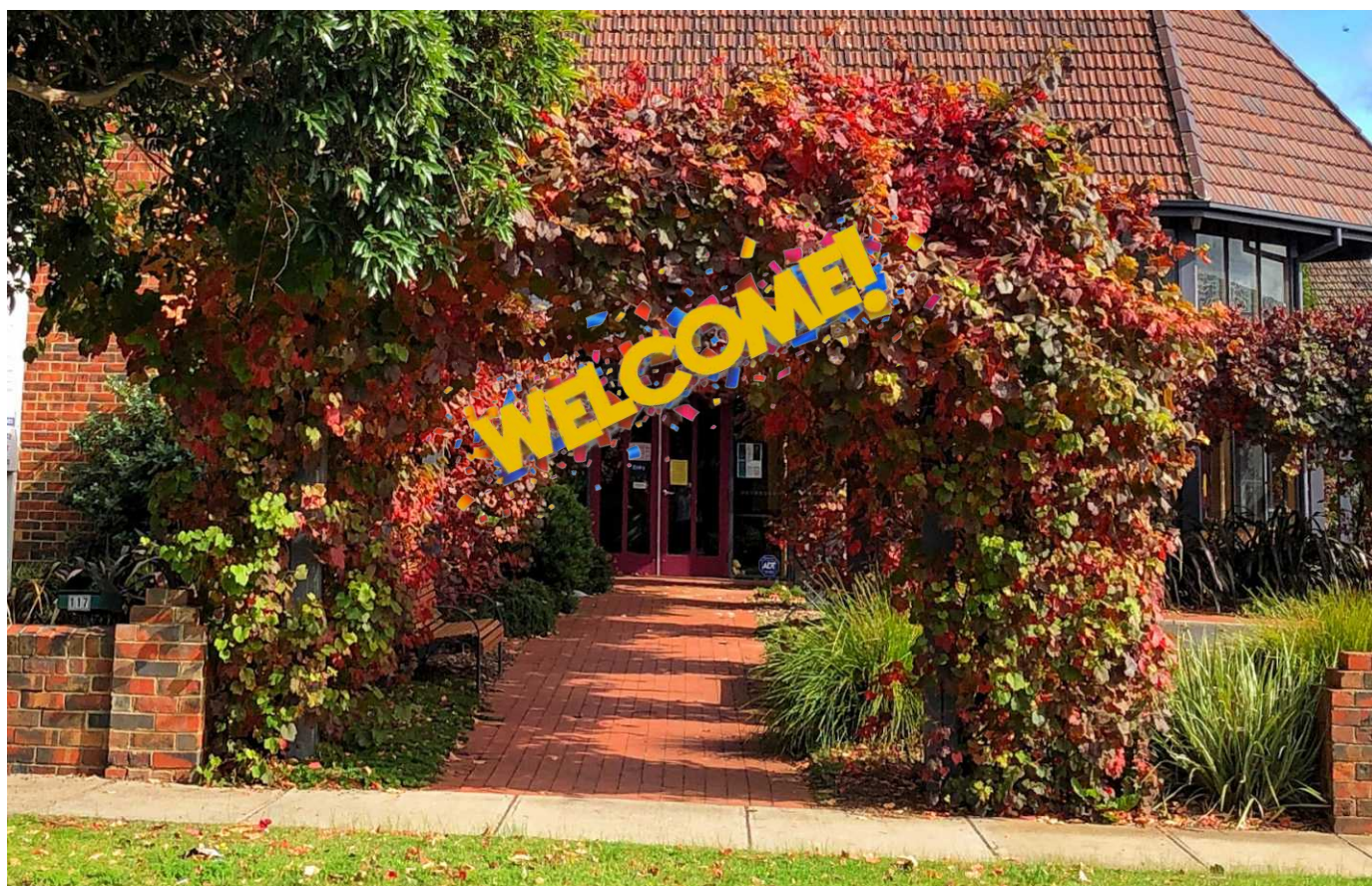


MUC Magazine

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

June – July 2020

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CHAIR:

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Rate**

0438 569 690



TREASURER:

Greg Pressey



Doug Faram

Also responsible for Pastoral Care

0422 033 283



Jo Petzer



Rachel Dart
Minutes Secretary



Margaret Reid



Dave Robinson
Correspondence Secretary

ORGANISATIONS AND GROUPS

Community & The Arts
Community Garden
Craft Circle
Drop In
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
Studies
Sunday Brunch

YOUTH (13-17)

Camps
Lunchtime Groups
Youthy

CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Families
» F.E.A.S.T
» Family Craft Days
» Family Movie Days
Kids
» Countdown to Christmas
» Kids' Time
Mainly Music

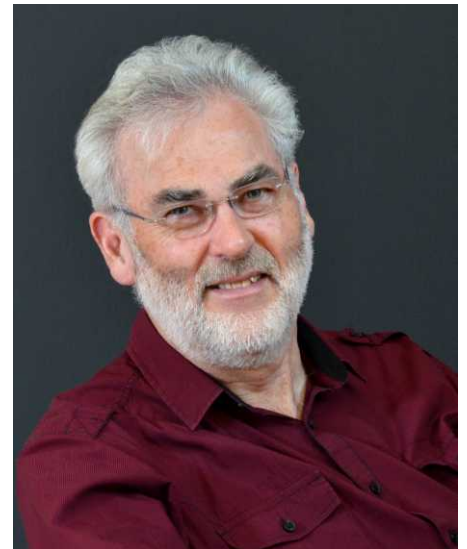
**GLENDAL
LEIGH**

Culture of Safety contact person
9568 8177



Welcome to this Winter edition of the MUC MAG. I admit that it is probably a misnomer to call this the Winter edition when it is for only two months of the winter season. I hope you are keeping warm and well, considering the COVID-19 restrictions that still apply.

In the Easter edition, I included a short reflection by Chelsea Bayouth which gave a perspective on some of the positive aspects of dealing with lockdown and isolation. Interestingly, many of our own folk have adopted a similar attitude and done things they might not otherwise have done. Geoff and Marg Edwards having taken to visiting many of the parks and gardens, both locally and further afield. I have included a number of photos showing several of these different parks. Bruce Robinson has crafted a chair from the branches pruned from a tree at the Manse. My wife and I have



Bruce and his chair

embarked on a landscaping project at our place, establishing garden beds, veggie patches, etc.

Not forgetting our worship team who have been coming up with innovative ways to present our Sunday worship services, particularly the visual and audio aspects and, of course, adding in the virtual morning tea following the services, via Zoom. These are some of stories I know about; I'm sure there are many others. Perhaps for the next MUC MAG, you might like to write a short article (or provide photos) about one or two of the positive elements that you have engaged in during this period.

Another piece of good news is that the broadcasting of our worship services via the internet (both the live streaming and YouTube) is reaching and appealing to people who have never set foot in our church. Once the risk of COVID-19 infections is completely eradicated and we are able to gather together for worship and our various group activities, we will continue to broadcast via the internet to keep in touch with this wider community.

Due to still having restrictions, this Winter edition of the MUC MAG has neither the roster of weekly duties nor the calendar of activities for June and July. However, Anne Don has written an article on the anniversaries that we should be celebrating this year (particularly those over the next couple of months). One of these anniversaries is the 130th of the St Giles Church (now our Murrumbena Uniting Church). Anne has used some of her "isolation" time to write about this history. Part 1 (up to 1975) is included in this edition, and Part 2 will appear in the next edition of the MUC MAG.

