

# TRANSCEND: SEPTEMBER

Ascot Vale Uniting Church Newsletter 2014

60 Maribyrnong Road, Moonee Ponds



Services: Sundays 10 am

## The Ten Year Commemoration Service

### Many people have asked me, 'why commemorate ten years since Ascot Vale Uniting Church was burned down?'

Let me count the ways. It's a part of our soul; it's a story with a happy ending; it celebrates the people and their ministries that have risen from out of the smoke and ashes of our old church; it shows what God has to say to us about life, working within people who have even just a grain of faith, hope or love. We have considerably more than that.

It was one of the more satisfying moments of my life to honour and to thank the eleven individuals last Sunday, members of our church pre-fire, who have contributed to our lives in remarkable and therapeutic ways- ways that we will never forget. They also represent all the others who have come to our church since, who have made Ascot Vale Uniting a unique and desirable church family to be part of.

### Secularism- the new religion?

At a recent chaplain's conference which I attended, it was said that Australians who promote secular ideology are mostly 'religiously illiterate and anti-clerical', and I would add *possibly jaded spiritually and child-like*. Bit harsh? *Secularism is defined as religious skepticism or indifference, and the view that religious considerations should be excluded from civil affairs or public education.* Agreed, a healthy skepticism toward religion is valuable. However secular ideology tends to go further, dictating what religion is, what it is meant to be about, and what spaces it can operate in. As one Christian put it, secularists want us to leave the public square.

The secular view of religion has been described as the 'pornographic view of religion.' It says that religion is more or less dirty and disgusting- it's seen as holding the nation back; but because we live in a free society we allow you to do it- to practice religion. But do it in private, do it in the privacy of your own home, don't do it in public.

### Where have all the progressive, social justice Christians gone?

On the other side, the dominant Christian theology of the past forty years at least has contracted further to the right, becoming more punitive and dogmatic, absurd and reactionary. What happened to the scholarship of progressive theologians of yesteryear like Bultmann and Tillich, let alone Spong and Borg? In these instances the church shows itself over the decades to be more like a carnival full of happy lunacy or a lifeless machine, rather than a listening and searching family.

Bultmann for example argued for a Christian approach that separated what he called the pre-scientific world-view of the Bible, from the core message of Christianity. I'll let you decide what the latter is. Suffice it to say, because of poor teaching and leadership some Christians haven't been able to separate the two.

Contd. Page 2.

From the Minister	1,2
Worship Themes Kids Church	2
Coming Events Working-bee Calling a Minister	3
Special Thanksgiv- ing Service	4 5
Reviewing the Old & Celebrating the New—Ted Jennings	6 7
5000 Poppies Sacred Silence	8
Fathers Day	9
Roster Fire Safety	10

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### ELDERS

Peter Macdonald  
Dorothy Howes  
Angelika Ranellone  
Melita Long  
Michael Long  
Noel Lloyd  
Dina Monaghan

*From page 1.*

They have mistaken Christian mythology, like the symbols of the virgin birth and the physical resurrection of the dead, as historical and scientific truths and as proof positive that Jesus was the son of God. This is seen as the core message of Christianity. It was the voice of the early church but was it Jesus' voice? What about *his* actual message, the message of Christ?

**The real historical Jesus never made any claims for himself as being great or enlightened.**

He didn't see himself as being special. Would you really want to follow him if he had? And above all there was that thing to which he was always pointing- to a faith that changes things, to the kingdom of heaven in others; to the domain of God already in our midst. If you like- call it the inborn spiritual quest in each person- to explore and to find our best and deepest ways of being a good human.

**What can we in the middle or on the progressive side of Christianity do?**

**We dance. We sing.** We dance freedom and we sing of hope. We peer at the tantalizing snapshots- into the stories from the Bible about what life can really be like when our relationships are right. As we reflect on our own growth into our full stature and wisdom we learn the value of religion and spirituality.

**And we will remind the wise Australian people of the role of compassionate Christianity and other religions in shaping our history and heritage.** People have the right to be religious; they have the right to express the faith point of view in the public space- indeed the duty. Let us all cooperate for the common good, for *compassionate interdependence*, or we may all perish as fools.

