



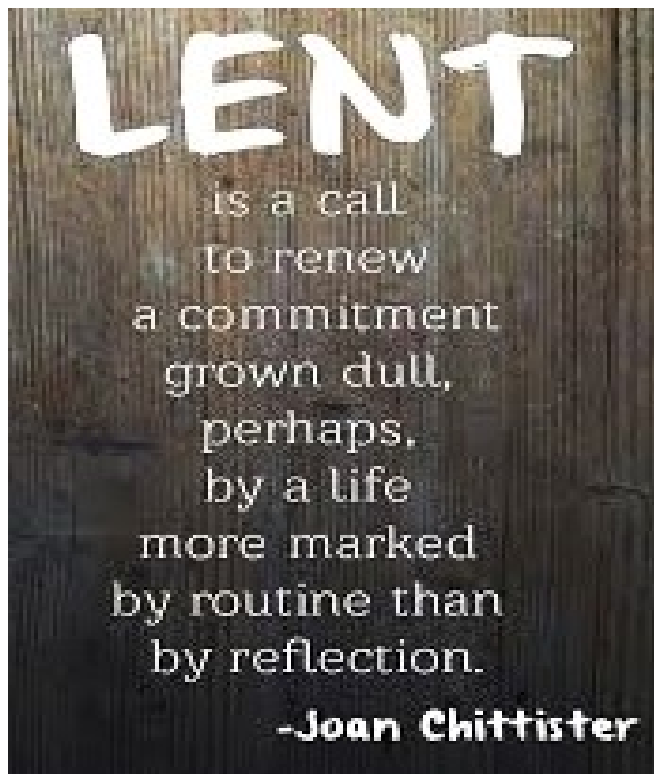
WHITEHORSE UNITING CHURCH

The Monthly - FEBRUARY 2024.

“

I hope that in this year to come, you make mistakes because if you are making mistakes, then you are making new things, trying new things, learning, living, pushing yourself, changing yourself, changing your world. You're doing things you've never done before, and more importantly, you're doing something.”

NEIL GAIMAN



Dear friends,

It occurred to me that for many Australians February is almost like the beginning of the year, in that January is a 'write off' as far as school is concerned, and fine if tennis, cricket and any sport is your thing; but people don't usually start new projects or begin formal meetings until February, so I have tried to work that into this issue. Then, the show is hardly on the road again and Lent, then Easter is upon us! So, while settling down to the serious bits of life remember Pancake Tuesday and the lead up to Easter.

I was delighted with the response to the bush-walking items in the last issue, and received one amusing response from someone who while liking the items was not going to change her January exercise regime, which was turning the pages of books as she lay on the comfort of her outdoor lounge! I was totally saddened when she wrote last week to say it was all ending, as Pilates began again on Monday!!!

Don't forget that *The Monthly* is the magazine of everyone associated with the Whitehorse UCA congregation, so I love to hear what you like (or don't like!!), but I would also like far more personal contributions. People are really interesting, as are the things they do, as you will read further on. Don't worry about getting the grammar right, as pieces can be edited. Photographs are always welcome, particularly if you are cleaning out, and find one from when you accompanied Noah on his first expedition!!

So, best wishes to you all,,

HEATHER BRAIN.EDITOR.





**THE MARY AND KEITH DUO,
WHO PLAYED TOGETHER
TO GREAT ACCLAIM
IN THE SERVICE
AT
FOREST HILL
ON JANUARY 28TH.**



**WE HAVE READ ABOUT KEITH'S MUSICAL LIFE
IN A PREVIOUS EDITION OF THE MONTHLY,
BUT ON PAGE 6
YOU CAN READ ABOUT
HOW MARY EARNED HER PLACE
ON THE ORGAN STOOL.**



YOU ARE BLESSED.....

IF YOU WOKE THIS MORNING WITH MORE HEALTH
THAN ILLNESS...

YOU ARE MORE BLESSED THAN THE MILLIONS
WHO WILL NOT SURVIVE THE WEEK.

