

# TRANSCEND: FEBRUARY

Ascot Vale Uniting Church Newsletter 2014

60 Maribyrnong Road, Ascot Vale

## FROM TRIPLE R

Welcome to Ascot Vale Uniting Church in 2014. In the last 18 months it has been our privilege to welcome 20 new members into our church family.

Over the last nine years this church has offered an alternative to fundamentalist Christianity, bringing together science with religion, justice with personal devotion. Our calling and heart is compassion-we're a work in progress!

You and your life story are part of God's Eternal story unfolding through time. It's the most sacred thing in the universe. Understanding and reshaping your life story is the most important thing that you will ever do.

Our explorations for 2014 might well help you to find your own life destiny and a renewed purpose. Chief among our explorations will be:

Continuing our examination of 'Creation Spirituality' (Matthew Fox), in contrast to the 'Fall-Redemption' theology of Augustine and his successors;

The common ground between science and religion (cosmology and progressive theology together again);

Embracing religious pluralism- other religions;

Understanding the religious symbols and mythology of the Old and New Testaments- how they point to a better and just world.

Come and see if we are different. Wishing you all the best for 2014.

*Rev. Ron W. Rosinsky*

### Worship- 10:00am Sundays

#### 9 February: Family Service- 'Charles Darwin & Evolution Sunday'

- Genesis 1: 14-28; 2 Peter 3: 8-10

#### 16 February: 'God -talk in crisis- how scientists are more religious than some Christians' - Psalm 19; Matthew 6: 25-33

#### 23 February: 'God-talk in crisis- the pseudo-science of Christianity- what can we know about 'the mind of God?' - John 15: 4-12

#### 2 March: Celebrating Communion - 'God is the greatest improviser'

- Matthew 17: 1-9- The Transfiguration of Jesus

#### 9 March- Beginning of Lent: Family Service - 'Where there is human freedom there is suffering' - Matthew 4: 1-11- The Temptations of Jesus

#### 16 March- 'Celebrating Cultural Diversity Week, 15-23 March'

'The blessing of respecting other religions'



**Services:**  
**Sundays at**  
**10am**

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Ascot Vale Uniting  
Church

[avuniting@hotmail.com](mailto:avuniting@hotmail.com)

[www.ascotvaleuniting.org.au](http://www.ascotvaleuniting.org.au)

PO Box 197 Moonee Ponds

## What's On

Sunday February 23rd.  
Wednesday February 26th.  
Wednesday March 5th.  
Monday March 10th.  
Sunday March 16th.  
Sunday April 13th.  
Friday April 18th.  
Friday April 25th.

Annual Reports to Robin W.  
Church Council Meeting 7.30pm  
Ash Wednesday—Beginning of Lent  
Labour Day Holiday  
Annual Congregational Meeting after Service  
Palm Sunday  
Good Friday  
Anzac Day

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of Ascot Vale Uniting Church will be held on  
Sunday March 16th. following the service.

“There are only two feelings. Love and fear.  
There are only two languages. Love and fear.  
There are only two activities. Love and fear.  
There are only two motives, two procedures,  
Two frameworks, two results. Love and fear.  
Love and fear.” - Michael Leunig, 'A Common Prayer'

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO TWO WONDERFUL LADIES

These two beautiful ladies, Joyce and Iris recently celebrated their birthdays. Both have provided wonderful service to the church over many, many years. Please surround them with your love. Think of how the world has changed during their long lives, the hard times they have been through, what they have experienced.

It is great that they still take a keen interest in the church and attend guild meetings.

We give thanks for their presence and wish them good health and many more birthdays.



## NEW MEMBERS SERVICE 22nd. DECEMBER



At a special service on December 22nd we were delighted to welcome Hamid, Marjan, Mohammad and Nasrin into membership. This followed their baptism earlier in the service.

Mohammad and Hamid are brothers and they and their wives have come from Iran to live in Australia.

Most of us know little about Iran, apart from the more sensational information we hear from the media.

### Did you know?

- The Capital City is Tehran.
- The President is Hassan Rouhani
- The Supreme leader Ali Khamenei
- The population is more than 75 million.
- Nearly 70% of the population live in urban areas.
- Iran is the eighteenth largest country in the world. Its area roughly equals that of the United Kingdom, France, Spain, and Germany combined.
- It is one of the world's most mountainous countries, its landscape dominated by rugged mountain ranges that separate various basins or plateaux from one another.
- The northern part of Iran is covered by dense rain forests called the Jungles of Iran.
- The eastern part consists mostly of desert. This is because the mountain ranges are too high for rain clouds to reach these regions.