Thanks for your leadership at Ascot Vale Uniting Church,

Rev. Ron W. Rosinsky

## WORSHIP THEMES AND READINGS - Sundays 10.00 am

**Worship service themes: 10:00am Sundays with coffee and tea to follow**

**14 September:** Rev. Ray Gormann, Former Minister of Brunswick Uniting Church, current Chaplain at Sunshine Mental Health Hospital

**21 September:** Dr. Julie Hall, lay preacher, ordained interfaith Minister, candidate for Ministry- Uniting Church, PhD- Social Work

**28 September:** Lay led service- favourite hymns, readings and meditation. *Matthew 21: 23-32;*  
*Philippians 2: 1-13*

**5 October:** Dr. Julie Hall

**12 October:** Communion Sunday- Rev. Ron Rosinsky  
Theme: *'How to Grow Up'* *Matthew 21: 33-42*

## Kid's Uniting - Term 3: Sundays, 10 to 11 am

Sept 14—Claire with older children

Term Break: Sept 21, 28 & Oct 5

First Sunday term 4: 12 October

## Coming Events

Sunday September 7th.	Fathers Day
Friday September 19th	End of school term—holidays commence
Saturday September 20th	Royal Melbourne Agricultural Society Show
Sunday October 5th.	Daylight Saving commences
Sunday October 12th.	Working Bee and shared lunch
Saturday November 29th.	State Election (Cake Stall at Church)

Ron will be away from September 8th. to October 8th. Rev. Mark Dunne from St Johns will be available in the event of an emergency.

### COME AND HELP

**WORKING BEE AFTER THE FAMILY SERVICE ON  
SUNDAY OCTOBER 12TH**

**JOBS INCLUDE GARDENING  
CLEANING, TIDYING  
PLEASE BRING SOME  
LUNCH TO SHARE,  
TOOLS ETC.**



**For further information speak to Ken Roberts**

### WE ARE CALLING A MINISTER

Early last year we were planning to share a minister with Strathmore Uniting. Before we could call a minister to the new joint position, Ron's placement at Ascot Vale had to end. His placement here ended on June 30th and he has continued on as a Supply Minister.

Unfortunately the Uniting Churches financial crisis resulting from the massive loss of funds by Acacia College intervened. Strathmore was severely affected and was unable to continue with the plan to share a minister with us.

We are now commencing the process of calling a Minister to serve in the .5 position. The Presbytery and Synod have a complex process that we are required to follow.

The first step is the forming of a Joint Nominating Committee. This is composed of two representatives from the Presbytery, two from our Church Council and two other members of our congregation. The J.N.C. had their first meeting on September 3rd. to work on the Church Profile..

Members of the J.N.C. are: Ann Key, Peter Mitchell (Presbytery)  
Dorothy Howes, Dina Monaghan, Angelika Ranellone, Jenny Roberts, Robin Waltrowicz, Candace Elliott,

## SPECIAL THANKSGIVING SERVICE SUNDAY, AUGUST 31st.

This was a splendid service attended by over 60 people. We celebrated our remarkable survival and revival after the devastating fire of 2004. It was also an occasion to give thanks for the people and their time, talents and dedication that enabled this to happen.

Certificates of appreciation were presented to:

Gwen Hocking, Ruth Ryan, Jill Skewes, Peter Macdonald, Ted Jennings, Judith Geddes, Angelika Ranellone, Iris Wright, Joyce Melbourne, Ron Rosinsky, Chris Waltrowicz, Robin Waltrowicz,

Long-time member Ted Jennings gave a very interesting talk about the history of the church. Ted has been associated with the church since 1959. A summary of his talk is in this Transcend.

The service was followed by a most enjoyable fellowship luncheon.



Our excellent musicians once again provided beautiful music. They were joined by Michael who performed a number of songs for us. He has a great voice!

The Mayor, Councillor Jan Chantry attended representing the MVCC.







# 'REVIEWING THE OLD AND CELEBRATING THE NEW'

*A talk given by Ted Jennings on the 10th.  
Anniversary of the Ascot Vale Uniting Fire*

My task today is to review the old and celebrate the new. The 'old' 1894, was encompassed within the walls of our burnt out church.

Built way back in the 1890's by locals who raised the funds purchased the block of land then commissioned a builder who built the church.

A Sunday School building later followed and that was positioned a few doors down on the corner of Moore Street.

A very strong Presbyterian congregation soon grew.

There were two services on Sunday morning and evening attended by 300 to 400 people.

Moving forward to the 1930's church activities continued.

There was a large choir strong ladies group and many other activities. Iris Wright joined the church in 1939 and taught Sunday School

Sport was a major feature. The church had tennis courts where we now have our car-park. There was also cricket, hockey, football, gymnastics and volleyball.

Our church was a centre for social activity in the community. At this time this was normal for most churches. Picnics, progressive dinners, dances and concerts were regular activities.

A lady from that time said that her involvement in the church set her up for life. But change was to come! The wartime and the period following led to great social change.

By 1960, many women had moved into the workforce bringing a second income. Families could afford cars (and televisions). Some purchased caravans or holiday houses. There was more emphasis on education. These and many more changes began to affect church attendance.

People had other options for their Sundays and leisure activities. Town hall dances became very popular and drew people away from the church dances. Church attendances were in decline.

*Editors Note. Ted recounted how in the days of six o'clock hotel closing, after the dance, they would go for a milk shake, or a cup of tea and a piece of raisin bread.*

The 1970's brought more change. Church denominations came together to form the Uniting Church in 1977. Four local churches were brought together here to form the Ascot Vale Uniting Church.

