



GLEN WAVERLEY UNITING CHURCH

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NEWVIEW

FEBRUARY
2010

Vetamorphus is a national Discipleship program that focuses on raising up a generation of young leaders to reach beyond the potential they see in themselves into the potential God has prepared for them. It is a nationally recognised course (via the Australian Qualifications Framework) which accredits senior secondary students with Certificate III in Christian Ministry and Theology, as well as counting towards a school subject Unit (in Victoria this covers a Unit 3+4 VCE subject). The course is available in Queensland, South Australia and Victoria (Victoria having just fewer than 100 students this year, which has doubled since 2007) and its aim is to be an Australian wide subject choice.



In 2007 I completed my VCE at Glen Waverley Secondary College, and as one of my subject units I participated in the Vetamorphus Program. In my year, there were approximately 40 students in Victoria with about 7 students, including myself, in our region cluster (which branched from Glen Waverley to Upwey).

When I took the course I saw it as a subject I could breeze through (having the mentality that no one can really grade you on your personal belief system). Looking back I now realise that this was the exact grounding and stepping stone that led me to wanting to know more and experience more through my Christian Journey.

So when I heard that Vetamorphus were a Peer Group Supervisor short in the Doncaster cluster region, and there were five 17 year olds **wanting** to read and study the bible, I got really excited at the possibility of being able to partake in the Vetamorphus Program once again but with a different insight.

Shaun, Merrily, Ginger, Ronald (participants from Glen Waverley Secondary College) and Aaron (a member of our own congregation) meet with me once a week at GWUC. Mark Philpott (GWSC chaplain) and Alanee Hearnshaw also come along to help out some weeks as well.

We focus on mainly an action/reflection model of learning in order to assist in vocational training as well as allowing ourselves to step back and let God to do his work.

Students have to participate in 6 core requirements over the year:

1. Peer Group - meeting once a week to allow students to inspire each other to grow.
2. Ministry Practice - allowing students to lead in a Major Project, of their choice, using the gifts that God has equipped them with. As well as their Live-in Project, which allows students to experience working in a team with a group of people all trying to serve in the same way with their different contributions.
3. Private Study - over the year the students aim to read and journal on the whole New Testament. Any questions arising from their private studies are brought up in Peer Group and discussed.
4. Mentoring - students are asked to meet monthly with a mentor of their choice to discuss any concerns that they may be having; spiritually or non-spiritually.
5. Retreats - over the year there are 3 retreats where students have the chance to hang out and learn along side with the other participants around Victoria.
6. Christian Community - students have to participate in their Christian Community, allowing them to put their ministry major project and live-in project into action.

I am really excited in being able to participate in the Vetamorphus Course this year and I am looking forward to what it is going to bring for the students as well as what I am going to learn and experience over this coming year.

Kelly Skilton



EDITORIAL



Welcome back, now you may not have been away, but many others have and we are just getting into the swing of our many activities. But it is an important greeting as we return to our groups and update ourselves with what has occurred at GWUC.

Some of us have holidayed and travelled, enjoyed ourselves and also seen the importance of Christianity in its many forms. We went on a cruise to the South Pacific and visit Vanuatu and New Caledonia, to take in the unspoilt pristine beaches and the pleasant open nature of the local islanders, who in many ways live a simple and non-commercial existence without the social pressures of the electronic gadgetry, without the immediate engagement of mobile telephones and with a commitment to share, support and assist their extended family across the tribe.

We undertook several tours, where local women acted as guides to explain their life and the importance of education and religious teachings. You couldn't help but be impressed by the pleasant uncomplicated manner and their delight at simple engagement. However, as they come to embrace the arrival of tourists you hope that they can retain their individuality and not be over-commercialised.

We also saw a very positive example of communication tools and contact through the weekly delivery of our bulletin via email. This has been a very positive initiative and an effective means of keeping in touch. Here we were in the middle of the Pacific Ocean on holidays, but still receiving materials of GWUC. We felt engaged and we were interested to hear.