IF YOU HAVE NEVER EXPERIENCED THE DANGER,
OF WAR, THE LONLINESS OF IMPRISONMENT
THE AGONY OF TORTURE OR THE
PANGS OF STARVATION
YOU ARE ALREADY AHEAD OF
500 MILLION PEOPLE IN THE WORLD.

IF YOU HAVE FOOD IN THE FRIDGE, CLOTHES ON
YOUR BACK, AND A PLACE TO SLEEP.....
YOU ARE RICHER THAN SEVENTY FIVE PERCENT OF
THIS WORLD.

IF YOU HAVE MONEY IN THE BANK, IN YOUR
WALLET, AND SPARE CASH IN A DISH
SOMEWHERE....

YOU ARE AMONG THE TOP EIGHT PERCENT
OF THE WORLD'S WEALTHY.

IF YOUR PARENTS ARE ALIVE AND STILL MARRIED
YOU ARE VERY RARE,
EVEN HERE IN AUSTRALIA.

IF YOU HOLD UP YOUR HEAD WITH A SMILE ON
YOUR FACE AND ARE TRULY THANKFUL.....
YOU ARE BLESSED BECAUSE
THE MAJORITY CAN BUT DON'T.

IF YOU CAN HOLD SOMEONE'S HAND,
HUG THEM OR EVEN TOUCH THEIR SHOULDER...
YOU ARE BLESSED BECAUSE YOU CAN OFFER A
HEALING TOUCH.

IF YOU CAN READ THIS MESSAGE YOU HAVE
RECEIVED A DOUBLE BLESSING IN THAT
SOMEONE WAS THINKING OF YOU, AND FUR-
THERMORE YOU ARE MORE BLESSED THAN
TWO BILLION PEOPLE IN THIS WORLD WHO
CANNOT READ AT ALL.

CHANGE CAN ONLY HAPPEN BY THE ACTIONS
OF INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE NOT OVERCOME BY
THE MAGNITUDE OF THE PROBLEM.

This came from the Outer Eastern Asylum Seekers' Support Network Newsletter of July 2006, and at that time **Bev Brown** from Nunawading posted it in the church magazine. It has certainly not

Marion Goldsmith

I grew up in Hughesdale with one younger sister, where we attended Murrumbidgee PS, and then MLC, and it was there that I trained and taught as an Arts and Crafts teacher.

I married in 1963 and the following year Ken and I moved into our new Forest Hill home where I lived for forty nine years. During our marriage I had three children, (two boys and a girl,)

and I am now grandmother to six, and great grandmother to one.

Eleven years ago I moved to Forest Hills Retirement Village, and I have been a member of the Forest Hill, now Whitehorse UCA for almost sixty years.

Gardening has always been a great interest (although not as easy as it used to be) along with sewing, knitting, music/singing and flower

arranging, and I have been a member of the Vermont floral Art group for thirty one years, with this being a most important part of my life

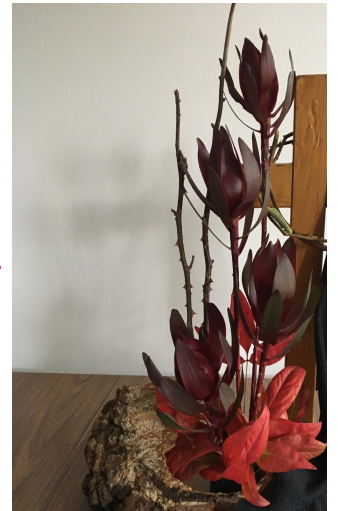
I got started with Floral Art when my sister and I went to a fabulous exhibition in the Great Hall of the National Gallery nearly thirty one years ago. I was blown away by the new styles in flower arranging, and as we always had flowers around the house I saw it as a natural progression., with the

amazing designs presented at the monthly meetings of the Vermont Group by the talented demonstrators

And, as they say, the rest is history in that you are only limited by your imagination. It is a wonderful and interesting hobby, and most absorbing, but it would be good, if when you finish and survey the mess, if there was a maid to come in and clean it all up!