The church was full again. Maybe it lulled us into complacency. Things were done as before.

The church was still very traditional. Very much what we did in the 1920's we did in the 1970's.

Then we had our first fire. An arsonist burnt down the Sunday School hall. We had no hall for activities. We immediately planned to build a hall with modern facilities at the rear of the church.

Fortunately there were no heritage problems but there were dramas with the Church Authorities. They wanted to tell what we should be doing. We won in the end. So we built a modern hall with a kitchen and Sunday School rooms.

The present church has been built in and around that hall.

With the burning down of the old hall we now had a vacant block.

It was decided to build an Aged Care Hostel. Some of the "live-wires" of the church led by Malcolm Morrison took up the challenge. They raised funds, and guided the building of a modern 35 bed facility.

Corandirk was set up to be not for profit. Once it was up and running, the congregation gave it amazing support.





There was fund-raising, voluntary work and care for the residents.

So over time we went from being a church running many sporting and social groups to one caring for the aged via the Corandirk hostel.

With Corandirk running it became clear that there was a need for a Nursing Home. We had the land and group led by Judy Cockburn took on the project. Once again funds were raised, planning was carried out and the Marivale Nursing Home was built.

Our church continued to manage these two facilities until they were taken over by the Uniting Church Aged Care Department.

We now move forward to the turn of the Century - 2000. We were still a very traditional church. A couple of ministers had tried to lighten up our services, especially the music. There had been mixed response rather than strong support.. Then, in April 2004 along came Ronald and his young family.

The Reverend Ron Rosinsky. The congregation soon warmed to Ron and his lighter style. His choice of music was lighter and brighter.

Then one night in August around midnight the phone rang. I hopped out of bed. It was Ron.

He said, "Ted, I'm standing with some fire-brigade chaps – can you tell me where to find the point of entry for the church gas supply and the cut-off tap." So I told him and Ron told the fireman.

Ron then told me that we had a fire at the church. "Much?" I asked. "Extensive" replied Ron.

Off came my nightshirt, on went my clothes

**Down to the church. It was not extensive, it was TOTAL!**

In time a Building Committee was formed and the congregation decided to rebuild.

At this point I want to salute the Committee. What a job they had. Dealing with a Heritage Overlay, the Council, V.C.A.T. I bet they would hesitate before taking on a job like that again.

While planning and eventually building went on other churches generously provided us with 'temporary accommodation'.

The temporary accommodation filled the bill, but it put a big strain on Ron. I salute him for his endurance through this difficult period. And through these years the congregation stuck together, most remained in spite of the inconvenience.

At last it was finished. And here we are. We have a lovely bright "boutique" chapel with all of the necessary comforts built in.

It stands as a testament to the foresight, endurance and persistence of our Building Committee, Architect, Builder Ron and our congregation.

According to Karma, "If you do good work, Rewards will come your way".

And as a reward we have been blessed with a group of musicians and singers who now present a brighter music selection to compliment Ron's non-traditional service.

Some things are different but some remain the same. There is now a strong emphasis on Social Justice, The Environment and Refugees.

Ron provides a simple message of inner peace and to be a good, responsible citizen.

Now almost all of the oldies from before the fire have departed. But Ron has attracted a newer, younger group. We are lucky – rather BLESSED is the word to describe our current state.

*Ted*

**Parents, please closely supervise your children as they enter and leave your car.**

**Drivers, take extreme care when parking or reversing in our parking area.**

There were 11 people hanging on to a rope that came down from a helicopter. Ten were men and one woman. They all decided that one person should get off because if they didn't, the rope would break and everyone would die. No one could decide who should go. Finally the woman gave a really touching speech on how she would give up her life to save the others, because women were used to giving up things for their husbands and children and giving in to men.

All of the men started clapping.

P.R.

# 5000 Poppies



A Community Tribute of Respect and Remembrance

Between 2014 and 2018 Australia will commemorate the Anzac Centenary, marking 100 years since Australia's involvement in the First World War. And in 2015, there will be a large number of activities commemorating 100 years since the Anzac Gallipoli landing.

From its association with poppies flowering in the spring of 1915 on the battlefields of Belgium, France and Gallipoli, the poppy has become a symbol of both great loss in war and hope for those left behind

As part of the 2015 Anzac Commemoration, the 5000 Poppies project will be "planting" a field of more than 25000 (probably more like around 50,000) poppies in Fed Square Melbourne as a stunning visual tribute to Australian servicemen and women for more than a century of service in all wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations.

You are asked to hand make one or more poppies. They can be crocheted, knitted, felted or sewn from any materials. Any shade of red can be used and poppies should be no more than 15 cm in diameter. There is no entry fee and contributors are asked to provide their own materials. There is no barrier to involvement and no limit to the amount of poppies that can be submitted.