Communications issues are a challenge to us. The Choir have recently been introduced to a new on-line page by John Hurst and there is interest in using this as a broader communication tool across the congregation. It is also used by Church Council as a means of communicating and managing documents. The web page is also being updated and there are other changes. Some of these changes will take time and some may provide a learning task, but we are fortunate that we have a means of engaging and using the emerging technologies to our benefit.

The other immediate influence and issue of early January was the constant graphic television commentary of the tragic after effects of the Haitian earthquake both in terms of its massive human toll, but also the scale of the rescue and relief assignment.

The willingness of countries and individuals to assist and support never ceases to amaze, yet the difficulty in getting supplies and assistance in through the logistical nightmare of the capital is a daunting challenge. Many people have been severely impacted.

We hear a lot of some of our projects, but I was delighted to read and then hear of the work undertaken by Meagan and Judy Lowe and Jane Hart following their visit to the Village of Bagaia, East of Dili, East Timor and the subsequent project to raise funds for Water Tanks through our Outreach Community (Refer page 5 of Crosslight). Another clear illustration of our passionate and committed contribution to Outreach activities, where we can make a difference.

It is also appropriate to comment that we have contributed \$8,965.85 to the Christmas Bowl. Just thank you.

We also welcome back all of our people who travelled to and worked in the projects in Kenya.

Finally a welcome to everyone including our ministers and we hope you have an active and enjoyable 2010.

Ken Coutts

The digital age has changed the ways in which we share our most important opinions and innermost secrets. We choose different communication platforms depending on the level of intimacy we feel towards the recipient of the message and the nature of the message itself. The combination of technology and weight of information has given us new rules for just how we communicate with each other.

This ponders the question: Do more options to communicate with each other connect us or alienate us more?

Come and share a cup of tea,
our welcome is warm and our friendship's free.



OUR COMMUNITY HUB.

The Hub is up and running for 2010.

We now have over 40 enthusiastic volunteers who are rostered on (two together) for the morning or the afternoon time. It has been great to have so many happy helpers. The time they are giving and the welcome and hospitality that they are showing to people in the community and also people from within GWUC is very important and very much appreciated.

Why not call in at the church on a Tuesday or a Thursday between 10am and 2pm for a cuppa, a biscuit or two, and a chat.
Come by yourself or bring a friend.
Everyone welcome.

If you would like to be a part of our enthusiastic team, please contact
Judy Fry, Judith Greenwood, Laurel Muir or Ineke Gyles.



*A cup of coffee shared
with a friend is happiness
tasted and time well spent.*



HONEY

The honey for sale [nr the kitchen servery] helps support the work of the Hotham Mission Asylum Seeker Project, in North Melbourne, in helping to assist asylum seekers living lawfully in the community with ongoing housing and basic income assistance.

The honey we purchase is always "A1" Australian honey quality,

THANK YOU to all who keep us supplied with clean well-scrubbed jars; it makes our bottling so much easier. *Please leave the jars in the kitchen near the microwave, where they may be readily put in the honey cupboard, after which they are sterilised for bottling.*
Thank you, Judith Boucher



HONEY

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| <p style="text-align: center;">JANUARY</p> <p>Combined services 10.00am</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">FEBRUARY</p> <p>16th Share PANCAKE Appeal 17th Ash Wednesday Service 7.30pm</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">MARCH</p> <p>13th BOOK FAIR 8.30am-1.00pm 27th Dawn Service - Crib Point [breakfast at Fry's home - Hastings] 21st Seniors' Service - 11.00am 29th-31st HOLY WEEK services 7.30pm</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">APRIL</p> <p>1st Maundy Thursday service 7.30pm 2nd GOOD FRIDAY service 9.00am 4th EASTER DAY service 10.00am</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">MAY</p> <p>9th Mother's Day 30th Combined Service 10.00am</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">JUNE</p> <p>20th Anniversary Service- 10.00am followed by Church family lunch 12.30pm</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">JULY</p> <p>18th Seniors' Service -2.30pm</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">AUGUST</p> <p>29th Combined Service 10.00am</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">SEPTEMBER</p> <p>5th Fathers' Day 19th Seniors' Service - 2.30pm</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">OCTOBER</p> <p>16th FETE 31st Combined Service - 10.00am</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">NOVEMBER</p> <p>28th Combined Service- 10.00am 30th Remembrance Service 7.30pm</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">DECEMBER</p> <p>5th Seniors' Service - 11.00am 12th Lessons & Carols - 10.00am 12th Church family lunch- 12.30pm 19th Combined Service - 10.00am 19th Carols - 7.30pm 20-21st Christmas Alight 9.30am 24th Family Worship - 7.00pm 24th Christmas Eve service - 11pm 25th Christmas Day services 8.30am & 10.00am 26th Combined Service - 10.00am</p> |

