



Newsbeat

NEWSLETTER FOR THE PORT PHILLIP
EAST PRESBYTERY

**CLIMATE
ACTION AT
ORMOND**

**DELIVERING
FOOD AND
FRIENDSHIP**

**MORNINGTON
PENINSULA WALK
FOR A CAUSE**

**PORT MELBOURNE
OP SHOP GRAND
OPENING**





INVITATION

to a special Thanksgiving Service at

Mount Waverley Uniting Church
as we prepare to leave the High Street Road site
and move to our Virginia St site, Mount Waverley.

SUNDAY 27th OCTOBER, 2024
at 2.00pm

High Street Road site
482 High Street Road, Mount Waverley, VIC, 3149

- 2.00pm Thanksgiving Service
- 3.30pm Afternoon tea and sharing with friends we've made on our journey of faith throughout the years. Includes various displays.

RSVP for catering by Sunday 13th October
Email: office@mountwaverleyunitingchurch.org.au
Phone: 9887 8239 (Church Office)

*Please note that car parking at our HSR site has been reduced.
Adequate parking is available in the surrounding streets.*



Glen Waverley Uniting Church 

Annual Grand FETE

教會年慶

Saturday 19 October
8.30am – 2.00pm

**CORNER BOGONG AVENUE & KINGSWAY
GLEN WAVERLEY**

Food Stalls | Craft | Plants | Toys
Face-painting | Jewellery
Cakes | Pre-loved Books | Silent Auction
Pre-loved Treasures & Collectables | Animals
Music and more...

DONATIONS WELCOME:

- Books
- Plants
- Household Items
- Toys
- Treasures
- Small Electrical Items (in working order)

We are unable to accept mattresses, furniture, pre-loved clothing or unsaleable items.

ALL PROCEEDS SUPPORT THE OUTREACH PROJECTS OF GLEN WAVERLEY UNITING CHURCH

Donations of items for any stall may be delivered on Friday 18 October 9am-7pm

FOR MORE DETAILS CONTACT:
GWUC Church Office
9560 3580
office@gwuc.org.au

STONNINGTON COMMUNITY FORUM



Designed by Freepik

HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

Sunday November 17, 3.00 to 5.00 pm
Stonnington Community Uniting Church
57 Burke Road (cnr Coppin Street), East Malvern

This Forum will challenge you to explore the interrelated issues of homelessness and housing by hearing from two inspiring people who have created organisations to provide services for the homeless. Their work ranges from distributing food and clothing, and extends to assisting with buying houses, and many things in between.

You will be encouraged to think outside the box about the complexities of the problems and the solutions, and to consider: What role can we play?

The speakers will welcome challenging questions and comments from all participants.

Participation in the Forum is FREE

Enquiries and further information
Stonnington Community Uniting Church
76 Coppin Street, MALVERN EAST, VIC 3145
tel: (03) 9571 4575
email: stonningtoncommunityuc@inet.net.au
web: stonningtonchurch.org.au

Refreshments will be provided

SPEAKERS

DEBORAH HOLMES
Director, Avalon Centre, 1936 Malvern Rd, Malvern East



Avalon
Centre

avaloncentre.org.au



Deborah Holmes founded the Avalon Centre in 1987. "Our aim is to meet the unmet needs in society and help people who have slipped through the cracks. Avalon assists those who have been forgotten, overlooked and left behind. This includes the homeless, people with mental health and physical problems and disabilities, the elderly, refugees and anyone else who may benefit from our support. Avalon Services include *Homes for the Homeless*, *Avalon Drop-In*, and *Clothes & Bedding Distribution*, and individual support."

NOAH YANG
Founder and CEO of "We are Mobilise"



wearemobilise.org.au



Noah founded the Mobilise movement challenged by the question "In a country as prosperous as Australia, why does anybody have to sleep on the street?". Since the first night he and a friend headed out with bags of bread to have conversations, Noah has led *We Are Mobilise* from a grassroots movement focused on assertive outreach through to an ACNC-registered national charity with operations in 5 states across Australia. Mobilise recently completed a \$2 million+ fundraising campaign with Nedd Brockmann, positioning it to launch some Australia-first direct giving programs - already having 100+ participants through these innovative programs.

Season of Creation at Cornish!



