



27th April 2021

Notes and news for Yarra Yarra Congregations and Institutions

As usual, the newsletter contains a number of items which may be of interest to your congregations. Please identify other items relevant to your community, and promote the issues and events listed below through your own newsletters and other communication channels as appropriate. There is much going on, so please take a few minutes to review.

Please ensure that items for the next edition are sent in by the end of the month. It is helpful if you can provide text, rather than copies of fliers which need to be transcribed and summarised. Please include contact information for those seeking more information.

PRESBYTERY NEWS

Presbytery Inductions and an Ordination

Thank you to those who have supported our Presbytery, Congregations and Ministers at inductions and an ordination over the past month. Joyful celebrations at Melbourne University, Melbourne Gospel Hall, Deepdene, Warrandyte and Eltham-Montmorency have now been held, with several more to still come over the next couple of months.

On 2nd May we will celebrate with the newly formed **Whitehorse Cluster** of congregations, as Forest Hill, Mitcham (Mountview) and Blackburn North/Nunawading join to induct Rev Peter Cannon and Rev Tina Lyndon Ng. The service will be at 2:30 pm on Sunday 2nd May, at the Mitcham church in Whitehorse Road, Mitcham.

The Presbytery Pastoral Relations Committee has recently supported a request from **Sophia's Spring** congregation that Christina Rowntree be recognised as a pastor while serving in her placement there, and this will be recognised during their regular worship on 9th May. Information about her induction service will be published once details have been finalised.

The induction service for Rev Swee Ann Ko at **Manningham** is being planned at time that will fit with the opening of their new worship centre.

COVID-Safe arrangements for Congregations

By now all Church Council Secretaries should be aware of updated Government requirements regarding support for contact-tracing. As of 23rd April, the Victorian Government requires all venues used for public

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gatherings to use a government QR code to record details of everyone who attends. Victorian organisations which use a non-government QR code must now have this linked to the Government database by an approved Application Program Interface or must replace this with a Government-issued QR code. Download the current [Synod FAQs](#) for full details, including links to obtain the relevant free QR code.

Presbytery Meeting

Notification has been sent to all congregations and members of Presbytery that our next meeting has been deferred to Saturday 26th June. More details will be sent later, but please reserve this date in your diary if you are a member.

Presbytery Staffing

With the conclusion of Dan Wootton's active involvement in the Presbytery, the Standing Committee has been actively considering options to ensure appropriate support, particularly in the area of property matters. We are delighted that Mr Rob Nosko has now been appointed on a part-time basis to cover the period of Dan's leave, with a specific responsibility to assist the Resourcing Committee in the oversight of property issues in the Presbytery. Rob will commence immediately, and will be working for Yarra Yarra on Wednesdays and Thursdays. With past experience in the Synod Property Services areas, Rob will bring valuable knowledge and skills to assist all of our congregations.

To cover the remainder of the responsibilities of the Presbytery Minister Administration, Geoffrey Grinton, who has been acting in that role since the start of March, will continue to be formally designated as the Acting Presbytery Minister Administration, working for an extra half-day per week to complement his honorary role as Secretary.

Keeping children Safe

Following encouragement by the Synod Standing Committee, the Presbytery Standing Committee has reaffirmed its support for ensuring that all our activities are conducted in a safe working environment. It requested the Chairperson to sign the Statement of Commitment to Keeping Children Safe on its behalf, and all members of Presbytery committee have been asked to make a similar commitment.

CHANGES AND CHANCES – A STORY OF 60 YEARS OF SERVICE

Joan Waters has recently completed and published a memoir of her husband, Rev Reynolds Waters, who died about three years ago. Called *Changes and Chances*, it is the story of 60 years of service to the Presbyterian and Uniting Churches of Australia in Australia and overseas, and touches on many of the issues that have been faced by our churches over that time. It is interesting and eminently readable, and will bring back many memories to those who can recall growing and service during that time. While it is essentially the story of one Minister, it is also an exploration of how the Church and the society of which it is a part have changed. The move from a time when the local church and its activities were the centre and focus of a community to a very different world where the church is seen as irrelevant by many is explored with insight and balance as the story of Reynold's many interests and activities unfolds. Contact the Secretary for more information.

WORSHIP AND PREACHING TRAINING FOR LAY LEADERS AND COMMUNITIES

The world has and is changing and we are seeking new ways of leadership and being in church, including worship and proclaiming God's Word. Join us for multiple options of engaging with six Worship Units and six Preaching Units. Participants can choose their level of input and connection. Have a conversation with your faith community, congregation or Presbytery about what would be good for you and them. Units are engaging and creative. Assessment is both theoretical and practical.

When? Worship: May 5, 12, 19. June 2, 9, 16

Preaching: September 1, 8, 15

For more information, contact Mel Perkins, Lay Leadership Development, eLM, at mel.perkins@victas.uca.org.au.

UNITING VIC/TAS — AGED CARE SOCIAL SUPPORT SERVICES

You may be living in your own home, within a Retirement Village or Housing Tenancy, or you may receive Home Support Services. Would you like to go out and to be more social, and connect and have fun with others? Are you interested in telephone contact, quizzes and games?

The Social Support Programs of Uniting Vic/Tas are constantly evolving to meet their clients' interests and hobbies. Becoming connected is quick and easy. If you are interested in learning more, contact Uniting Vic/Tas on 13 93 75 or at agedcare@vt.uniting.org. They will ensure you qualify for our services and then get you started.

For more information go to <https://www.unitingvictas.org.au/services/aged-care/social-support-aged-care/>

*If you have information that you wish to have distributed through this newsletter, please ensure that it is submitted by the start of the month in which the item is to appear. I plan to try to send newsletters out in the third week, so that means if your event occurs early in the month, you will need to have it submitted by the start of the **previous** month.*

The newsletter is sent to Church Council Secretaries and Presbytery members. If you should not be receiving it, please contact me at pyy.secretary@victas.uca.org.au with the name of your congregation and the name of the correct person.