



Linked Congregations of the Bellarine



Uniting Church in Australia

Portarlington

Drysdale

News sheet for Sunday, 18 May 2025

THIS WEEK IN OUR CONGREGATIONS

Sunday, 18 May

Portarlington

9.00am Rev. Karen Eller
Loose Change & Food Bank

Drysdale

10.30am Rev. Karen Eller

Tuesday, 20 May

2.00pm Joint Church Council, Drysdale

Thursday, 22 May

10.00am Drysdale Coffee & Chat, Café Zoo

Sunday, 25 May

Portarlington

9.00am Lay Team – Ian & Joy Porter

Drysdale

10.30am Rev. Karen Eller

LECTIONARY READINGS

Sunday 18 May

Easter 5

Acts 11: 1-18
Psalm 148
Revelation 21: 1-6
John 13: 31-35

Sunday 25 May

Easter 5

Acts 16: 9-15
Psalm 67
Revelation 21: 10, 22-22: 5
John 14: 23-29 or
John 5: 1-9



Theme comments from Ministry Matters

God draws no distinction between peoples, for God loves all equally. Through a vision, Peter is shown that the Gentiles are to be included in the promises of God.

The psalmist calls creation to praise the creator of heaven and earth.

And Revelation promises that God will wipe away every tear, for God has come to dwell among us.

Finally, John shares Jesus' commandment to love one another, for his followers will be known by their love.

Prayer from Ministry Matters (*Revelation 21, John 13*)



Wipe away our tears, O God, for we are weary of weeping at the injustices of the world.

You love us like a mother and protect us like a father.

You restore our lives and claim us as your beloved children in a world made new.

Dwell among us, we pray, that we may love one another, as you have loved us.

Amen.

Meditation course

Peter Batten is continuing to conduct a course in meditation.

Dates: 21 & 28 May

Place: Drysdale Uniting Church

Time: 8 - 8.30am approx.

Peter has been practising and teaching meditation for many years in many different settings.

For further information
contact *Peter* on
0419 255 585 or
Pjbatten5@bigpond.com



Minister: Office

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Drysdale Uniting Church Op Shop:

High Street DRYSDALE

Monday to Friday: 11.00am – 4.00pm

Saturday: 10.30am – 1.00pm

ALL CONGREGATIONS

Just Act - Children Experiencing Family Violence

Love is at the core of Christian belief. Intimately connected to love is justice. Family violence preys on people in their vulnerability and attacks a person's most basic human values of trust, love, hope and self-worth.

When I was a young I used to volunteer at Christian Youth Camps. Most of the youngsters were happy to return home after a couple of weeks at camp. Not so one girl; she wept and clung to camp leaders in her distress at having to return home. She lived near my childhood home so I contacted someone there that knew the family. She told me that it was common for the girl's father to beat up her mother and the girl be given the job of cleaning up. The child was not beaten herself but the home was still hell.

JustAct's April update on government action to address family violence emphasises impacts on children. The Victorian Commissioner for Children and Young People, Liana Bung People, Liana Buchanan, recently raised concern that children experiencing family violence remain largely overlooked in the Victorian government's family violence response. She examined the suicide of 35 children in Victoria between 2007 and 2019 who were known to child protection services. In all but one case, the children's lives had been marred by family violence before their deaths. Children have told the Commissioner they feel invisible in the system that is supposed to support survivors of family and domestic violence. They are usually treated as a mere extension of their protective parent. The Commissioner has raised concerns that currently, there are minimal, if any, crisis intervention and accommodation services designed specifically for young people who are caught up in domestic violence. As a result, young people escaping family violence risk homelessness and face government-funded systems that are ill-equipped to meet their needs.

What You Can Do:

Write to or email The Minister for Prevention of Family Violence 121 Exhibition Street Melbourne VIC 3000, e-mail: minoofficehutchins@ecodev.vic.gov.au

Acknowledge efforts the Victorian Government has already made to reduce family violence, but that there is also urgent need to address:

- The protection of children and young people on an equal basis with abused adults.
- Impacts on young people results from seeing abuse as well as being abuse directly.
- Age appropriate provision for young people to apply to courts for family violence orders and for them to be named as protected persons in these orders.
- Court proceedings that avoid further trauma for young people.
- Investment in crisis and longer-term accommodation designed specifically for young people who are survivors of family violence.

Andrea Lindsay

Uniting VicTas Online Event

Bronwyn Pike AM is giving an on-line talk about Uniting, the care agency that runs support and community services on behalf of our church. Building knowledge and relationships between Uniting and our churches is invaluable. Bronwyn will invite questions at this Zoom-only event.

For any enquiry please phone 0466 601 741.

Clive Jackson, Committee member

VicTas UC Historical Society

Zoom Meeting link

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83900728704?pwd=1jzUL71MxzU2rwBzRqefbh6uPtyLep.1>

Meeting ID: 839 0072 8704, Passcode: 681289

Winter Appeal

For many struggling in our communities, the next few months will be spent fighting the harsh realities of winter. Without the basic essentials of blankets, warm clothing, swags, sleeping bags, thermos flasks, toiletries and non-perishable food, the search for warmth and safety can be exhausting and overwhelming.

Cost-of-living hikes have meant more and more people are being forced to live on the margins. Affording the basics is becoming an unachievable goal and families are having to choose between electricity or food, medicine or warmth. Today, we're asking for your help and your kindness to urgently provide warmth, comfort and a hopeful future to those who need it most this winter.

Go to unitingvictas.org.au/local-winter/ to find drop-off locations or to donate money.

Drysdale Uniting is currently collecting the winter woollies and will deliver them at the end of the collection time.

Uniting Barwon Book Sale – advanced notice

The next book sale will be held on **Friday 6 June and Saturday 7 June, 2025**, at the Uniting Barwon Grovedale site (272 Torquay Rd, cnr Reserve Rd), 10.00am–2.00pm. Children's books - \$0.50; other books \$1.00.

PORTARLINGTON

Communion Service

Please note, our usual Communion Service has been brought forward from Sunday 8 June to Sunday 1 June, at the usual time of 9.00am.

Sammy Stamp Collection

Thank you for placing your used postage stamps in the Sammy Stamp box in the narthex. Joy will be sending the next lot away to Sammy Stamp soon so, if you have any, please place them in the box in the next two weeks.

To place a church-related notice in this news sheet, email the wording to the church office, drysdaleuc@yahoo.com.au, by Tuesday evening. Notices are generally repeated once, or twice if there is sufficient space. Please send them in ahead of the event or desired date and indicate in which section you would like your notice to appear.