



THE UNITING CHURCH
in Australia

ORMOND

"And it shall be" in the last days, God says, "I will pour from My Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy," "and your young men shall see visions," "and your old men shall dream dreams;" (Acts 2:17)

THE

PATHFINDER

SEPTEMBER 2022

MINISTER'S LETTER

Dreaming on the corner of Booran and North

If ever there was a time for dreaming good dreams, it is now.

In a time when indigenous people around the world are re-asserting the value of their various dreamtimes, we too might reawaken to the value of our dreams. In our enlightened world where facts have ruled supreme, and logic has been the basis of much of our thinking we, in the faith called "Christian", have largely lost touch with our founding stories, reciting them "religiously", but moved less and less by their essential magic. The resulting shallowness has left us impoverished. Now we are beginning to understand again that our lost dream-time is not just a collection of stories to entertain or to back up moral messages and teachings, but is a foundation for self-understanding.

"How, then, shall we dream", you might ask, "and what should be the content of our dreams — right now, in Ormond?"

There is the faith tradition, of course. The stories of the Hebrew Scriptures, chronicling the growing understanding of the ways and thoughts of God, discerned over eons by the people of Israel. Then there is the perspective on that tradition provided by the life and teachings of Jesus. Dreams of God becoming flesh. Dreams of a suffering God. Dreams of freely given grace. Dreams of unconditional love. Dreams often only partly understood, but "true" nevertheless.

But there are also new dreams — dreams about the here and now. These are not dreams delivered in packaged form — neatly glad-wrapped; these are dreams to be made, worked-on, constructed, formed and (yes) lived. The dreams that count are the dreams that capture the essence of our moment, that spark our imagination, that stir us at our very core. The dreams that count, in other words, are the dreams that drive our actions.

The big cluster of dreams for our day are dreams about the chances of our survival. Will there be a human race in 100 to 200 years time? Probably there will be. Will it be a human race that we recognise? Probably not! A race dealing with a new climate — a new climate-normal. Fewer animals. Fewer species. Greater extremes. The gap between haves and have-nots will be wider. The gap between the knowledge-rich and the oppressed knowledge-poor will be more extreme than ever. White supremacy may be resurgent. Gender inequality may still be with us. All of this not so much a dream as a nightmare.

Continued on Page 3

PEOPLE PAGE

Welcome back to travellers from warmer places – it's lovely to see you all. We do hope you aren't feeling Melbourne's cold too much! Rumour has it that a few others are heading to the warmth – enjoy your time away.

Our thoughts are with Mardie and Ron Townsend and their family following the death of Mardie's sister-in-law, June.



Eden to Babel

The 12 week winter study sessions are just finished.

Many thanks to Brad Denniston for his leadership and sharing his knowledge so generously.

More feedback in October *Pathfinder*.

LAWN MOWERS DELIGHT!

Hands up all those who love to grab the lawn mower and do a cheap workout for a couple of hours?

We have a task for you then.....

The lawns at the church need attention and the list of helpers is few. It's a non-gender specific job - all are welcome to enjoy.

Church Council is working out the best way to store the mower and fuel.....

But we DO need people-power to make the lawns look flash.

Please email Heather Baxter (dhas60@hotmail.com) if you have questions or would like to volunteer.



Continued from Page 1

And here we are, working (as if it mattered) on a future for our now-small faith community at the corner of Booran and North — a community which has for over one hundred years specialised in the proclamation of dreams marked by hope. We have hoped for the establishment of the Kingdom of God. We have hoped for justice and fairness. We have hoped for the triumph of love over hate. We have hoped for peace. Are these long-held hopes still alive on the corner of Booran and North? Are there new hope-filled dreams to be dreamed in the new buildings that will arise over the next few years. If we dare to project our dreams into the bleak future that now seems largely inevitable, how will that look in practice, on the corner of Booran and North?

If ever there was a time for dreaming good dreams, it is now!

Dream on, my friends. Be bold in your dreaming — but make sure that your dreams are lived out in practice. Make sure that you are known as a community that hopes and dreams — and much, much, more.

