



# THE BCUN

BALLARAT CENTRAL UNITING NEWS



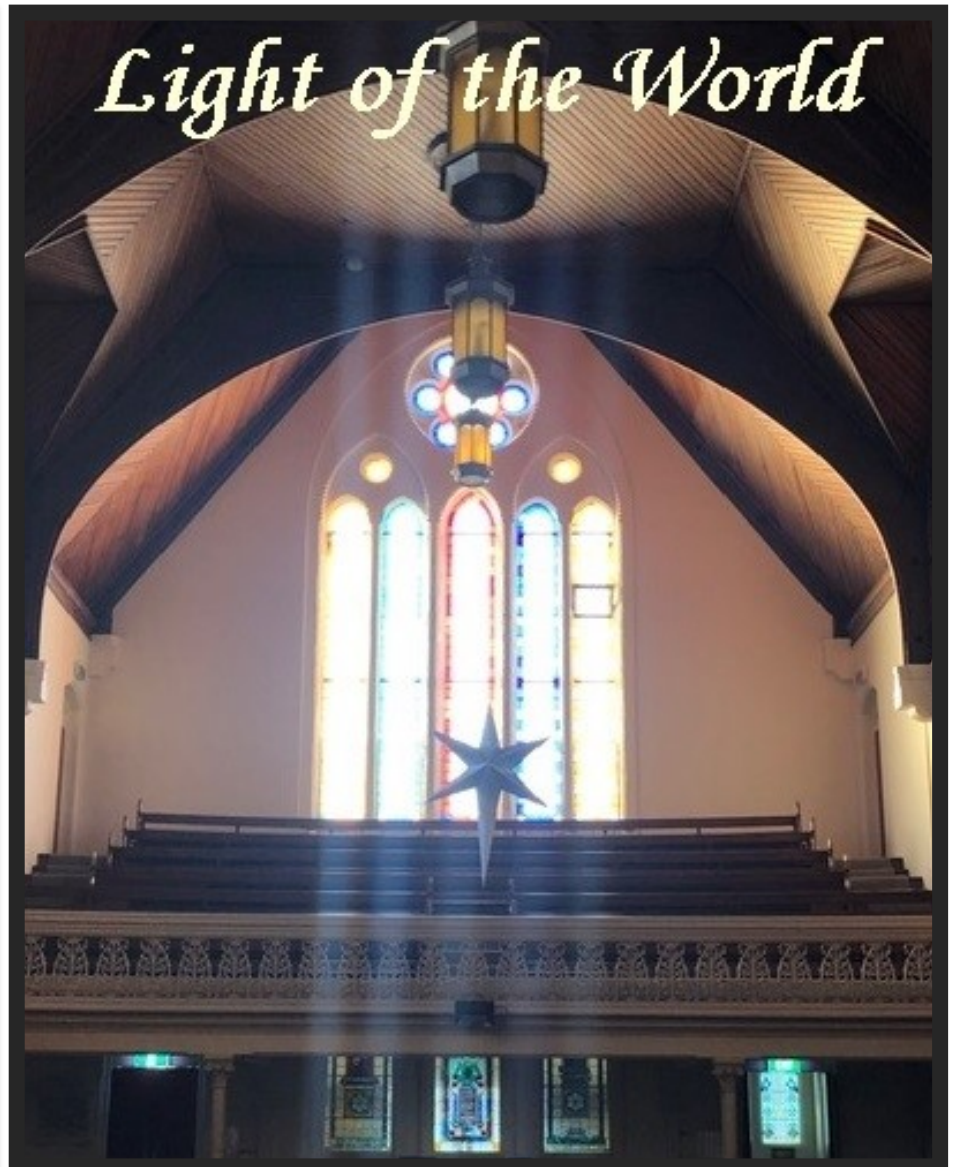
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A big thankyou to the contributors who provided articles and photographs for this edition of BCUN. They are very much appreciated.

If you would like to contribute to BCUN in any way, please email me at this address:

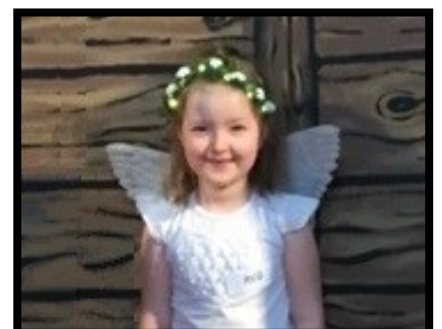
lyons.fiona.f@edumail.vic.gov.au



The pressures of preparing for Christmas can cause us adults to forget what a special time it is. Watching children at church is such a gift as their wonder and excitement makes the magic of the Christmas story come alive.

Above: Our Christmas star looked beautiful against the stained glass windows.

The Angels' Breakfast is one of the ways in which Christmas is made special for the children at BCUC. See inside for more pics of this event and much more.



# Uniting

Report by Wendy Ferguson,  
Acting Executive Officer



## Christmas Client Assistance

Our emergency relief/crisis support teams were extremely busy in December, planning for Christmas distribution events and increased volumes of clients seeking assistance.