Travel is something else that I've been fortunate to have undertaken, visiting many places overseas and much of Australia. My regular holidays are at Cowes, as I love the beach, and where I have just spent my forty eighth Summer, in the Caravan Park among family and friends. I am most blessed.



I WOULDN'T HAVE KNOWN ANY OF THIS HAD I NOT GONE TO MARIAN'S HOUSE TO HELP PLAN THE CHURCH LUNCHEONS AND NOTICED HER AMAZING FLORAL ARRANGMENTS, SO I PREVAILED (NAGGED) UPON HER TO PUT IT IN WRITING. I SHOULD IMAGINE THERE IS SUCH A STORY WAITING TO BE TOLD IN MOST HOUSES WITHIN THE CONGREGATION. PLEASE TELL US ABOUT YOU, AND WHAT MAKES YOU TICK, SO WE CAN SHARE YOUR INTERESTS AND PASSIONS WITH OTHERS.



Shrove Tuesday or Pancake Day

SHROVE TUESDAY is the day before Lent starts on Ash Wednesday. Shrove Tuesday is also known PANCAKE DAY, which comes from the old English custom of using up all the fattening ingredients in the house

3. The first book on the subject was...

LOVE AND ACCEPTANCE.



The gospel's theme at present is Love and like Jesus, we'll be remembered for our love. Jesus was very clear about the important commandments, to love one another as he loved us and to love God with all our being and others as ourselves.

Last week I included our Whitehorse Mit-cham sign and spoke of God's love healing and making us whole, hearing about how Lorraine and Barney had been doing the sign for years and that Barney has passed away, and how he is missed. Our pets are family members and companions who offer us so much unconditional love.



This week's gospel focuses on the theme of God's love and its power to heal and make us whole, where we come to love ourselves in ways that make us witness to god's grace and love when we love others. One way of loving others is to accept and respect their faith. We have many coming to our church, visiting the Op Shop, Centre 81 and other activities and we go into the community to minister, eg. Kids Hope. We share God's love and show others Jesus' love.



I remember attending the Parliament of World Religions held in 2009 in Melbourne. I hadn't witnessed the coming together of so many religions previously. For me, it witnessed to the power of love to bring

transformation.

One moment stands out. I was in a theatre with 5,000 others, to hear the Dalai Lama speak about love and compassion. As he entered everyone stood in silence and remained so for over three minutes until the Dalai Lama asked us to be seated. Other speakers included Aunty Joy and her granddaughter. Aunty Joy welcomed the Dalai Lama and gave him the gift of a possum skin, which he placed on the seat next to him. At one stage he played with it and declared: "It's alive." At another stage a cellist played and after his performance, was embraced by the Dalai Lama and we could see that he was deeply moved. I have experienced a great deal of love and compassion from Buddhists, including my own family. During the Parliament we listened to young people people from different faiths share their faith, and there was a common thread, love. We can learn so much from people of other faiths.



Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, Valentine's Day February 14th. History tells the story of two Christian men called Valentine who were executed by Roman Emperor Claudius in the 3rd century for preaching God's gospel of love.

Our Lenten study will focus on the power of love to transform and heal people and relationships. It will focus on the damage lack of love and respect does to people and relationships. Running for five weeks

beginning on February 18th, the films are -

As it is in Heaven.

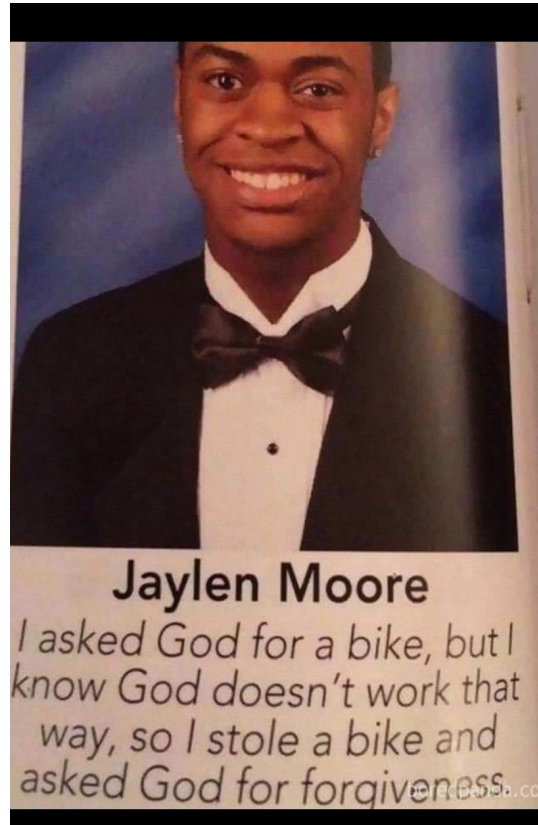
The Hundred foot journey.