Karel Reus

A
WORD
SEARCH
PUZZLE
ABOUT
CHURCH

N	O	I	T	C	I	D	E	N	E	B	U	F	O
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HYMN
CHILDREN
COMMUNITY
FELLOWSHIP
GREETING
SCRIPTURE
JEANINE
OFFERING
SERMON
WORSHIP
PASTOR
BENEDICTION
FRIENDS
BIBLE

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/1172832/>

PROFILES in PATHFINDER

This month we continue our “Profiles in Pathfinder” series with Kevin Jacka –. Thank you to him for sharing something of himself and to Mardie for supporting him.

Kevin Jacka’s Story (in his own words)

I joined the bank in 1948 at Bendigo and was a good little Methodist lad, having grown up with the church a major interest in my life. I participated in all activities such as Sunday School, Order of Knights, youth clubs, cricket team, etc. and held every leadership role in these organisations. I did not realise how my later life would be influenced by this connection.

By banking background, my then State Staff Manager was also the Australian President of Christian Endeavour, and he later became an ordained UC minister after retiring. I had met Stuart when he was attending a function at my local Quarry Hill church, but I had thought nothing further about it. Several years, he visited the branch where I had worked for many years and was well established as Loans Manager, handling all lending, loan documentation and valuing. Beryl and I were married, and we had our own home and three very young children. I had particularly stressed that I was very settled and did not need or wish to be interviewed by the Staff Officer. But I was noticed by him as he was leaving the branch. The result was a transfer to Mildura and the start of many changes for myself, Beryl and family as, if there were problems in an area, we would be sent there!

The Huon Valley in Tasmania had been devastated by fires in about 1967, with appalling loss of life and property. The major local industry was apple production, with apples marketed in the UK. But at that time, the Arab/Israeli war broke out and that year’s apple exports were lost in the Suez Canal. A further problem was that many orchards were over 50 years old, with apple varieties which were no longer popular. Needless to say, my next posting was Cygnet in Tasmania.

Cygnet had originally been settled by soldiers from an Irish regiment, after their tour of duty at Port Arthur concluded. It was a very Irish Catholic community. The comment around the banking community was ‘why send a teetotalling Methodist to a place like this?’ Our journey to Tassie was on the Bass Trader and, unknown to us, a fellow passenger was a retired bank manager who subsequently visited a bank family in Ballarat (where we had lived for a time). He told them that he had seen a young family, with their dog, also travelling and thought they would be

bank people on transfer. He was told we were from Ballarat. He later related this story at his church in Sydney, to a friend who turned out to be my cousin and who was very amused by the chain of events.

Cygnets were full of problems in every way, with most of the orchardists threatened with bankruptcy. I was able to access Government tree pull grants and resettlement assistance, so that life gradually improved for all until the next apple crop. We found settling into the community actually reasonably easy. My first request in terms of a community duty was an invitation to be a judge at the Catholic Ball, but I declined as I had never been to a dance or a ball in my life! Nevertheless, I got on well with the Parish Priest and the Mother Superior, who regularly called each Monday morning for a chat.

Our son Mark was an active scout and I had promised him I would start a troop locally. The new troop was an immediate success and gave me many helpful contacts throughout the Huon, particularly in the Agricultural, Forestry and Fire Departments. They would help with many activities by providing transport and training for the boys.

The local church had a regular congregation of 6-12. The building had been donated by an American family in memory of a son lost in wartime while stationed locally. There were five churches in the Parish with one Minister. He was off colour one day and, at 4pm, requested that I take the evening service. I had some suitable sermon material available, and it went well. I had no lectionary or local preacher training, but was immediately placed on the Parish preaching roster.

One Sunday, as I was about to enter a local church at Ranelagh, a passing motorist asked for directions to the Mountain River church. The motorist then left and I thought nothing more about it., but I got a call that night. It was Cec Ogier, with his sons Rev Ken and Ron. Cec was an Elder and tireless worker at my Quarry Hill home church. Unfortunately, he was now blind, but he somehow recognised my voice. However, he could not convince his sons that it was Kevin, so they went on. I was grateful, as I would have been very nervous had they stayed for the service!