Some examples of what we were able to provide clients in terms of assistance across the Cluster include:

- 803 Food parcels and 851 Food Vouchers provided through Wyndham site.
- 'Operation Santa' assisted 467 children - gift selection appointments at Wyndham for individuals/families with dependents under 18yo (supported by local businesses/community groups)
- Ballarat offered a distribution day on 19/12 which included children's activities, petting zoo,

sausage sizzle and a 'pop-up present shop'. This was an opportunity to distribute ~\$45,000 of vouchers, toys and hampers of goodies.

- Geelong distribution of toys and hampers across several days and locations in the Barwon region.
- 'Adopt a Family' distribution of Christmas gifts and food to 72 Uniting client families in the Barwon Region.

## Uniting Strategic Plan 2018-2025

This is a strategic plan that will enable us to build the capability to deliver on our purpose: "To inspire people, enliven communities and confront injustice".

The strategic framework has emerged from extensive engagement with those we serve, employees, congregations, volunteers and stakeholders and been endorsed by Synod Standing Committee. It is framed by two overriding objectives – "Changing lives and communities" and "Changing how we work".

## Uniting Annual Report 2017-18

The stories running through this year's annual report give just a flavour of the many ways in which we stand by those living life on the margins. You will also get to know some of the dedicated employees and volunteers that make that support a reality.

Both of the above are available to view at <https://www.vt.uniting.org/publications/>

## Upcoming Lifeline Ballarat Training (available to the local community)

### ASIST

Attend an ASIST workshop and learn to apply a suicide intervention model. It will help you to recognise when someone may be at risk of suicide. You will then learn to explore and connect with the person in ways that understand and clarify the risk, increase their immediate safety and link them with further help. **When:** Friday and Saturday March 1st and 2nd, 2019 from 8:45am—5:00pm.

### DV-Alert Multicultural Communities

Lifeline's DV-alert (Domestic and Family Violence Response Training) is a nationally recognised training program that enables frontline workers supporting multicultural communities in Australia to confidently:

**RECOGNISE** signs of domestic and family violence (DFV)

**RESPOND** with appropriate care

**REFER** people experiencing or at risk of domestic and family violence to appropriate support services

**When:** Tuesday 5th and Wednesday 6th March 2019, 8:45am-5:00pm

**Where:** PHN Western Victoria, 101 Drummond Street North, Ballarat, Vic 3350

Register here: [https://lifeline.jobreadyplus.com/terminal/online\\_book\\_course/2425](https://lifeline.jobreadyplus.com/terminal/online_book_course/2425)

### Mental Health First Aid

Participants will learn the signs and symptoms of common and disabling mental health problems; how to provide initial help; where and how to get professional help; what sort of help has been shown by research to be effective; and how to provide first aid in a crisis situation.

**When:** Friday 22nd March and 29th March 2019 from 9am-4pm. Participants attend both days.

**Where:** Peart Wing, 103 Lydiard Street South, Ballarat

**Register:** Call 5322 4996

For further information on any of these training sessions please contact the Lifeline Ballarat office on 5322 4996 or visit the Uniting Ballarat Website.



## From our Minister's Pen



How quickly four months have gone and how full those four months since Kate retired have been! Now the holiday season comes to an end and we resume the various activities that make up our life as a church community. And before us is Lent and Easter. This first half of the church's year is full as we move from the birth of Jesus to his death and resurrection. I have to say sometimes it feels rather breathless. Or am I just reflecting my own sense of having moved out again into the mainstream of ministry and being swept along by a current I have not experienced for several years?

I am greatly impressed by the way people have pitched in and given themselves to ensuring that our life together is well maintained as we await our next appointment. We are so blessed in the people who so readily and in so many ways step forward to take a share in ensuring our life continues with faith and purpose – from those in leadership positions to the many who accept a turn with the various rostered duties. And those who contribute with their presence and their prayers; and those who find they can only be with us in spirit. Thank you, you exemplify what it means to be a sharing community.

I also have a feeling that we are preparing well for the next phase of our life as we continue to worship together and reflect on the place we are now in. We are not marking time, but, in the spirit of Advent, being ready, awake and watchful. Interesting isn't it, how Advent is well behind us but that spirit of looking forward expectantly remains alive in us. You could say we are in an Advent phase of our life.

I hadn't expected to return to Advent as I set out to write this, but I am struck by the feeling of latency, of something ready to emerge in our life. May we continue to be attentive to what is required of us now, both in maintaining our continuing life and being ready for that unfolding journey.

May God bless each and all as we journey together.

Joyfully your supply minister,

David



Above: Rev. David discussed different types of laws during the Early Word. He grabbed the young people's attention by dropping an apple on the ground and discussing Newton's law of gravity.

## Church Council Report

Adri Stickland

Greetings to you all as we face a new and challenging year, a time of considerable change lies ahead. I was very impressed by what David said in the last BCUN:

*"The work of grieving is important, for it helps keep us alive to the movement of God's Spirit within and among us. Then, in the fullness of time, the call that brought us into being will be heard again, fresh and challenging, bidding us find the future that awaits us."*

Let us live out those words and be ready for that call.

