



BELMONT UNITING CHURCH

4th July Weekly Newsletter 2021

2021 - THE YEAR OF HOPE

Wondering about Winter Presbytery eLM Ministers

The presbytery eLM Ministers gathered earlier this month online. Our worship was led by Rev. Deacon Peter Batten who had us all wondering on winter as a season of... (we started posting in the chat) ...waiting, reflecting, hibernation, fallow, nurturing new seeds.

Our bible reading for this worship was: For six years you shall sow your land and gather in its yield; but the seventh year you shall let it rest and lie fallow, so that the poor of your people may eat; and what they leave the wild animals may eat. You shall do the same with your vineyard, and with your olive orchard. Six days you shall do your work, but on the seventh day you shall rest, so that your ox and your donkey may have relief, and your homeborn slave and the resident alien may be refreshed. [Exodus 23:10-12] *What happens to you when you don't allow periods of fallowness in your life?*



We were invited to stay with the questions throughout winter and not to seek answers too quickly. We reflected on this quote: "I would like to beg you dear Sir, as well as I can, to have patience with everything unresolved in your heart and to try to love the questions themselves as if they were locked rooms or books written in a very foreign language. Don't search for the answers, which could not be given to you now, because you would not be able to live them. And the point is to live everything. Live the questions now. Perhaps then, someday far in the future, you will gradually, without even noticing it, live your way into the answer." [Rainer Maria Rilke in Letters to a Young Poet] *When you are in the midst of a time of darkness and midwinter, do you scramble to make meaning from the experience? - rather than live the questions into the answer.* In a COVID world, we are all bearing some burdens. *Where in your life right now do you need the healing renewal of the long winter nights?* We are re-evaluating our work and life. Some people have chosen to retire early because life is too short. Knowing that they can now work from home some have chosen to sell their city residence and swap it for a home with a country view. There is so much to wonder about this winter! *How might you honour the winter season in even the smallest of ways each day?*

'Article appeared in the 'The Westerly' PPW & PWV Newsletter

Reconciliation in the Park 2021

Take 2!

FREE EVENT - Everyone welcome

Due to the Victorian COVID-19 outbreak lockdown in late May, this is our new event date during NAIDOC Week. We hope you will join us.



SUNDAY 11 JULY
10am – 3pm
Johnstone Park
Geelong



www.facebook.com/recinthepark
www.geelongonfire.org.au

More than a word. ***Reconciliation takes action***

Featuring:

- Welcome to Country
 - Local Dancers
 - Local performers
 - Uncle Rob Bundle
 - Dilly bag making
 - Native food plants
 - Wildlife Xposure
 - Kids activities
 - FREE BBQ
- And plenty more....

Coffee van will be on site for buying drinks

NAIDOC Week (4th - 11th July) celebrations are held across Australia to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. NAIDOC is celebrated not only in Indigenous communities, but by Australians from all walks of life. The week is a great opportunity to participate in a range of activities and to support your local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

NAIDOC originally stood for 'National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee'. This committee was once responsible for organising national activities during NAIDOC Week and its acronym has since become the name of the week itself.

Local community celebrations during NAIDOC Week are encouraged and often organised by communities, government agencies, local councils, schools and workplaces.

For many years, the Australian Government has supported national NAIDOC celebrations as well as providing funding grants through the Regional Network to fund local celebrations.

Wherever you live, you can take part in NAIDOC Week celebrations. To find out about NAIDOC Week activities in your area, contact your nearest Regional Office.



GEELONG



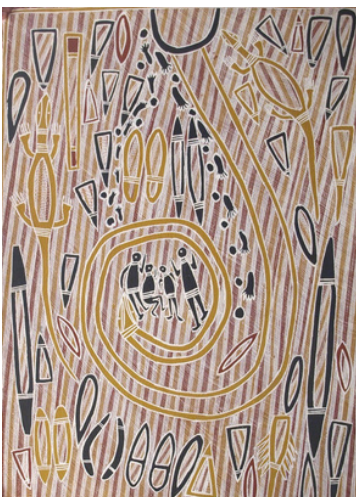
Geelong Connected Communities



Geelong One Fire



Examples of some Aboriginal artworks





Belmont Uniting Church July Roster 2021



Date	Time	Leader	Leader's Steward	Readers	Greeters & Ushers	PowerPoint	PA Operator	Organist
July 4	10.00am	Rev. Ikani	Ros Buckwell	G. Allen	D. Stephens R. Ferguson	L. McCann	B. Jones	L. Rankin