Cornish College's culture and philosophy is built upon the Rings of Sustainability, which we also use to inform our day-to-day school operations and to underpin our Cornish College Strategy Story – Toward 2030. Each of the four rings focuses on a different aspect of sustainability – natural, personal, urban/technological and socio-cultural. The natural ring helps students consider issues from an environmental perspective, including how we, as local and global citizens, manage our ecological footprint, value and protect biodiversity, and work to understand how we are connected with the earth.

For the Season of Creation, Cornish climate action leaders led an assembly which focused on rubbish, and how rubbish impacts the wellbeing of the land, waterways, skies and everything that lives here, including the people. Reducing waste at Cornish College is one of the final goals for the Five Leaf Eco Awards, so we are very keen to address it.

The Property Team supported the assembly by creating a video demonstrating the use of different types of composting systems, bins, and recycling schemes at Cornish. The Timor IMPACCT leaders also spoke about the impact of rubbish at our partner school in Fatuquero, Timor-Leste, where widescale recycling and waste disposal schemes are still being developed.

Having reviewed the contents of our bins, we decided to remind students about what goes in each bin, so that we can reduce what goes into landfill, something we are working hard to avoid. The Wellbeing and Property Teams launched a competition to encourage students to take more responsibility for their year level and communal areas. For example, shut lockers so that papers aren't accidentally blown out and around the grounds or into our wetlands.

Awards will be given at the end of term to the cleanest year level, but the overriding aim is to affirm our commitment to reducing, recycling and reusing.

Picture: (L-R) Cornish College's Climate Action Leaders - Abbey, Alice and Georgia

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Featuring contributors Nick Toovey and Ennis Macleod



FROM YOUR COMMS OFFICER:

This month, I've spent lots of time with my mum at the Peter MacCallum Centre, trying to make use of myself as she battles breast cancer. It's amounted to lurking around a lot, working on my laptop, and losing hours staring up at the beautiful, bright centre of the building which extends like Jacob's ladder into the sky.

On bad days, you run the risk of floating like a maudlin jellyfish, unseeing, incapable of cogent thought, and frequently forgetting entirely where you're meant to be going. Family members of regulars quickly grow to recognise each other, and we're not shy about steering each other around, quite literally, if we look lost – onto the elevator, around crowds or forward in the coffee queue when it's our turn.

It's redefined the idea of kindness to me.

The quality I'd thought was kindness out in the "real world" is too lean and terse an offering in here. It isn't enough to smile and be patient while someone fiddles around in front of you at the coffee shop. In here, you're quick to proffer some cash if they've forgotten their wallet, and offer a hug. Kindness around here is active – it looks for opportunities to *do* something, even a small thing, to make the situation better.

This month's *Newsbeat* illustrates a Presbytery that's filled with that very quality. From the awesome Climate activism Ormond Uniting Church are engaging in, to the beautiful coming together of the Mornington Peninsula Uniting churches for *Walk for a Cause*, and Mount Waverly Uniting Church's food mission which has yielded such inspiring stories – our Presbytery is filled with loving people rolling up their sleeves and doing their kindness.

I'd love to hear about the sparks of kindness going on in your congregation, so we can celebrate and continue spreading that light together. Because in a world that often feels so heavy, it's these small moments of compassion, connection, and care that remind us of what it means to truly be the hands and feet of Christ.

Naomi Cardwell.

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER, PORT PHILLIP EAST PRESBYTERY

OUC is for Action!

By Rev Ron Townsend
*On behalf of the Climate
Change Group of OUC.*

Please check out
www.greenfaith.org and
www.arrcc.org to learn
more about Faith and
Climate Action!



Ormond Uniting Church (OUC) is taking action on Climate Change!

OUC's worship on Sunday 15th September, celebrating Creation, focused on Climate Change. The congregation shared their thoughts and intentions concerning 'taking up our crosses and following Jesus,' with regard to acting on Climate Change.

Some of the actions people among the congregation are presently involved in are: eating less meat, choosing an EV (Electric Vehicle), electrifying houses, informing themselves about the facts, and supporting our small nation Pacific Island neighbours who are all at great threat from rising sea levels.

The most recent initiative of the congregation to further our conviction on this matter was to join Greenfaith, an international

coalition of religious faiths, through its local arm, Australian Religious Response to Climate Change (ARRCC).

Our membership with ARRCC included the purchase of two banners, which are now displayed on the construction fencing surrounding our church building while it is being renovated.

The glaring truth of Climate Change is that ALL people and nations must act now. We can no longer 'wait this one out!' 'Put our heads in the sand!' Let the 'real polluters' deal with it!