The November meeting of Council was attended by the Rev Rosemary Carter, Chair of our Joint Nominating Committee (JNC) and confirmed the Congregational Profile. That was promptly sent to the Presbytery Pastoral Relations Committee

and accepted on Dec 6<sup>th</sup>. It was forwarded to the Synods Placement Committee and will be considered at their meeting on Jan 24<sup>th</sup>. So... by the time you read this I may well have the news that the JNC has been given names to start considering! That may be being too optimistic and even if we have been given names there will still be a lengthy CONFIDENTIAL process of consultation before a decision can be made by us and a candidate and where that decision can become public. So don't get too excited but it is moving along.

Council was very happy to endorse the Exec recommendation that we accept David's offer to continue as Supply Minister beyond the first 3 months, possibly until we can appoint a new minister but until May anyway if that appointment is delayed.

Council agreed with the Change Task Group to hold a congregational review 6 months after Kate's departure to see how we are travelling and what are the areas of concern. It's up to us to make sure Kate's hard work does not fade away because she is no longer here to remind and encourage and prod us all to not lose heart or become careless.

Uniting is also still looking for an Executive Officer for Ballarat, Barwon and Western Melbourne, as a cluster. Meanwhile Wendy Ferguson is doing a great job.

Andrew Boatman becomes Chairperson of the Presbytery of Western Victoria in February. This will be a 2 year position and we congratulate him and wish him well. We know what a great job he will do. However this means we will need to elect another person at the next AGM as congregational representative to replace him as he becomes 'ex officio'.

We hope you have all discovered the information brochures prepared by Fiona and Lance – great aren't they! Thank you very much to both of you.

Adri Stickland

## Pastoral Letter - Post Fifteenth Assembly Update To all Congregations and Faith Communities

**Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,**

Greetings in this new year, that brings fresh opportunities, as we serve Christ together as the Uniting Church in Australia. I am greatly encouraged by the ways the Uniting Church is engaging in mission and exercising ministry through our local churches, Presbyteries, Synods, our Agencies, schools and the Assembly.

On this Sunday the 13th of January, six months will have passed since the members of the Fifteenth Assembly gathered in Melbourne to discern prayerfully the national priorities and directions of our Church.

### Decisions of the Assembly

During this time, members of Synods, Presbyteries, Congregations and Faith Communities have heard about and discussed the decisions we made in Melbourne. In many parts of our Church, our members are living out the hopes and vision that relate to our decisions on domestic and family violence, sovereignty of First Peoples, care for creation, access for people with disabilities, and support for seasonal workers.

### Our Decision on Marriage

In respect to our recognition of two statements of belief on marriage, there have been a variety of responses. Across our Church, there are many people who have embraced the decision as a wise way of moving forward as a Church, respecting the different views we hold on marriage, and giving freedom to Ministers and Congregations to hold to a view of marriage, that they believe is faithful to the Gospel of Christ. Leaders in our Church have journeyed alongside those Uniting Church members, Congregations and Presbyteries, who have difficulty in living with the decision of the Assembly.

In 2009 an additional Clause 39 (b) was approved by the Assembly, which allows Presbyteries

and Synods to ask the Assembly to reconsider a decision it has made.

Clause 39 (b) of the Uniting Church Constitution states:

(i) If within six months of a decision of the Assembly, or its Standing Committee, at least half the Presbyteries within the bounds of each of at least half the Synods, or at least half the Synods, notify the President that they have determined that in their opinion

- a decision includes a matter vital to the life of the Church; and
- there was inadequate consultation prior to the decision the President shall notify the Church that the decision is suspended until the Assembly has undertaken further consultation.

Six Presbyteries chose to exercise their right to notify me as President, that, in their opinion, the matter was "vital to the life of the Church and there was inadequate consultation prior to the decision." There were five Presbyteries in Queensland and one Presbytery in the Northern Synod. On Saturday the 5th of January 2019, the Presbytery of South Australia met, and decided that the majority of members did not support the proposal that the Fifteenth Assembly marriage decision was a "matter vital to the life of the Church and there was inadequate consultation prior to the decision."

This means that the threshold for the suspension of the Assembly decision has not been reached.

As a result, the Assembly decision on marriage stands, and will continue to be lived out in our Church, in various faithful expressions.

At this time, I would like to acknowledge with deep gratitude, the many Uniting Church members who have listened to one another with open hearts, and who have entered into challenging conversations, as you have responded to the Assembly decision and what it means for your particular

community - and in many cases for your families and friends.

During this first six months as President, I have had many opportunities to meet with Uniting Church members, Congregations, Presbyteries and leaders of National Conferences and listen to their concerns and their hopes for our Church. Some of our conversations have focused on Assembly decisions, including our decision on marriage. Our broader focus has included the ways we can witness to God's reconciling love, which is beyond measure and has power to transform people's lives and the life of our society.

I know that there are Uniting Church members who have been hurt and have felt distress - either by the decision on marriage, or the possibility of the suspension of the decision. Let us remain conscious in the weeks and months ahead that this is a time for us as a Church to pastorally support one another, to act compassionately toward one another, and to hear Christ's invitation to love each other, as Christ loves us, with grace, healing and hope. This call for us to love as Christ loves is at the heart of God's mission.