Date	Communion	Flowers
July 4	R & J Ferguson B & S Jennings	Silk Flowers

Date	Time	Leader	Leader's Steward	Readers	Greeters & Ushers	PowerPoint	PA Operator	Organist
July 11	10.00am	Rev Ikani	J. Ferguson	L. Moss	E. Wood R. Bunting	L. McCann	G. Schneider	L. Rankin

Date	Communion	Flowers
July 11	N/A	Silk Flowers

Date	Time	Leader	Leader's Steward	Readers	Greeters & Ushers	PowerPoint	PA Operator	Organist
July 18	10.00am	Rev. Ikani	R Pearson	E. Richards	A. Merritt H. McCann	L. McCann	M. Richards	L. Rankin

Date	Communion	Flowers
July 18	N/A	Silk Flowers

If for any reason you are unable to attend your rostered duty, please endeavour to swap with anyone & contact the worship leader and the Newsletter Editor too.

Morning Tea Roster

July 4th

Nola & Peter Woods, Barbara Pink

July 11th

Heather McCann, Geoff & Janice Schneider

July 18th

Fay & Wal Harper, Katrina Haas

Prayer Points For the Week

We pray for the Uniting Church in Australia, bless the President, its leaders, the clergy and all its members. Dear Lord, help each one to know the importance of unity; fill us with Your living Spirit, so that we may learn to love as You have loved us, sharing Your peace and joy with others.

Loving God, help us to know that lasting relationships are built upon a foundation of honesty and trust. If we are to be servants worthy of our Saviour, Jesus Christ, we must be honest and forthright in all our communications with others.

Dear Lord Jesus, thank You for the gift of eternal life and for Your gift of eternal love. As Christians may we be faithful and prepared to share Your Good News with a world that so desperately needs Your healing grace and love.

Peter Woods

PLEASE NOTE

There will be Church (in-person) & Communion this Sunday morning 4th July. There are further changes as set down by the Victorian Government. (Refer to page 6)



A very happy birthday to Sheena Hirst who was 95 on Thursday July 1st

A happy 80th birthday recently to Barbara Pink & Elizabeth Wood 80th on July 3rd

Liz Main & Liz Moss are currently in Alice Springs at St. Phillips College Work Party. They are both fine. The work party leaders however are in isolation as they were in the airport on Friday

Loris Jackson is back from Sydney and in isolation for 14 days. She is well.

Doreen & John Stephens say "Thank you for your prayers and messages of concern. John is hoping to be home from hospital over the weekend, but everyday day seems to present challenges." Please keep them in your prayers.

Lectionary Readings

July 4 - Pentecost 6
2 Sam 5: 1 - 5, 9 - 10
Psalm 48
2 Cor 12: 2 - 10
Mark 6: 1 - 13

July 11 - Pentecost 7
2 Sam 6: 1 - 5, 12b - 19
Psalm 24
Eph 1: 3- 14
Mark 6: 14 - 29

July 18 - Pentecost 8
2 Sam 7: 1 - 14
Psalm 89: 20 - 37
Eph 2: 11 - 22
Mark 6: 30 - 34, 53 - 56

July 25 - Pentecost 9
2 Sam 11: 1 - 15
Psalm 14
Eph 3: 14 - 21
John 6: 1 - 21

→ NOTICES ←

Faith Sharing Group

The Faith Sharing Group shut down a few weeks' ago because of Covid restrictions on meetings in the church buildings. The Group will not meet over the school holiday period. We hope to recommence after the school holidays, that is on Tuesday July 13 at our usual 10am time.

SCONES, JAM & CREAM/SAVOURY OR PLAIN

Stay for morning tea on Sunday 18th July and enjoy scones, jam and cream/savoury or plain.

The Social Justice Group is providing the morning tea as a fundraiser for the ALOLA Foundation.

This East Timor charity supports women and children in many aspects including assistance for victims of domestic violence, health and education. \$75 will provide a scholarship for a girl to stay in school and gain a qualification to prepare her for work.

