



11th Assembly
looks out

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It's good to be church

Speaking at the end of the 25th Queensland Synod, Bayside Youth Worker Tim Griggs said, "It is exciting, inspiring and challenging to be part of a church that keeps God's mission and ministry the priority."

By Bruce Mullan

The meeting, held over six days at Carrara on the Gold Coast, was different to previous Synods with a noticeably younger age profile and the seating arranged around 48 round tables.

Ms Betty O'Farrell from Inala, who has been a lay member since the days when the Synod met in the Suncorp Theatre, found the tables a great improvement.

"It's a chance to really talk with people from 'out of town', and hearing their stories is such an inspiration to me," she said.

Youth and Children's Ministry Director Mr Michael Jeffrey noted the average age of Synod had dropped.

"This was demonstrated by the numbers who participated in the Charles Farnsworth Memorial football game," he said.

Opening the business sessions of the 25th Synod the Moderator Rev Dr David Pitman flagged significant changes that have taken place in the way Synods operate.

He said meetings are no longer about getting as many decisions made "as quickly as we can" and the business of Synod is no longer about people getting their own way.

"We have rejected the notion that the majority should passively listen while the same few speak on almost every issue and that arguments are won by denigrating those who disagree with us," he said.

Dr Pitman said Synod now meets together as a community of faith, seeking through prayer and conversation to discern the mind of Christ together.

"We should find ways to maximise the participation and contribution of everyone who is present," he said.

"We are not ready to meet together until the demons of

cynicism, distrust, disrespect, fear and doubt have been exorcised from within us by the grace of God and we have been filled afresh with the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control."

Mr Pitman said notwithstanding their own personal convictions members of Synod should listen carefully and respectfully to what others have to say, especially those who hold different views.

"God may well be speaking to us through them!"

Dr Pitman also indicated he would be ensuring the voices of younger, female, Indigenous, and multicultural members of Synod were heard.

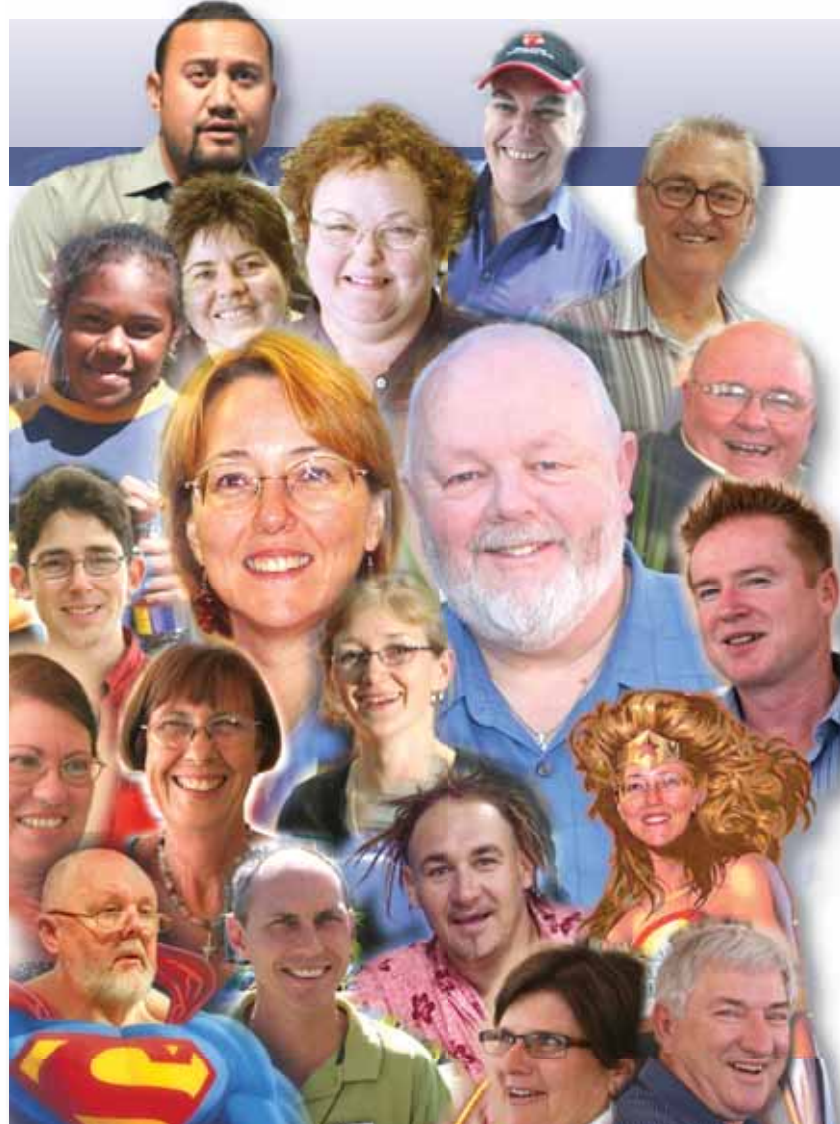
Youth delegate Frith Footitt experienced the full gamut of emotion, from initial scepticism and cynicism to hope and expectation.