Since there is no calendar included, I will announce here that the deadline for submission of articles for the next edition of the MUC MAG is **17th July**. Due to the absence of roster and calendar (usually three pages), there is quite a bit more in this edition for your reading pleasure. Enough from me, read and enjoy!

Roger McCowan

Please e-mail articles to: triumphguru@gmail.com, or hand them to Roger on a Sunday, preferably no later than 17th July.

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

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

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

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

Online morning tea via Zoom at 11:05am. <https://zoom.us/j/91623114220> (Meeting ID: 916 2311 4220, Password: 015916), or by phone +61370182005,,91623114220#,,#015916#.



Well, the world has truly changed from the date that I last wrote to you. Mind you, we are still gathering as God's people, just not all in the same place or at the same time. We are still praying for the world, our community, our family and our friends, just not all together in a worship service. We are still caring for each other, just not in person. So, we are still being the people of God in Murrumbena and the world, just doing it a little differently.

I do want to thank all of you who are calling, leaving notes in letterboxes, undertaking shopping expeditions for others or helping out with food or connections with doctor and specialists' appointments. I believe we are doing a really good job of keeping each other connected and part of the community. Our Elders and Pastoral Carers have been great in making sure everyone is receiving worship materials as they want or need, and our membership roll has never been more up-to-date!

We've had a couple of challenges in our live streaming/video production and we are continually working to improve this. You will have noticed that we've had a couple of changes in the setup of the worship area, trying to get a tighter aspect of those involved in leading worship as well as getting closer to the microphones on the cameras. We've also noted a couple of challenges with our current sound system that will need attention at some point in the future. We've got a new mic on order for the live streaming that will hopefully help with the echo that is just a part of the church. In the meantime, we've moved a couple of screens into the sanctuary area (you won't see them) to contain the sound more.

As I write this we have no clear idea when we can return safely to the church buildings for worship, so we'll be continuing on as we are for a bit yet. The government restrictions on movement and numbers of people who can gather may be being eased however there are other requirements around cleaning, record keeping of who attends and where they sit, as well as the question of singing that are yet to be considered.

I have to tell you that I don't think I have ever worked as hard as I have over the past month and a half. Kelly would tell you the same, and poor Zak is run off his feet trying to get to know everyone as well as help out in whatever way he can.

Again, as I write this, I am also just finishing off preparation for worship on Sunday 17th May. Our theme is Loving Spirit, and I can't help but reflect that as we show and live the love of God we must care for those around us. At this time that means being aware of the responsibility that we have to ensure none of our people get sick from COVID 19 and then spread it further into the community.

As we move into this time of our church season, the time after Pentecost Sunday, we would normally undertake a series or two. The ministry team did have a series on Job and 2 Corinthians in the mix, but some other possibilities have come to light, so we'll be doing a 12-week series called "Unravelling". I think this series really speaks to us today so let's explore it together. The main thing to keep in mind is that we will continue to explore and learn just how we can continue to be "Grounded as God's People".

Yours in Christ.

Jay

MORNING TEA

It has been an amazing time being able to connect together after our Sunday Morning worship. What I seemed like a time where we were not going to be able to engage with one another for a while, we have found ourselves being able to connect with each other during this time. Our Zoom morning teas have allowed for us to connect in and chat about life and everything happening. Sometimes it is about our weeks, other times it about news and events that have been happening. It has been so lovely to see each other's faces, or for those who have phoned in, it has been lovely to hear each other's voices. This photo is a 'snap shot' of the screens we see when we speak together.

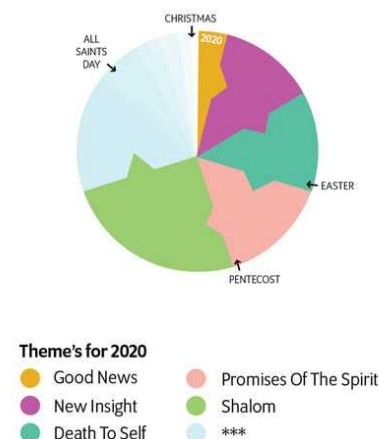
Kelly

See screenshot image on the next page.

LECTIONARY READINGS JUNE AND JULY

7 th June	Matthew 28:16-20	Trinity Sunday
14 th June	Genesis 18:1-15, 21:1-7	Unexpected joy and surprise
21 st June	Matthew 14:22-23	Unravelling by uncertainty
28 th June	II Samuel 3:7; 21:1-14	Public grief that inspires action
5 th July	Luke 19:1-10	Radical unravelling of vocation
12 th July	Exodus 5:1-2; 7:8-23	When humans unravel God's plans for justice
19 th July	Acts 9:1-20	Discovering a new path
26 th July	Jeremiah 29:1-7	When dreams unravel
2 nd August	John 4:1-29	Unravelling shame

THE YEAR OF 2020 Grounded as God's People



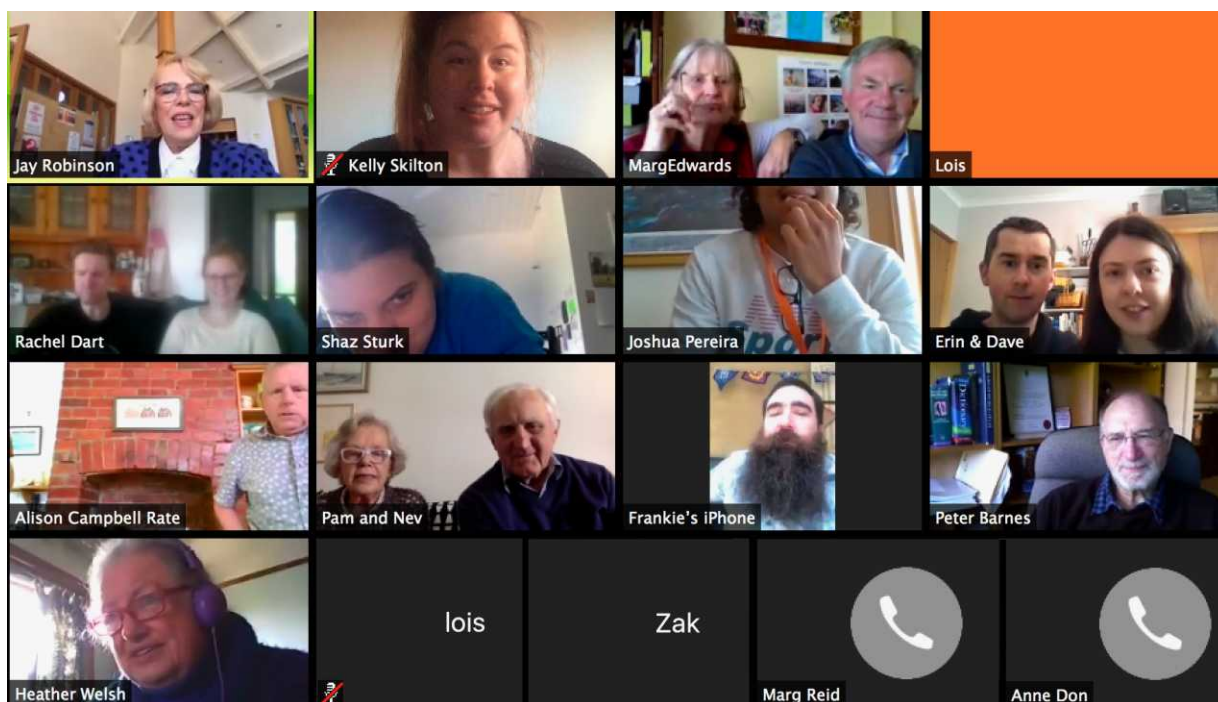
Following Pentecost Sunday we enter into a time when we don't have set readings in the Narrative Lectionary. This is a time when we can focus on particular themes or books of the bible.