The Miracle Club.

The New boy.

Either—Eat, Pray, Love or Finding your feet. (we will take a vote) Come along, enjoy the movies, discussions and pizza this Lent and may you be blessed by God's love for you.

REV TINA.





We are still battling Covid 19 and the next thing is here already.

The NILE Virus, type C

Virologists have identified a new Nile virus - type C

It appears to target those who were born between 1940 and 1970

Symptoms:

1. Causes you to send the same message twice.
2. Causes you to send a blank message.
3. Causes you to send a message to the wrong person.
4. Causes you to send it back to the person who sent it to you.
5. Causes you to forget to attach the attachment.
6. Causes you to hit **SEND** before you've finished.
7. Causes you to hit **DELETE** instead of **SEND**
8. Causes you to **SEND** when you should **DELETE**

It is called the C-NILE virus!

And if you can't admit to doing the above you've obviously caught the mutated strain, the D-NILE virus.

BETH AND GEOFF WALKER

are the new Joint Co-ordinators for the White-



horse UC Kids Hope programme for 2024, growing up in a small Western District, Victorian town called Willaura and have known each other since 1953. They attended Willaura PS, then Ararat HS, and were in the same class at those schools for eleven consecutive years.....

In 1954 they were the flower girl and page boy at the Willaura Urban Fire Brigade Debutante Ball.

Since their marriage they have lived in West Preston, Thomastown, Blackburn South and now Knoxfield, since 2000. Geoff was a NB manager before embarking on several jobs and businesses, and Beth was a teacher at Special Development schools for thirty years.

They have been married for fifty five years, have four children and eight grandchildren, and spend many enjoyable hours attending

grandchildren's activities, performances and concerts. They joined St. Ninian's in Blackburn South in 1975, before moving to Forest Hill UC with most of the St. Ninian's congregation. On Tuesday mornings Beth and Geoff serve breakfast to students at Fairhills HS, and approximately every six weeks pre-



pare and serve evening meals to the lonely and under-privileged at St. Paul's Anglican Church, Boronia. Beth volunteers two or three times monthly at the Forest Hill Op Shop and Geoff has pastoral caring interests.

Since retirement Geoff has been entertaining—playing didgeridoos, reciting ballads and singing, and last year managed sixty gigs.

Corry Skilbeck started Kids Hope at Burwood Heights PS in 2012, and when Geoff retired from work at the end of 2012 he became a mentor, and Beth joined as a mentor a couple of years later. Mentoring has been the most rewarding and at times challenging activity that they have so far undertaken.

BETH & GEOFF WALKER.

WE ARE COMING TO THE END OF HEARING ABOUT OUR CHURCH MUSICIANS AND I HOPE YOU HAVE FOUND THEIR ARTICLES AS INTERESTING AS HAVE I. I MUST SAY HOW SURPRISED I AM THAT MOST HAVE SAID THEY REALLY DIDN'T ENJOY PRACTISING.

May your coming year be filled with magic and dreams and good madness. I hope you read some fine books, and kiss someone who thinks you're wonderful, and don't forget to make some art - write or draw or build or sing or live only as you can.

And I hope, somewhere in the next year, you surprise yourself.

Neil Gaiman

www.thegreydivorcee.com

Summer: the time of year when parents realize just how grossly underpaid teachers actually are.



MARY FOX.