We are asking, if you feel able, for a donation to go toward providing some \$75 scholarships. East Timor has a population of 1.3 million. Covid19 numbers are high but probably under reported. The Australian Government is providing some vaccine assistance.



BELMONT UNITING EVENING FELLOWSHIP

Our next meeting is Wednesday 28th July at 7.30pm when Raye Pearson will speak on her many overseas travels. Everyone is welcome and there will be a cuppa!



NEWS FLASH



As you are aware, the Church Council is constantly monitoring the Covid 19 situation and receives advice on current lockdown restrictions from both the government health advisors and Synod.

Religious gatherings and ceremonies are allowed with density limits (1 person per 2 sqm.) in place but there is no longer an overall venue cap.

Face masks must be carried at all times and must be worn indoors. You do not need to wear a mask in your own home or if a lawful exemption applies.

Until further notice normal worship services in person at church will continue.

Thank you for your patience and continued care and support for each other in this fast-changing ministry context.

Worship At Home

Acknowledgement of Country

Today, as we gather together, we acknowledge the Wauthaurong Peoples, the first inhabitants of this place from time beyond remembering. We acknowledge that through this land, God nurtured and sustained the First Peoples of this country, the Aboriginal and Islander peoples.

Reading: Mark 6.1-13

Jesus returns to his hometown, where he does not find a favourable reception and cannot do the amazing deeds he has done elsewhere. He then sends his disciples out, two by two, to work in his name.

Call to Worship

God says you are never too young, never too old, to be part of my work. Come near, all who are weak, all who are afraid, all who know their need of me. Lord, meet us where we are, meet us in our need. We give our lives to you.

Opening Prayer

Compassionate God, always loving to those who seek you, mend us where we hurt, then send us where you will: that we might speak, live and act as people who know the love that makes all things whole, and offer your hand of peace to a world that needs to know your word of life and hope. Amen.

Sharing the Word

Jesus shows his humanity in that he too has difficulties and obstacles, which frustrate and limit his ministry. The lack of faith of those in Nazareth, including difficulties with his family, means that he can exercise little power and he has to contend with failure. Prophets are not always honoured by their family (Jeremiah 11.21). The twelve are sent out in twos to continue Jesus' work. They proclaim repentance (6.10f.); cast out unclean spirits (v.7), and heal (v.13). In Mark, the word for journey connotes 'way of discipleship' and the instruction is to travel light (v.8). The staff is used for support and protection and is symbolic of authority (cf. Exodus 4.20). The instruction to take no bread, no beggar's bag, no money, is an instruction to trust in both God and neighbour for provision and hospitality. Mark allows sandals in contrast to Matthew and Luke, but no change of clothes. In Acts 13.51, shaking the dust from your feet is a symbolic judgement against those rejecting missionaries. The wisdom to note is that rejection will happen, just as it has happened in Nazareth to Jesus, but when this happens to move swiftly on, and go to places where the message will bear fruit. Anointing people with oil for healing was a practice in the Early Church. The main activities of Jesus – proclamation, confronting evil, and healing – characterise the mission of the disciples. Disciples sent are called apostles.

Prayers of intercession

We bring our prayers to you, O God, saying: give your grace for the work of today, and trust in your strength for tomorrow. We pray for the trouble in our world... To all who work to bring healing to people and places in distress, give your grace for the work of today, and trust your guidance for the future. We pray for the witness of your people... To ministers in the church and all leaders of your people give your grace for the work of today, and trust they will receive your guidance for the future. We pray for your ways to be known. To those in public life and people who make decisions that affect the lives of many, give your grace for the work of today, and trust your guidance for the future. We pray for...(offer names or in silence offer names and situations of need to God) and ask that in times of sadness and pain, where all hope seems lost, you would give your grace for the work of today, and trust your guidance for the future. We pray for strength to live as we should. To us, your people, as we try to follow you give your grace for the work of today, and trust your guidance for the future. Amen.

Go in peace. May the whisper of God's wisdom go with you today into all your relationships. Amen.

Live in faith

Take time this week to reach out in friendship to someone in your neighbourhood whom you have often seen, but have never spoken to.

THANK YOU and THANK YOU and THANK YOU

On Sunday 27th June we had a very meaningful and joyous worship service to celebrate the 44th Anniversary of the formation of the Uniting Church. It was also our Thanksgiving Service to receive and dedicate the hundreds of items given for distribution to others. The service was followed by a special morning tea and time of fellowship.

