

Scotch Oakburn College Micah 6:8 Award



Congratulations to Harry Birchmore, the 2020 recipient of the Micah 6:8 Award at Scotch Oakburn College. This award recognises a student in Year 9 or 10 who has a focus on what is 'just and fair', showing neighbourly compassion, loyalty and love. Their efforts may be local or global in scale, done in conjunction with an entity of the Uniting Church, and reflect a Christian understanding of God as expressed in the College Values. Additionally, the student is one who questions and tests common practice.

Harry is a Year 10 student at the College. As a senior student, he has volunteered extensively for service activities and programs within the College. Harry lives out the College

values in all respects and has contributed to school life in a selfless manner. He is always thinking of others and looking out for those who may need some quiet support, such as a new student who he noticed was struggling to make friends.

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Opportunities

Presbytery Meeting

Please note that the next Presbytery meeting will be held on

Saturday 13 February 9.45am—3:00pm

at the Kingston Uniting Church, 2/40 Jindabyne Road, Kingston

Business will include:

- Election of Presbytery Committee members
- Election of Assembly meeting members



Lent Event is UnitingWorld's annual fundraising event, bringing people together to learn about our overseas partners and commit to end poverty. Pledge to live simply for the 40 days of Lent (17 Feb – 29 Mar 2021) and help our global neighbours be free from poverty and injustice.

Find out more at <https://donate.unitingworld.org.au/event/lent-event>

Pastoral Care Seminars – online in 2021

Are you a great listener? Do you know what it takes to be a great listener? The UCA Presbytery of Port Philip West is running 4 seminars to equip people with listening, and pastoral care skills like understanding why we do the things we do, how to understand the meaning behind the stories that people tell you and much, much more. The pastoral care seminars are being held both in the daytime and evening. They are open to both lay and ordained people.

Seminar 1 is a prerequisite for the other three. Choose the dates that suit you.

Seminar 1: Feb 10 and 18

Seminar 2: Feb 24 and March 4

Seminar 3: March 11 and 19

Seminar 4: April 16 and 22



Register online: <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing?eid=706199>



Synod
2021

Meeting virtually (online) Friday 26 to Sunday 28 February 2021

The Synod meets approximately every 18 months to hear reports, discern proposals, and discuss matters that concern the general oversight, direction and administration of the life of the Church in Victoria and Tasmania.

Due to potential restrictions that are likely to be caused by COVID-19 impacts over the months ahead, the Synod meeting has been deferred until February 2021 and will be held as a virtual (online only) meeting, over a shorter period than usual.

The meeting will be over three days, meeting about five hours each day in a few blocks of time.

Rather than a challenge, the Synod Business Committee invites the Church to see the opportunities which this new way of meeting presents.

People from across the Church are invited to consider nominating people who may not normally be able to attend a 5-day in-person meeting, but could attend a three-day virtual meeting (meeting c. 5 hours each day, in a few blocks of time),

The following people will be Synod members from Tasmania:

Ordained members: 4 (of 8 possible)

Rev Caro Field, Rev Fiona Morrison, Rev Gospel Ralte, Rev Joanna Wierenga

Lay members: 8

Marian Bisset, Shirley Bowers, Corine King, Melanie Morris, Rohan Pryor, Lynn Templar, Margaret Wilson, (Ebenezer) Vanlal Zirsangliana

"Like Leaven in the Loaf"

Congratulations to David Vickery, Citizen of the Year in the 2021 Kingborough Awards!

More: <https://www.kingboroughchronicle.com.au/news/local-news/264-celebrating-community-contributors>

COVID-19 update: stay safe, risks are still real

- ***Follow health authority advice, and if unwell for any reason, stay home and stay safe***
- ***Maintain safe practices for church gatherings, including 'maximum density' and physical distancing***
- ***Holy Communion and hospitality need careful attention to ensure everyone feels safe, and remains safe***

Our health authorities continue to remind us that transmission of COVID-19 remains a real risk as people continue to travel internationally to Australia including Tasmania. The highly-transmissible UK variant of the virus has reached Australia, but is being contained by quarantine and safe practices.

'Chains of transmission' only become evident afterwards, so maintain safe practices for local church gatherings, and especially for Holy Communion and hospitality (morning tea, lunch, or Pancake Day).

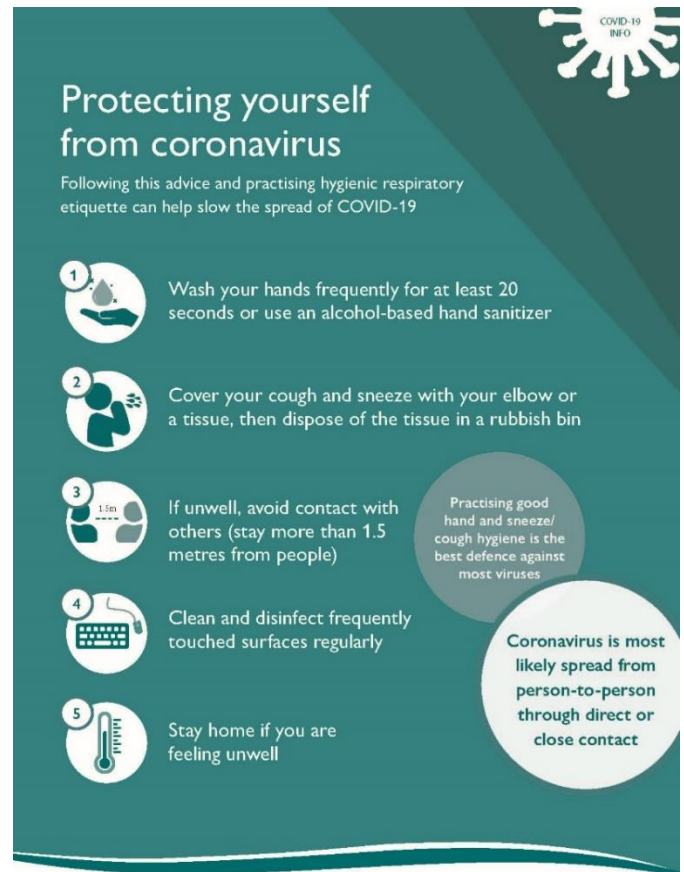
Careful planning can ensure these faithful practices can remain safe, as healthy leaders ensure participants remain safe, and avoid any unsafe physical contact between people. 'Maximum density' rules (2sqm/person) and physical distancing guidelines and are still in place.