In our year the overarching theme for this period of time is Shalom. Now most people read peace when they read Shalom, but from the Jewish perspective Shalom is so much more than just peace. In Hebrew Shalom means peace, harmony, wholeness, completeness, prosperity, welfare and tranquillity.

During this time, we are going to explore a series produced by Sanctified Arts that has a number of aspects to it as well as resources. It also just happens to speak so well into where we are now. Here's some information about it:

What happens when our world falls apart? How do we press onward when our tightly-knit plans unravel into loose threads? What do we become when our identity, or the path we're on, comes undone? What if all of this is not the end we fear it will be?

In our unraveling, sometimes life surprises us with unexpected joy, love, and hope—with a new beginning we couldn't have imagined. Sometimes we need God to unravel us, for we long to be changed. This worship series explores 12 stories of unraveled shame, identity, fear, grief, dreams, and expectations. These are stories where God meets us in the spiraling, unraveling our plans—and us—into something new.



Dear people of Murrumbidgee Uniting,

I hope you are all well and keeping sane.

Talk about Baptism by fire, it has been a huge learning curve; and a unique introduction beginning at Murrumbidgee and then going into lockdown.

I have had a wonderful time though and have enjoyed connecting with the families. I am grateful for technology, but it has been a poor substitute for face to face and I am looking forward to gathering together in person again in the future when it is safe to do so.

Like many different spaces and communities we were quick to hop online as a way to connect with you all, some things we have got right and some things we could be doing better, but we are trying. I hope it is still making you feel connected even if it is in a different way.

In terms of the children and families ministry space we had one semi successful virtual movie social and I have been in touch via phone calls, emails and texts and over the past couple of weeks visiting some of the families (don't worry if I have not been and visited to you yet I am coming over the next couple of weeks).

I have had great fun, visiting and chatting with some of the families and seeing the outside of your houses and getting to know some of you better, it has been a great way to connect with you all and some of you I have met for the first time. while riding around our leafy eastern suburbs and getting lost on Bruce's bike. Thank you to the families for welcoming me, watering me and feeding me. When visiting families it has also been lovely to play, ball games, frisbee and cricket.

As usual I continue to work with Jay and Kelly in tandem with the lectionary to prepare for the services on Sunday trying to keep Murrumbidgees fun, relevant and engaging.

Speaking of Murrumbenees, Roger has asked me to share the words from the Church's foundation segment to encourage us all that while we are not here in person, Church is with us all, as Church is the people.

Here are the words:

- The body of Christ in action
- Christ - centred
- Comfort
- Communion
- Community
- The cross
- Family
- Fellowship
- God's children
- Grace
- Light
- People
- Prayer
- Proclaim Christ
- Renewed hope
- Reverence
- Sharing stories
- Tapestry



I also asked a couple of the families to share some of their thoughts on my time here so far:

FROM CHRISTINA & ASH

We think you have done an amazing job of reaching out to the families, through the thoughtful Easter and Mother's Day gifts as well as texts and invitations to participate in the services. We have also loved

the presentations and visual experiments you do in the services and the uplifting vibe you bring.

FROM LAURA AND DAN AND THEIR CHILDREN:

Zak has done a brilliant job during the COVID-19 to support families at the church. We have only recently joined Murrumbidgee Church and Zak has made us feel very included, supported and part of the Church. He has texted and called us frequently, emailed, organised events on social media, and plans to visit the kids from the footpath. At Easter he also dropped off some yummy Easter eggs so the kids could do an Easter egg hunt in our backyard. I also felt very spoiled on Mother's Day - when I found a gift in our letter box. we are very appreciative of the things the church has done to ensure we have continued to feel included and supported during this time.

When I asked the kids:

- » Flynn (3 years) - the Easter eggs were delicious
- » Audrey (5 years) - thanks for the Easter eggs. We had a fun hunt at Easter.
- » Elijah (7 years) - we would like to see Zak doing more explosions at Church (I think he was referring to you and the exploding Holy Spirit bottle.)

Thanks to all in the Church who have given me such a warm welcome. That is enough from me for now.

Until next time,

Zak.

For Mother's Day this year Zak organised a small gift to head to all our families and children's mothers. These were delivered by a number of us on the Friday or Saturday prior to Mother's Day. In case you don't know Sue from our office makes soaps, hand creams, etc. and so she was able to make us some soap, Anne Don put together some small bunches of lavender and these were delivered to some great smiles.

On our first Sunday in May we explored what we think church is like. A number of you sent Jay some words and ideas that say what church means for you. Our children did the same and Zak used these comments to help build our hoped-for church. (See photo on opposite page.)



Here is a shot of the 'families' of soft toys as they gathered together for worship on 17th May.

YAYA (YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS)

WHAT DO THE YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS DO?

Have you found yourself asking, 'Kelly, what it is that the young people actually get up to?' Below you can see there are a large number of things happening for the Youth and Young Adults connected in to Sonder Collective and to Murrumbene Uniting.

Infact, there is something on overnight of the week (and sometimes even more than one thing going on!) Each of these spaces has a committed leadership team and a group of regulars that come along.

Here is a run down of the amazing things happening at the moment:

HOTSEAT



The hot seat is a space for the Sonder Cloud region. It allows people the opportunity to share who they are and their life stories with one another. For some people this may be a space for testimonies to be shared, while for others to may just be opening a small window into their lives. It happens on a weeknight for people on the online Discord community.

We love the chance to find the commonalities with other people that we may have never known about.

SONDERFY

This is the name of the 5:30pm Worship service held at Murrumbene. During COVID-19 this space is opened up to anyone who would like to connect in via Zoom. It still runs on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month and is a space that we intentionally talk about the intersection of faith and our culture.



ALL IN TABLETOP, AND 18+ GAMES

During COVID-19 we have time set aside for people to be able to play games with one another online in the Discord community. These two nights are set up so that young people are able to hang out in safe places with each other. Having an 18+ night has created a chance for people to get online and have a good love as adults. The All In Tabletop night has been a great place for anyone from any age to get online and play virtual boardgames together.



STUDY GROUPS

Over this time we are still having bible study available for people. There are two communities that are meeting at the moment. On Tuesday nights we have the study group in Murrumbene each week, and on Sunday afternoons we have a study group in Bayside that come together on the 2nd and 4th Sundays. Currently these are happening via Zoom together.



THE LOUNGE

This space is for Sonder Cloud region to be able to discuss topics and faith together. They also create time to watch the UCA's young adults "Calm Down!" series together. We connect our chats together in the Discord community and talk to one another as everything is happening.



GOLD CLASS

There is something nice about being able to watch a movie when you know that other people are watching it with you. Though we will not be meeting together in person, we have set it up so that fortnightly on Saturdays people can tune in and watch a movie together online. We connect our chats together in the Discord community and then press play on a movie at the same time.



YOUTH

As always, Friday nights are the time when the youth meet together to do bible study, games and check-ins with each other. Post-COVID this ran in the Murrumbeena Region, and during COVID-19 this space is opened up for those who would like to connect in via Zoom.