Rev Lorna Skilton Synod member from Toowoomba said, "The presence and active participation of younger people was inspiring and gives me a sense of hope."

There was high praise for the Carrara venue at Emmanuel College where the Synod meeting was accommodated in the school sports stadium with other school venues used for meals, food preparation, offices, prayer and meeting spaces.

Synod member Jenny Brecknell from Chapel Hill said, "As a temporarily disabled person in a wheelchair I was delighted to discover that the venue was disability friendly."

Summing up the Synod Mrs June Rice from Moggill said, "I guess the best part is an adrenalin shot in learning the Uniting Church is on a gigantic mission and hearing the exciting stories of what is happening around the state – praise God."



journeyonline is a hit

Over 2000 people visited the all new interactive publication www.journeyonline.com.au in its first three weeks of operation.

Daily postings of the latest news from the 25th Synod were followed online by those who couldn't be there.

The journeyonline website also features additional news stories, reviews, opinion, pod downloads and articles that are not available in the print version.

Visitors can comment on articles, send news to a friend and even download a full PDF colour version of the current print *Journey* and back issues.

News stories are posted as they happen so you don't have to wait a month to read news from around the nation and the world.

Visit journeyonline anytime for all the latest Uniting Church news and information.

More Synod News

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JOURNEY ONLINE



Moderator's view

Rev Dr David Pitman tells Journey his hopes for his second term as Moderator



ON THE BRINK!

I've been reflecting over recent weeks on biblical images consistent with commencing another new phase in my life and ministry, and have found myself returning once again to one of my favourite Old Testament stories. In Joshua Chapter 3, we see the Israelites, the people of God, at a critical point in their history, as they prepare to cross over the River Jordan into the Promised Land.

This is the story of the last phase of a journey that had lasted 40 years. At the beginning of the Exodus (Exodus 14:15), the people had been told to "GO FORWARD", and in the ensuing account of their journey, related in the books of Exodus and Numbers, we are told 92 times that the people "set out!" Their journey was a constant experience of "going forward", of moving toward the promised goal.

The long years in the wilderness brought a real mixture of experiences, and they were not always as faithful to God as God was to them. But all along the way they were learning about the reality of the relationship that God had forged with them. They were discovering the riches of God's grace and experiencing God's faithful and loving commitment to them as a people. There had been 40 years of preparation for this moment, as they waited to cross the River Jordan and enter the Promised Land.

They could have been excused for talking among themselves about how good it was to have finally arrived, to have at last come

to the end of their wanderings. Now they could anticipate settling down and working to secure their future. What they were to discover, of course, was that this was not the end of their journey; it was but a transition from one phase of their pilgrimage to the next.

God's people are always a pilgrim people. There is never a sense in which we can say that we have "made it" or that we have finally "arrived". We are a pilgrim people, always on the way!

The Hebrew word "abar" meaning "to cross over" or "to pass over" is used 21 times in this story. It emphasises the decisive nature of this moment in the history of the Hebrew people. The word "abar" implies crossing over a boundary. For the Israelites, crossing over the Jordan River meant entering a new kind of life in the Promised Land.

New generation

We need to remember that many years before, the Israelites had stood in this same place, but because they were afraid to go in they turned back into the Wilderness, there to wander for many more years. In that period of time almost all the adults who had left Egypt in the original Exodus had died. Now they had come once again to the Jordan. It was the last remaining barrier between themselves and their future.

It is a sobering and confronting reality that the refusal to change almost inevitably leads to some

kind of death. It was so for the Israelites and it is so for us. God calls us to share in a journey, to be on a pilgrimage. To go with God is to enter the land of promise. To refuse to go and to turn back is to find ourselves in the wilderness once again.

Breaking barriers

Reflect for a moment on the barriers that stand between us and a full experience of the presence of God in our lives, and in the life of our church. These barriers can be personal or relational, spiritual or moral, intellectual or psychological. They can exist in the form of prejudice toward other people, in an unforgiving spirit, in resistance to change, in a determination to have our own way no matter what, in manipulating or controlling other people, in the wounds and scars inflicted on us by others, or in our failure to live by faith and in a spirit of love.