The Mission and Outreach Committee express heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed in any way at all to this major outreach project. The response of our congregation members and friends was absolutely amazing and mind-blowing! At least 542 items were received, plus \$680.00 in cash. Handcrafted items ranged from pretty tiny beanies and booties for babies, to beautiful jumpers for toddlers, to 119 children's warm beanies, to 103 gorgeous quilts and knitted rugs - plus lots more! What a wonderful expression of our faith to share so generously and beautifully! As well as handcrafted items there were many purchased items, plus food! Here are the statistics:

Cottage by the Sea, Queenscliff received 274 items plus \$390.00;

Uniting, Grovedale received 80 items, plus \$290.00, plus a \$20.00 food voucher, plus 35kg of non-perishable food;

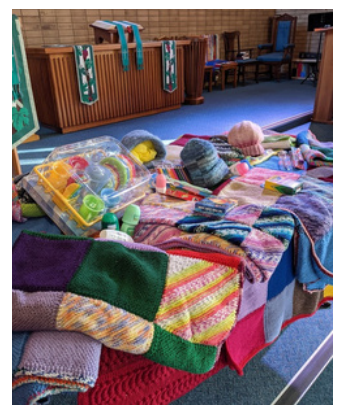
26 other quilts and rugs were taken to various Aged Care facilities.

As you can imagine, the gifts were all received most gratefully. From this generous response by our congregation and friends, many others beyond our church family will have the opportunity to be much warmer and cosier this winter. May we pray they will also know the hope, love and care which accompanies our gifts.

THANK YOU AGAIN, FOR A MOST GENEROUS AND TIMELY RESPONSE!

PS As a Lay Preacher, over the years I have visited many other congregations, city, rural and coastal, and I don't know of any other congregation which has such a generous and practical outreach ministry as we do. Well done Belmont Uniting Church! We are indeed a very special congregation.

Jean Murray, on behalf of the Mission and Outreach Committee.



The Parable of the Yellow Beanie - inspired by Marion Jensen

This is the story of how many people it takes to turn freshly shorn wool into a beautiful yellow beanie to give someone who needs to keep warm in the winter. One day in a green paddock there was a big merino sheep waiting to get her heavy coat shorn so she would feel lighter and so others would benefit from her warm wool



Shearers finally came to the farm and carefully took off her heavy coat of wool. The sheep was pleased.

Her wool was thrown over a table by a rouse-about and classified by a wool classer. The wool was put into a special bay and then the wool presser pressed it into a huge bale and marked the bale with the farm's name.

A truck driver came to the farm and took all the bales to the wool store.

The auctioneer sold all the bales to mill companies who turn wool into many products.

Once the merino's wool arrived at the mill it went through a long process to be cleaned and scoured, graded and sorted, carded, spun, finished and turned into woollen yarn. All that takes lots of people!



The yarn was labelled and packed into boxes by more people then put on trucks and driven to shops by more people.

In the shop the wool was carefully displayed by a worker.

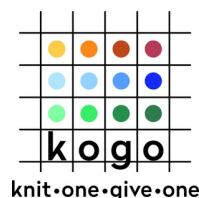
A kind lady who likes knitting and loves helping people chose the yellow wool and went home to start knitting a warm beanie.



So far more than 35 people have helped make this beanie!!!

The kind lady helps many charities with her warm wool knitting and one was KOGO. (Knit One Give One)

These people give hundreds of knitted articles away just like our Church knitters do every year at our Thanksgiving Service. Our church has lots of people who knit for the disadvantaged all the time!.



This lady knitter in our story gave the yellow beanie to KOGO who gave it to a Lifeline shop in Geelong. Lots of volunteers at this shop handled the beanie and they also put 2 tags on it. The first tag said, "This beanie was donated by KOGO." The second tag said, "Your purchase supports Lifeline in the Barwon Region."

This yellow beanie was bought by another kind Church lady called Marion who matched it with a fawn and yellow scarf and wrapped it up so she could give them to Cottage By The Sea.



So this story shows us how many, many people are involved in making a lovely, yellow, woollen beanie that is given to someone who really needs it to keep their head warm in winter.

Thank you Marion for a lovely story.