Kelly

MURRUMBEENA YOUTH

OUT AND ABOUT WITH THE EDWARDS

During this period of so-called 'lockdown', we have been allowed out to exercise. This has been a Godsend really, as it has got us out of the house to enjoy fresh air and exercise. It has been beautiful to see the lovely autumn colours in the various parks and on a sunny day, the colours are vibrant and uplifting!

We started off with local parks but more recently have driven around town to explore other places, which has been very interesting. I normally don't do much walking, but most days we average 2 - 8kms. In the past few months, Geoff and I have visited the following parks:

- » Ardrie Park, East Malvern
- » Packer Park, Carnegie
- » Urban Forest, East Malvern
- » Duncan McKinnon reserve
- » Oakleigh - under Skyrail
- » Jells Park, Wheelers Hill
- » Hedgeley Dene, Malvern
- » Blackburn Lake Sanctuary, Blackburn
- » Elwood beach trail
- » Edinburgh Gardens, Nth Fitzroy
- » Gardiners Creek Trail
- » Karkarook Park, Moorabbin
- » Scothman's Creek Trail, Waverley
- » Carnegie - under Skyrail



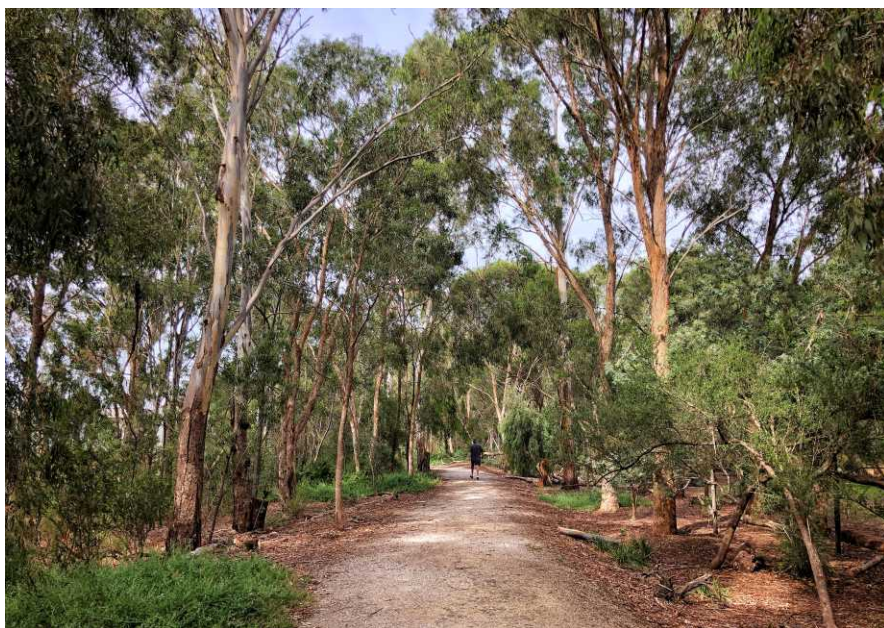
Ardrie Park

Below and on the next pages are some of the photos I took, depicting the beauty of God's creation during this time.