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





Ministry to Seniors News

SUPPORT TEAM

Lois Hosking, Graham Lockhart, Kaye Mackinnon, Elwyn Pederson, John Pooley

SENIOR SERVICES



Sunday 21 March
Seniors and 11.00am Worship
Holy Communion

Leader: Alison Dingwall
Preacher: Rev Greg Fry

All welcome

If you require transport to attend this service please contact the church office. We will be pleased to organise that for you.



Other service dates for your diary

Sunday 18 July

Sunday 19 September

Sunday 5 December

Details later

DEVOTIONS AT AGED CARE FACILITIES

Each month GWUC members conduct devotions or play for hymns at four local hostels/nursing homes, and less frequently at five others, usually on Mondays, Wednesdays or Thursdays.

These services are an important part of our outreach and inclusive missions to our local community, as well as an opportunity to share our faith with others.

I would like to build up teams of 2 – 3 who would assist at each of these services; eg giving out song sheets, reading the lesson, helping with singing, chatting to the residents. Ideally each team would be linked to one of the facilities so that a rapport can be established. The commitment would be no more than once a month.

Of course, I would be delighted if you would like to lead devotions or play the piano!

If you would like to assist or would like more information, please contact me:

Phone: Home: 9560 3167; GWUC Office: 9560 3580

Email: madingwall@optusnet.com.au

Alison Dingwall, Coordinator of Ministry to Seniors

Uniting Church raises funds for Haiti earthquake appeal

The Uniting Church in Victoria and Tasmania is responding to the devastation caused by the earthquake in Haiti by asking members of the Synod to donate to the **SHARE – Haiti Earthquake Relief Appeal**.

The Moderator, Ms Isabel Thomas Dobson, said The SHARE Community Appeal would coordinate donations through a Uniting Church sister organization, the National Council of Churches in Australia (NCCA).

“The images from Haiti of utter destruction from the earthquake prompt our response as Christians in prayer and practical aid.

“Please pray for all in the complex and desperate task of rescue and then rebuilding.

“For practical assistance the National Council of Churches of Australia, through its relief agency Act for Peace, has launched an appeal that will connect with

the international churches and churches in Haiti,” Ms Thomas Dobson said.

Act for Peace is the international humanitarian and development agency of the NCCA (www.ncca.org.au).

Donations are tax deductible.

People wishing to make a donation to the SHARE - Haiti Earthquake Relief Appeal can send donations by website www.shareappeal.org.au, by phoning 1800 668 426, or by posting to GPO Box 4355, Melbourne 3001.



WIKI

There are now LOTS of interesting and useful documents on the Wiki which you may want to read: here are just a few of them;

Outreach Group Meeting 4th Feb when 11 GW”UC people spoke about their Project/Activity.<http://www.ajh.id.au/ggg/OutreachMeetingFeb2010?highlight=%28Outreach%29%28Meeting%29%28Feb%29>

In addition, a list of outreach projects with links to the above reports
<http://www.ajh.id.au/ggg/OutreachProjectsList>

Shrove Tuesday at GWUC
<http://www.ajh.id.au/ggg/PancakeDay16Feb2010>

The Youth Internship Program with reports from our current Interns, Amé and Nick
<http://www.ajh.id.au/ggg/InternProgram>

Kelly Skilton’s document on Vetamorphus
<http://www.ajh.id.au/ggg/KellySkiltonVetamorphus>





WATER TANKS PROJECT

Since 1st September 2009, when our Water Tanks were set in operation, the three tanks have always contained enough water for their intended use (ie for the toilets and garden). HOW GOOD IS THAT!

