

Uniting Tasmania



Presbytery of

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



Issue No. 212

March 2023

Coming Events:

This Is Us! – for all local church leaders and Church Councils

Come see, explore, talk, know and celebrate who we are in the Uniting Church

Friday 24 March 6:30pm to 4:00pm Saturday 25 March, Launceston

see page 3-4 for more details



What's in it for you?

- A greater understanding of your own and other cultures, particularly within local Church communities
- Celebrating diversity, working together for the whole community, making a place at the table for everyone, including quieter voices
- Increased self-awareness and care for others' power and boundaries
- Insights into unconscious bias and the power of communication
- Better expressing our own faith in multi-cultural and multi-faith contexts with respect and care

Refresh – for local church leaders in every congregation

Sustaining Practices for Church Life

Saturday 6 May, 9.30am—3.00pm (10am start)

Briggs House Dining Room, Scotch Oakburn College, Newstead

A day to explore how we might be our best selves and be sustained in our lives and service as followers of Jesus

see page 11 for more details

Resources for Lent
pages 5-6

Thankyou John Beswick
page 7

Act 2
page 9

Weaving and Healing - the Core Cultural Compass of Being (Anniversary of the National Apology)

"February 13 each year marks the anniversary of the National Apology to the Stolen Generations, who suffered trauma because of past government policies of forced child removal. Many of these removals occurred as the result of laws and policies aimed at assimilating the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population into the predominately white community. Stolen Generations survivors are some of Australia's most vulnerable people and many have kept their stories and experiences secret for many years, even decades." - exert taken from Healing Foundation

Weave me my core Cultural compass,
Today we stop,
Or if not - we should stop.

In our thoughts, hearts, and souls,
We stop on the soil of stolen Lands
with all its history
With all its healing, its harm, and its hurt.

Of lands never ceded, of children taken
away and assimilated.
The "we know best" policy,
Embedded and threaded in,
The anniversary of this apology

An apology that should not have
necessitated,
From Lands and family - tears and fears
resonated.
From the colonial arm, of power over,
removed from the Lands and Mothers
hands.

Stolen, taken, shaken - we carry with us
this intergenerational aftermath of
souls breaking.

Are we in the cusp of another apology
in the steering of, a perceived healing?
Do we sit with apathy and not relate to
a history that is based on taking?
Take from, take to.
Victimise, colonise.
So much sits behind the guise of
"apologise".

What scars sit in the scars of past?
What scars sit and how long will they
last?
The feeling, the stealing,
The concealing, the searing dealings.

Stolen, taken, shaken, hearts and souls aching.
You say we are protected? Respected?
Are you sure you aren't mistaking that for us
being disconnected, rejected, misdirected?
Colonised and marginalised, pain minimised,
our people analysed.

Sit with the Mothers; sit with the child.
Sit with the unmarked graves, sit with a history,
Weep for the gravity of the assimilation policy.

We honour our mob present and past, removed
and stolen from the core Cultural compass of
being and knowing.

We stop, and we hold.
We reflect, and discern.
From past removal policies - we MUST learn.

We weep,
We hear,
We fear, and we hope.

We reach our hands to the healing,
In a hope to rest our eyes from the harm.
We seek and speak to the heart ache of each
nurturing Cultural arm.
We hope in the healing,
That the core Cultural compass of being, is
renewed.
Stories shared - not considered taboo,
Words no longer spoken untrue.

We must not forget,
Vast seas of upset and regret.
A past of which we are the ones paying an
enormous debt,
May our ancestors weave healing arms around
all as we mourn into the unpredictable present.
Our collective truth becomes visibly apparent.



