



M U C



Magazine

The News and Views of the
Murrumbeena Uniting Church



To make Christ known by preaching the
gospel in word and deed

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The Uniting Church in Australia
MURRUMBEENA UNITING CHURCH

October – November 2021

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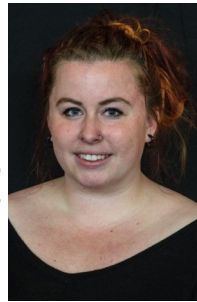


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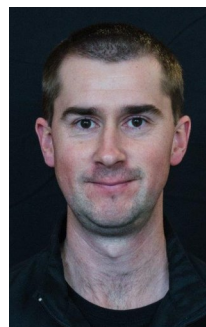
Jo Petzer



Rachel Dart
Minutes
Secretary



**Margaret
Reid**



**Dave
Robinson**
Correspondence
Secretary

ORGANISATIONS AND GROUPS

Community Garden
Craft Circle
Drop In/Coffee with Jay
Adult Fellowship
Friendship Fellas (Men's Group)
LIFT (Women's Group)

THE CHURCH

Adult Bible Studies
Pastoral Care
Worship Band
Lending Library

YOUNG ADULTS (18-35)

Getaway
Sonder Collective
Sonderfy
Studies
Sunday Brunch

YOUTH (13-17)

Camps
Youthy

CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Families
» Family Craft Days
» Family Movie Days
Kids
» Countdown to Christmas
» Kids' Time
mainly music

Spring has sprung, with new life blossoming everywhere! Things still happen according to the seasons, whether there is a pandemic or not. This October/November edition of the *MUC MAG* also leads us up to the season of Advent.

In my previous editorial, I was apologetic that there were only 12 pages instead of the more usual 16 or 20. For this edition, I am at a loss for words – it is only 8 pages! With Zak being absent for most of the past two months, he hasn't been able to report regarding children and families, and Kelly has been in the process of moving house which, for some peculiar reason, took priority over writing something for this edition of the *MUC MAG*. I hope the move has gone smoothly, nothing has been damaged, and she is able to find everything when she needs it.

As well as Jay's "From the Minister" letter and a synopsis of the Bible readings we will be covering during our worship services over the next couple of months, I am thankful for the summary that Marg Edwards has provided a report of the most recent meeting of the Port Phillip East Presbytery.

But every cloud has a silver lining (so the saying goes). Completely out of the blue, and without being aware that I was desperately short of articles for this edition, Christina created and submitted a Cryptic Crossword! Although there mightn't be a lot to read, the Crossword might keep you occupied for the full two months until the next edition of the *MUC MAG* is published (which is when you will get to see the answers).

In a previous edition of the *MUC MAG* I have made mention of a book in our Church Library titled **Thank God I'm an Atheist**. Using the expression "Every cloud has a silver lining" reminded me of it, so I have included another well-known saying (in case you have ever wondered where the expression "Saved by the bell" originated. The book's author, R. Brasch explains how he came to write such a book.

"Why we say it.

We have become very much concerned with roots. This book goes beyond the genealogies of families and nations. It traces the ultimate root of all - God - who gives sense and meaning to our existence. It aims at making people of all creeds (and none) recognize His amazing and persistent effect in our lives. Above all, it is written in the hope that the reader may share the author's humble belief and conviction that 'without God we cannot' and that 'without us God will not'. In our topsy-turvy world, we desperately need to find again the permanent value of faith."

It seems there is a light at the end of the tunnel of interminable lockdown restrictions. The weekly pewsheets have an extract of the Victorian government's roadmap, indicating that, during November the restrictions will be eased (at least for those who are fully vaccinated), such that we can meet and worship together face-to-face (or mask-to-mask) from that time. I just hope I can remember how to operate and control the new audio-video system that was installed a few months ago.

Blessings upon you.

Roger McCowan



Please e-mail articles to: triumphguru@gmail.com, or hand them to Roger on a Sunday, preferably no later than 14th November.

As well as our own website at <https://www.murrumbeenauniting.org.au/> you might find the following links of interest (if you haven't already).

facebook.com/murrumbeenauniting/ - Live stream of 10:00am Worship and Service

murrumbeenauniting.online.church - Live stream of 10:00am Worship and Service

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-v0xIBPkGfZJcOl062yCjg/> - recorded Service

FROM THE MINISTER...

Welcome to you all as we move into the months of October and November. There is a certain amount of déjà vu as I write this. We are again in our homes with limited ability to get out and about, there are things we can and cannot do, and we are unable to meet in person to share in worship and other church based activities. I again give thanks for the different tools and technologies we can use to worship and connect.