It probably would NOT have been the case for the previous summer when there was little rain in January and February.

The Tanks Team designed the system for the whole range of water availability including empty tanks.

Tank Water Levels at 18th February 2010



How different the weather has been over the last few years with a number of heavy storms including the "intense storm" of Thursday 11th February 2010. The huge volume of water obviously flushed the whole Church complex roof and washed the many gum leaves into the filters and blocked them resulting in water squirting out in many unplanned places ... and some heading for the Bogong Avenue Foyer entrance. Warren cleaned leaves from the downpipe grate near the Office to prevent water entering the Foyer and Roger attended to the three other major downpipes and filters, and so the system was restored to "normal".

The Tank Team have been inspecting and cleaning the filters regularly and carrying out a few minor modifications and updates. ALL the filters had been cleaned 5 days before this storm.

Recently the Hall Extension toilet has been "switched" over to the Manse Tank.

So we continue saving good drinking water and using the rain water appropriately for the toilets and garden watering.

The Church's average water consumption since 1st September 2009 is 220 litres/day. WOW!

Lyn McDonald (for Tank Group)

Water, like religion and ideology, has the power to move millions of people.
Since the very birth of human civilization, people have moved to settle close to it.
People move when there is too little of it. People move when there is too much of it.
People journey down it. People write, sing and dance about it. People fight over it.
And all people, everywhere and every day, need it.
Mikhail Gorbachev, President of Green Cross International quoted in Peter Swanson's Water: The Drop of Life, 2001BBC News



Asylum Seekers in Glen Waverley

As you all know, our manse has been made available to Hotham Mission, to use as accommodation for people seeking asylum in Australia. Our tenants have been very grateful indeed for the security this has provided while they have been here, and also for the generosity that people from the Glen Waverley Uniting Church have shown in providing extra furniture and other items which have made their lives so much more comfortable. Their time in the manse is coming to an end.

Happily, one of the ladies has had her application for permanent residency approved. As she will be eligible for Centrelink payments, she will need to move out into other accommodation. We are currently helping her to find a suitable place.

The other lady's application is still in process, so Hotham Mission ASP has offered her other accommodation so that the manse can be made available to another group of asylum seekers - probably in April.

In speaking with our tenants, they express a desire to work and to become independent as soon as possible, but they are facing discouragement on this front. Both of the women have completed a qualification in aged care, but are finding work hard to obtain in these times of higher unemployment. They both worked in aged care in their home country, but have no employment record here; that makes it harder to convince an employer you are worth considering. **They are also finding the cost of travelling to interviews is a heavy drain on their limited resources, so if any of us could donate a daily Zone 1-2 Metcard (\$10.80) that would represent an enormous saving for them. Leave these at the office for collection.**

While both have expressed a primary desire to work in aged care, they are prepared to do other work meanwhile in order to work towards independence. Cleaning houses (\$16/hour) is something they are prepared to do, so if you have been thinking about getting someone in for this purpose,

perhaps you might like to consider them. One of the ladies is a very competent cook (Malay style, Thai, Indian curries) and is happy to help cook dishes for a dinner party or event (\$16/hour). She voluntarily cooks for the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre and has also volunteered at Lentil As Anything.

They have another friend who is skilled in Thai massage (head, back, shoulders) who is similarly looking for work.

It has been both humbling and inspirational for me to see the spirit in which they face their difficulties, firstly in obtaining permanent residency, and then in gaining employment. I cannot but applaud their determination and continued optimism for a better future.

If anyone can stretch out a hand to help by offering employment, or leads to employment in any of these ways, please contact **Robin Pope on 9561 7021**.



I am of the opinion that my life belongs to the whole community and as long as I live, it is my privilege to do for it whatever I can.

George Bernard Shaw

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2010 presents us with endless possibilities, opportunities and openings to engage in local, national and international mission. Already there seems to be an underground growth of passion and energy bubbling at the grassroots level; people are being stirred by God’s word to take up the call of Jesus and expose their faith to the world as they work for His justice. In the last few months I have witnessed this fresh surge of motivation, which is an exciting place for us as we embark on a new year of following Jesus and prayerfully asking Him to guide our actions. As part of my involvement in the internship program I was asked to be a member of the Outreach Group, which originated from the ‘On the Way Together’ process. This small group of people exists to facilitate missional and outreach activities in the wider community, and I have been quite amazed by the capacity that our community holds to truly impact our world.