### A Prayerful and Loving Community

After the Fifteenth Assembly, I noted that I was proud of the way our Assembly members modelled a loving Christian community, by holding together and caring for each other as they exchanged strongly and faithfully held views from different theological and cultural perspectives.

In the months ahead, I pray that we will reflect the marks of the Christian community that Paul speaks of in his letter to the church in Philippi: "encouragement in Christ, consolation from love, sharing in the Spirit, compassion and sympathy." (Philippians 2:1-3). (Cont. p.5)

(continued from p. 4)

I invite you to pray for the Uniting Church, and for each other, that we may faithfully embody the Gospel of Christ in all we do and say.

I have included a prayer for our Church, that I invite you to pray in your congregations and faith communities.

May we all know God's abundant grace and liberating hope as we seek to journey together, shaped by God's reconciling love.

Grace and peace.

**Dr Deidre Palmer**

President  
Uniting Church in Australia  
Assembly  
11 January 2019

Below: Dr Deidre Palmer



## PRAYER FOR THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA

Written by Dr Deidre Palmer

Gracious and loving God,  
We thank you for the Uniting Church in Australia, for the ways your Spirit empowers us to participate in your liberating mission in the world.



You call us to be your Pilgrim People,  
responsive to your leading,  
as we witness to your reconciling love in our communities.

At this time in our life as the Uniting Church,  
May your Holy Spirit weave us together as the Body of Christ, a community of grace and hope.

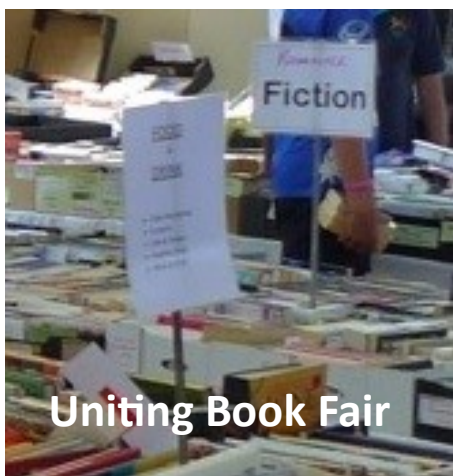
Renew and strengthen us as your Church -  
Where there is hurt and pain, bring your comfort and healing.  
Where we have caused hurt to one another, bring forgiveness and reconciliation.  
Where our community and unity are strained, give us patience to listen to one another, to see your presence in one another, and to love our sisters and brothers in Christ, as you have first loved us. Where there is uncertainty and confusion, bring your guidance and light. Lead us forward in ways that are faithful to your mission in the world.

We pray for our Congregations and Faith Communities, that they may be a source of your healing, hope, compassion and love, and welcoming and hospitable places to worship and serve.

Send your Holy Spirit upon us, fill us with passion for Christ's mission, so that we will be courageous bearers of God's good news of love, justice and healing in your world.

Through Christ we pray.  
Amen.

*"Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine. To him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever." Amen. (Ephesians 3:20-21)*



### Uniting Book Fair

Are you looking for an activity to fill-in your Thursday mornings? If so, why not join the 'bookers'. We are a small, but energetic group that sorts books donated by folk from across Ballarat and beyond for

sale at two annual book fairs run in aid of Uniting Ballarat. All funds raised support local projects such as the Breezeway meals program and Lifeline Ballarat.

**Fast approaching is our next fair to be held over the Begonia Festival weekend (March 9, 10 and 11).**

We will have a huge range of good quality children's books (from toddlers to young teens) at bargain prices which offers families, playgroups, and schools a wonderful opportunity to add to their bookshelves. Of course we have plenty of adult fiction and non-fiction also waiting to be discovered.

We are looking for more volun-

teers to help sort books and/or assist in staffing the book fair. Sorting takes place at Uniting's Queen's St site. We usually 'work' from 9 to 12 with a break mid-morning for a cuppa. If you are interested in joining us please speak with one of the bookers - Alan and Anita Hinton, Joy Hopley, Jessie Brown, Jan Souter and Rod Devenish. If you can't help us on a regular basis we would appreciate your help in advertising the March book fair. Please tell your friends, families and neighbours.

Rod Devenish

If you wish to donate books - to arrange collection please call Alan Hinton on 5333 2338 (or 0439 829 085).





Left: Neil Para (on the right) pictured sharing a laugh with Paul Blacker at the 40th anniversary celebration of the Uniting Church.

## Sri Lanka — A Tumultuous History.



### Support for Neil and Sugaa Para

by Maureen Doonan

Thank-you to those who have contributed to the relief fund to pay for the Para family's rent since their refugee status was revoked and financial assistance ceased. Maureen Doonan has provided some background information for those of us who do not know the family.

Neil, Sugaa and family are most grateful to the Australian people who continue to support them in so many ways. They are amazed at our willingness to pull together and provide the rent. They never expected to be in this situation.

#### Background

When they first arrived in Ballarat, Neil had refugee status due to continued Tamil persecution in their homeland. This had been granted through UNHCR assessment, and entitled him to a temporary visa and work rights.

