



GLEN WAVERLEY
UNITING CHURCH

MAY
2010

NEWVIEW



AUSTRALIA'S BIGGEST MORNING TEA COMES TO THE HUB

THE HUB volunteers and the girls from The Body Shop at The Glen are combining to have Australia's Biggest Morning Tea, on behalf of the Cancer Council Victoria, at The Hub on Thursday 27th May from 10am -12noon.

When The Body Shop was first opened, it's founder, Anita Roddick, believed it could be more than just a shop that sold skin care and cosmetics. One of her core values is carried on until this day; one of strengthening the community, where by each employee is required to complete an amount of Community Project hours.

The Cancer Council's Biggest Morning Tea is something the girls from The Body Shop and The Hub volunteers believe will not only provide an enjoyable "get together" for the community, but also support a worthwhile cause.

A small donation can be given, and all money will go to The Cancer Council. Receipts can be given for any large amounts donated.

Here is a wonderful opportunity for us to interact with the local community.

Come along; bring your family and friends,
and support the Cancer Council and The Hub.

To help with catering, please add your name to the list on the office counter if you are coming - thank you.

THURSDAY 27TH MAY 10am - 12noon
at THE HUB at GWUC

OUR GWUC PLAYGROUPS

Our three Playgroups have completed a happy term together. They meet during term time on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings, from 10 am to 12 noon, in Rooms 2 and 3. Currently we cater for about thirty-seven children. The children are accompanied by their mothers or another carer, often Grandmas!, who supervise them while they are at Playgroup. Many of our children are aged between six and eighteen months, although we also have some two and three year olds. We are expecting some new babies in a few months' time! Most older siblings have now moved on to Kinder.

Playgroup provides children with the opportunity to interact with other children and some other Mums in a secure environment and, of course, they love to play with the indoor and outdoor toys. The cubby and the cars are always in demand while water play came into its own during the hot weather! Mothers have particularly appreciated the new outdoor seating installed for us by Bill Norquay.



Many of our families have arrived very recently in the Glen Waverley district from interstate and overseas. Many mothers have no relatives in Melbourne (or even in Australia!). Consequently they are glad to have the opportunity to talk to other mums and to make new friends and begin to establish some support networks to help them with their "mothering".

End of term and Easter were celebrated with some special craft activities for the children followed by hot cross buns for morning tea. Activities for Mothers Day are being planned.

New initiatives, encouraged by the Outreach Missional Group, have been the introduction of a Wednesday group, lead by members of our GWUC 4.30 Congregation and the establishment of a Playgroup Support Team. This team, comprising GWUC members Bev Richardson, Geraldine Fleming, Pam Graham, Kimberly Easton, Helen Boucher, Deby Campbell, Diane Craig and Kaye Mackinnon, share the tasks of administration and giving leadership and hostess support to each group. We are also very appreciative of Nancy Burns 2 who is a much appreciated hostess on Wednesdays. Many thanks to all these willing helpers.

We still have some vacancies in each group, so if you know of someone who might like to join us, contact Wendy in the Church Office, or Kaye at gwucplaygroups@bigpond.com or on 9560 4746. Occasional visits from baby-sitting grandparents are also very welcome!

*Kaye Mackinnon, GWUC Playgroups
Support Team Coordinator*



Voices for Justice 19 to 22 June Parliament House, Canberra

Four action-packed days of advocacy training, biblical teaching, workshops, and prayer, and a chance to put all these things into practice as we creatively engage with our nation's leaders together in events and meetings.

Information, Jill Ph: 9251 5266,
E: jill.ruzbacky@victas.uca.org.au or
W: <http://micahchallenge.org.au/voicesjustice>

What's Going On Around Here?



The people of the Glen Waverley Uniting Church are busily engaged doing all sorts of things. The recently re-formed Communications Committee of the Church Council is working hard to make sure that it is easy for people to know what's going on. We have the weekly bulletin, NewView, notice boards, a web site, email, a wiki and numerous other ways to communicate with each other.

Have you tried out the computer information system that you can see through the office window? Just give the mouse a move and see what you can find. Soon you will be able to see a calendar showing who is where when.

With so many communication options available, we need to make sure that we use them carefully and make sure that information is correct, consistent and up to date. You may have noticed some subtle changes in the weekly bulletin that hopefully make it easier to find the information you need. We have more ideas about how to improve the way we communicate with each other.

We need everyone's help to make sure that the notices we see on notice boards in the foyer and fellowship areas are tidy and not obsolete. We also want to help the ministerial team plan worship services by not presenting worship leaders with 'surprise' requirements at the last moment for spoken notices in worship services.