By Alison Overeem, Ayla Williams and Grace Williams
UAICC lutruwita

'This is us': come let us *see, explore, talk, know, and celebrate* who we are as
the Uniting Church in Tasmania



- For all local church leaders in Tas
- **Friday 24 March 6:30pm to Saturday 25 March 4:00pm**
- understand the changing cultural landscape of the Uniting Church
- build relationships of respect and collaboration across cultures
- increase self-awareness and your leadership capacities as a team
- **\$20, Launceston venue (TBC)**

- **God's gift of diversity is already present in who we are now as the UCA, and in moving towards the fullness of who God calls us to be.**
- **We celebrate who we are as the multicultural Uniting Church in Christ, discovering, rediscovering, and appreciating the gifts and values in God's Church - for God's mission in local communities.**
- **God's Holy Spirit gives us both courage and compassion in the challenges and harder conversations around who we are together.**



To register please email the UCA Tasmanian Office
Tas.Office@uictas.uca.org.au or phone 6331 9784.

'This is us': 24-25 March 2023, Launceston



Program cost: \$20 catering

Please advise of any dietary requirements

Program outline:

Friday 24 March:

6:30pm BYO dinner

7:00pm Welcome, introductions

Session #1: building community insights

9:30pm End of the day

Saturday 25 March:

8:45am Morning devotions

Session #2: cultures and identities

Session #3: addressing bias and racism

Lunch break

Session #4: addressing discrimination

Session #5: case studies, Q&A panel

Next steps together

4:00pm End of program

The leadership team are keen to offer this program again in other locations later in 2023, and in 2024. Ask us more...

What's in it for you?

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- Celebrating diversity, working together for the whole community, making a place at the table for everyone, including quieter voices
- Increased self-awareness and care for others' power and boundaries
- Insights into unconscious bias and the power of communication
- Better expressing our own faith in multi-cultural and multi-faith contexts with respect and care *Looking forwards, looking backwards...*



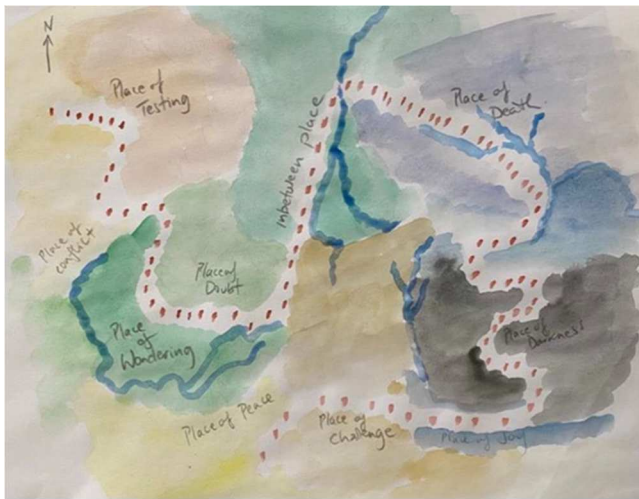
Who is involved & leading?

Gain insights from experienced Uniting Church leaders:

- **Rev. Sylvia Akau'ola Tongotongo**, Intercultural Communities Development Coordinator, eLM
- **Rev. Devanandan (Dev) Anandarajan**, Intercultural Leadership Development Coordinator, eLM
- **Julie McDonald**, Coordinator of the UCA Bethel Pastoral Centre
- **Rev. Valentina Satvedi Leydon**, minister at Launceston Pilgrim UC
- Presbytery leaders **Rev. Denise Savage** and **Rohan Pryor**



To register please email the UCA Tasmanian Office Tas.Office@victas.uca.org.au or phone 6331 9784.



Oh the Places you'll go –

Chris Barnett, eLM Intergenerational Ministry worker with Children and Families, is excited.

He recommends to us this Lent 2023: *Oh, The Places You'll Go...resource for Lent*. Though this season has already started I am certain you will find some useful material here to supplement your worship and learning journey through this season.

This Lent series was compiled and written by Elizabeth Waldron Anstice and can be downloaded from <https://intergen.org.au> You can download the resource for free or make a contribution, and this site has a wide variety of resources to facilitate your planning of worship and small group activities.

Lent is often described as a journey. Through the gospel texts of these weeks we see Jesus traversing the terrain of Palestine, heading towards Jerusalem, as well as exploring the inner landscape of the human soul and the hills and valleys of human relationships. All of this is familiar territory for God as we see in the accompanying texts from the whole of scripture. Abraham wanders towards blessing; Moses runs headlong into conflict; Samuel searches for leadership; the psalmist gets stuck and cries for forgiveness; the Roman community scale the depths of sin and grace. Together we open these stories like maps for our own journey in community to find our way, following Jesus. In intergenerational faith community we pay attention to the world around us, and the space between us, and oh, the places we'll go...