This year I see my internship as a chance to support the ministries and mission projects that are currently alive amongst us already, as well as to join with new initiatives that are beginning to develop. It is difficult to articulate everything that I dream of doing because in some ways I feel that God has jam-packed my heart with so much, so I will try to share a little bit of my hopes with you.

In particular I am looking forward to igniting some enthusiasm around social justice in Australia and exploring avenues that our community can take to educate ourselves about Indigenous issues, build relationships with Indigenous communities and advocate for Indigenous rights. As disciples living in a post-colonial nation, I believe that we have a calling to this ministry.

Another outreach opportunity that has arisen quite recently is the invitation to further build our connections with Glen Waverley Secondary College and meet the needs of its students. As a consequence of the hard work and dedication of a small group of pancake chefs, a strong relationship has already been forged with the high school through fortnightly free pancake breakfasts. We plan to continue this project and branch out into new ways of serving the school community this year. These actions are so important when we are trying to bring Jesus into the wider community, because the most powerful thing that we can do to empower young people is to value the gifts, insights and talents that they contribute.

The first five months of the internship has been an eye-opening experience, where I have observed and participated in the behind-the-scenes work of a church. Part of this journey has been working out where I fit into the bigger picture of God’s reality and in many ways I now have more questions than I initially began with. However, expecting to be surprised and challenged is the way I like it, and I hope that by the conclusion of this year I will be even less certain and more trusting.

Amé Pocklington



Being an intern in 2010 for me is an exciting opportunity to grow and to further hone my skills as a youth worker. during the year I hope to begin several new ministries to the youth these include running a support program built around a dodge ball tournament and opening up our community to the youth for musical expression and other artistic undertakings.

The dodge ball program will work two fold; firstly it will create a space where those youth who are looking for some aspect of sport or physical activity in their week, and don’t already play a weekend sport can go and be part of a regular competition.

continued over page

They will be encouraged to form teams and participate in a tournament style competition with a ladder. Initially the program will instil values of teamwork and camaraderie, however then the second aim of the program will come into effect. Often teenagers have many factors beyond their control in their lives. I certainly remember my high school years as being turbulent to say the least. What I'm looking to do is provide an emotional outlet for the youth through the adrenaline rush of intense activity. Often we find it hard to manifest our emotions outwardly in a way that we or others can interpret or even recognize. My concept is that if I can somehow provide a focus for some of that excess energy through regular competition then hopefully it will lead onto other forms of deeper emotional support. The program will be run in schools either during lunches or after hours and will be primarily be aimed at the male students of year nine and ten, but depending on demand I'm keen to broaden the scope.

My second intention, more a side project than a focus, is to invite the musically talented to our doors and genuinely encourage them to express themselves. Life as a student is hectic, there is no doubt, in between schoolwork and other commitments there never seems to be enough hours in the day. For those who play in school bands or study music at a VCE level, daily practice is part of this time poor life. I'd like to take a portion of that time and apply it in a group setting where instead of curriculums there is freedom and instead of overplayed standards there is new expression. Music often is food for the soul, and enriching fledgling souls is what we're all about.

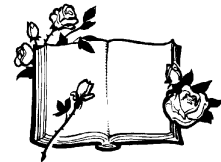
All in all I'm overwhelmed for the promise that this year shows, if only for the simple fact that I'm doing what I love doing.
Nick Dart



*F*or 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.

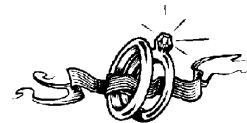
*Myrtle Kirk, Gim Henry, Beverly Agombar, Wayne Gray, Ray Garrod,
Ray Wise, Bruce Clear, Audrey Anderson, Joan Morcom.*



We record with joy the Baptisms of:-

*Isabelle Faith Chalmers, daughter of Gordon & Erin Chalmers
Caitlin Anne Chalmers, daughter of David & Phillipa Chalmers
Matthew Donald Stuart Whitfield, son of Simon & Sandy Whitfield
Daniel Noah Wojak, son of Martin & Annette Wojak,*

We celebrate the marriage of Julian Biviano and Le Thi Thuy Trang.