Due date for poppies to be included in the display is **15 March 2015**.

If you would like more information [google 5000 poppies](#) or talk to Chris W.

## SACRED SILENCE

*Once upon a day, a long time ago,  
Sacred Silence visited me, said this, that, and so.  
Because sacred silence offered so much,  
I there and then decided, I'd never, never, rush.*

*Many years passed, and I moved so slow,  
at times, folk thought I slept, but oh no!  
I was living my promise, to me, in the past,  
and try to stay that way, so Sacred Silence will last..*

*Patricia S.*

*"Someone is sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago."*

*Warren Buffet*



## THE ORIGINS OF FATHERS DAY

There are two common accounts of the commencement of Father's Day in the USA.

The first comes from a mine disaster that killed 361 men. A Methodist Episcopal Church in Fairmont, West Virginia, held a special service on July 5th 1908 to celebrate fathers, seeing that so many had died in the tragedy.

The other foundation of Father's Day in America is more personal.

It was the story of Mrs Sonora Smart Dodd of Spokane, Washington. When she was 16 her mother died in childbirth leaving six children.

Her father, a civil war veteran, raised the children as a single parent. Sonora described her father as "both mother and father to us for 21 years." He had five children with his first wife who died, six with his second wife who also died, and raised three stepchildren from his second wife's children from a previous marriage. He was a real family man!

Sonora's deep appreciation of the father lay behind her desire to honour fathers. It was while she was in church on Mother's Day 1909 that she thought of celebrating fathers with a special day.

With the help of the ministers fraternal and the YMCA she organised the first citywide Father's Day.

The holiday did not have much success at the beginning, so in the 1930s, Sonara Smart Dodd enlisted the help of retailers, saying that they would benefit from the holiday, being able to sell gifts for fathers, such as neckties, tobacco pipes, books, and more.

Americans perceived Father's Day as an attempt by merchants to achieve the same commercial success as Mother's Day. The public did not embrace Father's Day, and it was a few decades before Dodd and the trade groups finally succeeded in making Father's Day something special.

In 1972, US President Richard Nixon signed a proclamation honouring Father's Day as an official, nationwide holiday in the United States.

In time the celebration was taken up in Australia and is now followed in many other countries.

## OFFERING ENVELOPES

OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR THE PERIOD JUNE 2014 THROUGH MAY 2015 ARE STILL AVAILABLE ON THE FRONT TABLE AT THE ENTRANCE OF THE CHURCH.

PLEASE TAKE A SET, ALTERNATIVELY SEE MYSELF OR TED JENNINGS

PETER MACDONALD      Treasurer

### The building fund

There is the story of a minister who got up one Sunday and announced to his congregation: "I have good news and bad news.

The good news is, we have enough money to pay for our new building program.

The bad news is, it's still out there in your pockets."

*"Your present circumstances don't determine where you can go; they merely determine where you start."*

*Nido Qubein*

## ROSTERS

DATE 2014	SERVICE/ LEADER	OPEN- ING CLOS-	COM- MUNION ELDER	DUTY ELDER	MUSIC	READ- ER	WELCOM- ER	MORNING TEA
7 Sept	Communion Rev Ron		Peter		Rob	Candace	Marycon	Bente/ Barbara
14 Sept	Rev Ray Gorman	Melita Michael		Melita	Maria	Bente	Andrea	Marycon/ Angelika
21 Sept	Dr Julie Hall	Ken Dina			Dorothy	Cally	Ken/Jenny	Dina/Jutta
28 S e pt	Lay led service	Noel Michael		Angelika	Candace	Peter	Michael/ Melita	Chris/ Lodenah
5 Oct	Dr Julie Hall	Dina Benta			Rob	Chris	Marycon	Ken/Jenny
12 Oct	Communion Rev Ron		Dina	Dorothy	Maria	Angelika	Gavriel Family	Jill/Barbara
19 Oct	Rev Ron				Dorothy	Ken	Chris	Marycon/ Angelika
26 Oct	Rev Ron			Noel	Candace	Barbara	Ken/Jenny	Dina/Jutta
2 Nov	Communion Rev Ron		Angelika		Rob	Marycon	Michael/ Melita	Chris/ Lodenah

### FIRE SAFETY TIPS



- Never leave cooking, heaters, open fires or candles unattended
- Don't overload power boards
- Keep electrical appliances in good working order
- Do not dry clothing less than one metre from heaters
- Clean lint filters on clothes dryers after every use and always let dryers complete the cool-down cycle
- Store all matches and lighters out of reach of children
- By law every home must have at least one working smoke alarm installed on each level of the house.
- Clean and test your alarms regularly and make sure they are working
- Install a fire extinguisher and fire blanket and know how to use them
- Never deadlock yourself inside the house. Keep keys in the lock when you are at home