I was a pianist first, learning from the age of eight alongside my twin sister and older brother at Kyneton. Our teacher was a close relative who also taught piano and singing at Allens Music in Melbourne. We had weekly lessons at school lunch time, which was about ten minutes walk. Our teacher also held an annual concert at the local Mechanics Institute, where my sister and I always played light classical duets.



Our family was musical, with our father playing violin and piano, often for country dances. Our mother played mainly hymns, which were often sung at home, sometimes with visitors and regularly on Sunday nights, from "Sankey's" and "Alexander's". Our grandmother was an organist at Miners' Rest, St. James Presbyterian church, in the 1890s, now an up-market Airbnb, which we have used.

We didn't like practicing too much, but were expected to do so for our teacher relative, also for performing at our annual Methodist Anniversary tea and concert.

We began playing the organ as teenagers for evening Church services, also playing harmoniums at small country towns in the district. Our father taught us organ playing techniques involving stops, holding notes longer, and mastering the bass foot pedals.

After marrying and an overseas posting, we joined the then Mt. Pleasant Methodist church in the 1960s, where I later filled in for the regular organist, Norma Crawford, who helped me with my music. I also joined a Yamaha group for organ lessons where Jill Kidd also taught me. At the same time I was taking lessons in the modern style playing, from musical identity Roy Sparks, which I used playing for our daughters' dance school until tapes and CDs replaced me. Eventually I shared regular playing with Norma, but first had to be interviewed by the Minister for my suitability to be appointed.

Available organists have fluctuated over the years, remembering one Sunday when I played for three services, at Forest Hill, Vermont and an afternoon service at Strathdon, listening to three preachings of the same sermon. After merging with St. Ninian's we welcomed to the roster the late Pat Hall and the late Judy Hard, whose support we acknowledge.

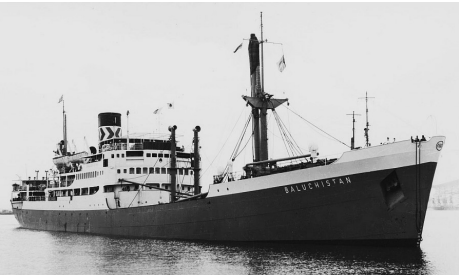
There has been occasional "pop-up" organ and piano playing in other settings, usually for fellow travellers, ranging from a small rustic church in Iceland, and more recently at the Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre in Penola.

Music is my talent gift to the Church. Whilst volunteer piano playing at Strathdon for over thirty years and for a Catholic choir, I also played for countless other special activities since living at Forest Hill, which have all been most rewarding.

My family and machinery.

My father was born in the shipbuilding city of Sunderland, NE England, where he worked in J.L Thompson & Sons shipyard during WW2, and where the yard built many ships for the war effort. He worked twelve hour shifts by day and was on duty with the Durham Light Infantry, manning the coastal guns which helped defend Sunderland by night. Dad was very proud that the design selected by the Americans for their LIBERTY ship programme originated at J.L. Thompson & Sons.

During the war Dad corresponded with an Australian lady named Effie Treloar, whose name he found in an "Australian Womens' Weekly" at the shipyard. He went to sea as a marine engineer in 1946, and came to Australia in 1947, meeting Effie in Melbourne. They married in 1950



and I was born in 1951.

In 1953 Mum and I were passengers on the "Baluchistan" (ex Liberty ship Sam Sturdee) with Dad enjoying his work in the engine room on this steam ship. In England Mum and I met Dad's mother and other relatives for the first time. Mum also had the opportunity to see the newly-crowned Queen Elizabeth in her Mall Coronation procession.

Dad left international shipping shortly after returning to Australia, then he commenced work for the Ports & Harbours, Public Works Dept. mostly on the bouy tender S.S.Rip (ex HMAS Whyalla) In the early 1960s he came ashore as a Superintendent with P&H.

When the S.S.Rip was being replaced by the M.V.Rip, my Dad's old warship was purchased by the City of Wyalla, as she had been the first of four corvettes built in the then new Whyalla shipyards during WW2. I was privileged, in May 1984 to be selected as one of the volunteer firemen (stokers) who helped steam the ship back to Whyalla from Melbourne. Dad was Chief Engineer on that voyage.