This resource contains Bible Engagement, interactive Prayer and Music

- Places of Testing – Year A Lent 1 (Feb 26 2023)
- Places of Wondering – Year A Lent 2 (March 5 2023)
- In-between Places – Year A Lent 3 (March 12 2023)
- Dark places – Year A Lent 4 (March 19 2023)
- Places of Death – Year A Lent 5 (March 26 2023)

Understanding the UCA

eLM is offering an online study unit for people wanting to understand more about the Uniting Church and for those undertaking the 'Work within the doctrine, ethos and polity of the Uniting Church' requirement. Beginning on March 30, the four-month unit involves four group tutorials and a reflective assessment. Registration closes on March 25 and cost is \$40.





Also competing for your Lenten interest is the **Lent Event**

Dr Sureka Goringe, National Director of UnitingWorld, invites us....

Here's how to join us:

●**Pray** - Use our prayer guide to pray alongside our partners as they address the challenges facing their communities.

●**Live simply** - Give up something in solidarity with people who have less.

●**Give** - Donate or fundraise to help our partners fighting poverty and injustice.

Every prayer, action and gift make a difference, and not just for people overcoming poverty. Because when we work for change, we too are changed.

I hope you'll join us for Lent Event this year as we seek to refocus our lives through prayer, simplicity and generosity. In 2023, Lent is from 22 February to 6 April.

Head to www.lentevent.com.au today to get started.

VicTas Lay Preachers' Annual Conference 2023

The Annual Conference was held on Friday Evening 24/2 and Saturday 25/2.

A number of Tasmanians attended via Zoom and the new president, Graham Booth, thanks them for their support.

Input was provided by the following:

Sunny Chen – spoke on his Joy of Discovery relating to four passages from the letters of Paul. His joy related to the way in which his and the academic community's ongoing understanding of the New Testament Greek language has informed the translation of popular Pauline texts.

Graham Booth – ran a workshop aimed at pooling some of the knowledge and aspirations of lay preachers to inform the decision making of the Committee of Management.

Stephen Burns – spoke about the fatigue that affects those in ministry including the ministry of lay preacher, how it is shaped internally and externally and some reflections on its management.

Sally Douglas – reflected on the nature of religious experience developing out of her experience of a Nick Cave concert at Hanging Rock in Victoria leading us deeper into the purpose of gathering for worship and reflecting on our own encounters with God through worship and elsewhere.

Thank you for 62 years of service John!

The West Tamar Uniting Church celebrated a milestone in the life of John Beswick on Sunday 28th January. As a Lay Preacher for over sixty years, John had decided to retire from active service. It was a time of great joy and happiness recognizing the continuous faithful service he gave our Churches. However, it was tinged with some sadness as it meant one less to fill the preaching plan and we would miss the insightful messages he gave. Friends, past members of the Parish and members of John's family came to celebrate a life of faithful service.



John's faith journey started in the home with bed time payers, leading to Sunday School and Church. When the minister started a youth-club he got some of the members to take the devotions. Possibly seeing the potential, he later asked John if he would consider becoming a lay preacher to which John replied, "Oh that's not much in my line", and rode off on his horse. The Minister Rev. Frank Morris must have sown a seed because later John agreed to join with two or three young men from the youth club in taking services as a group around the churches of the Derby Circuit. Finding that he felt quite at home in the pulpit he took that step of faith, responding to the call.

The training involved a prescribed course of study by correspondence on both the Bible and Christian Doctrine as well as preaching and learning by experience. During this time John learnt the importance of looking at the Bible as a whole instead of just plucking out the comfortable feel good stories.

John studied and passed his lay preaching exams. Sometime later after completing the course of studies he was accredited as a lay preacher in 1961 and has continued ever since. During his time in State Politics he did very little preaching, but this changed when he moved from Derby to the West Tamar taking an active role in the life of the church regularly taking services in all four churches and acting as lay presider for Communion.