The Uniting Church provides guidelines for safe activities including Pancake Day: <https://victas.uca.org.au/all-you-need-to-know-answers-to-your-frequently-asked-questions/>.

More information from the Tasmanian government:

<https://www.coronavirus.tas.gov.au/facts/important-community-updates>

- ***Keep contact lists for 28 days, including name, phone number, date and time of visit (and keep the contact list secure to respect privacy legislation)***
- ***If you have concerns or questions, contact your local leadership group (Church Council or Minister) or the Tasmanian office***



For more information, visit
www.health.tas.gov.au/coronavirus





**Uniting Church in Australia
ASSEMBLY**

Act2: God's calling to the Uniting Church



The Uniting Church Assembly is conducting a wide-ranging conversation across the Uniting Church about the future to which God is calling us in the years ahead.

The Uniting Church has been on a journey since it began 43 years ago. Things have changed, in our Church, in our country and in the world. Whilst Christians make up a smaller proportion of Australian society, Australian Christians are more culturally and theologically diverse than they were at the time of union. Society's attitudes towards Christianity have become more complex and less predictable. It's time to check the health of our Church and ask, 'where is God leading us, what is God calling us to do in this new context and how do we order our lives to best fulfil that calling?'

You are invited to consider the future of the Uniting Church as a people of God on the way.

As we look to the future, what is God saying to us as the Uniting Church about how we order our life so we can be committed to transforming lives and communities in God's love?

Be part of the UCA Act2 Project as we discern God's way together.

In the lead up to the 16th Assembly in July 2021, members of the Uniting Church, our congregations, agencies, schools and Councils, are invited to engage in a conversation about the future to which God is calling our Church.

To find out more about Act2 and how you can be part of this important conversation, first read the Introduction to the Project at <http://form.jotform.com/203201030312024>.

Then take the Survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6CNLFG2> so we can begin to hear your voice.

Assembly General Secretary Colleen Geyer has also written an explanation of the Act2 theme, at <http://uniting.church/whats-in-a-name-uca-act2/>.

As we look to the future, what is God saying to us as the Uniting Church about how we order our life so we can be committed to transforming lives and communities in God's love? We're inviting you to be a part of the UCA Act2 project as we discern God's way together.

Several online conversations will be held on the following dates.

- Sunday 31 January: 3:00pm - 4.30pm (AEDT)
- Wednesday 3 February: 7:00pm - 8.30pm (AEDT)
- Thursday 4 February: 8:00pm - 9:30pm (AEDT)
- Monday 8 February: 3:00pm - 4.30pm (AEDT)
- Wednesday 10 February: 3:00pm - 4.30pm (AEDT)

Please consider registering an Expression of Interest to be a part of the consultation: <https://uniting.church/have-a-conversation-with-us-about.../>



Uniting Church in Australia
ASSEMBLY

Assembly Meeting 2021

The triennial Assembly Meeting will take place on the 15th to the 19th July, 2021.

Save the date. Members from Tasmania will be elected at the February Presbytery Meeting.

We are yet to know whether this meeting will be face to face on the Sunshine Coast in Queensland, or online.

**This
'n
That**

TCC Emergencies Ministry Reminder of next training session on Saturday February 13th, 2021 9.30 am – 4 pm at Grace Centre Rokeby. Cost: \$110 (incl GST) with lunch and refreshments included. Registrations close Feb 2nd, 2021.

■ Wanted: **Together in Song - Harmony edition** for an organist. These are out of print and the organist at Sprent needs one. Sprent Congregation are willing to pay a fair price. Contact the Tasmanian Office 6331 9784 or Beth Miles of the Sprent Congregation on 6429 1260 if you are able to assist.

Praying for the Everyone

- for those organising and attending Presbytery, Synod and Assembly meetings
- for those who need to plan events with Covid19 in mind and for those tempted by complacency

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During the year Harry has served the school community in a number of ways, including a Year 3 Education Outdoors Program where he demonstrated leadership skills and excelled in promoting an inclusive and supportive environment for these young students. Harry also participated as a student leader in a school collaboration between Scotch Oakburn, St Mary's District School and Bicheno Primary School. The main aim of the project was to provide the east coast schools with a transition event for Year 6 students in an adventure-based setting. Harry was part of group that led one of the rotation activities, and therefore interacted with all the younger students during the course of the day. He exhibited a very patient and nurturing demeanour as he guided the Year 6 students through a range of challenges. Harry has excellent communication skills which he used to clearly outline what was required to complete this particular activity.

Micah 6:8 - To act justly, and to love mercy / kindness, and to walk humbly with your Go

what's on

February

Tue 2	10:00am	Pastoral Relations Committee
Fri 12	1.00pm	Resource and Development Committee, Bellerive UC
Tue 23	11.00am	Resource and Development Committee
Thu 25	10:00am	Presbytery Standing Committee
Fri 26 - Sun 28		Synod meeting (online): <i>include the meeting in your prayers</i>



<https://uniting.church/churchcouncils/> describes how the councils of the Uniting Church in Australia work together.



“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” Romans 15:13

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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