



Linked Congregations of the Bellarine



Uniting Church in Australia

Portarlington

Drysdale

News sheet for Sunday, 20 July 2025

THIS WEEK IN OUR LINKED CONGREGATIONS

Sunday, 20 July

Portarlington

9.00am Wayne Myers
Loose Change and Foodbank

Drysdale

10.30am Wayne Myers

Monday, 21 July

5.00pm Meditation session at Drysdale

Thursday, 24 July

10.00am Coffee and Chat, Café Zoo

Sunday, 27 July

Portarlington

9.00am Portarlington Lay Team, Hughes

Drysdale

10.30am Portarlington Lay Team, Hughes

LECTIONARY READINGS

Sunday 20 July

Pentecost 6

UCA Intercultural

Neighbouring Sunday

Amos 8:1-12

Psalms 52

Colossians 1:15-28

Luke 10: 38-42

Sunday 27 July

Pentecost 7

Hosea 1:2-10

Psalms 85

Colossians 2:6-15 (16-19)

Luke 11:1-13



Theme from Ministry Matters

Where judgment and lamentation pervade today's Hebrew Scripture readings, hope and assurance dominate today's New Testament texts. Due to people's evil deeds, Amos proclaims a famine of the word—they will seek it but find it not. And while the psalmist warns of the impending destruction of those who do evil, there is good news for the righteous—they will be like green olive trees in the house of God. In Colossians, Paul proclaims that we are reconciled to God in Christ. In Luke's Gospel, Jesus reproofs Martha for being distracted by her duties, even as he lifts Mary for choosing to sit in his presence.

Prayers from Ministry Matters

God, your presence in our lives
is like a green olive tree—
a joy to the heart
and a blessing to the spirit.
Your movement in our midst
is like a basket of summer fruit—
a delight to the eye
and a pleasure to the tongue.
Speak to us your words of life,
that we may sit at your feet
and know that we are yours.
When the winds of life buffet us, O God,
we need your hand to hold us
and your love to make us whole.
Speak words of peace to our aching hearts,
that we might find the courage
to embrace the fullness of life
you place before us.
Correct our sight when our vision fades,
and lead in right paths when we lose our way.
Amen.



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

Intercultural Neighbouring Sunday

The Uniting Church in Australia has introduced Intercultural Neighbouring Sunday on the 3rd Sunday in July.

Annual observance of Intercultural Neighbouring Sunday will remind, refresh and resource the whole Uniting Church in knowing who we are as a Multicultural and Intercultural Church. We are called to be “a body within which the diverse gifts of its members are used for the building up of the whole” (The Basis of Union, par 3) and that includes the “diverse gifts” showered upon us through being an Intercultural Church. Culturally and linguistically diverse gifts and expressions of faith can enrich and renew the UCA’s Pentecost vision and identity as “a fellowship of reconciliation”, and “a pilgrim people” from First Nations, “from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages.” (Revelation 7:9).

Excerpt from article by Rev Dr Paul Goh

Ripples of Repentance

In select prisons around Australia, the *Sycamore Tree Project* is seeing prisoners’ and victims’ lives gain healing through a 7-week restorative justice program that brings the two together in a safe, caring environment to acknowledge the damage crime causes and how perpetrators can make amends.

The goal is to move beyond punishment, toward restoration. The *Sycamore Tree Project* helps inmates recognise that yes, crime is breaking the law, but it is more than that. Behind every crime are very real victims. Inmates encounter the effect crimes have had on a group of victims (unrelated to their own crime), whose lives have been impacted in various ways – from victims of assault to family members who have tragically lost loved ones through criminal acts.

By humanising the victims of crimes, perpetrators are confronted with the ripple effect of their own offending – a realisation that often leads to genuine repentance.

By sharing their stories, both victims and inmates (who have very often also been victims themselves) are given an avenue to process their pain and come to a place of healing.

Through the *Sycamore Tree Project*, prisoners learn about:

- taking responsibility for their crimes
- confession and repentance for their actions
- asking for and offering forgiveness
- making restitution and reconciliation where possible.

Your generous gift can help reach more inmates with the life-changing power of the *Sycamore Tree Project*, making way for the ripple effect of repentance to heal the hurt of crime.

Source: Set Free

A publication of Prison Fellowship Australia



Caring for God's Creation

Every summer, some of the ice covering the seas around Antarctica melts before freezing again come winter. This waxing and waning with the seasons is a standard feature of Antarctic sea ice. But something is changing.

In March this year, the Australian icebreaker RSV Nuyina found no sea ice in a place where it’s always been before. Over the past four years, summer sea ice extent in Antarctica has hit new lows.

And winters aren’t hitting the same. Until the recent past, the Southern Ocean would “reset” each winter, shedding any extra warmth back into the atmosphere. More icebergs are now breaking off the edges of the continent too, among other impacts.

As climate change ravages the planet, keeping tabs on Antarctica is more important than ever. But a new analysis shows research rates are falling, especially in the United States – and there’s a new leader in research (China), shifting the balance of power when it comes to Antarctic treaty negotiations.

Source: The Conversation

DRYSDALE

Meditation

Rev. Peter Batten is now leading an afternoon meditation on **Mondays at 5.00pm**. The session will run for 30 minutes. All are welcome to attend, and no previous experience with meditation is needed. There is no cost.



PORTARLINGTON

Free Community Bus Service

Portarlington will get a free community bus service 18 months earlier than anticipated, thanks to KMG Community Events and the support of the Portarlington Golf Club. This service, run by volunteers, is to assist those who lack accessible transport. Home pick-ups and drop-offs are fortnightly from Portarlington, Indented Head and St Leonards on Tuesdays and Thursdays at no cost, but donations are appreciated.

The Tuesday service is to the Drysdale shops (Coles and ALDI) and the Thursday service is to the Leopold shopping centre. Each service offers 2 hours of shopping from 10am to 12 noon.

In July, the dates are **Thursday 24th** (Leopold) and **Tuesday 29th** (Drysdale). See the KMG Community Events Facebook page for August and September dates.

To book a seat on the bus, call 0493 339 539 at least 24 hours in advance and you will receive a call back to confirm your booking.

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.