Reflecting on Kenya

Volunteering in an orphanage was something that had always been in the back of mind from a young age. Then listening to Nikki's stories from her previous visit really inspired me. For it to actually happen was amazing. In what seemed like a short time, I learnt so much about myself, God, the people behind MIA, the Kenyan community and the world. This was only the second time I had travelled overseas and at first it was such an overwhelming experience, that myself and many others thought that I wouldn't even get on the plane.

Leaving my husband and family behind for a month over Christmas was really hard. However I had the support of all the people in our group, and the welcome that we received from the children, Ivan, Mary and all the people at MIA made it feel like home away from home. Of course I instantly fell in love with every single

child at the orphanage. How could you not!!

Talking to people in the village about their stories, visiting schools (where 4 year old children are left locked in classrooms all day because their teacher hasn't turned up to work), walking through slum areas, where families scavenge amongst pigs and dogs in search for food, visiting the hospital, and of course being at the orphanage, has been a life changing, sometimes harsh and unique experience.

People have constantly asked me about where I saw God in all of this and is there hope for this country?

I think to myself, yes there is hope!

You look at the Budulica Family and the unbelievable sacrifice they decided to make, leaving their very comfortable Australian lifestyle behind and relocating to Kenya, to love and care for all the orphans at MIA. You look

at Mrs Pastor, who gave away her well paid job in the city to come out to the orphanage to do God's work, giving clothing, food, education packs and basic living essentials to those who require it the most in the village. Alex, who set up a school for the sole purpose to educating children from the slum areas in the hope that they will be able to create a better life for themselves.

It's people like this in the world who give the country hope.

The amount of experiences that I had in the month has provided me with such wonderful memories to last an entire lifetime.

Alanee Hearnshaw



In the September 2009 issue of *Newview* we published an interview with Margaret Frecker which made mention of Margaret's love of Depression Glass. We neglected to publish the article in which Margaret tells us more about this glass...so here it is . . . with our apologies for the oversight.

MARGARET FRECKER & DEPRESSION GLASS

What is in my mind when I visited Margaret Frecker to see her collection?

What I saw really fascinated me as this could have been glassware that might have been in our home years ago, items which might have been passed down to me and which I might have disposed of over the years without any idea of their intrinsic value.

Margaret explained that the term 'depression glass' was first used in 1969 when people started to take collectible. The term distinguish it from other Depression glass was America from the mid-However, it was also parts of Europe and time. The concept of stemmed from the fact the Great Depression.



doldrums and life was 'depressing', glass companies decided to do something positive to cheer people up. They mass-produced inexpensive, clear or coloured, frequently patterned, translucent glassware items which were included in boxes of cereal or detergent, for example, as a free gift. The cinemas also encouraged people to go to the movies and one got a glass item with one's ticket. Taking advantage of this, one could perhaps build up a tea set or dinner set from these 'freebies'. One could also get these pieces from the dime store very cheaply.

an interest in it as a was developed to types of glassware. mainly manufactured in 20s until 1939. being manufactured in Australia at the same 'depression glass' that it was the era of As business was in the

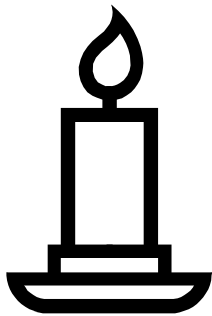
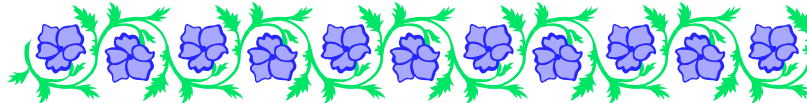
These glass items were made in attractive colours: pink, pale blue, green and amber. Less common colours were yellow, jadeite (opaque pale green), delphite (opaque pale blue), cobalt blue, red, black, and white (milk glass). Items could be anything from plates to pitchers. There are many different patterns, but Margaret's preference is for the Miss America design. She started collecting 'depression glass' 15 years ago when she picked up a pink Miss America footed jug while she was in Ballarat, not because she knew it as 'depression glass', but because she has always been fond of glass and pretty pinks. The second piece was found in Adelaide and then there was no turning back. On frequent trips to New Zealand she found many more treasured *depression glass*? It has become second nature for her to seek out antique shops, no matter what part of the world she is in, and to just browse, probably in the hope that she might spot another piece of depression glass or some other artefact. She also spends an interesting time with the proprietors, discussing various aspects of their collections and gleaning a lot of knowledge about antiques.