The Parish had novel ways of fund raising. Members would purchase young cattle and raise them for resale on maturity. The Huon was subject to extreme weather conditions: flood, fire, snow and ice. We had 7 inches of rain one day and I was towed through flood waters to get home. I then received a call from Rev Alan, our Minister. He and 11 other clergy had been in retreat at Snug but were stranded by fallen timber and flood water. I enjoyed telling Beryl that there were 12 clergy for dinner! We had a great night, although the meal was mainly German sausage and home-grown fruit and vegetables, followed by an hour around the piano. The floods eased and they all went on their way happily.

Schooling had its problems, as Noel was at primary school locally, Mark was at Huonville High about 11 miles away and Helen at Matric College 40 miles away in Hobart. Helen had attended 13 different schools but thrived with the challenge and finally took up teaching as a career. Mark had many careers, ranging from Chaplaincy, the Anglican Church, teaching and psychology. Noel has a very successful medical practice locally.

After four years of demanding but rewarding times, we were able to return to Melbourne, but to a more difficult bank posting at Noble Park and later in Collins Street Melbourne. A new Bank Staff Officer, Charles L. (who later became Moderator of the UC) was on the job. Needless to say, I was Treasurer in many Parishes including Northern Districts, Koornang and Tara Grove. Retirement and advancing years have led to a quiet time for us, but the Uniting Church has always played a significant role in our past life and always will in the years to come, even though we can no longer be active in church life.

Uniting Church in Vic.Tas Joins with Co-Power!

Want to make a difference on climate change and look after your neighbours with your electricity?

The Uniting Church of Australia (Vic/Tas) is now a proud member of CoPower, a non-profit cooperative. CoPower's mission is to take action against the climate crisis, tackle poverty and build community through energy.



If your congregation or you as an individual switch to CoPower, powered by Energy Locals, then you can access:

- Energy usage at wholesale rates
- Rates that will never be increased for profit
- Democratically spent revenue used to make the world a better place
- Reductions to your emissions to help curb climate change

If you would like a free quote,

send your electricity bill to: comparemybill@cooperativepower.org.au

Or visit: <https://www.cooperativepower.org.au/>

Or ring: (03) 9068 6036

Uluru Statement Studies on Sundays 2022

We would like to encourage Ormond members to engage with some of the key issues that will form the background to the proposed National Referendum on an Indigenous Voice and other matters in this excellent series of studies being held at Oakleigh Uniting Church 154 Drummond St., Oakleigh at 4 pm, on the four Sundays as follows:

- September 11 What does it actually say
 a reflective reading of the statement
- October 2 A Voice enshrined in the Constitution
 How close have we come?
- November 6 Treaty!
 Are we getting anywhere?
- December 4 Truth!
 Can we lift the veil of denial?

Mr John Rickard who worked for the UC Commission for Mission for some 20 years with the United Aboriginal Islander Christian Congress in Victoria will be leading the studies and has read widely in the area of non-indigenous Australians understanding and working with First Nations peoples.

The studies are free of charge, those interested should register with either Robert Johnson 0418 998 561 or John Rickard 0437 958 488 and note it is not necessary to attend all of the studies unless people want to. Don't miss this great opportunity to learn more about the significance of the Uluru Statement and what Indigenous people are working towards.

Warwick

On behalf of Ormond Indigenous Action Group



From Justice and International Mission

JustAct August 2022

Society and most businesses are now moving to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to stave off the worst impacts of climate change. However, the Commonwealth Government wants to intervene to prop up new fossil fuel projects. It makes no sense for the Commonwealth Government to accept that climate change is a major global problem we need to act on and then fund the development of new gas, coal and oil projects to fuel greenhouse gas emissions. Furthermore, over 80% of fossil fuels extracted in Australia are exported overseas

What You Can Do

Write polite and respectful letters to:

The Hon Anthony Albanese MP Prime Minister PO Box 6022 House of Representatives Parliament House Canberra, ACT, 2600 Salutation: Dear Prime Minister

The Hon Dr Jim Chalmers MP Treasurer PO Box 6022 House of Representatives Parliament House Canberra, ACT, 2600 Salutation: Dear Treasurer

Points to make in your letters:

- Express deep concern that climate change is a global problem that Australia must play a leadership role in addressing by contributing to the international efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Point out, consistent with warnings from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report, the Australian Government should not be approving new fossil fuel extraction projects as part of its contribution to limiting climate change to a 1.5oC average global temperature increase.
- Ask, at the very least, the Labor Government to commit to not providing any government revenue to prop up new fossil fuel projects in Australia. Such projects should include any extraction projects for the export of fossil fuels.
- Seek assurances that Commonwealth Government money will not be used to assist in the development of more gas extraction in the Beetaloo Basin.
- Ask the Labor Government not to proceed with a gas-fired power generator at Kurri Kurri.