The family was settling well into the Ballarat community when, approximately 4 years ago, his refugee status was revoked and his visa cancelled. So he was no longer permitted to do paid work or receive any government assistance.

Until December 2018, the Melbourne Asylum Seekers Resource Centre (ASRC) paid the rent and the Ballarat community provided all other financial support. Due to the 2018 decision of the Immigration Department, to withdraw financial support from so many people, ASRC, a

community funded organization, struggles to help Metropolitan families and has asked for this rent to come from some other source. It is not known how long Neil and Sugaa's situation will continue.

Neil and Sugaa have done all in their power to give back to the community through supporting neighbours and friends in need of physical assistance. Plus, filling their days with volunteer work, while their children are at school.

Neil has trained and become a member of the SES, called out day or night. He was an elected member of the School Council with all the teamwork that it required. Now he has taken on the duties of President of the Committee for Ballarat North.

Sugaa has been a volunteer with Ballarat Health Services and Ballarat Community Health for quite some time, and recently trained and graduated from the Ballarat Leadership Course.

Many of us are aware of the skills that they have learnt and shared within our congregation.

The Ballarat Asylum Seekers Support Network (BRASSN) continues to support several families within our city through networking, physical and financial assistance.

The latest visas being issued require families to reside and/or work in the regional areas. So there are more families arriving in our city and seeking connections.

Donations towards rent assistance for Neil, Sugaa and their three children can be deposited directly into this account: BSB: 633 000 ACC: 133779470 REF: NSRENT

Sri Lanka was colonised by the Portuguese in 1505 (who named the country Ceylon), taken over by the Dutch in 1658 and finally by the British in 1796. The country gained full independence in 1948 and changed its name to Sri Lanka when it became a republic in 1972.

However, the transition from colonial rule to independence revealed divisions between the different ethnic groups within Sri Lanka. Conflict developed between the Hindu Tamils (a minority ethnic group) and the majority Sinhalese population, most of whom practised Buddhism. The Sinhalese formed government and drafted The Ceylon Citizenship Act of 1948, which favoured Buddhism and discriminated against Tamils and excluded them from citizenship rights. Protests and riots grew and led to the formation of militant groups.

In 1983, civil war was declared. It is estimated that as many as 100 000 Sri Lankans (on both sides) were killed, and many citizens displaced in the conflict, which ended in 2009 after 26 years.

In the aftermath, there has been continued political unrest and instability. The UN is leading an inquiry into the horrific atrocities committed throughout the civil war from both sides of the conflict. However, for the Sri Lankan government, recrimination seems mainly reserved for the Tamils.

The UN currently recommends countries NOT to return Tamil refugees to Sri Lanka.

Fiona Lyons

Sources: Refugee Council of Australia, TIME. BBC news, Factsking.com





## *Christmas at Ballarat Central Uniting Church*





Out to Lunch Christmas lunch!



Christmas Eve Nativity Play



The Latrobe Family Brass Quartet



# Angels Breakfast



Thankyou  
Marg.





## I will sing and make music with all my soul.

We always appreciate our wonderful musicians at BCUC, especially at Christmas. The expanded choir sounded fantastic on the 23rd of December (see pic middle below). We are lucky to have the highly accomplished and experienced Helen Duggan (right) as conductor and her husband Evan as piano accompanist and part-time organist. The Nuer Choir (pictured below) with their distinctive sound is always a treat. Thank-you to all of our musicians at Christmas and all through the year.



Did you enjoy one of the Christmas cakes made by the BCUC ladies? We give thanks for their efforts which resulted in tasty treats as well as fundraising.

## Introducing Mary

Since March last year, Roger and Miriam Peck have been the foster parents for 'Mary'.



She belongs to a family associated with our congregation but they are not, at the moment, in a position to take care of her.

The call is out for someone to care for Mary for four weeks, late June to late July, while Roger and Miriam visit family in the USA.

She is a sweet little cat, totally house trained and mostly well-behaved. She has been desexed and registered. All food, bedding and litter will be provided. If you can help, please contact Miriam (0435 296636) or Roger (0416 315 782)





Left: On the Australia Day weekend we were treated to a performance by Elin Choi who played JS Bach's How Great Thou Art during the offering. Elin is very accomplished and we hope to hear from her again.

Below: The Uniting Threads meets every Wednesday from 12—4 pm. You do not have to be a member of the congregation or be an experienced sewer to join this group.



## Weddings



Alice Butcher married Karan Bhatt on Saturday January 5th at Ballarat Central Uniting Church. Alice's mum Rev. Kate Tierney came out of her recent retirement to perform the ceremony. (see pic above)



Merriel Baldwin and Geoff LeMarshall are finally tying the knot!

This happy event will take place at our church on Saturday, 16th March 2019. All are warmly welcome to join them for the ceremony at 3.00 pm.



## Deaths

We offer our deepest sympathy to the families and friends of those who have died.