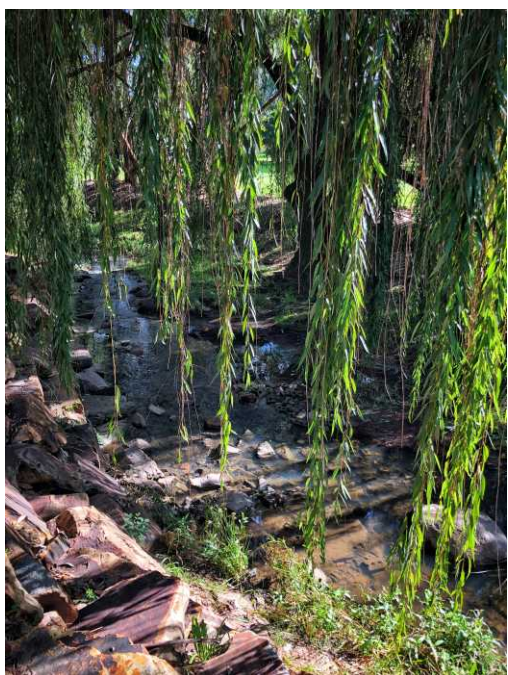
*Marg
Edwards*



Packer Park



Urban Forest



**Scotchman's
Creek Park**



Blackburn Lake Park

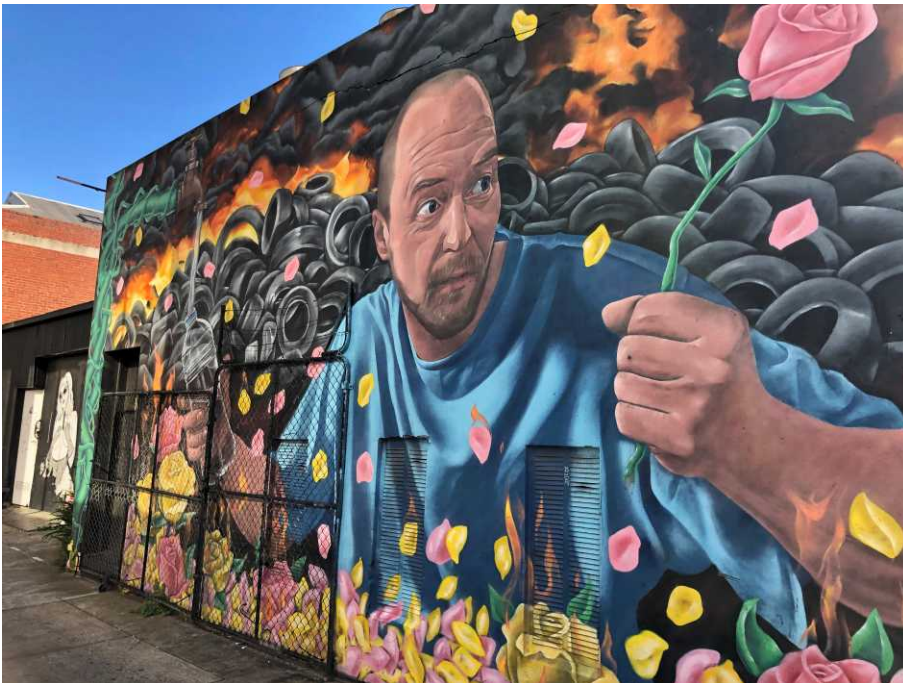




Duncan McKinnon Reserve



Edinburgh Gardens



Edinburgh Gardens



Urban Forest



Hedgeley Dene

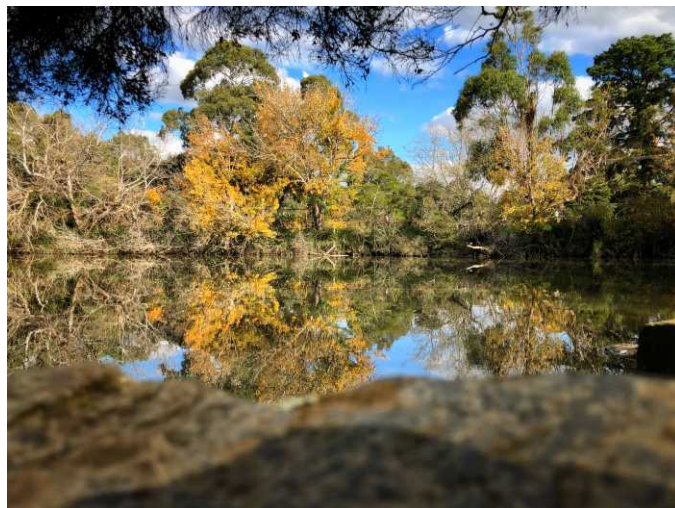


Karkarook Park

OUT AND ABOUT WITH THE EDWARDS



Urban Forest



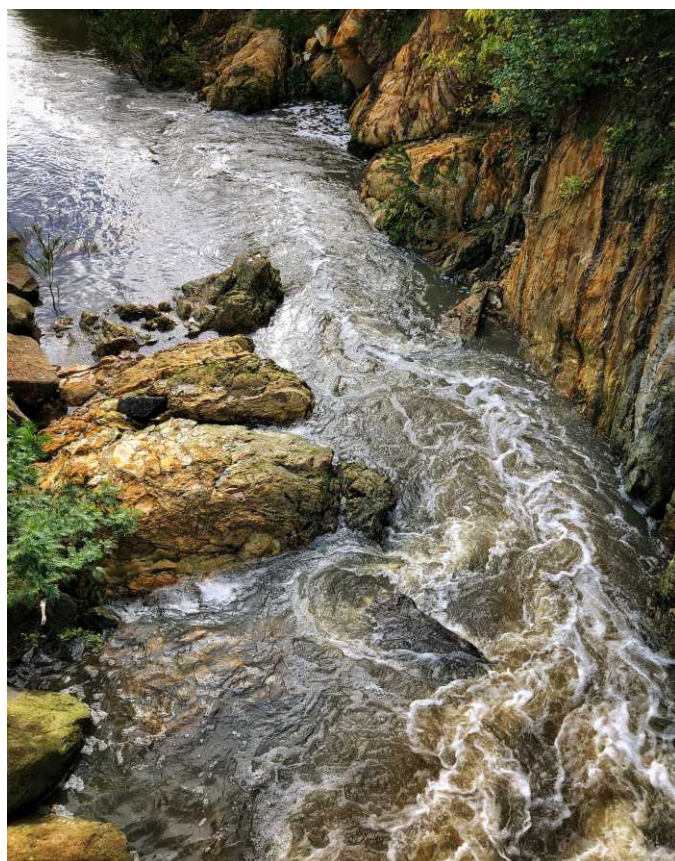
Blackburn Lake



Gardiners Creek Trail



Edinburgh Gardens



Gardiners Creek Trail



Karkarook Park

The year 2020 will without doubt go down in history as one our entire world (with the possible exception of Antarctica) faced and fought another pandemic, a deadly new coronavirus labelled COVID-19. As each continent and country in turn faces and deals with the virus, modern technology is recording everything that happens, the debates about what should be done and the emotions aroused – fear, anxiety, anger, frustration, the hoarding instinct and rebellion against restrictions. Generosity, service to others and cooperation across national boundaries in an effort to discover treatments and a vaccine are also evident. We are living through this moment in history as did our forebears through the Spanish 'flu last century. Historians and commentators in another hundred years will doubtless pass judgement on how well we managed. Will Christianity and the Churches be seen to have had any influence on the outcome?

The impact of the virus has produced many firsts: the first Easter when we could not celebrate together in the same space; the first ANZAC Day for many years without crowded Services and mass Marches; the first Mother's Day when many mothers in isolation had no personal family visits, the Olympic Games has been postponed for a year and local and international sporting calendars thrown into disarray. Other historic milestones which belong to 2020 are passing with less or muted recognition. To date, these include the 50th Anniversaries of Australia's Transcontinental Railway (February) and the UK gift o the Carillon to Canberra (April), the 75th Anniversary of V.E. Day (May) and the 250th Anniversary of Captain Cook's landing in Australia (April).

Still to come this year are three special Church celebrations which will present challenges similar to those which Christians faced at Easter. The first is Pentecost, recognised by Christians worldwide as the coming of the Holy Spirit and the Birth of the Church. This year it falls on Sunday 31st May. The second is the 43rd birthday of our Uniting Church in Australia, celebrated on 22nd June each year – the day in 1977 when the Congregational, Methodist, and Presbyterian Churches came together, with some exceptions, after years of debate and voting.

The third special occasion is ours – the 130th Anniversary of the beginning of this congregation in Murrumbena, which dates to July 1890, to a meeting of local Presbyterians on 2nd July and the first Presbyterian worship service on the evening of Sunday 13th July.

The next edition of the MUC MAG will record how we acknowledged and rejoiced in each of these special Christian events, working through the problems and obstacles produced because of COVID-19, to give thanks to God for all that these occasions mean and represent.

Anne Don

CONTACTS

In view of the developments regarding COVID19, decisions have been made for many of Murrumbena Uniting Church's events to be put on hold for the time being. These group activities will be resumed when deemed safe to do so. If you have suggestions for group activities at this time, or wish to find out a bit more about any one of the groups, the contact details for the various groups that host these events are given below.

Thursday Pancake Drop-In
Pam Wight 0459 226 070

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

mainly music
9568 8177

Sonder Collective
Kelly Skilton 0432 714 758

Murrumbena Community Garden
Kay Pentland
Glynis Ramsay 0407 506 662

Murrumbena Uniting Afternoon Fellowship Group
Anne Don 9578 4217

Women's Bible Study
Alison Campbell Rate
0438 569 690

Youth Band
David Robinson 0439 610 960

“The history of the Church of Jesus Christ is the history of multitudes of congregations from the Book of Acts until now. The humblest story therefore becomes sublime.” Rev. W Howden in Foreword to *St. Giles Presbyterian Church Murrumbeena 1890 – 1955*, July 1955.

PART 1: 1890 – 1975

THE BACKGROUND

Murrumbeena in 1890 was entering one of its and Victoria’s darkest periods of history. The boom and bust eras of 1837 and the 1850s were past. Now, after the economic boom of the 1880s which involved huge investments by individuals and groups in land and massive railway works undertaken by the government, the State was about to endure what Michael Cannon described as “The Hungry 1890s”, made worse by epidemics of influenza, typhoid and measles, which killed thousands (*The Land Boomers*, Ch. 4).

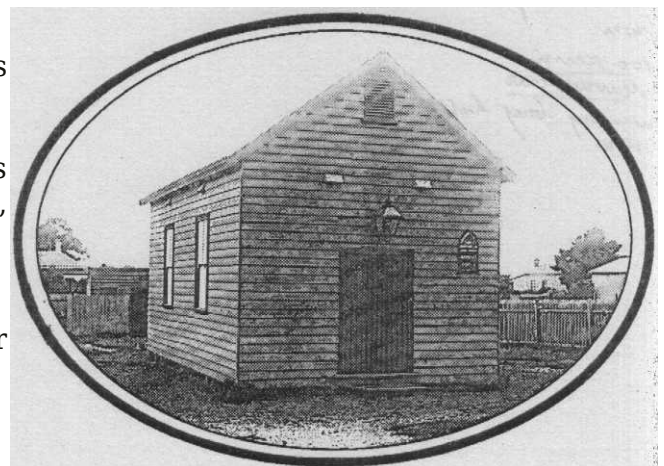
Murrumbeena then was an outer suburb of Melbourne, a farming and gardening community with some houses, a few stores, public hall and local railway station opened in 1879. Steam engines carried people and goods through from Melbourne to beyond Oakleigh – the nearest township. Horse and buggy was the other form of long distance transport. Pastoralists and graziers had squatted on this area from the 1850s before buying large blocks for their stock, then subdividing them in the 1880s. In 1868 Archibald McLaurin bought Frogmore, the model farm and home established by William Lyall. McLaurin, born in Dunoon, Scotland, herded sheep overland to Port Phillip in 1839. He also bought land on the east side of Murrumbeena Road, known as the Ardyne Estate, some of which was subdivided in the 1880s. Many of the local settlers had come from Scotland and found work on these estates.

