

# TRANSCEND: MARCH

Ascot Vale Uniting Church Newsletter 2014

60 Maribyrnong Road, Ascot Vale

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

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

We encourage all of our members and friends to attend.

Copies of the Annual Report will be available next Sunday.



Monday March 10th.  
Sunday March 16th.  
Sunday April 13th.  
Friday April 18th.  
Friday April 25th.  
Sunday May 11th.

Labour Day Holiday  
Annual Congregational Meeting after service  
Palm Sunday  
Good Friday  
Anzac Day  
Mothers Day

Services:  
Sundays at  
10am

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## SOCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR 2014

Michael and Melita Long have agreed to take over organizing the social activities for the year. There's something for everyone!

As well as the regular 'Fish and Chips' nights they have plans for lots of fun activities for all ages.

### Proposed Social Events for 2014

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March: Barefoot  
Lawn Bowls at Rosamond  
Bowling Club

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> May: Board Games  
Night (in lieu of last Sat in April)

Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> May: Curry Night  
Dinner Out

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> June: Midwinter  
Christmas Dinner

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> July: Ten Pin  
Bowling Night (AMF Bowling, Maribyrnong)

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> August: Card Games Night

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> September: International Pot Luck Dinner

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> October: Quiz night (fundraiser)

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November: Picnic and games afternoon at Queens Park

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> December: Boxing Day Dinner



Enjoying the barbecue on Feb 22nd.



## CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING FEB. 26th

- The church has received a donation of \$1000 from the Melbourne Heart Centre.
- Where possible we will endeavour to use Fairtrade tea and coffee and recycled paper in the church.
- To include more people in the running of the church nine Working Groups are being set up. The Council would welcome volunteers to join these groups. Most meetings will be informal and not too often. All of the groups will be responsible to the Council or Elders. More information will soon be provided.

The Groups will be:

- |                                          |                                       |
|------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Spiritual Formation & Adult Education | 2. Pastoral Care                      |
| 3. Worship, Music, Liturgy               | 4. Finances & Fundraising             |
| 5. Property, Gardens, Building Bookings  | 6. Kid's Uniting—Children's Education |
| 7. Social Justice & Environment          | 8. Communications & Outreach          |
| 9. Social-Friendship Building            |                                       |

The Annual Report will include reports on all of the above areas.

Copies of the Annual Report will be available at the church on Sunday March 9th. It will also be emailed to those receiving Transcend.

- A donation of \$100 was made to the Christmas Party for Special Children.
- The library will be moved into the Worship Area and new shelving will be purchased.
- Council thanked Dina for her donation of furniture and for painting the childrens' tables and chairs.
- Ron will be running three evening sessions based on Lent.

## FAREWELL AND THANKS FROM JEFF ACKLAND

Hi Chris and Robin

Thanks for the latest Transcend. Unfortunately, you can delete me from the mailing list as I have moved to Sydney.

I have been commuting across the country for the last 12 months even though based out of Sydney - it was becoming untenable to work out of Melbourne when most of my properties are based in NSW or Queensland.

I would like you to thank everybody at Ascot Vale Uniting as I have enjoyed every moment even though I haven't contributed much and I was not really into after-service fellowship (most times travelling interstate on Sunday afternoon)

I have a couple of years left in me in the work force so the decision to move back to Sydney, although not easy, was logical.

I am working on a wireless broadband, with no access to contacts and address book - please pass on my thanks to and appreciation to Ron.

I would especially like to thank Jill as she made me feel so welcome when I first walked in to Ascot Vale Uniting as a complete stranger a few years back.

Please pass on my best to all and hopefully I will see you all again in the future.

I appreciated every minute

Regards

Jeff

Note—Jeff is a diehard Melbourne supporter. When Paul Roos became coach, Jeff realised that

1. Prayers are answered. 2 Miracles do happen!!



## BOOK REVIEWS by Jean

### 'Black like Me' by John Howard Griffin.

This is the true story of a white American who wanted to experience life as a Negro as well. He actually, with the aid of a doctor makes himself appear to be black. He changes his appearance so much that anyone would be deceived into thinking he was black when he wanted to appear to be so to observe personally how each group is treated in America's South in the 1950s/1960.