"On the brink" can convey a sense of imminent peril, or it can mean the beginning of a new experience and opportunity. As I begin the next phase of my life and ministry, this story inspires and encourages me. I look forward with anticipation and confidence to what is about to unfold because I hold in my heart the promise of God's presence, a promise confirmed by the words of Jesus and experienced in the power of the Spirit: "Remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:20)

From the Editor

Not normally a fan of Synod meetings, I have often approached them with a certain degree of caution and cynicism however, I found myself surprised and encouraged by the 25th Synod meetings at Carrara last month.

A sensitive Convocation of Ministers at Ashmore on the first day of the Synod meeting set a remarkable standard of community and established the tone for the meetings which followed.

Ministers, Deacons, Pastors and Youth Workers shared stories of their call, their passions, their struggles and their faith, and the spirit of God transformed the group through the worship, laughter, vulnerability, and tears.

As my friend Ian Lord said, "We got real today and that's when it starts to bite."

Moderators Chaplain Rev Glennis Johnston shared her dream that the Synod might maintain that spirit for the next five days, and not get caught up by the stuff "that can drag us down".

Her prayers were answered.

The spirit of gentleness and openness pervaded the Synod gathering and even through the most potentially divisive discussions and

deliberations there was a grace and generosity which amply illustrated the Gospel in action.

The highlights of the Synod's time together were many.

From the multi-dimensional Synod celebration to a wildly energetic lunchtime game of touch football the participation and camaraderie was obvious.

Full credit should be given to the remarkable leadership of the new Moderator Rev Dr David Pitman whose wise guidance steered the meeting along helpful and reasonable paths.

Thanks is also due for the tireless work of many behind the scenes and behind the machines who fed and resourced the Synod for its task.

Best of all was the good humour which allowed people to relax and unwind and enjoy each other's company.

As Sue Page put it in the Monday Bible study, ours is a God who laughs and gives us the freedom to laugh at ourselves.

As the stories and pictures in this edition of *Journey* demonstrate, it is good to be church. You can see it in their faces.

Bruce Mullan

Signs of the times

Community minister Dave Thomas was half the team for this creative sign from the Tallebudgera congregation on the Gold Coast. He reported, having put up the sign, that the pressure was then on for a really special Father's Day service and sermon.



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Rev Darcy Elks prepares for the Norman and Mary Millar Lecture
Photo by Osker Lau

Church urged: be truly inclusive

By Mardi Lumsden

A passion for working with people with disabilities and those who feel called to minister among people with disabilities is what makes Rev Darcy Elks a compelling speaker.

Presenting the Norman and Mary Millar Lecture as part of the 25th Synod of the Uniting Church in Queensland, Ms Elks urged the church to be more inclusive of people with disabilities.

A human service worker, special education teacher, a consultant and a minister, Ms Elks told how she had felt confused and distressed at the way people with disabilities were treated in schools, institutions and society.

Her most important role, however, is that of being the mother of a 13-year-old daughter with Down syndrome. It is in this role

that she sees the true pain resulting from the exclusion of people with disabilities in society and even in the church.

"The church can be one of the places where there is the most ignorance. It is easier to talk of what the scriptures want us to do than to actually do it," she said. "It became very clear to me that God's will for people with disabilities was very different from the ways of the world."

Ms Elks spoke of the importance of looking beyond a disability to see people as human beings and said there are many ways society and the church excludes people with disabilities, including segregation and social distancing, pity, and assumptions on intellectual ability.

Ms Elks said she had seen people being denied baptism because of intellectual disability. "People think because this person can't

actually understand who God is then they can not have a relationship with him.

"If people are treated that way they may never have the opportunity to fulfill their God given purpose in life."

Ms Elks spoke of the many and varied gifts of people with disabilities including prophecy, honesty and friendship. "People with cognitive impairments are often able to cut through to the things that are important in life.

"I need to hear from my church family that our daughter is valuable and important in the body of Christ. The church is to project God's way to the world. How can we do this if we are merely a mirror to the world's ways?"

The full text and a pod file of the lecture is available for download at www.journeyonline.com.au

Pitman preaching for call and passion

Preaching at the celebration of the 25th meeting of the Queensland Synod of the Uniting Church, the newly inducted Moderator Rev Dr David Pitman challenged the Synod and the congregation to affirm their calling in Christ and to seek in the power of the Spirit the renewal of their passion for Christ and for his gospel.

