

# GWUC Outreach and Social Justice Mission Group

## MINUTES

14 August 2025, 10am, Room 2

**Welcome** to all. **Present:** Pam Bunney, Rev Ian Ferguson, Annette Wojak, Vida Foo, Michele Stringer, Margaret Fraser (Chair)

**Apologies:** David Morgan

**Devotion:** Margaret – a vision rooted in justice, reconciliation, and peace Colossians 3: 12-17 and Intro by Rev Charissa Suli to “A Vision for a Just Australia”

**Minutes of last meeting** on 26 June 2025

### 1. Matters arising from last meeting

- COP 2025 selections were determined along with indicative donation amounts and applicants advised prior to the Congregational Meeting on 27 July. The COP Panel report and COP 2025 recommendations brochure were presented at the Congregational Meeting and endorsement of the recommendations was Unanimous. The report also included information from the 5 COP 2024 recipients, and has been included in the Minutes of the Cong Mtg (see wiki).
- The 4 congregation applicants and the 2 Panel-nominated COP projects have now been advised in writing of the endorsement.
- Margaret, Vida and Ian attended the NAIDOC Week event on 10 July, organized by Monash Interfaith Gathering and held at Wheelers Hill Library. This included a smoking ceremony and entertainment by an indigenous group Yeng Gali as well as short speeches by several local and state politicians
- New members for OSJMG – continuing need
- COP 2024 recipients Choir of Hope performance at nursing home and general report, further performances – **Vida**
- Impact Report from Kids Under Cover– **Michele** preparing a summary for Kingsway
- After meeting Councillor Elisha Lee at the NAIDOC week function, Margaret kept in touch about indigenous history of Glen Waverley. Elisha was good enough to spend some time researching what was available and sent two links that we can share with Church Council and the congregation, as appropriate.  
“As far as what is published, I can find this information on Monash region Aboriginal contact history at <https://www.monash.vic.gov.au/About-Us/Our-City/Monash-Heritage/Aboriginal-Heritage/Aboriginal-Background-Information/4.-Monash-Region-Contact-History>  
I also found this archived document authored by the Monash Reconciliation Group on sites of significance in Monash.  
<https://www.monash.vic.gov.au/files/assets/public/v/1/about-us/documents/public-notice/aboriginal-links-with-the-city-of-monash-area.pdf>”
- **Margaret** to enquire about the lack of acknowledgement of 1<sup>st</sup> Nations in the Marriott windows brochure – not yet done

### 2. Ongoing Projects – updates as needed

- a. Material Aid - **Annette**, goods for *Christmas Shoeboxes* in August/Sept, and *Its in the Bag* ladies handbags and personal items for Oct/Nov
- b. Honey Money - **Margaret**, new honey bottled on 23<sup>rd</sup> July. Next donation to Asylum Seeker Centre due soon. Current balance is \$691.
- c. Pancake Breakfasts at GWSC – **Michele** will enquire about joining the pancake team.
- d. Welfare Committee – Ian. There are some people interested in joining the Welfare Committee its next meeting. Jeanette Lee, a new congregation member and qualified social worker would like to get involved.

### 3. Occasional Projects – update

- KOGO Knitting project –Pam - a total of 128 items (beanies, throws, knee rugs, baby blankets, scarves, etc) to be delivered 15/8. **Pam** to put Thank You item into Bulletin and advise that appeal is to be ongoing from here on. A few items to be taken forward with offering this Sunday for blessing.
- Christmas Shoeboxes – **Annette** is working with Kimberley Easton to plan, and liaise with 5pm FEAST group to pack the boxes before the end of October.

### 4. Communication: Notice-board, Bulletin, Kingsway and verbal notices –

- a. COP 2025 – Endorsed COP projects now shown on noticeboard and to be included in next Kingsway.
- b. Recent item supporting “TeamWater” charity has been placed on board by Ben Leister. We are happy to encourage this initiative from young people.

- c. **Margaret** to sort through the magazine box on noticeboard to remove out of date items.

## 5. Correspondence

- IN: Email from Cr Elisha Lee, thanks to COP Panel from Anne Newton, Uniting World newsletter, Act for Peace, Tearfund
- Request from RCH for calico dolls for sick children – Craft Group at Waterford Valley Lakes Retirement Village (Rachel Porter) has offered to make these. **Margaret** to continue to liaise with Rachel.
  - Email from Asylum Seeker Welcome Centre (Lauren Daly), see below
- OUT:
- monthly report and indigenous history information to Church Council's August meeting
  - Several emails to COP 2024 recipients requesting progress reports, and advice to Frontier Services and Moderators Emergency Fund.

## 6. Today's Business

### ○ **COP update:**

- Asylum Seeker Welcome Centre sent report about their 2024 COP donation impact. Also offered to send a speaker to GWUC at a suitable time. **Margaret** to contact Lauren to thank them for their offer to send a speaker and a consumer to attend a COP service, suggested dates – 26/4/26, 19/4/26
- Quilts for Orphans were guest speakers at UCAF on 5/8/25, and thanked GWUC for making them a COP 2025 project.
- Liaise with Fete committee and office to promote COP projects. **Michele** will follow this up with assistance from **Vida**, using posters, easels & foyer TV, before and on fete day. Margaret to talk with fete committee about changing wording on flyer from "Outreach" to "Community" projects on all promo.
- After fete: Notify all applicants and contacts of the final amounts to be donated and confirm the contact details, payment process and bank details for each project. **Margaret** to send 2024 files (as examples) to **Pam** who will coordinate this admin along with church office.
- Thanks to the COP Selection Panel from various people.

### **\*\*Deferred from our June meeting:**

#### • **First Nations:**

A Letter from the Moderator, Rev David Fotheringham (previously distributed) urges support and action about the Yoorrook Justice Commission report. See [Yoorrook Justice Commission](#). See also [Yoorrook Key Findings | Yoorrook Justice Commission](#) which has 10 Key findings. Church Council (through Anne Newton) has asked OSJMG for some leadership on how best to raise awareness on this. **Margaret** will reply to Anne's email explaining progress to date. Also related to First Peoples matters, the UCA has produced a "Covenanting Pathways Toolkit" with ideas for congregations which can be found at [Covenanting - Uniting Church in Australia. Synod of Victoria and Tasmania](#)

**\*\*The OSJMG had a lengthy and thoughtful discussion on these matters, particularly on how to sensitively and respectfully encourage a deeper understanding of 1<sup>st</sup> Peoples issues in the wider congregation. Needs to be introduced slowly, perhaps starting with discussion about the Acknowledgement of Country. Ian informed us that Synod is also to discuss this matter in 2 weeks' time and that there may be ideas that he can bring back from that. Margaret will request a hard copy of [A Vision for a Just Australia – Uniting Church Australia](#), a set of seven Social Justice foundational issues for UCA congregations, one of which is "A First Peoples Heart". We will address this matter again at our October meeting.**

- **Justice and International Mission (JIM):** Items deferred until October meeting.

## 7. Any other business

- Monty (working for Doctors without Borders) is now safely out of Gaza, but very distressed about his experiences.
- Tearfund newsletter is encouraging congregations to run "Useful Gift" stalls for Christmas. **Margaret** to talk to Chris about whether the Youth may get involved.

## 8. Meetings - Room 2 is booked for Thursdays at 10am: October 2 (before fete), November 27 or Dec 4 (meeting then café) **Margaret** to confirm date asap

Away dates: \*David M: current - ?, \*Margaret: 8-25 Nov *tb*, \*Pam: 8-21 Sept, part of Oct