### 'The Book of God' by Walter Wongerin.

This is the Bible in the form of a novel. The story starts with Abraham and follows the continuing story through much of the Old Testament and into the New Testament. It includes the stories of Isaac, Jacob, Moses and much more. The book is actually a cross between non-fiction and fiction. An example would be the story of Achan who hid his plunder from a battle in his tent and was caught out and punished. That part is straight from the Bible in today's English.

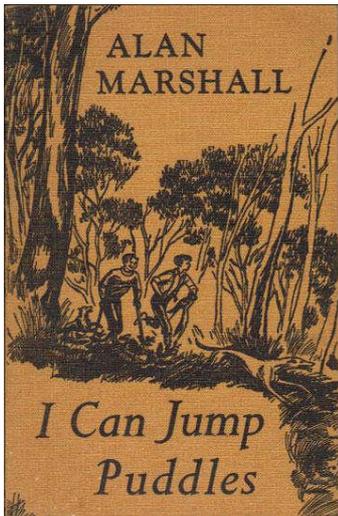
Where fiction comes in is where Achan's childhood is included that we know nothing about. The book is very easy to read and gives a good overview of the contents of our Bible.

### 'I Can Jump Puddles' by Alan Marshall.

This book tells about the childhood of Alan Marshall who later became a famous journalist and writer.

As a young child he caught polio, and was hospitalized for a long time. By then he had one paralyzed leg.

He soon learned to get around with the use of crutches and went to a rural primary school. With the wisdom and encouragement of his father, he lived a very full life. **Inspirational.**



Please peruse the books in our library. For enquiries talk to Jean or Dorothy.

An old man decided his old wife was getting hard of hearing. So he called her doctor to make an appointment to have her hearing checked.

The Doctor said he could see her in two weeks, and meanwhile there's a simple, informal test the husband could do to give the doctor some idea of the dimensions of the problem.

"Here's what you do. Start about 40 feet away from her, and speak in a normal conversational tone and see if she hears you. If not, go to 30 feet, then 20 feet, and so on until you get a response."

So that evening she's in the kitchen cooking dinner, and he's in the living room, and he says to himself, "I'm about 40 feet away, let's see what happens."

"Honey, what's for supper?" No response.

So he moves to the other end of the room, about 30 feet away. "Honey, what's for supper?" No response.

So he moves into the dining room, about 20 feet away. "Honey, what's for supper?" No response.

On to the kitchen door, only 10 feet away. "Honey, what's for supper?". No response.

So he walks right up behind her. "Honey, what's for supper?"

"For the FIFTH time, CHICKEN!!!!"

# PLAGUES, PAST AND PRESENT!

*Chris is involved with the new Strathmore Community Garden. The recent heat-wave did considerable damage to the plants. . . At the same time countless beetles arrived nearly covering the plants. Some plants were black with them. It turns out that they are Plague Soldier Beetles. According to the CSIRO they are harmless and beneficial in that they dine on plant pests. We now have to convince the sceptics that they are harmless. Some even doubt the CSIRO advice. (Sounds a bit like Climate Change denial.)*

*Patricia Riedel kindly wrote a follow-up article about plagues for Transcend.*

*Robin W.*



## **Background for the 10 Plagues God sent to the Egyptians**

God sent Moses and Aaron to Pharaoh to ask for the release of His people so that they could worship Him freely. Initially Pharaoh refused and Moses demonstrated God's power by turning Aaron's staff into a serpent. The magicians of Egypt also showed their abilities by changing their staves into serpents. However, Aaron's serpent ate the serpents of the Egyptians (Exodus 7:8-12).

### **Plague of Blood – Exodus 7:14-25**

Aaron, at the command of Moses, raised his staff over the Nile River. The water turned to blood causing the fish to die and fill the land with an awful odor. To prove his own power, Pharaoh had his sorcerers turn more water into blood. They eventually had to dig wells to get fresh water. The plague lasted a week.