- 1. Please put a 'remove after' date on any notice you put up (and take it down when its purpose is over). In rare cases, a notice may be required indefinitely. In that case please put your contact details on the notice.**
- 2. Please do not put notices on the entrance doors; it is dangerous and makes our lovely church look untidy.**
- 3. Please contact the person who will lead a Sunday worship service by the afternoon of the preceding Thursday if you want to make a personal announcement at that service. (You can find out whom to contact in the previous week's bulletin.)**

The Communications Committee has more ideas and maybe you do too.

Please contact Lesley Armstrong or John Snare if you have ideas that you would like to discuss.

John Snare on behalf of the Communications Committee
(9802 3170 or john.snare@bigpond.com)





Foster Weekend

19-22 March 2010

To Marysville for many years,
Our trusty vans we'd towed
But this year needed somewhere new
So Foster was the go!

Some came early, some came late,
But twenty nine in all.
Enjoyed the sunshine, cuppa, chat
A walk, a drive and food!

On Friday evening, if just arrived
Barb gave a guided tour
Pub fare for some, much talk for all
Cabins, tents and vans explored

A Farmers' Market in early morn
No sleeping in allowed
Then up the hill, Malcolm in the lead
A walk he planned for all

Back at camp, Marg's craft surprise
Easter Bunnets we're to make!
3 wise men judged them and declared
Bev Lennon's took the cake!

Time for more food, and what a feast
A BBQ we shared.
Salads were few but none complained
Desserts made sure of that!

A quiet night of games enjoyed
Until at only nine
The lights went out and so, no choice!
It was indeed bedtime

Foster UC, thou' numbers small
Welcomed us with tea
Then during worship they announced
Lunch as well there'd be

In cars we toured that afternoon
To see the local sights
Escaped the rain in the Flying Cow
Celia's Banksias much admired

For some it was then time to go
A few remained for golf
A special time by all was had
But where might we go next?



CHANGES TO ASYLUM SEEKER SITUATION

Robin Pope

The GWUC congregation has generously shared some of its facilities by making the manse available for twelve months to house asylum seekers who otherwise have nowhere to live. We have already hosted one group who have recently moved out and we are awaiting the arrival of the next tenants.

We have been disappointed, however, that this month has seen a hardening of the Federal Government's attitude towards asylum seekers, especially those arriving from Sri Lanka and Afghanistan who currently comprise the largest ethnic groups applying for asylum. Early in April, it temporarily suspended processing new claims of people coming from these two countries, even though there has been a high rate of Protection claim approvals of claimants from both places.

Hotham Mission Asylum Seeker Project (ASP) regarded the government decision as an extreme measure. The announcement prompted the former Liberal prime minister Malcolm Fraser to make the following comments in *The Age* (April 15): '...it has not as a

government had the courage to fight the issue on the merits of the case - on the basis of what Australia ought to do to assist people in distress. It has been run off that course by an opposition that without exception, has played politics with the issue.' He points out that Europe dealt with 286,680 asylum seekers in 2009 with a degree of humanity, while Australia 'can't handle 4000 or 5000 a year with compassion and humanity'.

Hotham Mission ASP encouraged the Minister for Immigration to consider the known impacts of longer-term detention on claimants, and recommended using the Darwin facility for housing new arrivals, and Villawood for children and families. However, 10 days after the first announcement the Federal Government then announced its intention to house the Afghani and Sri Lankans in the old Curtin Detention Centre, which is an isolated, sub-standard facility an hour's drive from Derby in north-west Western Australia. Professors Briskman and Goddard and Susie Latham, the authors of *Human Rights Overboard:*

Seeking Asylum in Australia call Curtin Detention Centre '...the worst of Australia's hell-holes. It was the most secret, most isolated and most brutal.'

This latest decision to reopen the Curtin Detention Centre has been roundly condemned by the Uniting Church in Australia, which sees this move as a breach of our international human rights obligations. Rev Elenie Poulos, National Director of UnitingJustice said, 'We know from past experience that in such conditions asylum seekers suffer increased levels of mental and physical illness. That this Government would deliberately place already vulnerable people into a situation they know causes harm is an abrogation of their responsibility to treat all people with dignity and care.'

Rev Alistair Macrae, President of the Uniting Church said, 'The Uniting Church has always believed that how we treat the most vulnerable, regardless of where they're from and how they arrive, is a measure of whether we can truly claim that we're the land of the "fair go". It's clear that

we can no longer make this claim. If we are to call ourselves a just and hospitable community we must demand more of our Government.'