THE PIONEERS

Behind the following brief outline of dates and events lie the stories of unnumbered faithful men and women, old and young, who worked sacrificially to ensure that God’s worship and work were begun, continued and available to those in Murrumbeena and beyond. Undaunted by the challenges of their times, ordained Ministers and lay people, some remembered, many not, offered their witness, time, talents and money to build up the congregation and reach out to others with suitable methods and activities. They and the activities can be found in more detailed records and accounts. We give thanks to God for them and for the inspiration of their example for us.

THE STORY IN BRIEF

On 2nd July 1890, a meeting was held at Mr. Thomas Lacey’s house in Murrumbeena, attended by Rev. J.J. Spalding (Minister of Oakleigh Presbyterian Church), Mr. Archibald McLaurin and Mr. Merry, with apologies from Mr. Shearer and Archibald’s nephew. As a result, on Sunday evening, 13th July, 1890, the first Presbyterian worship service in Murrumbeena was held, in a disused hay and corn store. The congregation was supervised by the Oakleigh Minister but a Missioner from Emo Road (East Malvern) led worship in the following years. Finances were a problem and closure several times a real possibility. Through the generosity and hard work of members, including the Shearer and Scott families, the first wooden church (30 ft x 16 ft) was built and opened on 3rd December 1893, on rented land in Dunoon Street. In 1903 it was moved to its permanent site on the east side of Murrumbeena Road (nearly opposite today’s Church) where it was added to and improved over the years and used for Worship, Sunday School, fetes and concerts until November 1967. It was sold and demolished after a special Thanksgiving Service.



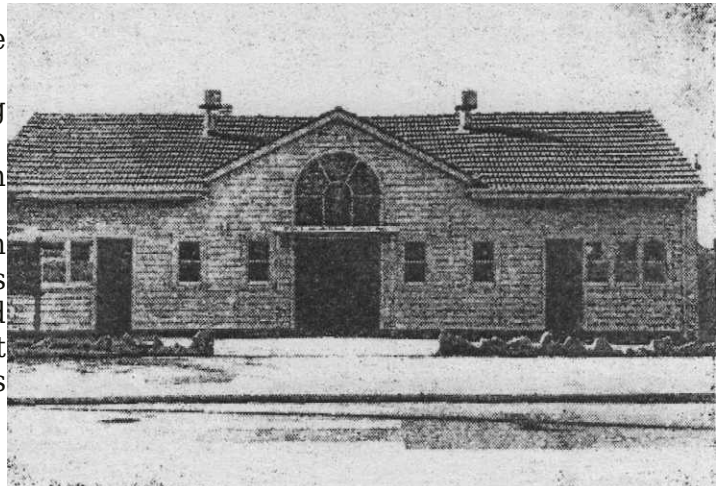
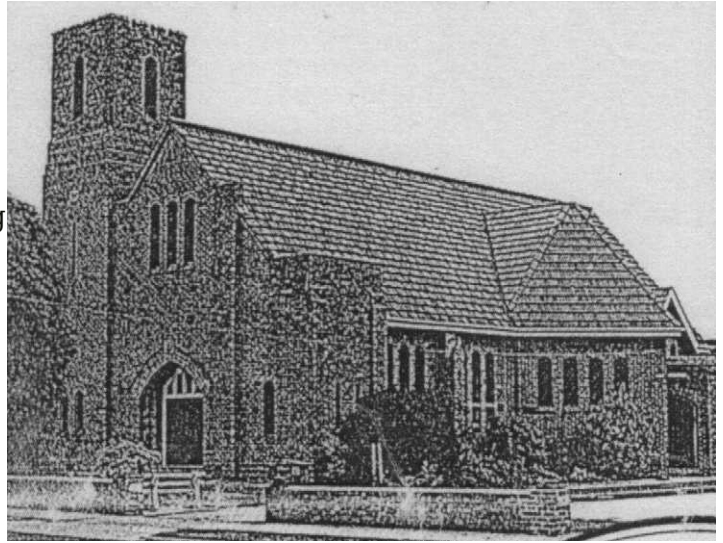
The First Church – 1893

By 1910 the financial situation had improved but in the following decades there would be many challenges. By May 1914 the congregation had called its first Minister and built the manse at the corner of Murrumbeena Road and Heathersett Grove, and had bought the land on which the present Church

stands. The 1914-18 War and the 'flu epidemic exacted a toll from the membership and their activities. In the 1920s the local population and Church membership increased with the electrification of the railway (1922) and the opening up of more land. In 1928 the Kindergarten Hall was the first built on the western block. Then came the 1929/30 Depression.

On 19th May 1934, the new brick Church was opened on the present site. Its funding started with a family's donation of 30/-, the savings of a Sunday School student, Hugh McNabb, who had died. There was a mortgage and many donations for the building and furnishings. Two church ladies later paid for the front brick fence by selling garments they had knitted. After discussion, the congregation decided to adopt the name "St Giles".

Normal activities were again disrupted by the 1939-45 World War and, in 1945, Rev Aeneas Macdonald retired after serving as Minister since 1923. By 1949, the Church debt was cleared and the Aeneas Macdonald Memorial Windows installed. The 1950s was a period of growth in population in Church membership and Church groups and activities. Our Sunday School became the largest in the State (over 500 pupils and 65 teachers). Work on the old Sunday School building in 1953, the building of the Aeneas Macdonald Memorial Hall in 1954 and the Manse rebuilding in 1958 involved a financial debt which was eventually cleared. As Murrumbeena's population began to age in the 60s and young married couples moved further out, Church membership also aged and began declining. To meet new needs, different activities such as teas, forum meetings, barbeques and other forms of worship were tried. By 1968, all Church activities were taking place on the western Murrumbeena Road site where a new Church Hall was being built, after the sale of the eastern property.



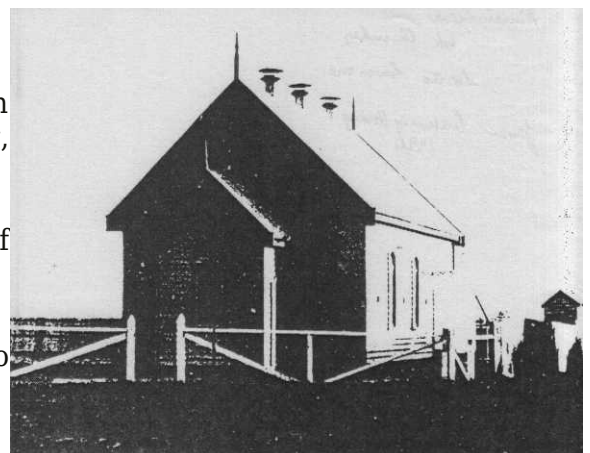
Sunday School Hall - 1952

The 1970s brought a new and different challenge with discussions throughout Australia regarding the union of the Congregational, Methodist, and Presbyterian Churches into one Uniting Church. In 1974, St Giles was approached by the nearby Murrumbeena Methodist congregation requesting that consideration be given to forming a joint parish before the projected date of Union in 1977, as their Minister had just resigned.