### **Plague of Frogs – Exodus 8:1-15**

Aaron raised his staff again over the streams and rivers causing frogs to come out of the river. The frogs overran the country. The Bible says that frogs were in their bedrooms, beds and kitchens. The Egyptian sorcerers also made more frogs appear. Pharaoh consented to letting the Israelites go. Moses allowed Pharaoh to choose when he wanted the frogs to disappear. Pharaoh chose the following day. The frogs were gathered and piled up making the land of Egypt stink once again.

### **Plague of Lice – Exodus 8:16-19**

The next plague was brought on by Aaron striking the dust with his staff. This caused the plague of lice. The Egyptian sorcerers were not able to reproduce this one. It caused them to finally declare that the plagues were brought on by God.

### **Plague of Flies – Exodus 8:20-32**

The Bible says that this plague only affected the land of the Egyptians and not the land of Goshen where the Israelites lived (Exodus 8:22). Pharaoh again offered to let the people of Israel free if the plague was removed. However, when the plague was gone, Pharaoh refused to let them go.

### **Plague of Murrain or Pestilence – Exodus 9:1-7**

This plague only affected the Egyptian's cattle. Exodus 9:3 says, "Behold, the hand of the LORD is upon thy cattle which is in the field, upon the horses, upon the asses, upon the camels, upon the oxen, and upon the sheep: there shall be a very grievous murrain." Verse 6 says that "all" the cattle of the Egyptians died. But, again, none of the Israelites' cattle were harmed (verse 7).

### **Plague of Boils – Exodus 9:8-12**

This was a skin disease that was brought about when Moses and Aaron spread the ashes from a furnace into the air. Not even the Pharaoh's magicians could come before him because of the boils upon their skin. The Bible says that it was not limited to only the people, but the beasts of Egypt as well (these would be animals other than the cattle—which were already dead).

### **Plague of Hail – Exodus 9:13-35**

Moses stretched his hands toward the sky and brought on hail. The hail was unlike any they had experienced before. The hail was mixed with fire. The people were not doomed to suffer this plague. It was made clear that anyone outside during the storm would be punished, but if they would go inside and take any animals in with them, then they would be spared the harshness of the storm. The storm destroyed many crops as well as people and animals in the fields. The land of Goshen was again spared the punishment.

### **Plague of Locusts – Exodus 10:1-20**

Moses came to Pharaoh once again, but he refused to let the children of Israel go free, not even at the request of his servants who were ready to be done with the plagues (Exodus 10:7). Pharaoh did consent to let the men of Israel go, but not the women and children. Moses raised his rod over Egypt and brought on a strong east wind for a day. After the wind came the plague of locusts which came in and ate the rest of the crops and trees which were not destroyed by the hail in the previous plague.



### **Plague of Darkness – Exodus 10:21-29**

The plague of darkness was described as being so dark that it could be felt (Exodus 10:21). The darkness lasted three days. However the Israelites had light in their houses. After a time Pharaoh requested an end to the plague by offering to let the Israel go, but they would have to leave their cattle. Moses refused to accept the offer, but left saying that by the time the Israelites left Egypt then Pharaoh would be giving goods to Israel.

### **Plague of the Death of the Firstborn – Exodus 11:1-12:36**

The tenth and final plague was the death of the firstborn of all the people and animals. This was a plague on the Israelites and the Egyptians. The plague consisted of the firstborn being killed on a certain night. To avoid the punishment the people would kill a sacrificial lamb (sheep or goat) and paint the door posts of the house with the blood of the lamb. When the Lord passed through the land, He would not kill the firstborn of the houses that had shown their trust in His provision of salvation.

Pharaoh's son was killed as well as many children of the Egyptians. They feared themselves to be the next to be killed and gave all they could to get the Israelites out of their land.