Dr Pitman told of a conscious memory at the age of seven when he was visiting his grandmother and singing "Jesus, loves me, this I know" with his aunty at the piano. "I knew at that moment that Jesus loved ME! More than that, in my seven-year-old heart I knew that I loved him!" said Dr Pitman.

"I was just a boy, but Jesus was calling me into a relationship that

has shaped my life and determined its direction ever since."

Dr Pitman's said he is by nature an optimistic person whose confidence in the faithfulness of God is the source of his hope, both for now and the future.

"Everything else that happens in my life is brought into perspective by my knowledge and experience of God's love and grace, given reality for me primarily through my relationship with Jesus."

Dr Pitman said the call of God is not an arbitrary thing which we can put on hold.

"It's not an option that can be tied to what's going on in the church at any given time, or whether we agree or disagree with something that's been said or done.

"So long as we belong to the Uniting Church we must faithfully, obediently and passionately live out our call in partnership with all our brothers and sisters, because that is what Christ expects.

"We do it not to please ourselves or satisfy our needs, but for the sake of the gospel and the coming of the Kingdom of God on earth."

"Only a God that big could also be the God of the incarnation who draws me irresistibly into the embrace of a love so great I cannot comprehend it, only experience it with a profound sense of joy and gratitude."

The full text of Dr Pitman's sermon and a pod file is available for download at www.journeyonline.com.au



Dr Pitman sends the Synod out in peace
Photo by Bruce Mullan

A convocation of bare feet and empty hands

An invitation to "leave your shoes at the door" was the call to ministers attending the Convocation of Ministries held prior to the 25th Synod of the Uniting Church in Queensland.

Youth workers, deacons, pastors and ministers of the word symbolically left their concerns and pressing needs at the door as they prepared to spend the day affirming their call and renewing their passion for ministry.

Moderator-Elect Rev Dr David Pitman commenced the day by acknowledging his sadness at the loss of those who had recently left the ministry of the Uniting Church, naming them and sharing the feelings in prayer.

"We and the whole church are poorer because they are no longer part of our fellowship," he said.

Dr Pitman said that ministers know what it means to feel weary and what that does to their relationships.



Rev David Baker and Rev Dr David Pitman at the convocation

"We are also conscious of the divisions and conflicts among us and how tiring and exhausting that has been."

Dr Pitman recalled the story of the tax collector in prayer at the temple.

"He prayed with open hands, making no claims and offering no

excuses but throwing himself at the mercy and grace of God."

He invited the convocation to open their hands and their hearts to the God "who is able to do so much more than we can ever ask for or think of".

Read more convocation stories at www.journeyonline.com.au

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Ruth, Diana and Monique enjoying the Multicultural Festival
Photo by Mardi Lumsden

Supporting young families

A Christian brochure called *Faith Family*, distributed quarterly to more than 20,000 families, is being positively received by church communities across Australia.

Faith Family is a collaborative project involving the Queensland Youth and Children's Ministry Unit and family workers in the South Australian Synod, as well as the Lutheran and Anglican churches.

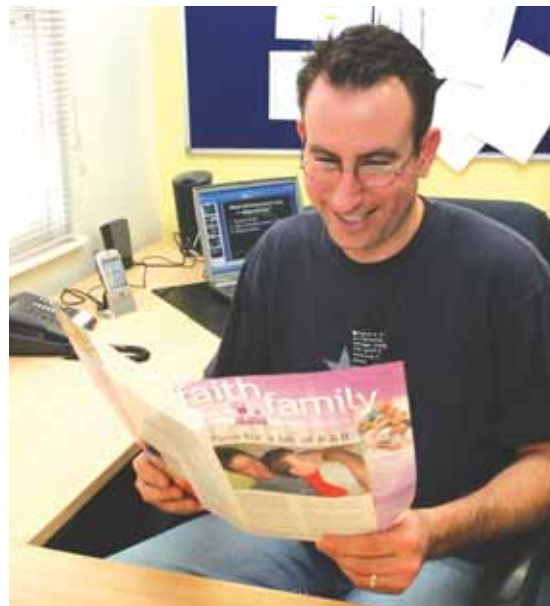
The colourful four-page brochure is designed especially for congregations and schools to give away to parents and carers of children up to age 12.

Paul Yarrow from YACMU said that *Faith Family* is a simple and effective way of helping parents.

"By putting this resource in the hands of parents we are affirming and encouraging them in their role as primary nurturers of their child's faith," he said.

Grandparents too are thrilled to have something positive to give their children and grandchildren, particularly if they are not regularly involved in church activities.

"We see this as an especially valuable resource for families in rural and remote areas who may



Michael Jeffrey looks over the final product
Photo by Osker Lau

have limited contact with a local congregation."