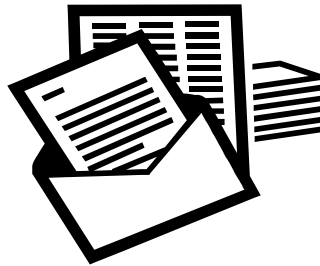
Australians are most fortunate that governments are sensitive to the views of those who elected them, if there is sufficient evidence of a policy being unpopular. It is a wonderful feature of the operation of democracy in our country, and one we should be proud to have. It is particularly significant in an election year. If you feel strongly about what these two recent decisions say about Australian compassion and responsibility, and you wish to help change the direction of these policies,

please write to let our politicians know your thoughts.

Letters may be directed to:

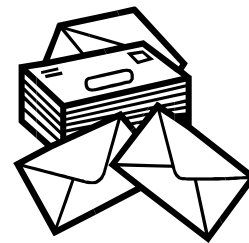
Senator the Hon. Chris Evans
Minister for Immigration and Citizenship
PO Box 6022 Senate
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Salutation:
Dear Minister



Mr Scott Morrison MP
Shadow Minister for Immigration and Citizenship
PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Salutation:
Dear Shadow Minister



BOOK SALE a great success.



We are pleased to report that the Book Sale in March raised \$4005.10 from the sale of books to support the Church's missional activities. The number of books donated was amazing and ensured that there was something for everyone.

A further \$189.65 was raised by the Devonshire Tea. Many people appreciated the opportunity to sit and review their purchases over their morning tea, some even

returning refreshed to make further purchases. In extending the Church's hospitality, it truly promoted us as a "community hub".

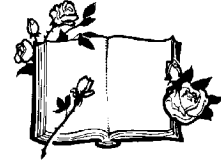
Thank you to the many people who contributed to this project - those who delivered flyers, donated books, sorted books, sold books, baked scones, served Devonshire tea, cleaned up after the event, and, last but not least, attended on the day. Special thanks to Jan Balson, Eileen Scott, Ian McMillan and the Gold Fish.



*For everything there is a season and a time for every matter
under heaven . . .*

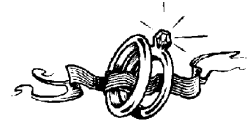
We record with sadness the deaths of members of our church family and we give our love, support and sympathy to their families.

Nancy Bartlett – wife of Jack.
Bill Williamson – husband of Dot
Kathleen Walker – sister of Robbie Riddiford



We record with joy the Baptisms of :-
Ava Beatrice Brabander- daughter of Melanie & Creagh, sister of Lachlan
Joel Easton –daughter of Kimberly and Mark, brother of Rachel.

We celebrate the marriage of
Christopher Tay and Angela Siew



Kathleen Walker, who was a member of this congregation for many years died on 22nd March, 2010. She was the eldest of a family of five; 4 girls and 1 boy. She attended M.L.C., after which she gained a B.A. Dip.Ed. at Melbourne University. She was a very good tennis player and was a University Blue and played interstate competition. She then taught at P.L.C., and Clyde, Woodend.

In 1948 she went to London where she taught for three years before being accepted by the Methodist Missionary Society for service in Laos, Nigeria. There she was appointed Head Mistress of the Methodist Girls' High School, and was able to make many innovations including the introduction of French in the curriculum. Kath stayed at Lagos for 17 years which she said were the happiest years of her life.

Upon retirement she together with her four sisters came to live at Cumberland View Retirement Village, Wheelers Hill. There are still two sisters living there. Of later years she became blind and was cared for at the hostel. She was 93 years of age.

*Maturity is to suffer
without complaining
and to be misunderstood
without explaining.*

Ordinary Arts

18–19 June

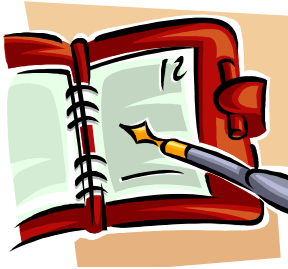
This event is for anyone who yearns to bring the arts alive in their faith community.
Event led by Trisha Watts, Soul Voice.