Human-created Climate Change is wreaking havoc across the world and climate scientists tell us things are getting worse, and getting worse more quickly. Many people

are performing remarkable acts of commitment to impact Climate Change.

In our worship on Sunday the 15th of September, we shared a video about the Rev Alan Stuart, a 97 year old UCA Minister, who felt compelled to join a 32 hour protest blockade of a coal ship leaving the largest coal exporting harbour in the world – in Newcastle, NSW.

Among his reasons for joining the Climate Change protest were his concern for two of his grandchildren who had been heavily involved, and it hurt him deeply when they were arrested because of their Climate activism.

He felt he had no other option than to join in the protest himself

and indeed, he was also arrested! The video of his interview is linked at the end of this article).

But what became clear during worship on the 15th of September was that most members of OUC congregation were already involved in many small acts of sustainability (see above) and committed themselves to take further action.

Like recycling, reusing, repairing, cutting down on their use of plastics, contacting local representatives about Climate Change, planting trees, joining a climate movement like ARRCC, talking with grandkids about it, eating sustainably, donating money to climate change groups and even joining in protests, etc.

We would love to hear stories and share ours about acting on Climate Change, from other congregations in the Presbytery, as we all 'take up our crosses and follow Jesus' into a more sustainable future! Let us all commit to God's wondrous gift of Creation and undertake to live more sustainably.



Follow the link above to watch Rev Alan Stuart's SBS interview.

“The glaring truth of Climate Change is that ALL people and nations must act now!”

Banners by the Australian Religious Response to Climate Change, displayed at Ormond Uniting Church as it undergoes renovations.



Christ found us whilst we were lost

By Lesieli Tauali'i

Photos Supplied

The congregations of Mount Waverley Uniting Church (MWUC), Melbourne Fijian Uniting Church (MFUC) and the MWUC Social Justice and Mission in Society Committee have united to establish a Soup Van and Kitchen.

On Thursday the 5th September, Rev. Semisi Tauali'i and his gracious team of helpers were determined to go out and look for the lost, the hungry and the marginalised within and amongst our communities.

As cooking began, delicious aromas and lots of willing, smiling faces filled the MFUC kitchen.

We worked together to provide a hot meal for the disadvantaged to affirm the biblical truth that "Jesus did not come to be served, but to serve". Christ himself served humankind from the Cross, which puts into perspective the effort of putting aside



other commitments on a busy Saturday to serve and care for others.

Semisi and I set out together to distribute the hot meals, confident that God was in control and would direct us on our journeys.

We drove to places suggested by Monash City Council such as Clayton railway station, Clayton shopping centre, Mount Waverley Hamilton Place and surrounding areas, Oakleigh shopping centre, railway station, including parks – and here is where our story took a

turn. From a distance, we noticed blankets laid out on some railings, as though to protect a person from the cold.

We turned our vehicle and quickly walked toward a man covered in old, faded doonas, shopping trolleys beside him and more blankets spread against the cold.

This gentleman had lived with his employer, who had "kicked him out" when he asked about his pay. Now homeless, and awaiting police assistance to resolve the pay

dispute, he looked confused and heartbroken. His homelessness has significantly changed his financial capacity to provide for his family in India - three children, one of whom is disabled, his wife, and parents. He broke down in tears while telling his story. We realised that this was the ultimate reason for all the hard work, and it was worth it. Our hearts ached for this man, and although our meals may not resolve the social injustices of homelessness or even this global crises, we can only offer hope by giving this homeless man a hot meal.

We gave our mobile phone number to him, and he continues to call us “sister I am hungry” and calls Semisi “brother”. We both cook meals for him and deliver the food almost every day. We saw him last night and he looked different now, with a healthy glow rather than looking malnourished.

There is a prospect of him getting a job: he needed clean clothes for his job interview, and so Semisi washed a luggage case of dirty clothes for him. The gentleman has positive prospects by gaining employment; he will continue to support his family in India.

He wanted to rent a one-bedroom home close to his friends. We asked him who his friends were. He replied, “You guys are my friends and family now.”

Reminiscing on his situation, we are reminded of the privileged lives we live. There’s a roof up above me, shoes on my feet and food on table, as the song’s lyrics emphasises. We take one day at a time, and one step at a time, and we never know we may have entertained an angel.

We are grateful to all who have contributed to this effort. It takes a tremendous collective effort to bring it into fruition.