Each issue encourages parents and caregivers in their role and suggests resources such as websites, CDs and books that may be useful when celebrating different Christian events.

Almost 3000 copies of *Faith Family* are distributed by 119 Uniting Church congregations in Queensland. "We see this as a

valuable resource for churches to be giving to families. We are happy to supply copies *Faith Family* at no cost to congregations wanting to support families in the vital task of nurturing faith at home," said Michael Jeffrey, YACMU Director.

Congregations and schools can order bulk copies of *Family Family*. Contact Paul Yarrow on 3848 6201 or Paul.Yarrow@yacmu.com.au.

Samoa wins Logan tug

The Logan Central Multicultural Festival hosted a September celebration of Spring.

Held at Logan Multicultural Uniting Church, the festival featured traditional music and food from Papua New Guinea, Tonga, Cook Islands, Samoa, Latin America and Africa as well as other activities and a jumping castle.

The festival's main event was the enormous tug-o-war with a battle between the Tongan and Samoan teams. After an impressive contest, the Samoan team pulled the Tongans across the line to win the crown.

By Mardi Lumsden

E-mailing for justice and equity

Uniting Church members are invited to join a national movement that aims to make a difference for low income and disadvantaged Australians.

Through a new national website, church members will be able to quickly and easily send their concerns about a range of issues to their local MPs and Senators with just a few clicks of a mouse.

UnitingCare National Director, Lin Hatfield Dodds, said the new website has been launched by the Australian Council of Social Service on behalf of its 300 plus member organisations.

"As a member of ACOSS, the UnitingCare network is encouraging our members to use the new website and speak directly to politicians about key issues," she said.

"In just three easy steps you can join the ACOSS Action Network and send an e-mail to your local MP expressing your concerns about the most disadvantaged in Australia."

ACOSS will send subscribers four newsletters a year on poverty and inequality in Australia as well as invitations to take other action on-line from time to time.

"This simple and easy to use tool means we can send a clear message to political leaders.

"Acting together, we can make a difference."

To join the action network, visit www.acoss.org.au and follow the links.



Miss Monica sings the blues
Photo by Osker Lau

Blue Care jazzes up Southbank

Much-loved children's entertainer Monica Trapaga performed with her 8-piece jazz band at Southbank Piazza on Sunday, 28 August.

The performance was part of the Blue Care Seniors Week concert 'All That Jazz'.

Kids love NQ campout

Fifty excited and energetic children from five congregations from across North Queensland attended Kids' Campout 2005.

Stephen Kersnovske who coordinated this children's ministry event told *Journey* that it was the first Kids' Campout to be held in the Presbytery of North Queensland. Stephen hopes to coordinate a similar event in the southern zone next year.

Over the twenty-four hours young campers enjoyed rides, crafts, games and spending time with children from other congregations. In the evening the children enjoyed a special program with a surprise visit from Bibbi the clown. Campers spent Sunday morning at four Christian learning activities. At each activity the children helped prepare the various elements of worship. Kids' Campout concluded with a worship service and the celebration of Holy Communion.

Mark from Mossman Uniting Church said his favourite part was the rides and thought Kids' Campout should be held more often.

Josh from Mossman Uniting Church enjoyed making new friends and the rides.

Shannon from Cairns Emmanuel Uniting Church had fun learning about God in her small group.



Ministers fly from honeymoon to Cape

Recently graduated intern Deacon Michelle Cook commenced her first appointment as patrol minister for Weipa and the Cape within days of marrying Youth Worker James Hughes who has been ministering with the Uniting Church Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress at Mapoon for the past 18 months.

Michelle will visit stations and remote communities as well as working with St Luke's Uniting and Anglican congregations in Weipa.

Well known in the area for his dreadlocks and graffiti painted van, James has been putting his 15 years of Early Childhood education experience to work with the Mapoon community.

Both describe themselves as poor at fishing but keen to learn more. No doubt the locals will show them a trick or two.



Michelle Cook and James Hughes prepare for their life ahead
Photo courtesy of the Weipa Bulletin

Religious education faces an uncertain future

In a recent review of the Queensland Education Act the overwhelming majority of responses were with regards to questions relating to religious instruction in Queensland schools.

Significant numbers of attendees at the associated community forums were also specifically interested in the religious instruction proposals.

Comments consistently pointed out that people were not happy with the proposal that spiritual and philosophical programs should also be available during school hours, as this opened the way for an incredibly broad array of groups to have access to children and that malevolent belief systems are not precluded.