Heather, Marg and Ron
Climate Action Group

Lectioary Readings

September 4	Pentecost 13	Jeremiah 18:1-11, Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18, Philemon 1:1-21, Luke 14:25-33
September 11	Pentecost 14	Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28, Psalm 14, 1 Timothy 1:12-17, Luke 15:1-10
September 18	Pentecost 15	Jeremiah 8:18-9:1, Psalm 79:1-9, 1 Timothy 2:1-7, Luke 16:1-13
September 25	Pentecost 16	Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15, Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16, 1 Timothy 6:6-19, Luke 16:19-31
October 2	Pentecost 17	Lamentations 1:1-6, Lamentations 3:19-26 or <i>Psalm 137</i> , 2 Timothy 1:1-14, Luke 17:5-10
October 9	Pentecost 18	Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7, Psalm 66:1-12, 2 Timothy 2:8-15, Luke 17:11-19

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE WILL NOT MEET THIS MONTH

Sorry to disappoint you all, but
we have been advised against meeting in September.
Hopefully we'll be able to catch up in October

Take care
Jan Davenport
Ph: 95781713

IMAGES

Cover <https://mzchurch.org/biblerd/2014/11/18/impact-of-joseph-spiritual-dreams/>
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/dr-michael-d-evans/8556237649>
<https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/1172832/church/downloadable/>
<https://www.vecteezy.com/vector-art/179641-realistic-lawn-mower>
others contributed by members

Rosters

	Prayers	Communion	Early Word	Reading
4 th September	Ron T	Marg D Warwick B		Lorraine D
11 th September	David N			Kristina P
18 th September	Marg D			Heather B
25 th September	Warwick B		Ron T	Karen R
2 nd October	Dianne R	Warwick B Mardie T		Marg D
9 th October	Brenda G			Brenda G

	Door	Sound	Morning Tea (If it is on)	Flowers	Resource Delivery
04 09	Frank O Mardie T	Graeme D	No Morning Tea	Lorraine D Heather B	Marg D
11 09	Hans T Dianne R	Gary R	No Morning Tea		Gary R
18 09	Jan D Robyn M	Lisa S	Mardie T Ron T		Heather B
25 09	Nev P Lynne P	Brian M	Lisa S Elizabeth N		Warwick B
02 10	Graeme D Marg D	Nev P	Jan D Brenda G	TBC	Lynne P
09 10	Lorraine D Brenda G	Graeme D	Lynne P Nev P		Brenda G

Diary Dates

Tuesday 6 th September	2.00 p.m.	Tuesdays at Two with Karel
	7.45 p.m.	Formation Group meeting
Sunday 11 th September	4.00 p.m.	Uluru Study
Tuesday 13 th September	2.00 p.m.	Tuesdays at Two with Karel
	7.45 p.m.	Church Council
Tuesday 20 th September	2.00 p.m.	Tuesdays at Two with Karel
Saturday 24 th September	8.30 a.m.	Bob's Boys Breakfast
Monday 26 th September	6.00 p.m.	Material for <i>Pathfinder</i> due
Tuesday 27 th September	2.00 p.m.	Tuesdays at Two with Karel
Sunday 2 nd October	4.00 p.m.	Uluru Study
Tuesday 4 th October	2.00 p.m.	Tuesdays at Two with Karel
Tuesday 11 th October	2.00 p.m.	Tuesdays at Two with Karel
	7.45 p.m.	Church Council

Church Office open

Tuesdays (9.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.)

Fridays (9.30 a.m. - 3.30 p.m.)

Phone: [0411 958 127](tel:0411958127)

Email: office@ormond.unitingchurch.org.au