The Soup Van and Kitchen continues with the ultimate goal of making a difference in a world which has declined Jesus. Our motto is, if God gave his one and only beloved son, why are we not giving our all to serve God’s ministry? It’s the least we can do.

If God gave his one and only beloved son, why are we not giving our all to serve God’s ministry? It’s the least we can do.”

Pictures, L-R: a box of delicious prepared meals, ready for delivery, and Rev Semisi Tauali’i poses in a homeless person’s living setup to illustrate their living conditions while respecting their privacy



PART TWO

Broken heart, shared heart, healing heart



By Rev Barbara Allen

I wrote this book, based on some of my learning while chaplain at the Lort Smith Animal Hospital.

It is important to note that the position came about through the vision of the CEO at the time, Rev Ric Holland; he saw the pastoral need, and got the placement off the ground.

I left Lort Smith about a decade ago, so why have I written a book now? Since leaving Lort Smith I have realized that pet loss is still a misunderstood grief. Grief is more than an emotion; it also affects

the physical, and the spiritual.

Some treat grief as an item to be weighed on scales: this much grief following the death of a parent, this much for a partner, this much for a child, this much for a pet. It horrifies me when I hear people say “You should be over it,” or “It was only a dog” (cat/bird/fish). No one would say that about a child, or a partner, or a parent, so why make that comment about a non-human? Love is not about the species; it is about the bond. For example, some folk have a closer relationship with their pets than with

with their parents. Their pet has not judged them on their life choices, there is no baggage.

In church, and in the Bible, we hear/read about unconditional love. We aim to love that way, but I haven’t met a human being who was successful at this, whereas many of our animal companions love us unconditionally, they love us for who we are at our core, not because of external factors.

So, back to grief. I wrote this book in order to:

1. Let people know that grieving for their animal companion is normal,

there is nothing wrong with them, they are not being over sentimental.

Love is love, regardless of the species, or how many legs they have.

Some grieving pet owners do not tell others in case people don’t understand, and say things like “It was only a dog-you can get another one” (after my husband died no one said “It was only a husband - you can get another one.”).

In my first week at Lort Smith someone phoned me to tell me her dog had died - 2 years ago - and she had been afraid to tell anyone because

she feared the reaction she might receive. How sad to be living with that grief for so long without someone helping or listening to you.

2. Note some of the differences. Having to make the decision to euthanase a pet is difficult (but we must always try to do what is best for the animal, rather than what is best for us).

Sometimes animals go missing; yes, it happens to humans too, but not as frequently. The remorse that follows, the unknowns, the ‘what if’s’ can be crippling.

3. Let others know how to provide some comfort to a grieving pet owner. Even if you do not understand (and some people do not. There are people who have never had that wonderful gift of a pet, so it is foreign to them), say something along the lines of “I am sorry to hear about your loss.” Or, “Sorry. Is

there anything I can do? Do you want to talk about it, or share some of your happy memories?”

4. Send a pet loss condolence card, available at most newsagents, and on-line.

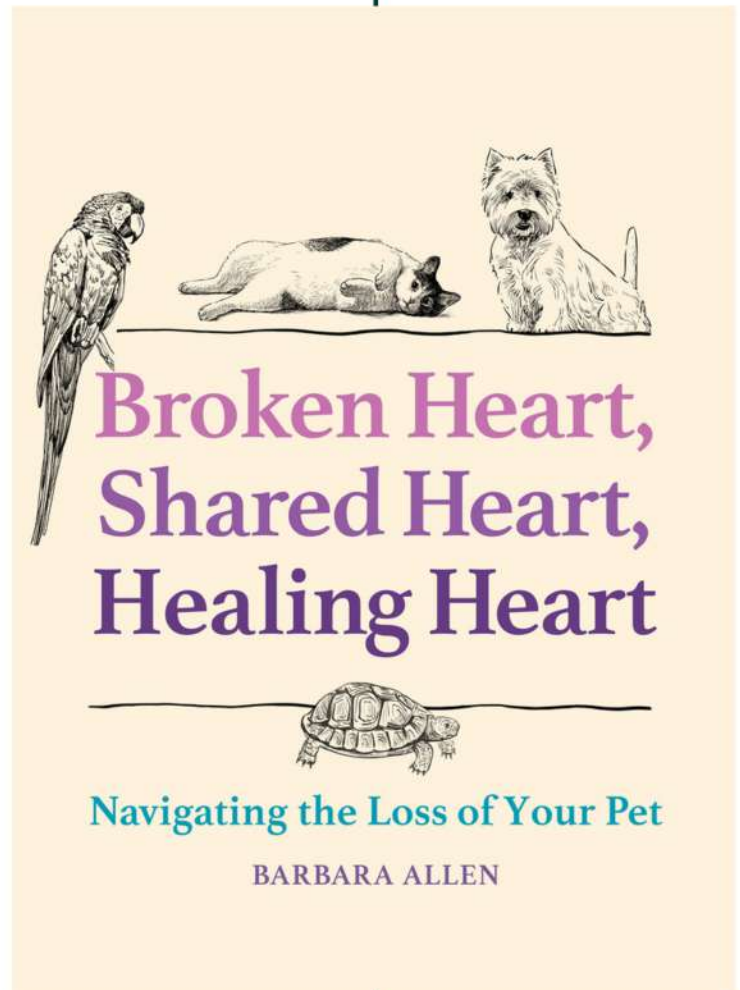
The book includes chapters about pet loss, theology, what major religions believe about animals having souls and an afterlife, how to help children through the loss of their pet, which may be their first experience of death, and another about the rituals of remembrance, including a simple service, and practical ways/advice to help the grieving.