### **Results of the Ten Plagues**

The Israelites were not only allowed to leave the land of Egypt, but were commanded by Pharaoh to do so (Exodus 12:31). The Bible says that there were 600,000 men, besides children, who left that night (Exodus 12:37). They left enriched by the Egyptians (Exodus 12:33, 36). This ended 430 years of the Children of Israel living in the land of Egypt (Exodus 12:40, 41).

## **SAFETY AT THE CHURCH**

Please look at the signs showing emergency evacuation information. They are near all of the doorways. Be familiar with their contents.

They show the location of exits, fire extinguishers, the first aid kit and fire blanket.

Also note that in the event of an emergency you are to exit via the nearest safe exit and assemble in the car park or on the footpath.

Drivers, please take extreme care when entering and leaving the car park.

In particular watch out for children when reversing. We often have many small children at church. Small children have little understanding of the danger posed by cars.

They can easily move into the blind spot behind your car as you reverse in the car park.

Parents please ensure that children do not play in the car park. There are plenty of other parts of the church grounds where they can play safely.

Escort them to your car when you are leaving.

# HAVE YOUR SAY!

Have you ever thought “I wish I could let those politicians know what I think about *that!*”?  
Well, you can – and from the comfort of your armchair.

Politicians’ advisers agree that a simple phone call to the office of the relevant MP carries much more weight than a petition signature, email or handwritten letter – useful as these are. One phone call is calculated as the equivalent of 100 votes, I was recently told. So it’s more effective than you think.

It’s also easier than you think. As one who used to be daunted by the prospect of ringing up a politician’s office, I can say that I’ve been very pleasantly surprised at the politeness of those who answer. After all, I guess, it’s their job not to offend a potential voter!

Here are a few, perhaps obvious, tips for when you’re bursting to speak your mind on an issue close to your heart:

1. **Be polite** (of course). Ask the staff member if they could please pass on a message to the MP they represent.
2. **Be positive**: Thank the MP for what they have done or said on a particular issue (assuming, of course, you can think of something good to say!)
3. **Be brief and to the point** (this is the bit I find hard!): for example, “Please tell .... that I’m very concerned about ....., because ....., Please ask him/her to stand up on our behalf for ....”
4. You can **express concern for the politician or party** too: for example, on the likely effect of their stand on public opinion at home or further afield.
5. Having maintained a friendly and persuasive tone throughout, at the end **thank the staff member** for their courtesy. You will find you are often thanked for taking the trouble to call!

Access to our political representatives is our democratic right – we may as well use it in whatever good cause we feel strongly about!

PS: A few basic phone numbers to get you started:

Federal: Prime Minister: 02 6277 7700  
(Hon Tony Abbott)

Opposition Leader: 02 62774022  
(Hon Bill Shorten)

State: Premier: 9651 5000  
(Hon Dr Denis Napthine)

Opposition Leader: 9548 5644  
(Hon Daniel Andrews)

**Good Luck!** - Dorothy



## Thanks

Thank you to those who watered the garden over summer. Your good work has enabled most of our plants to survive. The fruit trees in particular have flourished.

Special thanks to others who have worked in the garden. Patricia Stewart has been a specially wonderful worker.

## WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE ELDERS?

The two bodies responsible for the overall running of the church are the Elders and the Church Council. At least half of the members of the Church Council must be Elders.

Elders do not have to be "old", although they are generally people with considerable experience in the church.

The Elders meet with the Minister every two months and the major focus of their duties involves:

- looking after the spiritual well being of the congregation,
- pastoral care of anyone in need.
- maintenance, updating and completion of the membership lists
- assisting the Minister with baptisms, communion, funerals and rosters.

Every person or family has an Elder assigned to them for pastoral care.

Your Elder, or any of the other Elders are available to assist you if need.

## LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES?



Volunteers are needed to tutor Grades 3-6 students with their literacy and study skills.