I'm not sure we will be able to meet in person again at the church before I start to write my next article for the December and January MUC Mag, but one of the cornerstones we have in our lives and our faith is that of hope. Hope that we will get through this, hope that we will get to share with others in person, hope in the work and efficacy of medical treatment and vaccines, and hope that we will gather again for Christmas to celebrate the coming of the Christ child.

As we find out when and how we can gather again I am very aware of the numbers of people allowed in spaces and at the moment I believe we shouldn't gather in person until we all can, or at least all who wish to gather can. This might mean we do some services outside and the weather should hopefully help with that. We'll see what happens.

Over the last couple of months we've been exploring some questions that challenge us about the way we welcome, respect, treat and listen to the other person who is not us. We have heard some amazing stories, some things about and insights into our people that we didn't know. I really want to say thank you to Kelly, Alison, Josh, Erin, Roger, Peter, Jo, Carol and Mary-Lou for agreeing to share with us. I hope we can continue our conversations and realisations that not everyone sees or experience things as we do.

As I write this (a Wednesday morning) I reflect on a TV show I saw on ABC TV last night. It was the first of a three part series entitled "The School that Tried to End Racism". This is about a primary school group of students who are exploring what racism is, sharing their experiences of racism and what it feels like. I found it particularly insightful and look forward to watching the remaining two episodes. As a tool to assist us move into our Acts 10 challenge I encourage you to watch this series, maybe we'll have an opportunity to talk about what we think about this series and how it might speak to us. You can find it on ABC iview or on ABC on a Tuesday evening at 8.30pm (it will run on 28th Sept and 5th Oct live).

As we now continue with our readings through some of the books in the Old Testament we will be encouraged to go and do or be something that will add to our community and help to keep us connected. At this time we all need to be helping to keep connected. Phone calls, texts and letters are all points of connecting and something we can all do. Your ministry team, our Elders and other leaders are touching base with you as they can. We are back to distributing USBs of the service and hard copies to those who cannot access the service on Facebook, Church Online or YouTube. If you need something different to help you please reach out and tell us what you need.

One special celebration we do each year is our All Saints Remembrance service. In my calendar I have this planned for Sunday 31st October. If we cannot meet in person, I'll have my thinking cap on to make this happen in a meaningful way.

Please keep safe at this time. I encourage you to get vaccinated if you are able or at least speak to your doctor about this if you have questions. Know that you are all being thought of, prayed for and missed from in-person connections.

Journeying through this with you...

Rev Jay Robinson



LECTIONARY FOR OCTOBER/NOVEMBER

Well, this is what we will be focusing and working through in October and November. There are a lot of questions still as to how we will do this. Will we be in person? Will we continue online? Will we do something completely different? Who knows!!

As we move into the season of Advent and the coming of the Christ Child, our focus will be on actions steps towards a new creation, a welcoming, inclusive and non-judgemental community and what we need to do to make this happen. Hopefully you will take up the challenges we will give you as we move through this time.

3 rd Oct	Exodus 2:23-25; 3:1-15; 4:10-17	Go Speak - God's name is revealed.
10 th Oct	Exodus 16:1-18	Go Share - God Provides Manna
17 th Oct	1 Samuel 3:1-21	Go Hear - God calls Samuel
24 th Oct	1 Sam 16:1-13; Psalm 51:10-14	Go Look - God calls David
31 st Oct	1 Kings 5:1-5; 8:1-13	Go (w)Holy - Solomon's Temple
7 th Nov	1 Kings 19:1-18	Go Reclaim - God Speaks to Elijah
14 th Nov	Amos 1:1-2; 5:14-15, 21-24	Go Seek - Amos: Justice rolls down
21 st Nov	Isaiah 9:1-7	Go Walk - Isaiah: A child is born
28 th Nov	Jeremiah 29:1, 4-14	Go Settle - Jeremiah's Letter to Exiles (Advent 1)
5 th Dec	Ezekiel 37:1-14	Speak up - Ezekiel: Valley of Dry Bones (Advent 2)

On date of particular importance is the time to remember the saints who have passed away over the last year. I thank Anne for making sure we do this well and that all are remembered and recorded in our memorial book. There will, as usual, be a space to remember those special to us who have been gone for some time.

Hopefully by the time we reach November we will have some clear plans for December and Christmas.

SAVED BY THE BELL

The following anecdote is from the book *Thank God I'm an Atheist* by R. Brasch.