Some parents were not aware that their children were receiving religious instruction at school and preferred that it not occur during school hours. Some suggested that the system change from an "opt-out" to an "opt-in" arrangement.

The review team is now considering the way forward and another round of consultations will occur later in the year when the Draft Legislation is completed.

Education Queensland has indicated that the next consultation will not be as extensive as the last. A copy of the report *Education Laws for the Future* is available at <http://education.qld.gov.au/review>.

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Time is running out to order 'Gifts of time and love' Christmas presents'.

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Every Uniting Church congregation in Queensland is also be invited to have their Christmas services listed on a special Christmas webpage.

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and individuals to worship at Christmas.

For more information and registration contact the Communications Services Unit on 07 3377 9910 or email journey@uccentre.ucaqld.com.au.

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Training leaders for future ministry

The Youth and Children's Leaders Ministry Training Day held at Park Church Tongan Congregation in August proved to be an inspirational event for young leaders.

Teams of leaders from eleven different churches attended, with people from The Granite Belt through to Redcliffe.

Tom Kerr said YACMU sees training events such as this a "great way to resource congregations in their ministry to young people and to provide ways for congregations to skill their front line troops for their ministry".

The events have been so popular this year that next year YACMU will be including a state conference for youth leaders, and Mark Cornford's Greenhouse Project will offer training in local mission.

Sione Kaloni of Park Church Tongan Congregation saw the experience as invaluable.

"I came empty and I am going home overflowing full. This training has opened up my eyes that there is plenty of learning to

be done on my behalf for the sake of all the Sunday school children in our church," he said.

Beenleigh youth leader Rebekah Wein was looking forward to putting what she learnt into practice.

"I feel more opened up to the wide world of youth ministry and feel better equipped to run programs that are both fun yet devotional. I have found it inspiring and encouraging and am looking forward to putting these ideas into action in my own youth group."

Erin Van Krimpen of The Gap found it important to know she is not alone with the hardships of running a youth group.

"It was so fantastic to learn from other Christians with a passion and dedication to young people. That I know our youth group is not alone in its struggles of low numbers and uncommitted kids is an invaluable resource."

For more information of Youth and Children's Ministry training and events, contact YACMU on 3377 9866 or email info@yacmu.com.au



Youth leaders enjoy fellowship and learning. Erin Van Krimpen (The Gap), Rebekah Wein (Beenleigh), Lyndal McGregor-Lowndes (Beenleigh), and Koloa Taimani (Park Church)

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Around the nation

Multicultural song winner

The song *The Language of Love/Bahasa Kasih* by Rev Mathius Sampe Ritti of Adelaide was announced as winner of the Assembly Multicultural Song writing competition. The winning song will form part of a song booklet which will also include ten other songs commended by the judges. For a copy of the song booklet contact Ruth Crispin, ruthc@nat.uca.org.au. The cost is \$5.00 and includes postage.

Rarango Work Parties, a new heritage

Three Uniting Church work parties at Rarango Theological

College in Papua New Guinea have returned safely. Mr John Carr, who led the program of repair and replacement, declared the whole venture 'a life changing experience'. An interesting dimension was that at least eight of the participants were either the children or grandchildren of former missionaries.

New Guidelines for Uniting Church logo

Since the Uniting Church logo was created there has been a rapid uptake of communication technology, including e-mail and Internet publishing. In light of this new guidelines for use have been introduced which reflect current technologies. The guidelines and logo library are available at <http://assembly.uca.org.au/logos/index.htm> or by contacting the Assembly's Communications and Media Manager, Gavin Melvin on (02) 8267 4223 gavinm@nat.uca.org.au.

Warehousing on the nose

The Uniting Church Assembly Standing Committee has resolved to oppose the practice of Refugee Warehousing "as an infraction of international refugee rights and a waste of human potential". The term 'Refugee Warehousing' describes the practice and politics of isolating large populations of displaced persons in camps or segregated settlements, for periods

of ten years or longer. A fact sheet about Refugee Warehousing can be found at:

<http://nat.uca.org.au/unitingjustice/reconcilinghumanity/asylumrefugees/index.htm#info>

Visitors welcome at the World Council of Churches

The 9th Assembly of the World Council of Churches and the first to be held in Latin America will attract 700 delegates from 340 member churches. Members of the Uniting Church are being invited to attend a unique Assembly visitors program in February next year in Curitiba, Brazil. The Assembly is the highest governing body of the World Council of Churches and is held once every seven years. Contact Rev. Dr. Sandy Yule (03) 9606 0034 syule@vic.uca.org.au.