In between the chapters are stories about famous people and their pets (for example, Sigmund Freud didn’t acquire a dog until he was nearly seventy, but his next dog became what may be the very first documented example of a therapy dog). It was a labor of

love, a privilege to re-read letters from former clients, and to explore more fully the God-given gifts pets are.

I wrote it to help grieving pet owners, and for those who want to be better equipped to comfort them.

**“Love is love,
regardless of the
species or how
many legs they
have”**



Broken Heart, Shared Heart, Healing Heart is published by Broadleaf Books. Find it on Amazon Books with this QR Code



Mornington Peninsula Walk for a Cause

By Peter Hough
Photos Supplied



Koalas, conservation, and camaraderie

Have you ever sought to set yourself a challenge, meet some like-minded people, see some great sights and support an important cause? You may just need to watch for next year's 'Walk for a Cause' event!

On Friday 30th and Saturday 31st August, the combined Uniting churches of the Mornington Peninsula region hosted their annual "Walk for a Cause" in partnership with Mornington Peninsula Koala Tree Planting. Over 45 people were involved in the event.

Friday commenced with a hearty breakfast hosted by the Rosebud

Southern Peninsula Uniting Church. The first day, walkers completed around 17 km, firstly along the Bay Trail to Rye and then through the delightful Green's Bush National Park in the afternoon. We finished at Cape Schanck. The grass trees were simply stunning!

Saturday commenced with another great breakfast feast thanks to the Mt Martha Uniting Church, along with some inspiring presentations from local environment action group BERG (Balcombe Estuary Rehabilitation Group) and a member of Mornington Peninsula Koala Tree Planting. The passionate presentations were the ideal segue as our walkers headed to the Mount Martha Briars property, where many participated



Striking a pose on a stop to admire the beautiful Peninsula scenery.

for the first time in a mass tree planting event as part of a reforestation of that property to allow future expansion of their already extensive native animal sanctuary.

For 3 hours, we joined with 36 volunteers and Briars staff to plant a new bushland forest of Koala Friendly trees with environmental guards, make new friends, get dirty hands and finish with immense smiles on all of our

faces. After a shared lunch we reluctantly left new friends to complete the two day walk through the picturesque Mt Martha Estuary Boardwalk ending two memorable days.

All in all we travelled around 25 kilometres, planted 800 trees, learned much about Koalas and their conservation on the Mornington Peninsula, were bitten by the community conservation volunteering bug, and made some great new friendships.

All of this whilst celebrating God's great creation of our natural environment and reflecting upon the importance of our need

for good environmental stewardship. Donations towards the Koala Conservation Cause have continued to roll in.

You are warmly invited to support this year's fundraising by following the QR code below, and join next year's event by following the Mt Martha Uniting Church coming events on our website.



Follow the QR Code above to learn more about Koala conservation on the Mornington Peninsula!



It was incredible to take a final look back at the our hard work, planting 800 Koala-friendly trees!

Sitting down for a hard-earned rest and a giggle



Port Melbourne Op Shop grand opening!