Enquiries contact:  
natalie@wingateave.com.au  
9376 5244

**When: Wednesday - during school term**  
**Time: 4.00pm - 5.30pm**  
**Where: Wingate Avenue Community Centre**  
**13a Wingate Avenue, Ascot Vale**



Happy Birthday to  
Peter Macdonald

A woman was sobbing after she had locked her keys in her car.. A passing soldier assures her that he can help. She looks on amazed as he removes his trousers... Rolls them into a tight ball and rubs them against the car door. Magically it opens....."

"That's so clever," the woman gasps.

"How did you do it?"

"Easy," replies the man. "These are my khakis".

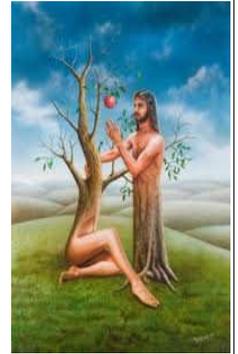


At Sunday School they were teaching how God created everything, including human beings.

Little Johnny seemed especially intent when they told him how Eve was created out of one of Adam's ribs.

Later in the week his mother noticed him lying down as though he were ill, and she said, 'Johnny, what is the matter?'

Little Johnny responded, 'I have pain in my side. I think I'm going to have a wife.'



## 'UNFAIR' TRADE COFFEE 3 cents a cup?



Going out for coffee has become a favourite social pastime for thousands of people in Australia and New Zealand. Coffee is the most widely traded commodity in the world after oil and it is also the most widely consumed beverage. Instant or ground, coffee is a profitable business for the four corporations that control half the global trade. Today about 25 million farmers around the world are dependent on the coffee industry in developing countries like Brazil, Indonesia, Vietnam, Ethiopia and Costa Rica. Plummeting prices in recent years have spelt disaster for many farmers and their families, leaving them unable to afford adequate food, education and medicine. Typically less than 3 cents from a \$3 cappuccino goes to the farmer who grew the coffee. At

times prices have fallen so low that farmers have been unable to cover their production costs. Many end up abandoning their coffee farms; some migrate to urban slums and in extreme circumstances some farmers turn to drug cultivation as a more lucrative alternative. At the other end of the supply chain, the four giant coffee roasters (Nestle, Kraft, Proctor and Gamble and Sara Lee) are earning huge profits. Their market power allows them to force down the prices paid to coffee farmers.

## WHAT IS FAIR TRADE?

Fairtrade is about better prices, decent working conditions, local sustainability and fair terms of trade for small-scale farmers.

### Fairtrade facts

More than 1.3 million farmers and workers in 70 developing countries now get a better deal from Fairtrade Farmers and producers in the developing world – and some closer to home – are often the ones who bear the costs and risks of trade, while global companies make the profits.

Fairtrade products such as cocoa, sugar, fruit, cotton and thousands of other top quality goods have been bought by companies for sustainable prices. This ensures that the world's poorest growers and producers are able to earn a decent living and have a little extra to put back into their communities.

### Fairtrade can make a difference

Fairtrade offers hope for many. Buying Fairtrade products means that farmers in developing countries are given a fair price for their products as well as an additional premium which they can choose to invest as they see fit. This could be in community projects to provide healthcare or education, or in their business to increase capacity, improve efficiency and create a more sustainable and secure livelihood.

Through Fairtrade, farmers and workers can escape the chains of poverty and can begin to see an end to the injustice that traps the lives of so many!

## Foster Care in Action

*Foster Care is a vital part of the social safety net for disadvantaged children in Victoria. Foster carers volunteer to look after babies and children whose parents, for a whole range of reasons, are unable or unwilling to do so. Foster parents are expected to provide not only physical care, but also the love and attention every child needs to develop. But foster care is not adoption, foster parents must be prepared to give up the child they may have grown to love if others decide they will be adopted or returned to their natural parents. This is the story of my niece Debbie, and her husband Aaron, who volunteered to become foster parents several years ago. Debbie sent this with a Christmas card. It impressed me so much that I wanted to share it.*