Information and registration,

E: info@ctm.uca.edu.au

W: <http://micahchallenge.org.au/voicesjustice>

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



	MAY	JUNE
	9 th Mother's Day 'Munch with a Bunch' lunch - following 11.00am service 27 th Biggest Morning Tea at The Hub - 10.00am 30 th Combined Service 10.00am	20 th Anniversary Service- 10.00am followed by Church family lunch 12.30pm 24 th International Dinner 6.30pm
JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
18 th Seniors' Service -2.30pm	29 th Combined Service 10.00am	5 th Fathers' Day 19 th Seniors' Service - 2.30pm
OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
16 th FETE 31 st Combined Service - 10.00am 	28 th Combined Service- 10.00am 30 th Remembrance Service 7.30pm	5 th Seniors' Service - 11.00am 12 th Lessons & Carols - 10.00am 12 th Church family lunch- 12.30pm 19 th Combined Service - 10.00am 19 th Carols - 7.30pm 20-21 st Christmas Alight 9.30am 24 th Family Worship - 7.00pm 24 th Christmas Eve service - 11pm 25 th Christmas Day services 8.30am & 10.00am 26 th Combined Service - 10.00am

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT ANY OF
 THESE EVENTS PLEASE CONTACT
 THE CHURCH OFFICE - 9560 3580
 email: office@gwuc.org.au
 website: www.gwuc.org.au



May today there be peace within you. May you trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be. May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith. May you use those gifts that you have received, and pass on the love that has been given to you. May you be content knowing that you are a child of God. Let his presence settle into your bones, and allow your soul the freedom to sing, dance, and to bask in the sun. May the sun always shine brightly on your face, and may Peace be at your side as you walk through life.



Knitting for Africa 2009/2010



A request for knitting was put to our congregation in mid November 2009 to be ready to go to Africa by end of January 2010. The response was overwhelming and so the pile of completed items such as jumpers, booties, squares, beanies and wool started to grow. Even some funds were given to us to hand over to the organization. In 6-8 weeks we had received so many items that we had to go to Singapore Air Lines to request extra baggage allowance to transport all the goods to Cape Town in South Africa.

We and those who received the items were most grateful and we all would like to thank each one who contributed to the request.

Donations of items were gratefully received and at times it was quite difficult to distribute them as there is such a need, we could have given each group ALL of it.

Goods were distributed to Philani. Walter and I were able to meet the current lady who was co-ordinating the organization Anne Paxton. We were also privileged to meet with Ingrid who was a Dr. who started Philani some 30 years ago and who has tirelessly devoted her time to the centre. She accepted our donation of cash and knitted goods, and the cash will be put into the Desmond Tutu fund which is used to support destitute

mothers and help them get back on their feet. Ingrid and Anne were particularly pleased with the tiny tiny booties as these will be very well used and needed.

You also worked towards supporting the Woman's Auxillary Group and the Ladies Morning Fellowship at the Tableview Methodist Church and they too were so pleased and grateful for the donation of garments, blankets and wool. Their church supports many causes and change from year to year. This year some of the items will go to the Emmanuel Centre for needy of cerebral palsy children in Atlantis (I have a DVD 3 minutes) which is a similar area to Khayelitsha but on the other side of Cape Town. They are also sending items to the Red Cross Children's hospital.

Diane and I were lucky enough to get a 1st hand guided tour of this hospital and could see where your goods would be going.

There was also a small morning market at the Brown and Annie Lawrence Aged Home where my mother lives. I donated 6 items to them to add to their very limited table. They were so grateful to you all. This home is run purely on donations and each person pays what they can afford. They try their best to gain extra funds to help make ends meet.

I have thank you notes from all the above.

Thank you to everyone who supported Walter and myself, it was very humbling and greatly appreciated by us both.

Walter and Alex Skilton



see next page for some photos from Walter and Alex

PHOTOS FROM WALTER AND ALEX



The Pastoral Care Committee is under the umbrella of the Inclusive Community missional group. The committee meets on the first Tuesday of the even months and reports regularly to Church Council. Committee members are Faye McDougall, Alison Dingwall (ministry to seniors) , Bobbie Rooks (bereavement support), Laurel Muir (supportive care link), Sue Morgan, Ian McMillan, Bev Richardson, Barbara Kreiger, Jenny Vass (pastoral care and welfare) and Jan Clear. We receive regular reports about the cradle roll from Sue Mair, card and correspondence ministry from Faye Wagon and prayer ministry from Beverly McGlead.

The goal of the Pastoral Care committee is to build and maintain loving and caring relationships, within our congregation. We realise that pastoral care is the responsibility of all members of our church family, as we seek to reflect God's love and his commandment to love and support one another, but we aim to facilitate the expression of mutual care and to involve as many people as needed to provide pastoral networks.