Of the collection of depression glass she has displayed in two glass cabinets, Margaret has a favourite which is a Royal lace fruit bowl, again in pink. She thinks she has reached the stage where she will stop buying anything more as one actually needs to be able to place it somewhere. However, there is no harm in looking and admiring, I'm sure. It is also a fun way to spend one's time browsing in shops. PTO

Margaret belongs to the Brighton Antique Club where the members meet twice monthly and enjoy talks on many aspects of antique collecting. Currently, she says there are no known magazines on depression glass, but she has invested in an encyclopaedia on depression glass. She has also had to do her own research on the subject and as she puts it to 'educate herself' as she is often invited to give talks at various events by different organizations.

I spent a pleasant couple of hours looking at, and learning about, depression glass with Margaret. A big 'thank you' to Margaret for sharing her knowledge with us!

Cynthia Chin

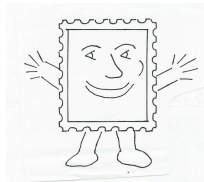


Baptismal Candles – part of the baptism service at our church includes presenting the person/child being baptised with a special baptismal candle. To give these a little more significance wood turners in the church, have for several years, been making wooden candle holders. Some time ago it became necessary to replace one of the fences at the church and the old red gum posts were rescued and we now have enough timber for at least a year. These old red gum posts are very hard, but polished up have a beautiful grain, so when you see these being carried out by the family at the end of a baptism remember where they come from.

Candle holders can be made up if a church family has a special piece of wood, which may have some significance {such as from an old family farm, or fence, or tree}. If you need a special holder made talk to Bill Norquay.

SAMMY STAMP

Thanks to all those who save stamps for SAMMY STAMP [UCAF Stamp Fund].



These, combined with stamps from other churches all over Victoria will be sold and the money raised. Sales for 2009 totalled about \$25,943.

SO, please keep saving your stamps and pass them into the church office. Collections or accumulations of old stamps are particularly useful. The stamps are processed and sold at the UCA Synod Office, 130 Little Collins St on Thursdays [9.30am-1.00pm]. Anyone who is interested is most welcome to go along and visit. New volunteers are most welcome. No prior knowledge of stamps is needed.

MEETING OF THE FAITHS

What happens when an imam, a priest, and a rabbi get into a lift together?

It may sound like a joke, but it was an everyday occurrence in Melbourne in December [2009] at the world's largest inter-faith gathering.

The event received good coverage in newspapers and on television.

To read reports of the discussions, go to www.parliamentofreligions.org

“Laura provided this Report to Outreach Group’s February 2010 meeting. You can see this Report (in colour) and those from the other presenters at; <http://www.ajh.id.au/ggg/OutreachMeetingFeb2010?highlight=%28Outreach%29|%28Group%29|%28February%29>”

What about YOU phoning, emailing, or ‘Skype-ing’ Laura (as support from GWUC)?”

Laura in Maningrida in 2010

What will I be doing?

I have taken a position in Maningrida Community Education Centre as a year 3 teacher. While this may sound like quite a normal thing to do, there are many challenges that I will be facing both in the school and in the community!

Maningrida is a town 550km east of Darwin on the coast in Arnhem Land, with a population of 2500, and 14 indigenous languages. Most students will not speak any English until they come to school, but will already be speaking 4 or 5 indigenous languages by that point. The school has the lowest attendance, literacy, and numeracy rates in the Northern Territory.



