



Uniting Church in Australia

Linked Congregations of the Bellarine



Portarlington



Drysdale

News sheet for Sunday, 7 September 2025

THIS WEEK IN OUR LINKED CONGREGATIONS

Sunday, 7 September

Portarlington

9.00am Rev. Karen Eller, Portarlington Guide Hall

Drysdale

10.30am Rev. Karen Eller, *Holy Communion*
Loose Change & Food Bank

Tuesday, 9 September

11.00am Drysdale Grove Worship
Rev. Karen Eller
1.30pm St Andrew's Church Council Meeting
3/20 High Street, Portarlington

Wednesday, 10 September

10.30am St Andrew's Pastoral Care Meeting
3/20 High Street, Portarlington

Thursday, 11 September

10.00am Coffee and Chat, Café Zoo

Saturday, 13 September

8.00am Portarlington Community Breakfast
St. Patrick's Church, Portarlington

Sunday, 14 September

Portarlington

9.00am Rev. Karen Eller, Portarlington Guide Hall
Holy Communion

Drysdale

10.30am Drysdale Lay Team - Jenni



**PEACE
WITH CREATION**
SEASON OF CREATION 2025

Garden of Peace
Isaiah 32:14-18

SCRIPTURE READINGS

For the next four weeks, we will be following the **Season of Creation** readings. Today's readings are:

Isaiah 32: 14-18
Psalm 148: 1-13
Philippians 4: 5-7
John 14: 15-17

Theme from Season of Creation

Throughout history, many human activities have contributed to the destruction of Creation. Yet today, more than ever, some human activities take the form of a war against Creation. Some hold greater responsibility for this crisis—elite consumption, exploitative business models, and economic theories prioritizing profit over sustainability. Pollution, health crises, deforestation, and mining in conflict zones worsen the situation. Yet there is hope for a peaceful Earth.

Isaiah 32:14-18 envisions a peaceful Creation where God's people live only when justice is achieved. The Lord's justice will dwell in the desert, God's righteousness lives in the fertile field (Isaiah 32:16).

In the words of Archbishop Desmond Tutu: "Hope is being able to see that there is light - despite all the darkness."

We hold our service today as part of the ecumenical Season of Creation, a season of prayer and action for our common home that takes place every year from September 1 to October 4.

The theme for the Season of Creation this year is "Peace with Creation", and the symbol is "The garden of Peace", inspired by Isaiah 32:18: "My people will live in peaceful dwelling places, in secure homes, in undisturbed places of rest".

The 2025 Symbol is inspired by Isaiah 32:14-18. Titled "Garden of Peace," it depicts a white dove flying over a tree. The left side of the tree is barren, with roots digging into dry soil, surrounded by an arid, desolate landscape. In contrast, the right side of the tree is lush and green, standing amidst a flourishing landscape. The dove, carrying an olive branch in its beak, flies toward the right—symbolizing peace as a transition from a war-torn, overexploited land to one that is fertile, thriving, and hospitable. Let us remember that humanity was originally called to tend a garden. Through this year's Season of Creation, we will reflect on the connection between caring for creation and fostering peace. The white dove with an olive branch is a globally recognized symbol of peace. In the story of Noah, it also signifies new life after destruction.

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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

Thank you for being part of Uniting Barwon's Winter local appeal

On behalf of Uniting Barwon's ER Coordinators, Kerry Uebergang & Karen Mather and our volunteer team, we would like to express our deepest thanks for supporting Uniting Barwon this winter. Your generous donations of winter clothing, blankets & monetary donations for our Emergency Relief clients in Grovedale and Norlane has provided comfort, warmth and hope to those facing winter's harsh realities.

For many of us, the cooler weather signals the need to bring out our winter doonas, turn up the heating or buy a new jacket to stay warm and dry. Sadly, cost-of-living hikes have meant affording these basics is becoming an unachievable goal, and many families are having to choose between electricity or food, medicine or warmth.

Many who come through the doors of our services have found themselves struggling due to extreme hardship like loss of employment, mental health, family violence or housing insecurity.

They feel forgotten and isolated. Your compassion reminds them that their community cares.

Your kind thought for others has helped ensure that individuals and families who would otherwise have struggled to stay warm and sheltered have now received the basics they needed to get through a difficult time.

Thank you again for helping us create a hopeful future for so many people this winter. It wouldn't be possible without your support!

Yours sincerely, Jan.



Caring for God's Creation

"The turtles are confused; the trees are confused."

In Tamberau Province, on the far north coast of West Papua, people told us something that stopped me in my tracks. They say the native leatherback turtles no longer recognise or find safety on the beaches where they once came to lay their eggs. The sands along the coastline have eroded so much that generations-old nesting grounds have disappeared. It represents something much bigger. Families here live in deep relationship with their land and sea. When the coastline changes beyond recognition, it's not only the turtles being displaced.

They're just the first.

When I visited recently with our church partners, I heard about families struggling to survive. Floods and rising seas are ruining food gardens. Fruit trees are flowering so far out of season that people fear they will stop producing fruit altogether. Malnutrition among children is heartbreakingly common — West Papua has some of the highest rates of stunting in Indonesia.

People are doing their best to adapt, but the pressures are relentless. Without alternatives, families are forced to cut down forests or sell land just to make ends meet. It's a vicious cycle: the very environment they depend on is being destroyed for short-term survival.

A new sea wall has been built to hold back the tide, but locals know it's only a temporary fix. The changes in land and sea are far more complex than walls (even huge ones!) can withstand.

The new sea wall offers protection from the waves, but it doesn't help families overcome poverty and hunger.

That's why our partners are stepping up with a bold vision, and we've [launched an appeal](#) to fund their life-changing work. Together, we're helping families create climate-resilient food gardens, restoring traditional farming and fishing practices, supporting small business and market initiatives, and equipping women and young people to lead advocacy to end the environmental degradation that is threatening their futures. It gives me hope to see this kind of leadership, rooted in faith and determined to break the cycle of poverty, hunger and environmental loss.

To find more stories of hope from West Papua and to discover how your support creates change,

visit www.unitingworld.org.au/westpapua.

Dr. Sureka Goringe

PORTARLINGTON

Now that we are worshipping in the Guide Hall during the renovations, we will be happy to receive your collections of recycled items **ONLY** on the 3rd Sunday of the month.

Food bank donations for Food Assist will continue to be collected each week but please bring your used plastic lids for Lids for Kids, toothpaste tubes etc, blister packs, used batteries etc. and your donations of toiletries for Welcome Place on the 3rd Sunday of each month.

That is also the small change day for our 2 projects Uniting AgeWell *Music for David* and *Sustainable Kitchen Gardens in Maluka* through Uniting World.

Many thanks,

Joy

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.