John might have retired from taking active services but one member reminded him that he is a member of a congregation and we do have congregational services and his expertise will be required. Thank you John for your faithfulness. *Daphne Mitchell*



Contact the Tasmanian Office if you would like to be emailed a copy of the full reflection given by John Beswick at this service of thanks and recognition (previous page).

Queensland conference

Lay Preachers, prospective Lay Preachers and those interested in leading worship are invited to attend the 2023 National Conference of Lay Preachers from August 4-7 at the Alexandra Park Conference Centre on the Sunshine Coast. Registration costs \$299 and opens from April 4.



Rev Brian Howe AO – My life after politics

At this third talk in a three-part series, Brian will talk about life since leaving the Australian Parliament in 1996, having served in the Hawke and Keating Governments.

Sunday 19 March 2023 at 2.00pm Free event

Centre for Theology & Ministry 29 College Crescent Parkville

You are invited to attend live or register for an online link by email:

ken.barelli@bigpond.com Enquiries: Mobile 0418 317 942

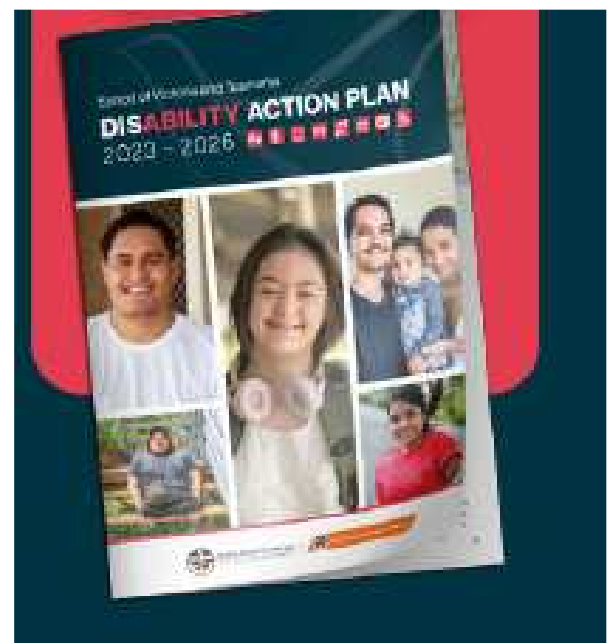
VicTas Uniting Church Historical Society



The 2023-2026 Disability Action Plan for the Uniting Church in Tasmania and Victoria was launched at Rowallan Park, Kingston Uniting Church.

To download the Action Plan and 'Plain English' version, visit

<https://victas.uca.org.au/ministry-mission/disability-inclusion/>





<https://uniting.church/act2submissionsandworkstreams/>

Act2 is all about how we can work together as a whole Church to shape our life for the future, and everyone that calls the Uniting Church home is invited to participate.

The Act2 Project Unit is committed to making meaningful opportunities available to engage, whether through online focus groups, face-to-face conversations, or by a conversation at the local level. You are invited to take up the opportunity that works best for you and your Church community in 2023.

For a video outlining Act2 visit [Act2 Project \(act2uca.com\)](https://act2uca.com)

One key opportunity is ready to go right now. Any person, community, committee, council or other body within the Uniting Church can now **make a submission** to the Project. This is an important way of influencing the Project as we gather insights and ideas from across our Church. If you have something to say that the Church should hear, this is a great opportunity. Read the guidelines and see the various ways you can submit.

What could I make a submission about?

The Act2 Project recognises that our context is radically different from the time when many of our current structures and practices came into being. Our society has changed and we have changed as a Church. Technology, patterns of work, age and cultural demographics, relationships to institutions, governance expectations, government policy and services amongst many other changes have all worked to confront our assumptions and patterns of church life. Throughout that same period, a lot of innovation and exploration has taken place in parts of our Church.

How can we adapt to these changes and harness new opportunities? What things are working and what needs to change? You could write to us with your specific ideas.

Grounded in our faith.

Attentive to the Spirit.