In his foreword, Brasch writes "Vast in number are the expressions, figures of speech and phrases that religion has wrought. Everyone, whether he knows so or not, continues to pay 'lip-service' - quite literally in his everyday speech, the give and take of conversation - to a divine being or to the very faith he might profess to shun. Hence, why we say it!

That anyone escaping defeat or misfortune by the narrowest margin or at the very last moment is said to be 'saved by the bell' is generally traced to the boxing ring. It referred to a situation when one of the contestants, on the verge of being beaten, is spared this fate because at that very moment the ringing of the bell announces the end of the round. However, the phrase has also been linked with a much earlier occasion, the striking of a famous church bell in an incident of the seventeenth century.

A sentry on night duty at Windsor Castle was accused of having been asleep, a capital offence at the time. He was court-martialled, but at the trial firmly denied the charge. In defence, he recalled that he had, in fact, heard St Paul's bell ring the hour at midnight, but oddly (he distinctly remembered) doing so by striking thirteen times!

His claim was dismissed as a fiction of his mind, a dream or a clever ruse to save his life. Apart from the fact that the considerable distance of Windsor from London made it most unlikely that he had heard the chimes, the bizarre allegation that there were thirteen chimes seemed incredible. Consequently, the court condemned the soldier to death. But when news of the sentence reached London, and with it the sentry's assertion, Londoners confirmed his testimony. On that very night St. Paul's had chimed not twelve but thirteen hours! Thus, 'saved by the bell', he was set free.

REPORT ON PRESBYTERY MEETING ON SATURDAY 21ST AUGUST, 2021

By Marg Edwards,

MUC Representative to the Presbytery of Port Phillip East

A very interesting and enlightening meeting was held on Zoom (due to the current lockdown). At one point, there were 85 participants in the meeting which is great!! **The focus** of the meeting was largely around creation and the environment; that as stewards of god's creation, how we can respond to the challenges around climate change, and what we, as a church congregation, can do to be actively engaged in responding to these challenges.



OTHER THINGS DISCUSSED:

