August 10.00am-1.00pm at Penguin UC**

**Sat 10<sup>th</sup> August 10.00am-1.00pm at Launceston North**

**Sun 11<sup>th</sup> August 11.30am-2.30pm at Clarence UC**

**Cost \$10.00**

**Put one of these dates in your diary now**

Watch out for more information as it comes to hand or e-mail [anthea.maynard@victas.uca.org.au](mailto:anthea.maynard@victas.uca.org.au)

# 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 Tasmania website:** <https://ucatas.org.au/>

■ Chris Barnett's **Tasmania Children and Families update** by email contact [Chris.Barnett@ctm.uca.edu.au](mailto:Chris.Barnett@ctm.uca.edu.au)

■ **Information about the Synod Meeting including videos** can be found at <https://victas.uca.org.au/about-us/synod-meeting/>

## Praying for the Presbytery

This month please remember  
in your prayers:

- For **Hoon You, Hee-Seung (Hannah) Kook, Joon, Sarah and Issac** as they prepare to move to Tasmania to live and work amongst us.
- For **Gospel Ralte** and **Ann Perrin** as they prepare for the service to accept Gospel as a Minister of the Word in the UCA. For **Gospel's family** and the **people of Ulverstone UCA**.
- For the **Synod staff** preparing for the Synod meeting in July and **Synod members** from all presbyteries as they prepare to gather (and read many reports and proposals) and discern together.
- For **KUCA Campout organisers** as they prepare for KUCA Camp Out

## what's On

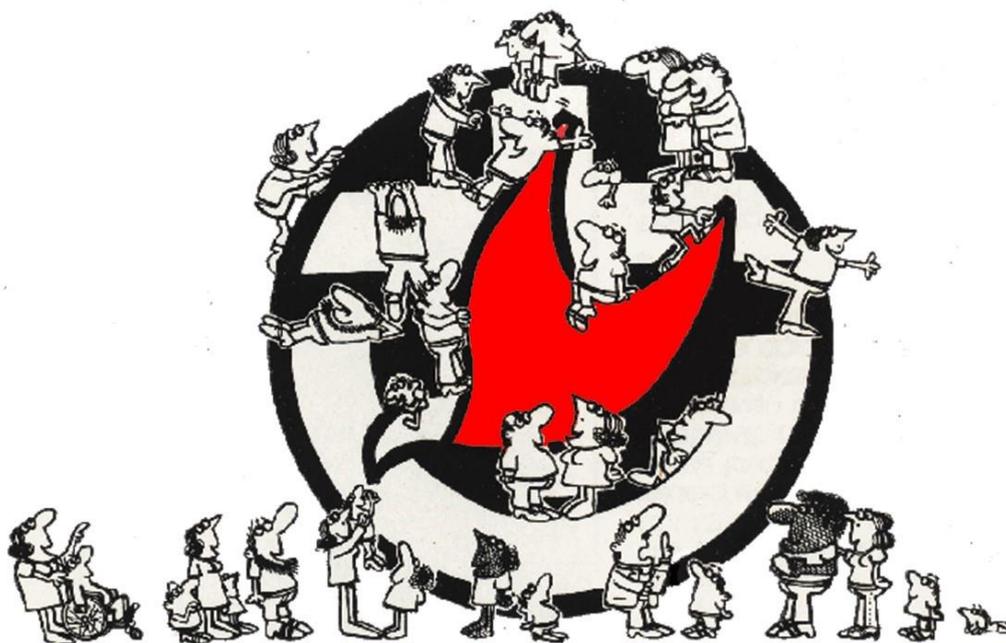
### July

Fri	5 to Tues	9	Synod Meeting, Melbourne
Mon	22	11.00am	Resource & Development Committee
Tue	23	9.30am	Pastoral Relations Committee
Thur	25	10.00am	Presbytery Standing Committee

### August

Fri	9	10.00am	Thriving Ministry Leadership at Penguin UC
Sat	10	10.00am	Thriving Ministry Leadership at Launceston North
Sun	11	11.30am	Thriving Ministry Leadership at Clarence UC
Thur	22	10.00am	Presbytery Standing Committee
Mon	26	11.00am	Resource & Development Committee
Tue	27	9.30am	Pastoral Relations Committee

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



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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  
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