



## Linked Congregations of the Bellarine



Uniting Church in Australia

Portarlington

Drysdale

### News sheet for Sunday, 14 September 2025

#### THIS WEEK IN OUR LINKED CONGREGATIONS

##### Sunday, 14 September

###### **Portarlington**

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

###### **Drysdale**

10.30am Drysdale LayTeam - Jenni

##### Thursday, 18 September

10.00am Coffee and Chat, Café Zoo

11.00am Worship at Arcare  
Rev. K. Eller.

##### Saturday, 20 September

8.00am Breakfast Bible Study  
Café Zoo

##### Sunday, 21 September

###### **Portarlington**

9.00am Rev. Karen Eller, Portarlington Guide Hall  
*Loose change & Food Bank*

###### **Drysdale**

10.30am Rev. Karen Eller



**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:

Genesis 1  
Psalm 8  
John 1:1-13

#### Season of Creation: Ocean

In Genesis 1, we read of God giving humans dominion over the earth. This 'dominion' is to be understood, not as a directive to plunder and ravage, but in the sense of a ruler who reigns with care for all things within their realm. In the ancient world, the local king would have responsibility for the people, the rivers, the forests, responsible agriculture and all the resources that fall within their domain. The well-being of the people depended entirely upon the well-being of the land and waterways. The well-being of the people also depended upon the laws in place to ensure the people lived respectfully with one another in community together. The poetic rendering of the mythical creation narrative assumes a benevolent human responsibility for the earth and its oceans and waterways. Today our focus is on the oceans, so it is helpful to remember that all of creation is dependent upon the health of the oceans, as the oceans are dependent upon the well-being of human society, land and skies.

#### Prayer

Sovereign God,  
May our reverence for You be manifest in our reverence for all of life.  
May our wakeful listening penetrate the earth and reach toward the heavens.  
May our bold tenderness overcome our ignorance and enable wise action.

For this life is a wonder.  
You have gifted us with all we need –  
beauty and bounty,  
word and wisdom,  
courage and companionship.

May we enjoy and employ these gifts as befits those made in Your image.  
May all that we make mirror Your light and Your love.  
May Your Being be known and sung throughout the world with joy and thanksgiving. Amen

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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

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Caring for God's Creation

**“Are you here to see the birds of paradise or the sea life?”**

It's the kind of question people in West Papua ask foreigners. Here between rainforest and reef, it's only the occasional wildlife biologist, adventure tourist or David Attenborough film crew who passes through.

**Few come here to ask about the people.**

Frans is a fisherman, a grandfather, and runs a little shop from his home where three generations of his family live together. Each morning, he goes out to fish, catching just enough for his family to eat that day.

“There's no market here,” he explained. “And the power is too unreliable for fridges.”

Like so many in his community, Frans has watched the land and sea change around him.

“The floods come more often now,” he told me.

“The shoreline is eroding. The hurricanes and king tides push seawater through our homes and gardens.”

These changes are devastating for families who have always lived in deep relationship with the land and sea and are now struggling to feed their children.

Frans is determined, but hunger is growing. **One in five children in West Papua is malnourished. Rates of stunting are among the highest in Indonesia.**

The problems seem overwhelming. But there is a better way.

Our partner, the Evangelical Christian Church in the Land of Papua (GKI-TP), has a bold vision: to tackle poverty and environmental destruction side by side. They want to help families grow climate-resilient food gardens, support small businesses, restore forests, and train women and young people as leaders of conservation and human development in their villages.

It's practical. It's locally driven. And it has so much potential.

With your help, it can grow. Together, we can help families like Frans' build food security and income while protecting the forests, rivers and seas they depend on.

[Will you give today to help people and planet thrive together?](#)

With hope,  
*Sureka*  
Dr Sureka Goringe  
National Director  
UnitingWorld

## PORTARLINGTON

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Now that we are worshiping in the Guide Hall during the renovations, we will be happy to receive your collections of recycled items **ONLY** on the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

## Rosters

It's roster time again, so could people normally on the rosters please let me know of their times of non-availability between the beginning of October until end of December.

If you are not rostered, but would like to help, I'd also like to hear from you as well. Message me on 0419 355 492, email [hughestwo@bigpond.com](mailto:hughestwo@bigpond.com), or talk to me at church.

Thanks, Lorraine.

To place a church-related notice in this news sheet, email the wording to the church office, [drysdaleuc@yahoo.com.au](mailto: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.