



Issue No. 207

September 2022

Opportunities for sharing...

Remember to join us in 'Sharing the Journey'

You are invited to a morning of sharing with interested local Uniting Church members and members of the Presbytery of Tasmania, at two regional 'hubs':

Saturday 27 August 2022:

- 9:30am for a cuppa and chat
- 10:00am for gathered worship
- Conversation and local story sharing
- Share stories from each region, and beyond
- BYO lunch, or food to share
- Concluding by 1:00pm

Two locations – you choose!

- *South:* Hobart North Uniting Church hosted by Rev. Denise Savage
- *North & North-West:* Devonport Uniting Church hosted by Rohan Pryor



Photo: Rohan Pryor

The Uniting Church is “a pilgrim people, always on the way towards a promised goal” (*Basis of Union*). Sharing the journey together is a both a joy and challenge. Sharing our insights into being the people of God in our local communities, as disciples of Christ and as communities of compassion and justice for all creation, is our purpose.

RSVP if possible, for catering purposes: tas.office@victas.uca.org.au

Reflection on *Lacuna*
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Australia reMADE
- see page. 5

News from the Justice
Unit – see p. 6

Reflection

Lacuna

*Move into a space ☐ of wisdom
And discover a secret blessing
An inner open welcome place
Where anything could happen
And often does.*

- Joan Wright Howie



Lacuna isn't a new word, but it's new to most of us. It's a Greek word for gap or lake and is used to describe the space in a manuscript where the writing is missing. Michael Leunig describes prayer as a creative Lacuna. It's the empty moment waiting to be filled with the breath of the Holy Spirit. Lacuna is space to listen attentively for the call of God. Lacuna is an invitation to respond to God's love and to participate in the conversation God has already started.

This week you are invited to intentionally create a Lacuna. This may be in your prayer time, in the car, as you walk to the shops or as you drift off to sleep. What helps you to shift your focus and become aware of God with you? Write down some ideas and talk about them with a friend.

This reflection comes from *Space for God: Lacuna*, a resource kit from the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania coordinated by Rev. Joan Wright Howie, published in 2003.

A Service of Celebration



On the 19th June, Hobart's Scots-Memorial UC congregation welcomed 15 new members into their fold. The group of smiling people pictured above were warmly welcomed by Rev John Broughton and Rev Geoff Gray. All but two are former Wesley UC congregation members. Absent is Philip Stansfield who also became a member but was unfortunately not able to attend the service.

This is cause for celebration as it shows that many former Wesley people continue as members of the Uniting Church and are able to worship and belong to another congregation. We are people who can worship the living God in any church building. This is cause for great celebration. In faith and hope, Robyn Nandan



The workshop called "Understanding the UCA" is coming up in September:

- 2 September - 6-9pm
- 3 September - 9:30am-4pm
- 16 September - 6-9pm
- 17 September - 9:30am-4pm

Online cost: \$40. Registrations close 1 September 2022, Zoom details sent 2 September.

This workshop is for anyone who would like to know more about the UCA, and anyone who needs to train to achieve the core competency of "Working within the doctrine, ethos and polity of the UCA" (Ministry of Pastor positions, Lay Preacher candidates). The registration page is on the Synod Events page <https://victas.uca.org.au/event/understanding-the-uca-2/>.

Pastoral Care workshops - Wednesday August 31 and September 14

Engaging in pastoral care can be a scary place. Any Uniting Church member who works in this field is invited to attend a two-part online workshop on August 31 and September 14 and explore what it means to be honest about facing their fears as a carer in pastoral encounters.

The online workshops cost \$30 and are presented by UCA Assembly National Disaster Recovery Officer Rev Dr Stephen Robinson, via Zoom.

For more details see <https://victas.uca.org.au/event/facing-fears-in-pastoral-encounters/>

Uniting Clinical Pastoral Education – The John Paver Centre

On-Line (via ZOOM) Supervised Pastoral Education Unit

Feb – June 2023

A part-time unit will be offered commencing 2nd February and concluding 8th June. Peer group seminars will run each Thursday commencing 8.30am sharp. Ten hours of individual supervision will be included in that period. The times for these will be negotiated with your supervisor at the beginning of the course. Two extra days are also required for group/individual evaluation: at mid-term and final, being 5th April and 7th June.

Interviews are scheduled for Thursday 24th November 2022.

This centre, with its particular focus on people engaged in community-based pastoral ministry contexts, is under the auspices of the UCA, Synod of Vic/Tas. This program will be conducted entirely on-line (via zoom), so reliable internet connection is essential.

Applications close: Monday, November 14th 2022

Inquiries

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God is with us - always - the promises of God in the Bible remind us that we are never alone. We can be in a crowd of people or by ourselves, God will always be with us.

[Australia reMADE](#) is a Tasmanian community organisation that collaborates with the Uniting Church and is “on a mission to support ambitious, collaborative, and transformative change-makers to reMAKE more of the world we want”.

You are invited to respond to the survey by 31st August if you are interested to contribute to this collaborative community project.



The Stuff of Dreams is a project between Good Life Permaculture, Australia reMADE and the people of lutruwita/Tasmania. We ask Tasmanians what they want a climate safe future to look like for this island we all call home. You are invited to submit your thoughts via our [short online survey](#), to [send an email](#) or to participate in an [online community conversation](#).