By Jacob Miller

Photos Supplied



It's been nearly a hundred years since Melbourne showgirl Lady Millie Tallis coined the term 'Op Shop'. Hoping to give second hand and charity shops a more dignified name, Millie came up with the term in 1925. The idea came from the streets of Paris, where bargain shops were known as *magasins d'occasion* or 'stores of opportunity'.

Today, Uniting operates 25 op shops across Victoria and Tasmania. While primarily a social enterprise, they are much

much more than just a shop front. They are living homes of the circular economy, access to affordable goods, and modern troves filled with treasure.

They are enlivened communities making the world a better place through daily action, creativity, and connection.

Uniting, through its founding agency, Wesley Central Mission, opened its first charity shop in Melbourne's Lonsdale Street in 1933. By 1939 'Goodwill Industries' had six shops, eight trucks, a warehouse, and 150

employees - however this all ceased with the advent of World War II.

Uniting Op Shops have mostly been established by working with Uniting Church congregations. Our oldest continuing shops are Albert Park, which opened in 1964 and Glenroy, which opened in 1973.

In July last year, Grace Community (Melton Uniting Church) decided to hand over operational management of their op shop to Uniting. For 45 years this shop has been a special place

for the Melton community. Uniting is proud to continue this legacy with the ongoing presence and support of the op shop's staff and volunteers.

Uniting would also like to take this opportunity to thank those congregations who continue to donate proceeds from their own op shops to support Uniting programs.

Opening on Bay Street on the 5th of October Uniting Op Shop Port Melbourne is soon to be followed by Acland Street, St Kilda, in November. Uniting Op Shops all open 7 days a week and we are

looking for volunteers who can give as little as 4 hours a fortnight. If this sounds like you please email us at opshops@vt.uniting.org.

Your donation bins keep us going - this past financial year, Uniting has been able to sell 973,806 items through our op shops.

Nearly all these items have been donated through our op shops or donation bins, over 40 of which reside on congregation sites. Your bins and the missional work of your congregation are crucial to the success of our op shops and the funding of Uniting programs.



The Road to Freedom: Economics and the Good Society

A book review by Dr. Vivienne Mountain

Joseph Stiglitz presents a contemporary critique of the 'Good Society' seen with Neoliberal Capitalism as the dominant economic emphasis in the U S A. Neoliberal Capitalism is understood by him as the desire for unfettered market freedom with limited governmental interference.

The metaphor of 'wolves' and 'sheep' is used by Stiglitz; Where wolves have freedom, sheep have no freedom. He identifies a situation of 'economic segregation' where the rich and elites have a voice of entitlement, and the poor have despair. He warns that this social situation is unsustainable.

The Road to Freedom recognises complexity. Many in society live "behind a veil of ignorance", such as children, slaves, the elderly, the handicapped, the poor, the less educated. There is a reality that many have less freedom, but this does not mean that they can be exploited by those with greater levels of education, intelligence, power and wealth. Those with a

big voice in society need the checks and balances of collective government action.

Stiglitz identifies the conservative Right in politics as those whose freedoms need to be limited. Such as, gun ownership, the profit imperative, advertising and truth telling, stoking division in the media and pandemic responses. He appeals to the values of the Enlightenment in the formation of the democratic order of governance for a Good Society. This takes the discussion beyond politics in the USA into the wider world of trade negotiations, the United Nations and the International Monetary Fund.

This book highlights many

Caritas, our women's study group at St Leonard's, is currently studying the book by Brueggemann, Parks and Groome To act Justly, Love Tenderly, Walk Humbly. This book is a challenge for a new society, the 'Kingdom of God', calling the church to teach and live out the prophet message.

As I was preparing the study, I had coincidentally just written a book review on "The Road to Freedom". Written by economist Joseph Stiglitz, it has a similar call for a new world vision of freedom for all. While "The Road to Freedom" is contemporary and secular, it connected me back to the centre of our faith.

Both books sit together in my mind as prophetic calls for change.

important questions that are applicable to Australia. Ownership of land is a vexed situation for us, as we struggle with Indigenous land rights.

Further to land ownership is ownership of shared resources. Who owns the mineral reserves in the land? Who owns the rainfall and the waterways? What is the place of multinational companies 'developing' the land with long term investment agreements? What are the responsibilities, checks and balances enacted by our governmental system? Is there freedom for the present generation to pollute and gain wealth at the expense of generations to come?

Stiglitz recognises climate change

as an existential threat, a collective matter of concern for all. He asks, "Why should the Right so adamantly resist the necessary steps to prevent climate change?"