Make a C-Change

As part of a commitment to fostering discipleship the Uniting Church has developed discussion starters for congregations and small groups called the C-Change series. These short, informal resources will promote discussion, reflection and action by small groups and congregations on spirituality, evangelism, hospitality and other topics. The C-Change series is available for purchase through MediaCom on a cost recovery basis or by download from the Assembly website.

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Hunt for the historical Jesus

Launching The Centre for Progressive Religious Thought in Brisbane in August, Rev Rex Hunt, director of CPRT in Canberra said a "new quest" to discover the historical Jesus had been going on for the past twenty years.

The Centre was founded in Canberra in 2002, an initiative of the St James Uniting Church, as a safe place for those who wanted to push theological boundaries.

"My underlying premise is that Jesus was a travelling sage who conversed with those around him orally and that Christian conviction had overwhelmed Jesus," said Mr Hunt.



Rev Rex Hunt

"More times than not he (Jesus) had been made to confess what Christians had come to believe, but Jesus was not the first Christian even when he is made to talk like one."

As initiator behind CPRT, Uniting Church minister Rev Rex Hunt is an apologist for the work of the "Jesus Seminar", a group of 300 internationally distinguished scholars searching to discover the original 'voice' in the Galilean crowd: the forgotten Jesus.

"While conservative scholars claim that what is ascribed to Jesus in the New Testament is what Jesus said, progressive biblical scholars abandoned this 'theologically naïve' view long ago," said Mr Hunt.

"Jesus was a Galilean peasant who wrote nothing. He spoke Aramaic and very possibly some Greek, but we don't know if he could speak Hebrew. His preferred medium was story, called parable."

"His words have been preserved in the Greek. He taught his followers orally."

Mr Hunt also founded The Network of Biblical Storytellers

Australia in 1990. He said our theological understandings must take into account the fundamental contrast between the oral culture of Jesus' time and the print culture of our time.

Mr Hunt sees himself standing in contrast to the 'secular/humanist spirituality' position of David Tacey (See July Journey).

"However, both David Tacey and I are together at a different end to the fundamentalist faith, which I would suggest is a misrepresentation of religious experience."

While in Brisbane, Mr Hunt also addressed West End Uniting and Forest Lake Anglican churches on his Australian liturgical experience which reflects a 40 year journey in liturgy, media and communication, including a stint as a country music radio DJ.

"I tend to work outside the church committees and liturgical commissions because they are often dismissive of what is really happening on the edges," he said.

"While I live in hope that *Uniting in Worship 2* will be better than *Uniting in Worship 1*, liturgy made from church committees are seldom as creative or progressive as they might be, and often fed by compromise and the 'institution'."

Mr Hunt also attended the Gathering of Scholars of the Jesus Seminar in the United States of America in September.



At Left: Rev Corowa with some of the Work Party in Townsville
Photo and story by Rev Dennis Corowa Congress Indigenous Congregation in Townsville and Andy King, Education & Resource Officer Calvary Presbytery

Townsville Indigenous Congregation host Adelaide Work Party

In July a joyful, well-organised and enthusiastic group of 22 people of all ages, from the Aberfoyle Uniting Church, near Adelaide, spent two weeks in Townsville.

Frank Milne, one of the organizers explains:

"The invitation to the wider Aberfoyle congregation membership came from our Mission Possible group, and we were delighted so many took up the service and cultural opportunity," he said.

The purpose of the visit was three fold. To carry out work and repairs on the Townsville Church buildings, fellowship with the members of the Indigenous congregation and share life experiences, and build up Christian spirit within their own group and gain cultural awareness with the Indigenous community in the area.

The host congregation had organised two big Sunday lunches held outdoors after church, a cultural night and a farewell night where a number of the congregation members attended to share their life and faith stories. The minister

arranged for the work party to visit Indigenous organisations such as the Health Centre, spend recreation time with residents of the Congress' Drug & Alcohol Rehabilitation Centre, visit Shalom Christian College and Elders Village. A small group also visited the Palm Island community.

Minister Rev Dennis Corowa shared:

"It was just great having the group here. It was like having extended family here for two weeks.

"They were very organised and blessed us with both fellowship and their service by totally sanding and painting the church hall, installing two showers, repairing fences, making curtains, and painting the outside of the church. It was a joy to have them."

The group also relaxed and enjoyed the local attractions of barramundi fishing, a day trip to Magnetic Island, and some winter sunshine.

During the two week stay there was great relationship building, cross cultural experiences and, of course, building and renovating.

relocation of religious artefacts. All items will be safely held at Headquarters Regional Training Centre until a new chapel is built.

