



Linked Congregations of the Bellarine



Uniting Church in Australia

Portarlington

Drysdale

News sheet for Sunday, 21 September 2025

THIS WEEK IN OUR LINKED CONGREGATIONS

Sunday, 21 September

Portarlington

9.00am Rev. Karen Eller, Portarlington Guide Hall
Loose change & food bank

Drysdale

10.30am Rev. Karen Eller.

Thursday, 25 September

10.00am Coffee and Chat, Café Zoo

Sunday, 28 September

Portarlington

9.00am Lay Team – Pigdon Portarlington Guide Hall

Drysdale

10.30am Lay Team - Denise
Pet blessing service



SCRIPTURE READINGS



**PEACE
WITH CREATION**
SEASON OF CREATION 2025

For the next four weeks, we will be following the
Season of Creation readings.

Sunday, 21 September
Song of Songs 4:8- 5:1
Psalm 1
Romans 8:14-27

Sunday, 28 September
Psalm 104
Luke 15:1-7

Commentary on the Readings

Psalm 1

The Psalms are the songbook of the Hebrew people. Have you ever wondered what song you would choose to begin your own songbook?

You would probably want something uplifting and reassuring with a decent rhythm. While the tunes of the psalms are not available to us, the words have been preserved perhaps out of an oral tradition, and later recorded, edited, and compiled into books. Psalm 1 is the first hymn of the first of five books of the collection of hymns we call the psalms.

They can be thought of as prayers to God, but also reflecting God's prayer for humanity.

I would want my songbook to offer life wisdom and encouragement to live generously and respectfully.

The first few lines of the first song of the Psalm goes like this,

"Happiness comes to those who reject the path of violence, who refuse to associate with criminals or even to sit with those who belittle others.

Happiness comes to those who delight in the Law of YHWH and meditate on it day and night.

They're like trees planted by flowing water - they bear fruit in every season, and their leaves never wither:

everything they do will prosper."

(Psalm 1:1-3) *Inclusive Bible, 2007*)

The psalmist offers assurance for the righteous, and then spells out disaster for the corrupt. The psalm is then rounded out with, "YHWH watches over the steps of those who do justice, but those on a path of violence and injustice will find themselves irretrievably lost. (Psalm 1:6)

Assurance and warning. One wonders why we are seeing so much violence, in Palestine, in the United States, even in our own towns and suburbs.

Let us be like the trees, steady, patient, and drink deeply from the source of life, our God who invites us into the fullness of life that the Spirit gives promise to. May the peace of the trees be with you all.

Karen

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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



Caring for God's Creation

United Nations article

Biological diversity — or biodiversity — is the variety of life on Earth, in all its forms, from genes and bacteria to entire ecosystems such as forests or coral reefs. The biodiversity we see today is the result of 4.5 billion years of evolution, increasingly influenced by humans.

Biodiversity forms the web of life that we depend on for so many things – food, water, medicine, a stable climate, economic growth, among others. Over half of global GDP is dependent on nature. More than 1 billion people rely on forests for their livelihoods. And land and the ocean absorb more than half of all carbon emissions.

But nature is in crisis. Up to one million species are threatened with extinction, many within decades. Irreplaceable ecosystems like parts of the Amazon rainforest are turning from carbon sinks into carbon sources due to deforestation. And 85 per cent of wetlands, such as salt marshes and mangrove swamps which absorb large amounts of carbon, have disappeared.

How is climate change affecting biodiversity?

The main driver of biodiversity loss remains humans' use of land – primarily for food production. Human activity has already altered over 70 per cent of all ice-free land. When land is converted for agriculture, some animal and plant species may lose their habitat and face extinction.

But climate change is playing an increasingly important role in the decline of biodiversity. Climate change has altered marine, terrestrial, and freshwater ecosystems around the world. It has caused the loss of local species, increased diseases, and driven mass mortality of plants and animals, resulting in the first climate-driven extinctions.

On land, higher temperatures have forced animals and plants to move to higher elevations or higher latitudes, many moving towards the Earth's poles, with far-reaching consequences for ecosystems. The risk of species extinction increases with every degree of warming.

In the ocean, rising temperatures increase the risk of irreversible loss of marine and coastal ecosystems. For instance, 14 per cent of the coral from the world's coral reefs was lost between 2009 and 2018, mostly due to climate change, and further warming threatens to destroy almost all remaining reefs.

*excerpt from article **Peace, dignity and equality on a healthy planet, United Nations.***

October Book Sale, Grovedale



The next monthly book sale will be held on **Friday 3 October & Saturday 4 October 2025**, at the Uniting Grovedale site (272 Torquay Road, corner of Reserve and Torquay Roads) between 10.00am – 2.00pm.

All books are only \$1.00 and children's books \$0.50!
The Uniting book sale raises much needed funds for local services & programs.
We look forward to seeing you there.

Kind regards, Jan.

PORTARLINGTON

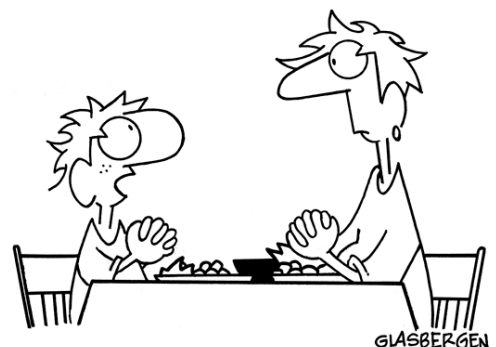
Rosters

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 hughstwo@bigpond.com, or talk to me at church.

Thanks, Lorraine.

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"If God wants me to be thankful for vegetables, why did He make them taste like vegetables?"

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.