Dad and I have been members of the Melbourne Steam Traction Engine Club since the early 1970s, originally at Wantirna and then at Scoresey. We enjoyed operating machinery for some years, including the 1903 Fowler Traction Engine, until Dad's sudden passing in 1998.



My Mum, Effie, was a primary teacher who grew up in the Dandenongs, where her father had a small mixed farm at Cockatoo. He was one of the last farmers to operate a horse team on his farm, before switching to tractors. He used a "Blackstone" oil engine on his sawbench. Many of my wife's relatives were farmers, eg. wheat farmers in the Mananatang district. They too originally used horses, before switching to tractors.

Cathy and I married in 1977, settling in Mitcham, and we began attending the Mitcham UCA in the early 1980s. We have two daughters, Natalie and Elizabeth and a son, Kevin who is married to Cassie. They have an eight year old son, Derek, who enjoys school very much, which is most encouraging.

I have retired from dietetic practice and enjoy sharing my machinery interests with my grandson, when he can come to Scoresey for the annual machinery rally in March.

DEREK MOORE

The ship immediately to the left is the "Baluchistan", while the one at the bottom of the article is the "HMAS Whyalla".

“How we handle what's ahead of us will be determined by what we learned from everything that's behind us. For if we learned nothing, what's behind us will be the exact same thing that's in front of us.”

CRAIG D. LOUNSBROUGH

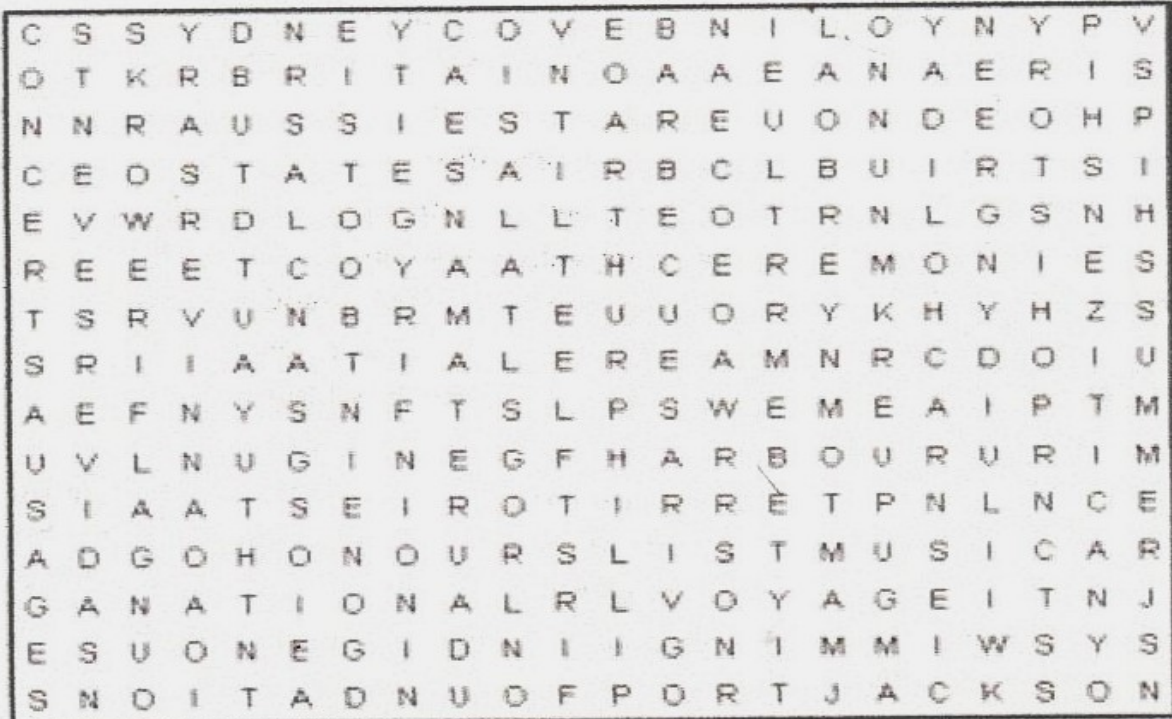
OUR VERY BEST WISHES TO
MARIAN GOLDSMITH,
CORRY SKILBECK, ELINOR MORISON
AND
ALEX ADAM
WHO AT THE TIME OF WRITING
WERE IN VARIOUS STAGES OF AILING.
WE APOLOGISE TO ALL THOSE
WE DON'T KNOW.