Local animator Vivien Mason will then turn these ideas and dreams into a short animation that will be launched in early 2023. We'll be sending this animation to politicians across the island and hope that it sparks further community conversations, engagement and action towards a climate safe future. We've got big plans, who knows where else it might lead!

I know how engaged the church community is and it would be fantastic to have your input.

We're also really keen to engage with First Nations folks.

We'd really appreciate it if you could respond to the online survey, and to share this invitation with your networks via email, social media and any other means you think appropriate.

The survey can be found at www.australiaremade.org/stuff-of-dreams and feel free to contact us on the details below!

Dr Millie Rooney
National Coordinator
Australia reMADE
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Living, loving and working across this country, we respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land and their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay respect to elders both past and present.

A decade of justice work bears fruit: protecting children in employment

Children work in many fields, companies and family businesses. After a decade of campaigning and lobbying by the JIM cluster and congregation members, the *Child Employment Amendment Bill* was introduced by the Victorian Government and passed through the Parliament, receiving Royal Assent in late June 2022.

The key features of the Bill are:

1. New licensing system

The Bill introduces a streamlined child employment licensing system which is risk-based and targeted to replace the current individual permit system. The new system will free up inspectors to spend more time in the field detecting and responding to mistreatment of children in employment.

2. New definition of 'employment'

The Bill updates the definition of 'employment' to provide greater clarity and certainty to people engaging children about what activities performed by children are considered employment for the purposes of the Act.

The Bill provides stronger protections for children by increasing the minimum age of a person supervising a child in the workplace to 18 years. This requirement will only apply to supervision of a child in the workplace who is under the age of 15 years. Children under 15 are particularly vulnerable in the workplace so requiring their supervision to be provided by an adult adds a further safeguard.

3. Compliance and Enforcement

Amendments to the Act also increase the effectiveness of the Wage Inspectorate's compliance and enforcement regime by expanding its suite of regulatory tools and increasing the penalties for contraventions of the Act. Inspectors will now be able to issue on-the-spot fines for violations of the protections for children.

One of the MPs made special, and very favourable mention of the UCA in their speech supporting the legislation. Adrian Pyle, Acting EO eLM, speaks of his 'deep appreciation from the Church itself that the Justice Cluster staff (and the JIM Unit before that) and the UCA volunteer justice community have had the resilience to keep advancing this issue over so many years, until this result was achieved'.

Article from the Synod General Secretary's Newsletter Aug 2022

Carry hope in all circumstances - Life will always have difficult and trying circumstances. Faith in God enables us to carry hope in these times. It is hope that enables us to see beyond what troubles us and look to God's holding.

**This
'n
That**

Charity Sector Town Hall Meeting – “Building Community Forum - Hobart”

The assistant Minister responsible for charities, Andrew Leigh MP, has issued an invitation to interested parties to join him in a “Building Community” forum with local charity leaders. These forums are the first phase in the government’s partnership with Australian charities and community groups (including churches) to build a stronger charity sector and a more connected community. The forum is on the 29th August from 10.00am at the Hobart Town Hall. To RSVP you can visit their

registration page <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing?eid=942061&>

- ARTBOX in Civic Square 29th August to 29th September 2022 is a travelling exhibition space, promoting professional and emerging artists and makers, and is an initiative of the Huon Valley Council with support from the City of Launceston. This explores the relationship between the Tamar and Huon waterways, featuring various forms of artworks by artists and curators from Launceston and the Huon Valley. Accessible 24 hours a day and monitored with in-built security cameras and lighting.

Praying for Everyone

- For the families of Dawn Jewell, Craig Johnston and Eunice Wools-Cobb as they mourn the passing of their loved ones and for any other people who have lost loved ones.
- Members of the Uniting Church preparing to take part in the World Council of Churches Assembly.
- The many homeless people around our state and the people in power that are tasked with finding ways to assist them.
- For farmers who have many challenges and still get crops in to provide for community needs.

Annual reminders for leaders in Congregations:

(this section is back by popular demand)

September:

- ☐ Check items in Annual Maintenance Statements Log Book
- ☐ Annual Maintenance Statements Log Books due back at UCA Tasmanian Office
- ☐ Annual Manse inspection report to Presbytery
- ☐ Copies of AGM reports to Presbytery Office (if not already sent)

What's On

Sept

Tue 6	10:00am	Pastoral Relations Committee
Mon 19 – Wed 21 st		“Renew” Ministry Workers retreat, Ratho Farm, Bothwell
Thu 22	10:00am	Presbytery Standing Committee
Tue 27	11:00am	Resource and Development Committee

Oct

Tue 4	10:00am	Pastoral Relations Committee
Thu 25	11:00am	Resource and Development Committee
Thu 27	10:00am	Presbytery Standing Committee

Did you know?

- The Presbytery of Tasmania has 33 congregations, 13 ordained ministers in placement, 5 representatives in total from ACC, UAICC and Crossroads, and 2 people co-opted to attend Presbytery meetings. So, meetings of the Presbytery should have 51 voting members attend, share, discern and decide together.
- We have 12 congregations who don't have a Presbytery representative or whose rep doesn't attend meetings, so ensure your congregation is well represented, and help to shape the life and mission of the Uniting Church in Tasmania.

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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