Along with these issues in the school, there are also many problems with employment, abuse, alcohol and drugs within the community, which are continually affecting the students. I’m really looking forward to the challenge of helping these children to succeed and feel empowered to bring change to their community. I don’t know how good I will prove to be at this, but I am looking forward to the challenge! I don’t know if this is the solution to the problems that many indigenous communities in Australia face, but I’m hoping to continue to explore and question that throughout this year, while at the same time building relationships with those in Maningrida and come to understand a little more about their culture.

What can you do to support me?

I’m so grateful to GWUC for all of the help, support, and friendship that they have provided me with for the last 22 years, and I am hoping that these ties will remain strong throughout this year, as I will be needing it! You can help by keeping in touch through email, skype, phone and reading and commenting on my blog, as well as continuing to ask about me through my family and friends, keeping me in your thoughts and praying for me! It means so much to me to know that everyone at GWUC is keen to support me in any way that they can, and that you are all behind me.



Phone: 045 804 6331
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Blog: www.lemorgan2.blogspot.com
Skype name: lemorgan2

UC Information

Updates from the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania

Road Trauma Support Services – MEMORIAL PROJECT

Thousands of Victorians have died or been seriously injured on our roads. Each individual's connections to family and friends is irreplaceable, and life aspirations and contributions within the community have been lost or changed.

Road Trauma Support Services Victoria [RTSSV] is a community-based counselling service funded by the Transport Accident Commission. {TA}.

The TAC has provided initial funding support, to develop a permanent memorial concept in Victoria, and the Uniting Church is providing the necessary infrastructure. A series of consultations with affected groups and individuals is currently taking place to learn what people believe should be incorporated in such a memorial.

Commencing at 6.00pm on Wednesday 10th March, the Victorian Council of Churches, in conjunction with the Faith Communities Forum of Victoria, will convene a discussion at the Uniting Church Centre, 130 Little Collins St.

For catering purposes, please RSVP to vcc@vcc.org.au by Friday 5th March.

10 day trip to Hiroshima and Nagasaki – August 2010.

This year is the 65th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The first trip was five years ago and this journey will also visit Tokyo and Kyoto, meeting with Japanese Christian leaders.

Info: Swee-Ann – 0417 559 036 or sweeann@tpg.com.au

ncyc11 29 Dec 2010 – 4 Jan 2011

Gold Coast. The National Christian Youth Convention is held every two years by the UC. It encourages young people aged 16-25 to turn up their faith and tune into God with times of community, Bible study, worship, speakers, bands and electives.

Info: <http://ncyc11.com.au>

Russ's 122nd birthday bash

Palm Sunday, 28 March, 3.00pm. Richmond UC.

Russ is the name of Richmond UC's original Fincham Organ. All are invited to attend the birthday celebration, which will feature music by renowned contemporary Melbourne musicians. Free admission.

Info: 9427 1282 or cliftonarts@bigpond.com

Engaging in God's mission together.

Tuesday 20 April [12.00-5.00pm, then dinner]

Wednesday 21 April [9.00am-4.00pm] Location to be advised – Melbourne Metropolitan region.

A church wide conversation about how UC congregations and UnitingCare agencies can work together responding to the gospel. This two-day forum will explore the special character of UnitingCare agencies and the community services ministry of the church.

Info: 9251 or info@unitingcare.org.au

Crosslight – If you know of an issue that might be of interest to *Crosslight* readers, contact: 9251 5273 or email: crosslight@victas.uca.org.au

A full copy of UC Information can be downloaded from: ucinfo@victas.uca.org.au

PRAYER BOOK

*God speaks in the silence of the heart.
Listening is the beginning of prayer.*

can be found on the Prayer Book
Stand in the foyer and you are
warmly invited to enter Prayer
Requests.

This book will be brought into the
church each Sunday, and prayer
requests will be mentioned in our
PRAYERS FOR OTHERS.

If the prayer request is for another
person please check with them that
they are comfortable with the request
being inserted.

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.*

A PRAYER

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.
It is there for each and every one of you.
May the Sun always shine brightly on your face,
and may Peace be at your side as you walk through this life.