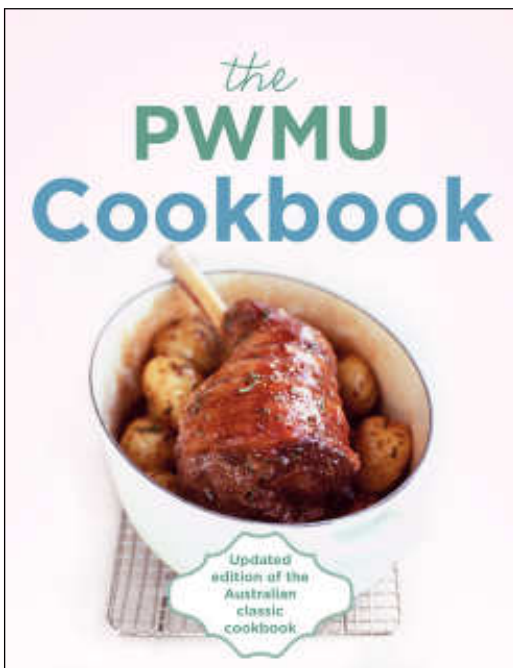


# THE STOLEN CROSS



Hardly anything of the old church survived the fire. One of the few items that did was the Celtic cross that was on the highest point of the building. It fell to the ground and landed intact. Truly remarkable! It had remained at the base of the towers, a reminder of the old building and a symbol of our survival. It has been stolen. It is hard to understand who would do such a thing. It is very heavy and must have been difficult to move. It is of not much monetary value. Yet it is gone. Can someone enjoy having it knowing that it is stolen. Stolen from those who sadly lost their historic church.

## NEW EDITION OF THE PWMU COOKBOOK



The PWMU COOKBOOK has a unique place in Australian kitchens. First published in 1904 and revised and reprinted many times since, it has sold well over 500,000 copies.

This fifth edition contains recipes ranging from tried-and-true classics to more contemporary dishes with an international flavour, reflecting our multicultural population.

Need a never-fail recipe for scones or sponge cake? A foolproof method for making hollandaise sauce or cooking a roast? Want to try your hand at Mongolian lamb or mee goreng? They are all in the PWMU COOKBOOK, along with the general guidance and handy hints that make it both a reliable companion and an essential tool for all cooks, whether beginners or experienced.

Please email the office at [pwmu@ozemail.com.au](mailto:pwmu@ozemail.com.au) to order a copy, or phone on 9877.1678 Tues & Fri 9.30am-2pm.

Cost including postage—\$31.95

## SHARING CHRISTMAS



Ron, Isabella and their family kindly hosted a number of our members for lunch on Christmas day.

For our friends from Iran, it was a new experience.

Not sure they enjoyed their first taste of vegemite.



### Welcome to 'Soul Groups'

A small group program for spiritual formation, with Rev. Ron Rosinsky, and Dina Monaghan, Psychologist and Director of Spiritual Formation & Adult Education at Ascot Vale U.C.

**- We meet fortnightly, beginning from 16 February, 11:45- 1:00pm**

In February we will be looking at step six of spiritual formation: *'Making amends'*

As part of our February work we will be praying for the welfare of those who we resent and dislike; also, we will be discussing what it means to make amends to ourselves and forgive ourselves as part of making amends.

*Come and have a look, if only for one session!*

### The Difference Between Cats And Dogs

A dog thinks: 'Hey, these people I live with feed me, love me, provide me with a nice warm, dry house, pet me and take good care of me ... THEY MUST BE GODS!'

A cat thinks: 'Hey, these people I live with feed me, love me, provide me with a nice warm, dry house, pet me and take good care of me ... I MUST BE A GOD!'

## VISITING BARBARA



Over the Christmas period as usual our family made the drive to Bairnsdale in East Gippsland, to spend time with Blair's parents. We stayed for ten days altogether, enjoying family time, food and a trip or two to the beach.

This trip, I finally had time to visit Barbara Barke together with Lachie and Audrey. Barbara moved a few years ago to Paynesville to be closer to her daughter and grandchildren, just 15 minutes drive from Bairnsdale.

We had a lovely time eating cake and cookies with a cuppa, and having chats about Ascot Vale Uniting, Barbara's life in Paynesville and life in general! Lachie enjoyed exploring Barbara's unit and playing with her soft toys, as well as a very special toy car. I particularly enjoyed hearing about Barbara's participation in her local community choir, directed by someone I knew when I directed a community choir in Bairnsdale, and the choir festival that is held every year. Barbara has also taken up painting, so we found plenty in common to share.

Barbara sends her love as always to the Ascot Vale congregation, and thoroughly enjoys reading Transcend each month to stay in touch with what's happening!