*You will not be surprised to know I am extremely proud of my extended family.*

*Bob Muntz*

Fostering is still very much part of our lives. We had three very short placements early last year, and then in March I received a call that quite literally has changed our lives. I was asked to go to Dandenong Hospital that day to pick up a newborn baby girl who needed us for at least three weeks, but quite probably long-term. I was told she was “slightly withdrawing from methadone”, but I would be “told more when I got to the hospital”. I had always said that I didn’t think I could manage a baby going through withdrawal, but something made me agree that day, and I am so glad I did! I went to the hospital after school with my own three kids in tow, and in a corner of the special care nursery was Medina screaming her lungs out. Her withdrawal was considered ‘mild’, I was told. Then with a cuddle, a bottle and a handover we were on our way.

Medina fell asleep in the car, but that was to be her longest sleep for several days. Fortunately she loved to be held – many withdrawal babies don’t. For the first 48 hours she didn’t sleep longer than 10 minutes at a time, but somehow we both survived. She was very restless for the first six weeks and needed to be held or wrapped tightly to keep her limbs still. I spent many nights sleeping with her on the sofa bed – she just needed the close contact. By six weeks of age she was a pleasure to look after, and by three months she was sleeping through the night in her own bed, something my own three kids never did.

Now at nine months old she is perfectly on track developmentally and is just the happiest baby ever. She brings so much wonder and delight to our family. We are still unsure of the future, but are hoping one day to obtain permanent care of her – the next best thing to adoption in Victoria without the birth parents relinquishing their parental rights.

Medina’s birth mother did really well for the first six months with four visits a week, but when DHS started talking about overnight visits things changed. Medina’s mother disappeared somewhere interstate, and hasn’t seen her baby since. The mother didn’t attend a court case to deal with Medina’s future. There is nothing we can do now until a direction of permanent care is made, and that could take two years or more. All we know right now is that Medina feels like she is meant to be here with our family. I have enrolled her in swimming lessons and a play group, and plan to stay at home with her during the week this year while my three kids, Abbey, Gabe and Hamish, are at primary school.

*Debbie*

## PHOTOS FOR TRANSCEND PLEASE?

**Robin would love to have more photos to put in Transcend. Lots of people now have a camera in their phone. Photos of church activities, church people doing interesting, clever or silly things etc would be suitable.**

**Just email them to me with some basic information.**

**[rwaltrowicz@gmail.com](mailto:rwaltrowicz@gmail.com)**

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

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

## AGENDA

**1. OPENING AND WELCOME:** Chairperson

**2. OFFICE BEARERS FOR CONGREGATION DURING: 2013**

MINISTER OF THE WORD: Revd. Ron Rosinsky

ELDERS: Peter Macdonald (Chairperson) Colin McNab, Dorothy Howes, Angelika Ranellone,  
Michael Long Melita Long Noel Lloyd  
[Colin Mc Nab deceased, Chris Waltrowicz resigned]

CHURCH COUNCIL:

Chairperson – Ken Roberts Secretary - Robin Waltrowicz Treasurer - Peter Macdonald  
Colin McNab, Dorothy Howes, Angelika Ranellone, Maria Dawes, Michael Long, Melita Long

**3. APOLOGIES:**

**4. MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: March 17th, 2013**

Moved:

Seconded:

**5. BUSINESS ARISING:**

**6. CORRESPONDENCE:**

**7. ANNUAL REPORTS:**

- Questions

- Motion to adopt Annual Reports

Moved:

Seconded:

- Thanks

**8. GENERAL BUSINESS:**

(1) Election of Dina Monaghan as an Elder

(2) Other business

**9. Close of Meeting**

### ELDERS

Peter Macdonald (Chairperson)  
Angelika Ranellone  
Dorothy Howes  
Michael Long  
Melita Long  
Noel Lloyd

Minister: Rev. Ron Rosinsky

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PO Box 197  
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### CHURCH COUNCIL

Ken Roberts (Chairperson)  
Robin Waltrowicz (Secretary)  
Peter Macdonald (Treasurer)  
Angelika Ranellone  
Dorothy Howes  
Maria Dawes  
Michael Long  
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