For a good society, Stiglitz advocates for radical change. 'Progressive Capitalism' or 'Social Democracy' is needed for a focus on justice, greater equality, real democracy with checks and balances. Rather than the care purely for profit, the care needs to be extended to people, the environment and the future.

As I struggled through the complexity of economic theory and practice in this book, I have found overwhelmingly a deep statement of moral philosophy. The Good Society demands that collective government provide checks and balances. The Road to Freedom means the economy is for all, leading to freedom from want and fear, freedom to flourish and freedom to live to one's potential. It is a vision for change in our troubled world.



The Caritas women's Study Group in action!

COMBATING HOMELESSNESS

Saturday, 26th October

2.00-4.30

At ST MARKS UNITING, MORNINGTON

Devonshire Tea/Afternoon Tea

\$10.00 Donation

In support of:

FUSION &

MORNINGTON COMMUNITY SUPPORT
CENTRE

Guest speakers from both organizations.

Live Band - HEARTBREAK TRAIL

A FAMILY FRIENDLY EVENT

IN SUPPORT OF REFUGEES

HIGGINS GRANDMOTHERS INVITE YOU TO

'Lift theSpirits'

CONCERT

3pm SUNDAY 27th OCTOBER

2024



Soprano
ELIZABETH FINKEL



featuring
ALAN
KOGOSOWSKI



Clarinetist
LILY TAMIR-REGEV

MUSIC BY

SCHUBERT CHOPIN MOZART
& MENDELSSOHN



STONNINGTON UNITING CHURCH
59 BURKE RD. EAST MALVERN
Tickets via trybooking.com/CTZYA
\$50; p/conc \$40; student over 12yrs \$20.
Enquiries ph 0421 385 534

You're invited...

Armchair Travel Fundraiser – to North India
Sunday, November 10th, 5.00pm - 7.30pm
at High Street Uniting Church (HSUC)
16-18 High Street, Frankston
Entry Donation \$10

Jagriti Bhalai Kendra
Community Health North India



In recent years at HSUC, we have enjoyed armchair travel slide shows to raise funds for the North India Woman and Child Community Health Project – a.k.a the Jagriti Bhalai Kendra Society (JBKS.)

The project has been a significant outreach campaign by High Street Uniting Church, and Helen Beeby has provided remarkable leadership to support JBKS and fundraising efforts to sustain the work for more than 12 years.

On Sunday, 10th November, Alan Mathews plans to offer another armchair travel for your enjoyment. It will begin at 5.00pm; and be followed by a 'bring a plate' light dinner to share with fellow armchair travellers.



The vibrant and culturally fascinating images are from the pilgrimage Helen, Bronwen and Alan went on in September 2019, with five other Aussie travellers, to see the work carried out on the ground. Visiting villages we watched and learned about the work to empower people – mainly women and children - offering support and education in health, nutrition, gender equality, breaking down of the class system and help in setting up small cottage industries.

Dr Alma Ram, pictured in the golden yellow Punjabi outfit, has been the leader of this work supported by the Church of North India's Diocese of Amritsar. Now in her mid-70s and dealing with Parkinson's Disease, Dr Alma is retiring from the project but will continue to support other programs run by the Diocese of Amritsar. We hope to hear from her during our armchair travel fundraiser.



Alongside the project imagery, Alan will share his photography from the towns and countryside of North India – plus other exotic sights, including a visit to the Taj Mahal. **A framed photograph from the pilgrimage will be raffled. Tickets are \$2 each or 3 for \$5.** We look forward to sharing with you at the event.



Coatesville fete!

*Barbecue Bros, Garden Gurus and
Crafty Creatives unite for a
fantastic Saturday morning!*

By Naomi Cardwell



Coatesville Uniting Church's busy schedule continued, rain, hail, or shine with a fabulous Saturday morning fete on September 14th.

It was fun to have the run of the place and to explore the buildings in more detail, with the sunny yellow hall devoted to bric-a-brac and Bob Campbell's thriving plant stand.

Ruth Robinson presided over the church's book room, which I learned is a cosy year-round feature at Coatesville, open for borrowing, tabletop games, and to settle in to for a comfy reading

session. I plan to return as soon as I can, and I'm afraid you might never get rid of me!

There were cakes, scones, hot drinks, and the usual raucous hospitality going on in the foyer area, which offered an entertaining view of the lads battling the barbecue in the rain while we comfortably sipped tea and munched inside in the warm. As God intended.