*Maria*

A couple was shopping on Christmas Eve and the place was packed with last-minute shoppers. Walking through the mall, the wife was surprised to look around and notice that her husband was nowhere to be seen.

She knew they had lots more to do and became annoyed. She rummaged in her handbag, found her mobile phone and called him. "Where are you?" she asked. "Darling," he said, "you remember the jewellery shop we went into five years ago, where you fell in love with that diamond necklace that we could not afford and I told you that one day I would get it for you?"

His wife's eyes filled with emotion, she began to cry softly and stifling a sob she whispered, "Yes, I remember that jewellery shop."

"Well," he said, "I'm in the pub next door to it."



## SAVE YOUR STAMPS FOR SAMMY

The Sammy Stamp program continues to raise a significant amount of money all of which goes to Uniting church Welfare Projects.

You can help by saving all Australian and overseas stamps as well as Met cards.

It is very helpful if you also trim and sort the stamps as follows:-

- Leave the stamps attached to paper (buyers prefer them, less damage due to handling). Stamps off paper are also welcome.
- Trim the stamps and cut (not tear) around the stamp leaving a 3mm (1/8 inch) surround.
- DISCARD stamps which are heavily franked, torn, thinned, biro cancelled or sticky taped.
- Leave PRE-STAMPED envelopes intact as complete envelopes.

The stamps are collected, sorted, trimmed, packaged and sold by an enthusiastic group of around 40 volunteers who meet at the Synod Centre each Thursday.



Correct  
Trimming



Insufficient  
Trimming



Trimmed too  
Closely

Please place your stamps in the box near the name tags. We thank Jill Skews for coordinating this project.

## CHANGES TO THE CHURCH WEBSITE

Until recently our church website used the free hosting service provided by Vicnet.

Vicnet is part of the State Library of Victoria. For many years they have provided an excellent service- assisting community groups to put up websites and providing free hosting for them. They provided this service to 5000 community groups. The groups included churches, clubs, disability support groups, sporting groups and many others.

Unfortunately due a change of plans in the State Library, Vicnet ceased hosting community websites at the end of January. All of the groups involved were forced to either lose their website or move it to a commercial website hosting company.

Our church website is now being hosted by Zuver Webhosting. It now has a new location (URL) [www.ascotvaleuniting.org.au](http://www.ascotvaleuniting.org.au)

Until the end of May Vicnet has arranged a redirect so that anyone going to the old URL [www.vicnet.net.au/~avuc](http://www.vicnet.net.au/~avuc) will be transferred to our new location.

Our new web address is [www.ascotvaleuniting.org.au](http://www.ascotvaleuniting.org.au)

The church email remains unchanged [avuniting@hotmail.com](mailto:avuniting@hotmail.com)

# VISITING?

**As you may know Patricia R is in hospital. She has generously continued to contribute her thoughtful articles to Transcend.**

**Patricia has had time to reflect on the experience of being visited in hospital and has provided the following ideas to consider when visiting someone in a hospital or similar setting.**

## GUIDE FOR HOSPITAL VISITORS

We may have just had an operation and may be in considerable pain; or we may be feeling very ill. We are not at our best like this so close family and friends are probably the only ones that we would want to see us for the first few days.

But then telephone and see if we are up to visitors. Then come with a smile, a small amount of some delicious food and perhaps a magazine or easy to read book.

Very close friends and family will know us well enough to know when we want to be left alone, otherwise make the first visit a short one.

Visitors can be wonderful to break up what can be very boring days, but please don't expect us to do the entertaining. We want to know what is happening in the outside world!

So be entertaining, don't stay too long and leave on a good note saying you will come again. And please do!

Don't be offended if we go to sleep – hospital mornings start very early and the nights can be broken. Painkilling medication can make us sleepy.

Sometimes we have to go for scans or x-rays and may be away from our beds for up to an hour or two and we can't predict when this will happen.

Always be considerate of other patients in the room.

## BUT, AND THERE ARE SOME BUTS

Be prepared to look after any flowers you bring by yourself. Nurses are busy and vases are probably in short supply. Bring a jam jar or something that will do as a vase for the flowers. A few flowers from your garden (or our own) are as welcome as any expensive florist's flowers, and will probably last longer.

If the curtain is around the bed, wait or ask a nurse! Curtains are cones of silence. Never! NEVER! NEVER! repeat what you may hear from behind a curtain whether it is ours or another patient's. Privacy is very important.

Small children will get bored very quickly. Perhaps older children could bring a book to read.

Definitely don't come if you have a cold or are unwell and don't bring children who have a cold. Always use the hand wash that is now provided by hospitals – it's for your benefit as well as ours.