**Graeme Martin**—husband of Robyn, father of Lauren, Erica and Amy.

**Laurie Hatcher**—husband of Moyna, father of Gayle, Mark and Sandra.

**Dawn Morcom**— wife of Geoff, mother of Keryn, Raelene and Belinda.  
(Dawn's name appears on the Most Meritorious Scholar Honour Board in the old Sunday School Hall alongside Albie Peart in 1945.)

***Blessed are those who mourn,  
for they will be comforted.***

Matthew 5:4





## Water into wine

If you were away on the 20th January you missed an amazing Early Word segment. The New Testament reading was John 2:1-11, which is a popular passage, not only because it is said to be Jesus' first miracle, but because he turned water into wine.

Andy Gault sought to re-enact the miracle and seemed to succeed! See the above picture on the left where he pours water into an urn. Next, look at the picture above on the right. The children look up in astonishment as Andy gets a glass and pours wine from the same urn into the glass.

Perhaps we won't need to buy grape juice for communion anymore!

## The Mouse's Prayer

*Translated from the Scottish poem,  
'A moosie's prayer,' (anon) by Laura Shearer*

A poor wee church mouse all forlorn  
Its furry coat all tattered and torn  
Sank down upon his knees  
And prayed for just a wee bit cheese

Its tears ran down its wee thin cheeks  
But none could hear the saddest squeak  
That drifted under the closed church door  
Till that wee mouse could pray no more

Daylight came, church bells rang  
The doors flew open with a bang  
Communion day had come on by  
With wine and plates of bread piled high

The mouse lay as still as death  
And watched with bated breath  
He thought – if I keep very still  
A bit of bread or wine might spill

When just as if heaven sent  
What landed on his head  
But two big lumps of communion bread

The staff of life lay on the floor  
The bounteous answer to a prayer  
Just as the mouse thought it looks a bit dry  
Somebody spilled the wine as it passed by

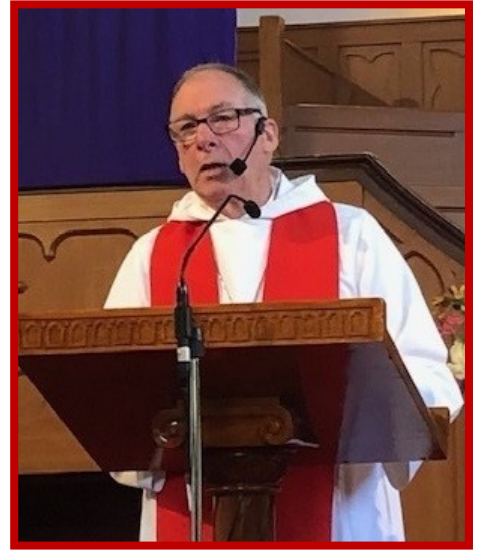
The little mouse staggered up the isle  
Wearing such a bonny smile  
The folk stopped singing, fair aghast  
To see a drunken mouse walk past

At last he staggered up the nave  
Turned and gave a happy wave  
I know now when it's time to pray  
I'll do it on Communion Day.

Author unknown.







## Rev. Graeme Sutton

By Albie Peart

Graeme (pictured above) came to this Church at a very busy and interesting period of its history. Graeme was not only a strong advocate of the Word, but also a forward thinking man in terms of the congregation in action.

Lifeline and UnitingCare were well and truly established and Graeme very quickly became involved in the Mission and congregation: A new manse was built; a new link building attached to the church; a new training facility and home for Lifeline. A very busy and exciting time for our congregation and especially for Graeme and Ros.

With Graeme's extensive musical talents and involvement the Church ventured into musical stage productions performed in the church with great success, lots of work and much pleasure. And who would forget Graeme as Rev. Theophilus Taylor with his 'fire and brimstone' preaching?

We, the members of the congregation, have much to thank Graeme, Ros and family for their nine years with us. Graeme, with his enlightening worship and administration skills, supported by Ros, with their exceptional care and nurture of the congregation.

Congratulations on 30 years in the Ministry and thank you for sharing nine of those years as our Minister and your continuance as a member of this congregation in your retirement.



Above: In December, we farewelled Paul and Mandy Blacker who have since moved to Melbourne.

Rev. Paul has taken up a placement within the Banyule cluster and was inducted in January. We will miss their fellowship but wish them all the very best.

## Farewell and Thankyou

**Geoff Barlow** By Bob Matthews

**Geoff Barlow (above) has been playing the organs, both pipe and electronic, at St Andrews and then more recently here at Ballarat Central since 1971, a sterling effort.**

Geoff started playing the organ at his own church, the Wattle Park Chapel in Box Hill, when he was 14. That was a pedal pump action reed organ 63 years ago; a lifetime of playing sacred music!

When Geoff arrived in Ballarat he met up with Leighton Turner, an insurance salesman who also serviced organs including the pipe organ at St Andrews. He told him about St Andrews need for an organist following Ted Quennell's resignation. After some coaching on the pipe organ at St. Peters by James Gullan, Geoff was tested for St Andrews by being asked to play "Christ the Lord is Risen Today". He was then appointed to play at the Easter Service in 1971. Geoff supported other organists during that first year and took over as organist in 1972.