MURRUMBEENA METHODIST CHURCH

Murrumbeena Methodist congregation had started life in 1912. After a meeting at the home of Mr and Mrs Armstrong, a wooden building on a block of land at the corner of Dandenong and Belgrave Roads was opened for worship on Sunday 5th December 1912. The new church became part of the Oakleigh-Carnegie Circuit of five Churches served by Ministers and Lay Preachers.

In 1920, the building was moved across the railway line to a site on the west of Murrumbeena Road, not far from the Presbyterian property. It was gradually enlarged to accommodate the growing numbers in congregation and



First Methodist Church - 1912



Methodist Church - 1928

Sunday School. In 1928, a new brick Church at the front of the property was opened and dedicated on 9th December. The old church was then used for Sunday School and meetings.

The Methodist congregation faced the same challenges during the next decades as their Presbyterian neighbours and responded likewise. A variety of groups and organisations were developed for the different age groups, including mission and money-raising activities. Sunday School numbers in the 1950s were close to those of St Giles. The Young Men's Club helped to

establish the Methodist Babies' Home. The Home Fellowship and Lamington Groups lived on into the Uniting Church.

In the 1960s and 70s the good relationships developed earlier between the Methodist and Presbyterian congregations flourished and there were some combined activities. This made discussions easier when the proposal for a joint parish was proposed in 1974 by the Methodist congregation.

The Joint Parish was inaugurated on 20th February 1975. Rev Lex Pollock from St Giles became Minister to both congregations, ably supported by his wife Mabel. Other part-time assistance was provided. It was a time of alternating services, many meetings and much adjustment.

As part of the 1990 Centenary Celebrations we asked members for their memories of the past. Included here are two of the earliest:

About Murrumbeena Presbyterian, from Miss Aileen Backwell who was baptised about 1900 by the Oakleigh Minister at Mrs Shearer's home.

"I recall afternoon Sunday School when I was 5; the smell of new pine, knots in the varnished lining boards, hard benches, no stage, a lectern made by Mr Shearer; our teachers - Mrs Lacy and Miss Peggie who wore high boned lace collars - Miss Shearer's Scots accent, Mr Angus the Postmaster who used the hooked handle of his walking stick to hook the legs of talkative children; story leaflets each Sunday and the weeks it took to complete the Israelites' journey."

About Murrumbeena Methodist, from Mrs Eva Snow.

"For the first Sunday School picnics (after 1912) we used to go in a market gardener's wagon and draught horse pulling us. In church, everyone was very strict: once, boys of about 10 were sitting at the back and talking - they were put out of the Church and not allowed back that day. When we moved from Dandenong Road, the Choir sat on one side and my father was appalled at the ladies showing their legs. So he went about putting a rail and curtain around."

Anne Don

Part 2 of the history of our church from 1975 will be continued in the next MUC MAG.

Like everyone else, Church Council has been meeting via Zoom (online video conferencing) for the last couple of months. One advantage is you can wear your pyjama bottoms and no-one can tell! The disadvantage is that we miss the personal interaction, as indeed everyone is at the moment for all sorts of reasons.

AGM - as you know, this had to be postponed due to the Covid-19 restrictions and at the moment we don't know when a new date can be set. The budget will have to be re-done to take into consideration the changed financial circumstances with the drop in weekly giving that has occurred.

Council was pleased to approve Belinda Clear's application to nominate as a candidate for the Ministry. Belinda has been serving as Supply Minister to South Port Uniting in Port Melbourne since part way through last year so we haven't seen her around MUC on Sunday mornings for some time however she was still been involved with Young Adults Bible Study and mainly music pre-Covid-19.

We have applied for the government's jobkeeper payments for Jay, Kelly and Zak (ministry team) and Sue (office). Synod is acting on behalf of all congregations in this matter.

Council wishes to acknowledge the many extra hours being put in by the ministry team during this time, in worship preparation, meetings and organisation. Thank you Jay, Kelly and Zak! Thank also to all our elders, pastoral carers and group leaders who are helping to keep our community in touch. Lastly, a big thank you to Greg Pressey, our hardworking Treasurer for all the work involved in the Jobkeeper scheme.

Alison Campbell Rate

Chair, Church Council

CHURCH ON THE COUCH

Times have changed
Due to something called COVID-19
Now we are locked inside
With limited spaces to hide.

But alas our Sundays are saved
By a crew of dedicated folk
Who live stream via Facebook
Our beloved service, we have to look!

Jay, Alison, Zak and crew
Sing and pray, talk and pray
And we can all join in
We hope this will save us all
from sin!!

Sadly it will soon be over
And no longer church on the
couch in Pj's with coffee
But won't it be grand
To see everyone face to face and
together we'll stand!!

Marg Edwards

MURRUMBEENIES



Church families joining in on the teddy bear hunt.



**Adrian
making a
Palm
Sundae!**

Greetings Everyone,

We hope you are keeping well during this time of 'Pandemic isolation' when we are unable to meet each other over that delicious plate of pancakes, fruit and cream that Bruce whips up in the kitchen or the deliciously tasty quiches that Gayle creates at home plus all the other goodies she brings each Thursday.

Apart from the welcoming food we consume, we are missing seeing your lovely faces and sharing our thoughts and a laugh together.

I have some sad news to share and that is our darling Bonnie passed away about a week after we last met. She was in hospital receiving treatment for a long term health problem.

TRIBUTES TO BONNIE

As COLIN D says, in tribute to Bonnie, "a girl missed by all".

For me PAM W, Bonnie lived up to her name. She always had a joy about her, when I know in later days she didn't enjoy good health. Her faith in God, and her warmth will always remain with me.

PAM M says "it's sad news, Bonnie always had a lovely smile on her face."

KATHY & DAVID knew Bonnie as "a friendly and happy lady."

SANDRA who knew Bonnie well says, "Bonnie had been a regular contributor to all our topics down the years. She was a nurse, mother, survivor and friend of many. Outgoing and funny and will be sadly missed. I have lovely memories of "Bonnie's banter".

GEOFF: Bonnie was an open book during my years as a Pancakes activity leader who invited drop-in goers to share stories of their life, lessons learned and secrets. She was regularly first to engage in the topic or game of the day, and to look for a hug or a cheek kiss from me upon arriving or leaving. Larger than life, Bonnie was.

GLENDAS tribute, " Bonnie was such a warm and friendly lady. I know she loved coming to Pancake Drop-in, you could tell by the way her eyes lit up when she arrived. I loved my chats with Bonnie. I learnt a lot from her. Thank you Bonnie for the pleasure of your company. Rest in Peace.

JUDITH said, " Bonnie was a marvellous lady, a nurse. Her mother lived in Port Augusta, South Australia and it was good that she was able to visit in recent times.

MARY says of Bonnie that she would have liked to have spent more time getting to know her. She was always very positive even though it was obvious she suffered with her health. However she always had a smile and was always grateful for everything.

COLIN J remembers Bonnie as a Hawthorn supporter and a 'bit of a character'.

NANCYE was sad to hear the news of Bonnie's passing.

MARGARET remembers Bonnie well as every week she would ask her "How's Geoff?" She was always happy to share news of Geoff with her. Bonnie was always the first with her hand up during a quiz, always happy to participate or have a chat with you. She was a loving and caring person and we will all definitely miss her.

For me Pam W, I have enjoyed being less busy. It has given me time to settle into our new surroundings





and get to know our neighbours. I have done essential shopping and had the essential one coffee a day. I am enjoying knitting and making little cross stitch gifts. On top of all that I am sleeping better than ever, which is telling me to live my life at a slower pace. One more thing Marg & Geoff have a lovely grassy courtyard where Nev & I have been able to have an occasional chat, at the same time socially distancing.