Fuelled by prayer.

Discerning together.

You could also write to us if you have passions or insights about one of the four key areas the Project is focussed on. These areas, called workstreams, are shaped by the decision of the Assembly. What are your responses to the four key questions?

For more information on these four key questions check out:

[Where to from here — Act2 Project \(act2uca.com\)](https://act2uca.com)

(1) Local Communities of Faith and Discipleship

Key Question: How can we do more to help and less to hinder life-giving communities of faith and discipleship?

(2) National Identity

Key Question: What is most valuable about being a national church and how do we resource it?

(3) Governance and Resourcing

Key Question: How do we order our life and distribute our resources to support our ministry and mission, particularly local communities of faith and discipleship?



(4) Theological Culture and Education

Key Question: How do we enable a sustainable set of institutions and practices that cultivate a vibrant theological culture?

In 2023 there will be many opportunities to explore these questions and how we rethink and reshape our life to respond to them. In the first half of the year, we will be exploring ideas for how we could shape our life differently. In the second half, we will be engaging in collective discernment, exploring specific directions and options to collectively strengthen our life as a Church.

Our work is shaped by prayer, and we will invite the whole Uniting Church to join us in prayer between Pentecost (28 May) and the Uniting Church Anniversary (22 June) in 2023.

As we listen for the leading of the Holy Spirit, it may just be your voice that has the insight we need to find the direction God is calling us.

Make sure you explore the [current opportunities to get involved](#) and stay tuned through the [Act2 website](#), [the Assembly's social media pages](#) and [National Update](#) (the Assembly's weekly e-news) as more opportunities become available.



Uniting Church in Australia
ASSEMBLY



Refresh – for local church leaders in every congregation

Sustaining Practices for Church Life

A day to explore how we might be our best selves and be sustained in our lives and service as followers of Jesus

9.30am—3.00pm (10am start) Saturday 6 May

Briggs House Dining Room, Scotch Oakburn College, 85 Penquite Rd, Newstead

What's it about? - Being sustained in our lives and service in the church.

Sessions will include:

When big change is hard” – Rev Denise Savage

Caring and over-caring” – Rev Fee Morrison

Choice of Workshops: Contemplative Practices – Rev Rosalind Terry

Energising Practices – Rev Jeff Savage

Cost: \$15 for lunch. Free for those who BYO lunch. Morning tea provided.

Register: Email: tas.office@victas.uca.org.au or Ph: 6331 9784 by **Monday 1st May**, indicating if you want lunch provided and any dietary requirements.

For more information, contact Rev Sherrin Jackman: sherrin.jackman@victas.uca.org.au, or phone— 0447 507 059



**WE BELONG
TO THE DAY**

Synod
2023

Commencing with Opening Worship at 10am on Saturday, November 18, the 2023 Meeting of the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania will be held at Box Hill Town Hall and will continue until 4pm on Tuesday, November 21. Special guests confirmed are Brooke Prentis, Aboriginal Christian leader, international speaker, writer, educator and poet, who will preach during the Opening Worship, and Rev Associate Professor Robyn Whitaker, Senior Lecturer in New Testament at Pilgrim Theological College, who will lead the Bible studies. An information flyer and video invitation from the Moderator to all church members are now available.

Praying for Everyone

- Lay preachers in Tasmania and Victoria as they put up with the new President of the Lay Preachers' Association as he will be spending six and a half months overseas this year.
- The Presbytery Meeting on Saturday and for those who God is leading into positions within its structure.

What's On

March

Sat 4	9:00am	Launch of Disability Action Plan at Kingston UC
Sat 4	10:00am	Presbytery Meeting at Kingston UC
Tue 7	10:00am	Pastoral Relations Committee
Tue 14	11:30am	Resource and Development Committee
Thu 23	10:00am	Presbytery Standing Committee

From Checklist for UCA Congregations

March

- AGM by end of March
- Check items in Annual Maintenance Log Book
- Notify UCA Tasmanian Office of any changes to Presbytery Directory – office bearers, worship times
- Working with Vulnerable People (WWVP) registrations all up to date

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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