The responsibilities of the Pastoral Care committee are to maintain our membership rolls, to co-ordinate pastoral care which may be mutual support within a group, visitation and email or telephone contact, to integrate newcomers into our congregation, to promote prayer ministry, to respond in practical ways to supportive care needs, to acknowledge joys and concerns of church families through the card and correspondence ministry and to foster programs that promote mutual care and support within the church family including ministry to seniors, ministry to young families, welfare needs and bereavement support.

We try to work closely with the Ministry Team. A very successful training evening was held earlier in the year when those involved in any form of pastoral care met together to discuss problems and joyful experiences and to receive some tips on effective visitation. The Ministry Team hope to have these information evenings, every few months. Members of the team also shared their ideas about forming a pastoral support group. They hope that the people, in this group, will be available to visit people (at short notice), when the pastoral visitation demands on the team members, are overwhelming.

The needs of people, within our church family, are changing all the time. Please do not hesitate to speak to one of the committee members, if you have any suggestions, ideas or questions. We would love to hear from you.

Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.

*Jan Clear
Convenor
Pastoral Committee*

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**EYE CARE TEAMS VANUATU
PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS**



Some 10 years ago Meg and Don McRaid began this project taking teams of OPTOMETRISTS and nurses to the islands of Vanuata to help the people there. They worked in conjunction with the Presbyterian Church of Vanuata. Now 10 years later they reported that in 2009 they had assembled five teams of Optometrists and nurses who worked in 50 locations on 20 islands. They saw 4,221 patients, dispensed 2,500 pairs of glasses and referred 170 people for general and optometry surgery and specialist care. The work of all professionals is given voluntarily.

It is now a very complex organisation providing a much needed ministry. Project supporters are the Uniting Church [Uniting World - the main funding agency], Rotary International, Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu and the Health Department of the Vanuatu Government.

Some years ago this was one of the projects benefiting from the proceeds of our fete, and consequently Don came and spoke of the work to our UCAF.

Each year Meg and Don, members of the Maffra Uniting Church and spend 3 months of the year in Vanuatu organising and travelling with these teams.

Last year Rob Latimer, a member of the North Ringwood Uniting Church provided his yacht to transport teams from island to island, which facilitated their work greatly. Because of it they had electricity which meant they were able to have the use of computers and so keep records which they had been unable to do in the past.

Rob has produced a DVD on the 'Medical Sailing Ministries' [his organisation], and the 'Vanuatu Prevention of Blindness Project'. They are available from him for \$20 [plus postage]. Phone Rob on 0428 370 579 or email: latimerfamily42@gmail.com if you are interested.
Bill Morgan



PRAYER CHAIN

*For those who would like prayers during the week, for themselves or for others, you are welcome to contact our Prayer Chain Coordinator,
Beverly McGlead on 9887 6959.
All prayer requests are treated with confidentiality.*



Surf Camp with Glen Waverley Secondary College

Once you have graduated from high school and made your way into the world it can be difficult to recall the challenges that you faced during your days as a student. Things like external pressure from family and teachers to achieve top marks, the stress of fitting in with your peer group and personal struggles of identity are some of the many issues that teenagers face every day. On top of these common conflicts some students will confront even more serious problems. Often there is no one to turn to for help in the school institution and these young people can be overlooked or neglected.

Glen Waverley Secondary College recently established a Community Program to address the multi-layered needs of its students, with a specific focus on taking care of 'at risk' individuals. This important initiative aims to support the development of a group of year nine students by providing them with networks and extra resources to guide them through their education. The first stage of this project was a four day surf camp along the western coast of Victoria, which was attended by fifteen Glen Waverley Secondary students.

Alanee Hearnshaw and Ame Pocklington joined the camp leadership team under the guidance of the school chaplain Mark Philpott. The camp program was relaxed and there were many hours of chatting with the students, drinking hot chocolates, kicking footballs and doing super hard crossword puzzles! These moments of recreation provided the perfect opportunity for the teachers and leaders to get to know the students and hear about life from their perspective.

The goal of the camp was to create a learning management plan for each student, which involved asking them to identify their underlying difficulties at school and set goals to overcome them. The Community Program will continue to work in partnership with these young people over the next year to put these plans into action and help them foster the positive changes that they want to see happen. Excitingly, there are endless possibilities for our church community to connect with these students and be part of the Community Program over the coming months. Watch this space!

Ask any of the fifteen campers to tell you what their favourite part of the camp was, and I guarantee you that each one will unanimously agree that the surfing sessions were the most exciting part of the week!