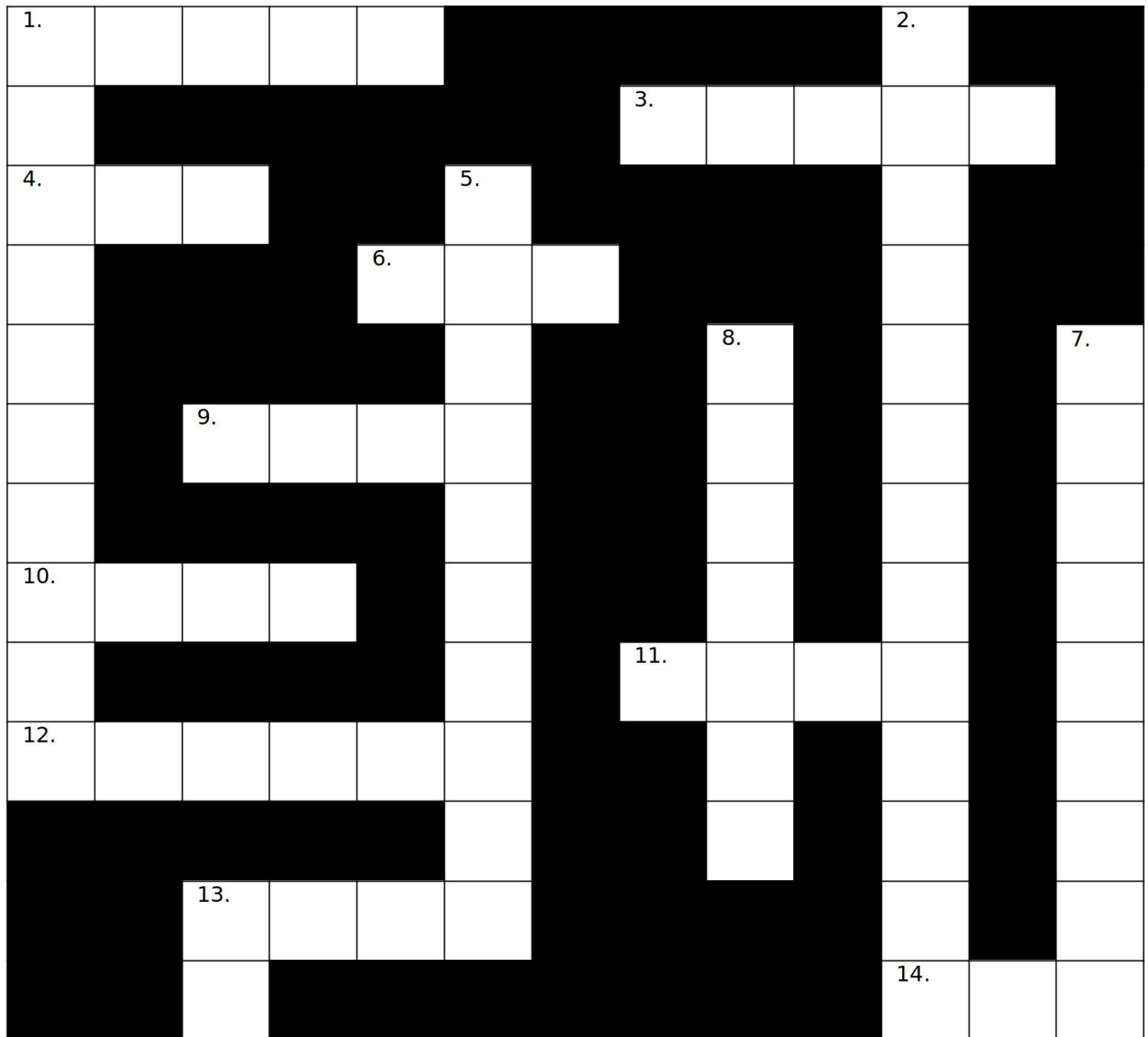
- » We are urged to participate in the National Church Life Survey which will be coming in Oct/Nov and will provide important information for Ministry and Mission across the region (interestingly it seems many years since MUC was involved in one of these surveys??)
- » Jay delivered a Presentation on the Presbytery policy around Pastors and two active Pastors were individually recognised for their work – Di Paterson & Alanee Hearnshaw of Glen Waverley UC.
- » The **closure of St Mark's UC in Chadstone** was formally acknowledged and unanimously agreed upon.
- » Recognition and thanks to **Helen Beeby** as Editor of *Newsbeat* (Presbytery publication) for 10 years, as she has resigned from this position.
- » **Five Leaf Eco-Awards** – an interesting presentation was delivered by Jessica Morthorpe (the founder of this group) around all the wonderful Green/Eco/Environmental work being done by congregations around Australia. 3 Basic Certificates were awarded to St Luke's, Mt Waverley, Port Melbourne UC and Glen Waverley UC.
- » **Environmental Action** – Tim Molineux of the JIM cluster, addressed us on the work that is being done at the Synod level, primarily around Climate change. He encouraged us all to join the Synod Climate Action Task Force!!
- » Jessica Morthorpe enlightened us to the biblical references around care for our environment and highlighted the fact that '*Creation Care is part of our core work*', that the Earth is God's creation and we are stewards to care for it!

GROUP DISCUSSION

We were then divided into break out groups to discuss the following questions:

1. What has been a success story in your setting? (I was pleased to be able to share the work that is being done at MUC).
2. What challenges are you considering? (I put my 2 bobs worth in around the need for Solar Panels on the church roof, something I have been quite passionate about now for a long time) and
3. What do you know about what is happening in your local community? (We ran out of time to discuss this one).

The meeting closed with some combined discussion and a closing reflection. Overall a very interesting meeting.



Created by Christina Linforth-Barker

ACROSS

1. Face with a lisp? That makes us trust! (5)
3. The short jetty is a bit suspicious but is our path (5)
4. God's statement is in the encyclopedia, Mum (1,2)
6. The first game of dodgeball is the greatest (3)
9. Sounds merry for a famous mother! (4)
10. Being in the middle of the Idaho people makes us look to the future (4)
11. Live with a donut instead of me - that's the ultimate feeling (4)
12. Public relations get a yes, right, in a

conversation with God (6)

13. Initially going inside for tea and a present (4)
14. Boy sounds like a big star (3)

DOWN

1. A pal on a boat makes a caring bond (10)
2. Sir Ben Muremue mixes up the kids at church (13)
5. This ploy muddled with the heads of IT and Revenue but connects us all (10)
7. Commune with onion but no one sharing a meal (10)
8. We'll come, missing the left to give a friendly greeting (7)
13. Don't stop at beginning of great operas (2)