When Leighton died Geoff looked after the maintenance of St. Andrews organ for some years until Leighton's son Ken took on the work on the electronic organ installed in 1991. That organ had been used in St. Pauls Melbourne whilst their pipe organ was being refurbished overseas.

Geoff also stepped in as choir master, succeeding Ellinor Morcom. All of this was voluntary, a generous contribution to a church which was not Geoff's own church.

Geoff's learning came from records and books. His signature is his free harmonisation of the last verse of the hymn which he learnt from a book titled appropriately, "Last verse variations-free harmonisation."

Geoff will continue to play at his own church for the early morning service at York Street once a month. He has done this for the last 3 years.

Thank-you Geoff, for the music over all these years. Enjoy your Sundays at your own church and keep playing.

## Sammy Stamp



**Sammy Stamp is a fundraising**

**initiative within the Uniting Church that has been going for 40 years.** Volunteers gather each week in Melbourne to sort donated stamps, sell them on and use the profits to help organisations such as: Vanuatu Prevention of Blindness; maternity workers in South Sudan and the Victoria and NSW flood appeal.

**The amount raised by Sammy**

**Stamp for humanitarian causes has totalled almost 1 million dollars since its commencement 40 years ago.**

If you wish to donate your

stamps, place them in the box near the church entrance marked "Sammy Stamp". Please leave the stamps attached to paper and trim around the stamps leaving a 1–2cm surround. PRE-STAMPED envelopes should be left intact as complete envelopes. Stamps that are heavily franked, torn, thinned, biro cancelled or sticky taped cannot be used.

## Vacuum Cleaner

The stick vacuum cleaner in the Peart Wing was purchased some time ago to be used primarily to clean-up around the tables after morning tea fellowship and was much superior to the carpet sweeper which it replaced.

However it only has a life of 20 minutes when it is charged and has a small capacity for what it picks up, which is visible in the transparent capsule on the handle. It certainly should not be used to pick up any damp material as this will solidify and block up the cleaning head.

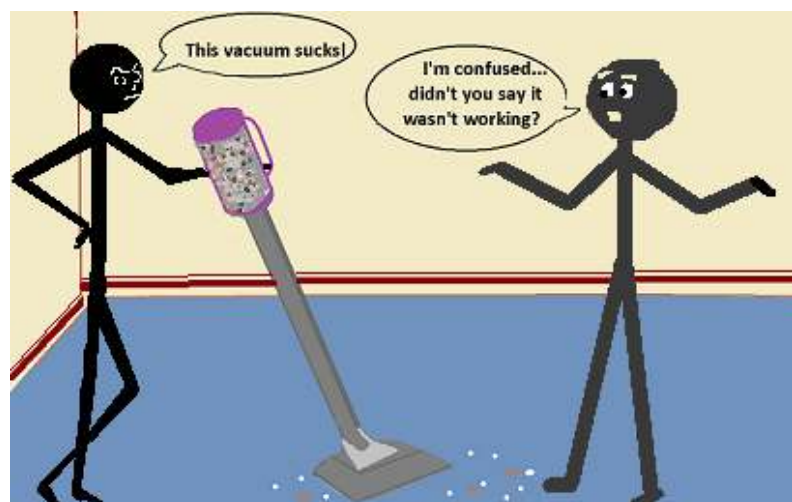
The church does own 3 other vacuums for general cleaning. There is a back pack vac in the cupboard under the stairs in the north front porch and a similar vac in the cupboard in the Schutt

Room just near the stick vac. There is also a medium size upright Volta vacuum cleaner in the cupboard in the back room of the old manse which can be used at anytime.

People have been frustrated at times when using the stick vac because it "won't work". This occurs when the cleaner is blocked. It will work fine if we adopt a practice of emptying the cleaner every time it is used. The instructions are on the wall adjacent to the cleaner. So, thank you to the morning-tea people who clean the floor each Sunday, but please empty the cleaner before replacing it on the charger.

Thanking you in anticipation,

Ron Harris



**SHROVE TUESDAY**

**PANCAKE LUNCHEON**

**FUNDRAISER**

**3rd March 2019**



Thurs 21st Feb  
4pm-6pm in the Peart wing.