What an honour and privilege it was to spend valuable time with a group of awesome young people and have them share a glimpse of their world with us. I know that I will always smile at the many memories of cooking dinner with the girls each night or of the jumbled noise of five ipods simultaneously pumping out hip hop music at the back of the bus on the way home.

It is incredible to think of the impact that you can have on a young person when you simply give them your time and friendship. It is also inspiring to realise that through encounters such as these we are also left somehow different. I pray that we would intentionally seek out these new and creative ways to engage in mission in our local community. Following Jesus to the streets and giving out his love to people doesn't have to be 'evangelical'. Mission can be as simple and profound as spending time in your local neighbourhood.

You can make a
DIFFERENCE!

Robert Wood was recently recognized for his 17 years as 'Keeper of the Planned Giving Programme'. Here is a brief interview he had with Cynthia Chin.



Robert, you have just stepped down from the role of 'Keeper of the Planned Giving Programme'. Can you tell us what this involves?

The role involves

- Recording of the amount received each week via the planned giving envelopes.
- Keeping the roles up to date, i.e. removing those who for various reasons decide not to continue with the program or adding new names of those who wish to join the program.
- Every three months the committee has a meeting to prepare the quarterly status letters so the Recorder needs to prepare the list showing the current status of each giver with regard to the amount pledged against the amount received.
- At the time of the Treasurer preparing the budget the recorder needs to determine the percentage of the total pledged by those who pledge a specific amount and assess the average giving over the previous 12 months of those who do not specify a fixed amount. This totalled with that received via Direct Debit gives the Treasurer a good idea of what income, through planned giving, the Church will receive in the coming year.
- Provide the Finance Committee with a brief report each month outlining any changes that have occurred during that month and the impact this will have on the giving.

This job would have covered a lot more than meets the eye. Am I right in saying that apart from the routine of counting money, you would have had to also send out letters advising people of the status of their giving.

Actually with regard to the letters the recorder does not do this task alone. The convener drafts the letter and at our quarterly meetings the committee members prepare the letters for sending out, i.e. adding the names and the figures.

Towards the end of any planned giving programme, you would have had to organize one of these 'planned giving nights' to encourage people to sign up for the programme.

With regard to the 'Planned Giving Nights' these are organized by a group specifically set up to organize planned giving programs that are usually held every two years.

I believe you maintained this position for the last 17 years. How long have you been attending this church?

We joined this church just after we were married which is just over 30 years ago.

Perhaps you'd like to tell us why you kept on with it for such a long time. I mean most people would have done it for maybe 5 to 10 years and would have said it was time for someone else to take over.

It was for a couple of reasons. I wished to be involved in some way (I am now on the Property Committee) and also because of the other committee members. They are a great group of people and over the years we have had some great times at our meetings, which are usually held at Cliff Baker's house.

continued over page

Could you tell us a little about the committee?

As I said earlier, they are a great group. The make-up has changed over the 17 years, with the current group being Ian McMillan (Convener) Ken Hutchinson (Minute Secretary and new Recorder), Neville Scott and Robert O'Brien. Cliff Baker has been the stalwart of the group for many many years, with Ken the next longest serving member, followed by Neville, with Robert O'Brien being our newest recruit.

You finally made the decision to retire. Would it have been in conjunction with you yourself retiring from full-time work?

Yes this is the main reason. Veronika and I hope to travel, especially within Australia now that we have both retired and have purchased a caravan. It would be difficult to continue in this role when we may be away for up to five months at a time. The other reason is that I have been doing this role for 17 years and I think it is time for a fresh face.

Robert, both Melbourne Water & GWUC are going to miss your dedication. I'm sure I speak for the congregation when I thank you for all the hard work you have put in over the last 17 years and wish you a very happy and well-deserved retirement.



☞ THE MOTHER OF THE PRODIGAL SON ☞

Where is the mother of the prodigal son

On that day so long ago?

What were her thoughts

And what were her fears

As she watched him turn to go?

How many times in the dark of night

Did the tears slide down her face?

Did she get out of bed

And fall on her knees

Just to pray that her boy was safe?

How were the days when she did not know

Was he alive? Was he warm? Was he well?

Who were his friends?

And where did he sleep?

Was there anyone there she could tell?

But, oh, on that day

when she looked down the road

As she looked since her son went away,

Did love unspeakable flood her soul?

Did she cry?

What did she say?

I think when the father had welcomed their son

And the boy had greeted his brother.

That the servants made a path

for him to enter the door,

And the waiting arms of his mother.