If your visit looks like it will turn into a family reunion see if you can move to a visitors room.

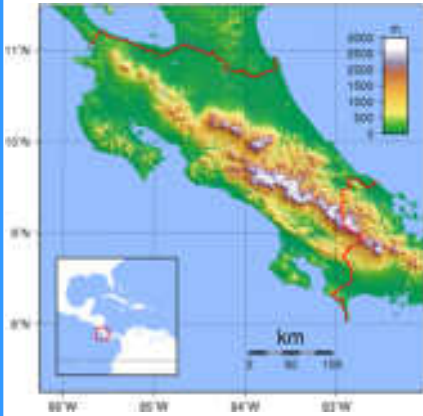
**Visitors are almost always very, very welcome. We know you have busy lives and appreciate the fact that you have given us your time, so please; keep visiting.**

*Patricia R.*



# JUNGLE AND SNOW ADVENTURES

Candace and family



In December and January this year my family was fortunate to go to Costa Rica. It is a small peaceful country in Central America between Nicaragua and Panama with contrasting landscapes and many different birds and animals. Costa Rica is famous for coffee, chocolate, bananas, and pineapples and birds (894 species) but the major industry these days is tourism. My husband Steve's major interest is bird watching and he was able to see 279 birds in the two weeks we were there.



Besides bird watching we did lots of hiking and swimming. We stayed in the lowlands on the Caribbean side where we ate lots of pineapples. We visited a volcanic area and rode horses and did zip lining. We stayed in a jungle lodge where it rained every afternoon and our clothes never dried out, and finally we stayed up in the mountain area where we had to wear jackets as it was so cold!



Finally we went to Canada where we experienced real cold! Ice storms and fierce polar vortex winds left my brother without electricity for 3 days. However, the girls were very adaptable and enjoyed skating, and sliding despite the cold.



## Ascot Vale Uniting Church - Rosters

<u>Date</u>	<u>Worship Leader</u>	<u>Accompanist</u>	<u>Duty Elder</u>	<u>Bible Reader</u>	<u>Welcoming</u>	<u>Morning Tea</u>
12 Jan	Lay Led Service (Peter) Ron on leave	Dorothy Howes		Peter Macdonald	Cally Berryman	Ken & Jenny
19 Jan	Rev Keith Howden	Dorothy Howes		Robin Waltrowicz	Chris Waltrowicz	Fiona & Angellika
26 Jan	Rev Keith Howden	Maria Dawes		Marycon Muntz	Michael Long	Barbara & Jill
2 Feb	Rev Ron Rosinsky Communion (Peter) <a href="#">Kids Uniting commences term 1</a>	Rob Allen		Melita Long	Ken & Jenny Roberts	Dina & Chris
9 Feb	Rev Ron Rosinsky (Family service)	Maria Dawes	Peter Macdonald	Candace Elliot	Gavriel Family	Lodenah & Bente
16 Feb	Lay Led Service	Dorothy Howes	Melita Long	Ken Roberts	Andrea Draper	Marycon & Jill
23 Feb	Rev Ron Rosinsky	Maria Dawes		Bente Lancaster	Peter Macdonald	Fiona & Angellika
2 Mar	Rev Ron Rosinsky Communion ( Melital)	Rob Allen	Angellika Rannelone	Michael Long	Dina Monaghan	Ken & Jenny
9 Mar	Rev Ron Rosinsky (Family service)	Maria Dawes	Dorothy Howes	Angellika Rannelone	Muntz Family	Jutta & Barbara
16 Mar	Rev Ron Rosinsky  <a href="#">Annual general meeting</a>	Dorothy Howes		Barbara Williams	Melita Long	Dina & Chris
23 Mar	Rev Ron Rosinsky	Maria Dawes		Dorothy Howes	Jill Skews	Lodenah & Bente
30 Mar	Rev Ron Rosinsky <a href="#">Kids Uniting concludes term 1</a>	Candace Elliot	Ron Rosinsky	Cally Berryman		Marycon & Jill
6 Apr	Rev Ron Rosinsky Communion (Noel)	Rob Allen	Michael Long	Robin Waltrowicz	Chris Waltrowicz	Ken & Jenny
13 Apr	Rev Ron Rosinsky (Family service)	Maria Dawes	Noel Lloyd	Marycon Muntz	Ken & Jenny Roberts	Fiona & Bente
18 Apr	Rev Ron Rosinsky Good Friday 9.30AM	To Be Advised		Melita Long	Peter Macdonald	Angellika & Jill
20 Apr	Rev Ron Rosinsky Easter Sunday	Dorothy Howes		Candace Elliot	Michael Long	Dina & Chris