AUSTRALIA DAY

Word Search



Find the words below and circle them.
CAREFUL! Some words might be backwards or diagonal.
 The leftover letters spell out a secret message.



- | | | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| ANNIVERSARY | COLONY | FOUNDATION | LAMINGTONS | SUMMER |
| AUSTRALIA | COMMUNITY | GOLD | MATE | SWIMMING |
| AUSSIE | CONCERTS | GREEN | MUSIC | SYDNEY COVE |
| ARTHUR PHILLIP | CRICKET | HARBOUR | NATIONAL | TERRITORIES |
| BARBECUES | DIVERSE | HISTORY | OCEAN | VOYAGE |
| BOTANY BAY | EVENTS | HOLIDAY | PORT JACKSON | |
| BRITAIN | FIREWORKS | HONOURS LIST | SAUSAGES | |
| CEREMONIES | FIRST FLEET | INDIGENOUS | SHIPS | |
| CITIZENSHIP | FLAG | JANUARY | STATES | |



Secret Phrase:

HAVING SOME SPACE BECAUSE THERE ARE NO MEETING REPORTS, FROM JANUARY (SEE PAGE 1 THOUGHTS)
 I DECIDED THAT SOME THINKING MIGHT BE IN ORDER,
 AND MY DAYS OF TEACHING CHINESE AND IRANIAN WOMEN CAME FLOODING BACK,
 IN THAT THOSE STUDENTS WERE SO COMPETITIVE AND HARD WORKING!
 ARE YOU AS COMPETITIVE AND HARD WORKING?
 SO, WHATEVER DAY YOU BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD CELEBRATE AUSTRALIA DAY
 HERE ARE SOME ASSOCIATED EVENTS WHICH YOU SHOULD RECOGNIZE.
 I DID MAKE IT EASIER FOR ME, IN THAT I DIDN'T INCLUDE A TRIVIA QUIZ OR ANYTHING ELSE
 WHICH I HAD TO MARK OR ADJUDICATE,
 SO, THINKING CAPS ON, AND OFF YOU GO!

Worship Schedule

Date	Venue: Forest Hill	Venue: Mitcham	Venue: Nunawading
21 st January			Together @ 10
28 th January	Together @ 10		
4 th February		Together @ 10	
11 th February			Together @ 10
18 th February	Together @ 10		
25 th February		Together @ 10	

Whitehorse Uniting Church Venues

Forest Hill: 333A Canterbury Road, Forest Hill
Mitcham: 559 Whitehorse Road, Mitcham
Nunawading: 355 Whitehorse Road, Nunawading

Whitehorse Uniting Church Online Links

Worship Resources: <https://www.mountviewuca.org/worship.html>
YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@whitehorseunitingchurch4335/streams>
Church Calendar: <https://www.mountviewuca.org/calendar.html>

Whitehorse Uniting Church Council

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Treasurer: Rob Jackson, 0413 599 047, Rob.Jackson@wuc.victas.uca.org.au
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First word of description: Giving
BSB: 033 135
Account number: 583144.

Postal Address: P.O. Box 463, Brentford Square, 3131

Whitehorse Church Council Administrative Assistant

Heather McLiesh: office.foresthilluniting@gmail.com
Hours: Monday & Wednesday 9.30 a.m. – 1.30 p.m. Phone: 0447 312 996
(If visiting the office only between 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.)

Booking a Church Venue

Email (Preferred): bookings@whitehorse.unitingchurch.org.au
Attended to during office hours: 9.30 a.m. – 1.30 p.m. Monday and Wednesday
Urgent Matters out of hours: 0447 312 996

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