Solution in the next edition of the MUC MAG

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

CONTACTS

Date	Time	Event
Fri, 1 Oct	10:30am - 11:30am	Coffee with Jay/Drop-Ins
	5:30pm - 6:30pm	Elders Meeting
Sat, 2 Oct	2:00pm - 5:00pm	Craft Group
Sun, 3 Oct	Daylight Savings Begins	
	10:00am - 11:00am	Worship (Holy Communion)
	5:30pm - 7:30pm	Sonderfy Gathering
Wed, 6 Oct	7:00pm - 9:00pm	Church Council
Thu, 7 Oct	10:30am - 11:30am	Worship Service at Regis
	7:30pm - 9:00pm	Bible Study
Fri, 8 Oct	10:30am - 11:30am	Coffee with Jay/Drop-Ins
Sun, 10 Oct	10:00am - 11:00am	Worship
Thu, 14 Oct	7:30pm - 9:00pm	Bible Study
Fri, 15 Oct	10:30am - 11:30am	Coffee with Jay/Drop-Ins
Sun, 17 Oct	10:00am - 11:00am	Worship
	5:30pm - 7:30pm	Sonderfy Gathering
Thu, 21 Oct	7:30pm - 9:00pm	Bible Study
Fri, 22 Oct	10:30am - 11:30am	Coffee with Jay/Drop-Ins
Sun, 24 Oct	10:00am - 11:00am	Worship
Tue, 26 Oct	5:30pm - 7:00pm	Friendship Fellas' Dinner (Outdoors?)
Wed, 27 Oct	11:00am - 12:00pm	Victoria-on-the-Park Service
Thu, 28 Oct	7:30pm - 9:00pm	Bible Study
Fri, 29 Oct	10:30am - 11:30am	Coffee with Jay/Drop-Ins
Sun, 31 Oct	10:00am - 11:00am	Worship (All Saints)
Mon, 1 Nov	11:00am - 12:00pm	All Saints Remembrance, Victoria-on-the-Park
Wed, 3 Nov	7:00pm - 9:00pm	Church Council
Thu, 4 Nov	10:30am - 11:30am	Worship Service at Regis
	7:30pm - 9:00pm	Bible Study
Fri, 5 Nov	10:30am - 11:30am	Coffee with Jay/Drop-Ins
	5:30pm - 6:30pm	Elders Meeting
Sat, 6 Nov	2:00pm - 5:00pm	Craft Group
Sun, 7 Nov	10:00am - 11:00am	Worship (Holy Communion)
	5:30pm - 7:30pm	Sonderfy Gathering
Thu, 11 Nov	7:30pm - 9:00pm	Bible Study
Fri, 12 Nov	10:30am - 11:30am	Coffee with Jay/Drop-Ins
Sat, 13 Nov	8:00am - 9:00am	Friendship Fellas' Breakfast
Sun, 14 Nov	10:00am - 11:00am	Worship
	Deadline for submission of articles for MUC Mag	
Thu, 18 Nov	7:30pm - 9:00pm	Bible Study
Fri, 19 Nov	10:30am - 11:30am	Coffee with Jay/Drop-Ins
Sun, 21 Nov	10:00am - 11:00am	Worship (Holy Communion)
	5:30pm - 7:30pm	Sonderfy Gathering
Tue, 23 Nov	5:30pm - 7:00pm	Friendship Fellas' Dinner
Thu, 25 Nov	7:30pm - 9:00pm	Bible Study
Fri, 26 Nov	10:30am - 11:30am	Coffee with Jay/Drop-Ins
Sat, 27 Nov	9:00am - 10:30am	LIFT Women's Breakfast
Sun, 28 Nov	10:00am - 11:00am	Worship
Wed, 1 Dec	7:00pm - 9:00pm	Church Council
Thu, 2 Dec	7:30pm - 9:00pm	Bible Study
Fri, 3 Dec	10:30am - 11:30am	Coffee with Jay/Drop-Ins
Sat, 4 Dec	2:00pm - 5:00pm	Craft Group
Sun, 5 Dec	10:00am - 11:00am	Worship (Holy Communion)
	5:30pm - 7:30pm	Sonderfy Gathering

The contact details for the various groups that host these events are given below.

Murrumbeena Community Garden

Kay Pentland

Glynis Ramsay

0407 506 662

Knitting and Craft Circle

Glynis Ramsay

0407 506 662

Friendship Fellas

Roger McCowan

0439 711 381

Geoff Edwards

0409 568 206

Lending Library

Anne Don

9578 4217

LIFT

Mary-Lou Keur

0409 937 727

Roz Franklin

0403 762 695

Sonderfy

Kelly Skilton

0432 714 758

Murrumbeena Uniting Afternoon Fellowship Group

Anne Don

9578 4217

Women's Bible Study

Alison Campbell Rate

0438 569 690