There were homemade jams and condiments, delicious cakes, slices, incredibly great quality secondhand clothes, shoes and handbags, and fabulous

handmade cards and crafts. I loved that each area offered EFTPos tokens for those of us silly enough to forget to bring cash. I could have stayed all day long, enjoying my book haul, hearing Bob's excellent gardening advice and enjoying all the merry Coatesville company.

In all, the Coatesville crew make it all too easy to buy too many books, eat too much, laugh too loudly and linger far too long - the bonus spectacle of a barbecue under siege was simply the icing on the cake.

Until next time, Coatesville!

Letters to the Editor

Nestled a little too Comfortably

Dear *Newsbeat*,

I was reminded this week that our purchasing choices need to be informed by an awareness of the UCA's commitments to social justice and care for our common home. We may get hot and flustered about the price gouging by massive supermarket chains, but we shouldn't forget the products on their shelves that have abysmal ethics records: I'm looking at you, Nescafé.

We might think that their parent company Nestlé, pushing baby formula on vulnerable mothers, in countries whose lack of access to clean water made the product lethal, was a thing of the past. But a quick check of websites like ethical.org.au and greenmatters.com show that the new controversy around their marketing of baby food is adding excessive sugar to its products, but only in lower- and middle-income countries. Nestlé is also criticised for other exploitative practices around water extraction, greenwashing and profiting off child labour.

So, should we boycott Nestlé products? It's difficult. They own many, many brands. We all have limited budgets. But can we agree that as a congregation or a presbytery, we should boycott products that Nestlé produces that counter our commitment to social justice. - Ennis Macleod, St Leonard's Brighton UC.

Bring them Home

Dear *Newsbeat*,

How desperately heartbreaking it is to read of the plight of the Australian women and children still languishing in Kurdish refugee camps in North East Syria. Their only crime is to be the families of former ISIS fighters. Surely these Australians have suffered enough for their association. From all reports, these people suffer every kind of deprivation.

They don't have to be repatriated to Western Sydney. Apparently there are communities willing to welcome them home, where they belong. It is a blight on the Albanese government that the political will to act has evaporated in the cruel, immoral political calculus to keep them there. - Nick Toovey, Beaumaris UC.

Your opinions and contributions to our Presbytery magazine are so very welcome.

Please email your letter to comms-officer@ucappep.org using the subject line "Letter to the Editor" if you would like to contribute. If you're not comfortable with email, leave a phone message with the Presbytery office and I'll endeavour to call and take your letter over the phone. We are unable to guarantee publication of every letter.



Email your letter now!

You're invited...

Leighmoor Uniting Church are having their 170th anniversary service on Sunday 20th October at 10 am.

This will be followed by a luncheon after the service in the Church Hall.

Anyone who is interested in attending may contact leighmoorunitingchurch@gmail.com



Christmas is coming!

Saturday 7th December, 12:00 – 3:00 pm
Coatesville Uniting Church
1050 North Rd Bentleigh East

What's on?

- Carols
- Craft activities
- Table games
- Play equipment
- Book borrowing for all ages
- Our famous FREE sausage sizzle!

Performances from local groups starting at 12.30 pm

Including:

- Clasax Mixed Woodwind Ensemble
- Rusichi Character Dance Ensemble
- Hughesdale Primary School
- Coatesville Church Band

Come and enjoy a free afternoon of relaxing family time amongst your local community. Enquiries - [Tel:95703912](tel:95703912)



Coatesville UCA Family Fun Day

During 2023 many families were doing it tough financially so we at Coatesville Uniting Church decided to run a free family event that would enable families, young people and those young at heart to come together and enjoy a social event that was free.

The theme was Advent.

It was run from 12 noon to 3 pm and included Christmas craft, games, toys, free books, local community groups performing and our famous Coatesville BBQ.

Hughesdale Primary School choir, Claxa Woodwind Ensemble, Mini Maestros, Rusichi dance group, O'Grady Drama Group and Coatesville Church Band all performed making it a great day.

Christmas carols were enjoyed.

The great turn out and smiles on people's faces made the whole event well worthwhile. It was a great opportunity to serve God in this way.

Our next family Fun Day is Saturday December 7th, 12 noon to 3 pm

1050 North Road, Bentleigh East
(Corner of North and Mackie Road)

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*A selection of adorable Crochet
Creatures from Coatesville's fete!*