Mary is another person who has been making the most of this time and her garden has been enjoying seeing her on our warmer days. At present she is knitting a 'self-isolation' scarf to keep her warm in the cooler days to come. She reads, enjoys daughter Annette's cooking and like Judith sits in the

car while a family member does her shopping.

Nancye is content in her own company and has opened her door of a lunchtime to Colin J. She really appreciates her fernery and the help she receives from her gardener. While she misses Pancakes, she enjoys receiving the church news in her letter box each week. Nancy makes sure that she exercises each morning as her Physio has instructed and keeps fit by walking.

Colin J is walking around an oval near his place. He's had to replace his hot water system and appreciates that he has hot water once again. He's grateful that his Installer recommended someone to service his reverse cycle as it keeps him warm every time we have a cold snap. Colin misses not being able to attend church, Pancakes and the monthly Men's Breakfast.

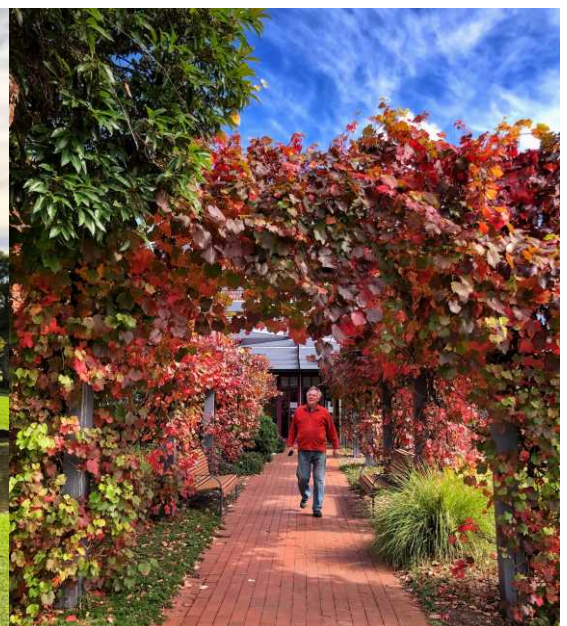
Marg E has really enjoyed this time to relax, slow down and complete long overdue jobs. She is currently writing her Life Story. She and Geoff manage a long walk every second day and have discovered some great places quite close to home. This is keeping them both fit and active. Marg says she is over Zoom meetings which have replaced her normal meeting commitments and added quite a few others. She celebrated her Birthday and Mothers Day in isolation and looks forward to spending time with her family, her mother and her grandchildren very soon. She has enjoyed catching up with Pam for coffee every now and then!!

No-one knows at this time of writing when we'll meet again. If it's still a few months off then we'll make contact again with you all via phone, email and or another newsletter. We trust this way of staying connected encourages you that you are not forgotten while not seen. We pray that you keep well mentally, physically and spiritually.

Pam Wight

Margaret Edwards

Reprinted from *Pancakes At Murrumbena ... Newsletter No.1 - May 2020*



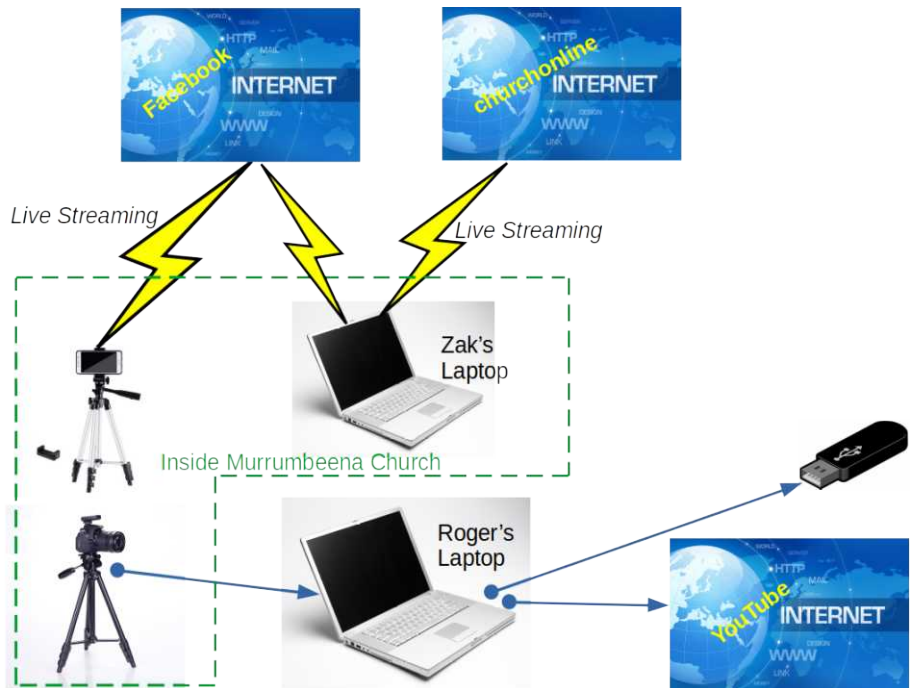
PRODUCTION OF ONLINE WORSHIP SERVICES

With the maximum of five people permitted in a workplace at any one time, have you wondered how our worship services happen each Sunday morning? The following brief explanation applied in mid-to late May. Considerable evolution and refinement has occurred since our first online service was held on 22nd March. Doubtless, the evolution and refinement will continue over the coming weeks.

This explanation omits the activities which occur in the same or similar manner to what existed prior to production of online services (preparation of the PowerPoint slides, selection of songs, worship service sequence, etc.) Although being done very differently, celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion is also omitted from this explanation.

The five people involved are Jay and Bruce, Zak, Alison and Josh. What you don't usually see is how the music and singing is done. For some songs, Josh plays the piano. For others, the music is pre-recorded, either courtesy of Dave Robinson and John Leever, or downloaded from the internet, from sites like smallchurchmusic.com.

The diagram depicts the general layout of equipment. Two cameras are used (one is actually a mobile phone), each mounted on dedicated tripods. Each one needs to be adjusted separately to zoom in for close-ups of the speaker, or zoom out for a broader view, as well as being adjusted to aim at different parts of the worship sanctuary. Bruce Robinson does all this.



The mobile phone camera uses its mobile data (Telstra 4G) capability to connect directly to facebook for live streaming. Zak's laptop gets a link from the Facebook feed and restreams it to murrumbeenauniting.online.church for the alternative live stream. Because of the mobile phone's ability to pick up all sounds, a recent refinement was the installation of a sound screen to limit the amount of echo reaching the mobile phone from the rear of the church. The photo below shows the general layout, from where Jay stands.

The other camera is actually a DSLR, not a movie camera. It therefore has a limitation of the length of video it can record in one take. Consequently Bruce has to keep an eye on the timer, to stop it before the limit, and then start it again, trying to ensure that nothing of the service is missed during that stop/start gap. The entire service typically has two or three video files.

After the service is over, Bruce calls in on Roger to give him the video files and a copy of the PowerPoint slides used during the service. Roger then combines the video files, edits out extraneous clips, adds individual slide images (if necessary), then generates a single video file that is tailored for YouTube, which he then uploads to our YouTube channel.

Roger also generates another single video file, this time much higher quality, which is then copied onto 13 USB data disks, that are swapped around on a weekly basis. These are given to Bruce and Jay who deliver them to those who have requested these.