# Ballarat Central Uniting Church Rosters

## February/March 2019

DATE	PREACHER	READINGS	READER	PRAYERS	ELDERS	ORGANIST	WELCOME	DOOR	MORNING TEA	DATA PROJECTOR	FOLDERS
FEB 3	Rev. David Leach	Jer 1:4-10 Psalm 71:1-6 1 Cor 13:1-13 Luke 4:21-30	Kathy Collins	Stephanie Houzet	Fiona Lyons <b>Communion</b> Lauren Martin Rod Devenish Jenny Wilkinson	Lorraine Smith	Miriam Peck	Liz & Stephen Slibson John Olsen Lauren Martin	Margaret & Alan Robinson Glenice Warner Mary Hollick	Ashley Keem	Helen Peart Lesley Lyons
FEB 10	Mr. Andy Gault	Isa. 6:1-8(9-13) Psalm 138 1 Cor 15:1-11 Luke 5:1-11	Eileen Devenish	John Olsen	Barbara Dean	Roger Peck	Glenice Warner	Eileen & Rod Devenish Nur Sisson Janice Cook	Rosalie & Bruce Price Maureen Vallance Theresa Read	Andrew Boatman	Jan Tozer Lesley Lyons
FEB 17	Rev. David Leach	Jer. 17:5-10 Psalm 1 1 Cor 15:12-20 Luke 6:17-26	Manesty Brown	Lyn Fleming	Clark Chester	Coad family	Linda Macaulay	Lyn & Ron Fleming Stephanie Houzet Jessie Brown	Anita & Alan Hin- ton Helen Peart Gwenda Rog- erson	Jessica Daniel	Joy Hobley Helen Peart
FEB 24 HARVEST THANKSGIVING	Rev. David Leach	Gen. 45:3-11, 15 Ps.37:1-11,39-40 1 Cor 15:35-38, 42-50 Luke 6:27-38	Noah Gault Ashley Keem	Rev. David Leach	Heather Gilbert	Ray Hodder	Lesley Lyons	Lorraine & Peter Smith Ken Jenkin Judy Stone	Lance & Lyn Rawlinson Leanne & Gra- ham Keem	Andrew Boatman	Jan Tozer Helen Peart
MAR 3	Rev. David Leach	Ex. 34:29-35 Psalm 99 2 Cor 3:12-4:2 Luke 9:28-36 (37-43)	Joy McKelvie Edwin Hollick	Heather Gilbert	Jenny Wilkinson <b>Communion</b> Anita Hinton Clark Chester Judith Wheaton	Lorraine Smith TBC	Maureen Doonan	Liz & Stephe Slibson John Olsen Nur Sisson	Miriam & Roger Peck Suzanne & Peter Ogilvie	Noah Gault	Joy Hobley Lesley Lyons
MAR 6 ASH WEDNESDAY	Rev. David Leach	Joel 2:1-2,12-17 Psalm 51:1-17 2 Cor 5:20b-6:10 Matt 6:1-6,16-21	Pam Toom	Fiona Lyons		Evan Duggan	Janet Harris	TBA	Not required	Ben Daniel	

# Ballarat Central Uniting Church Rosters *cont.*

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								STEWARD	TEA	PROJECTOR	
<b>MAR 10</b> <b>LENT 1</b>	Rev. David Leach	Deut. 26:1-11 Psalm 91:1-2,9-16 Rom. 10:8b-13 Luke 4:1-13	David Chandler	Mary Hollick	Judith Wheaton	Roger Peck	Judy Stone	Merriel Baldwin & Geoff Le Marshall Robin Flintoft Lauren Martin	Marg Littlehales and children	Jessica Daniel	Joy Hobley Jan Tozer
<b>MAR 17</b> <b>LENT 2</b>	Worship Team	Gen 15:1-12,17-18 Psalm 27 Phil 3:17—4:1 Luke 13:31-35	Kim Daniel	Koang pan Jock	Lance Rawlinson	Coad family	Kathy Collins	Lyn & Ron Fleming Nancy O'Loughlin Val Stevens	Kevin Freeman Jan Tozer Janice Cook Judy Stone	Andrew Boatman	Helen Peart Lesley Lyons
<b>MAR 24</b> <b>LENT 3</b>	Rev. David Leach and Rev. Lisa Stewart	Isaiah 55:1-9 Psalm 63:1-8 1 Cor. 10:1-13 Luke 13:1-9	Jan Dunwoodie	Glenice Warner	Lauren Martin	Ray Hodder	Don Smith	Eileen & Rod Devenish Ken Jenkin Judy Stone	Helen & Reg Bushby Margaret & Bob Morrell	Noah Gault	Jan Tozer Lesley Lyons
<b>MAR 31</b> <b>LENT 4</b>	Rev. David Leach	Joshua 5:9-12 Psalm 32 2 Cor. 5:16-21 Luke 15:1-3,11b-32	Elspeth & Bob Matthews	Helen Duggan	Pam Toom	Evan Duggan	Gary Jones	Peter & Lorraine Smith Laura Shearer John Olsen	Fiona Lyons Glenice Warner Heather Gilbert Judith Wheaton	Ashley Keem	Joy Hobley Helen Peart
<b>APRIL 7</b> <b>LENT 5</b>	Rev. David Leach	Isaiah 43:16-21 Psalm 126 Phil 3:4b-14 John 12:1-8	Murray Stevens	Adri Stickland	Lance Rawlinson <b>Communion</b> Koang pan Jock Mary Hollick Barbara Dean	Lorraine Smith	Margaret Robinson	Merriel Baldwin & Geoff Le Marshall Jessie Brown Nur Sisson	Lesley Lyons Maureen Doonan Janice Cook Corrie Olsen	Jessica Daniel	Jan Tozer Helen Peart

**Pastoral Carers:** Ross Jones, Naomi James

**Communion Preparation:** Win Jolly, John Schulz

**Flowers:** A. Hinton / L. Fleming

### Please Note:

Please find a substitute if you are unable to fulfil the task for which you have been rostered.

Morning Tea should be set up between 9.30 and 10am. Afterwards please make sure the floor is clean and take used tea towels home for washing. Thankyou for serving our Church