St George decommissioned

Story and photo by WO2 Wayne Ryan

Soldiers from Kokoda Barracks, in Cunugra Queensland, farewelled the St George chapel in August.

As one drives past the St George Chapel, hidden amongst the trees, one would mistake it for either an old classroom or an office, that is if it wasn't for the two small crosses at either end of the roof.

A crumbling footpath leads you to the small, simple chapel, its paint slowly peeling away to reveal years of wear.

Over the years the St George chapel has witnessed baptisms, weddings and funerals, and has



Personnel remove the flag in the St George Chapel decommissioning

given comfort to the Defence community, both in times of conflict and peace.

Originally opened some 44 years ago by the G.O.C Northern Command, Major General R.E. Wade, C.D., C.B.E., St George

Chapel or as Register of Assets refers to it, "R of A N14", will soon give way to a new accommodation block, as part of the multimillion dollar redevelopment project for Kokoda Barracks.

11th Assembly theme looks out



President-elect, Rev Gregor Henderson has set the theme for the 11th Assembly of the Uniting Church in Australia which will be held in Brisbane in July 2006

"God's Word, God's World, is more than a letterhead and a logo – it's a statement that will guide and shape the work of the Uniting Church over the coming three years," said Mr Henderson.

Mr Henderson believes that themes are important for the life of the Assembly meeting, but also

need to be a statement of where the church is heading.

"It's a critical time in the life of the Uniting Church. At a time when fewer people are associating with the churches, it's even more vital that we take time to reflect on who we are as a church and how we bear witness to the Gospel in our context.

"How do we connect with the 80 per cent of Australians who don't have regular contact with the Church and how do we remain true to our mission in that environment?"

"As we journey to the 11th Assembly I invite members of the Church to reflect on the theme. What does the theme mean to you and your congregation locally, what local stories do you have that you would like to share with the rest of the Church and what personal, or group reflections you would like to share?"

The Assembly is keen to collect reflections from across the church which can become a source of encouragement and learning for congregations in their local mission.

Reflections on the theme, God's Word, God's World can take the form of stories, poems, hymns, prayers, photographs or even video reflections. Submissions will be used as the basis of a booklet and DVD which will be shared across the church. A version of the DVD, featuring every video submission, will also be shown during the 11th Assembly in Brisbane next year. Submissions will be received until January 31, 2006. Details of how and where to submit reflections on the theme are available on the Assembly website.

Farewell to a true moderator



By Mardi Lumsden

Retiring Moderator Rev Allan Kuchler gave his farewell address on the first morning of the 25th meeting of the Queensland Synod and spoke of positives and negatives of his term as Moderator.

He stated that not all experiences of his term as Moderator have been joyful.

"Often expectations and reality are poles apart," he said.

"But nothing will ever take away those very happy memories."

Mary Burnett, Presbytery minister Rev David Fanning named Mr Kuchler the "orange and blue carded moderator" out of respect for his unbiased ways in dealing with issues within the Church.

The cards are used as a way of voting for or against an issue.

"He did not tell you his own views on issues, he truly moderated. He has not taken sides and has given all people the opportunity to express their point of view."

Mr Fanning also commented that Mr Kuchler was always "approachable, available and accessible".

"The door to the Moderator's room was always open, but not only an open door, he has come to visit us."

Moderator's chaplain and retired minister Rev Joan Johanson remembered Mr Kuchler said he didn't want to be a presbytery minister, but remain a parish minister. Of course he did become a presbytery minister and, eventually, Moderator.

"Although Presbytery would have liked to have kept Allan as our Chair, we recognised he had God given gifts to assist the Synod.

"Today the Synod thanks you for the depth of pastoral care and concern you have shown through your ministry," she said.

Respect and thanks were also given to Mrs Laurie Kuchler, the retiring Moderator's wife, for her support both physical and emotional throughout his term.

A musical tribute to the Moderator performed by Stephen Peake concluded the farewell.

Biggest Synod contest ends in a draw

The Charles Farnsworth Memorial Touch Football match was a highlight of the 25th Queensland Synod

Named for a mythological student of Trinity Theological College the match was scene for lots of biffs and sweat and little real talent as Country vs. City teams clashed in their first annual Synod sports event.

Significant football ability was almost as hard to identify as the fabled Charles Farnsworth whose name is often on college attendance records and, according to some students, has even submitted assignments.

The almost Rev Mick Brumpton said, "Once in a lifetime, we encounter someone who we know will influence us for the rest of

our lives and even though I have never personally met Charles, I know I can speak on behalf of many Uniting Church folk when I say that Charles Farnsworth is one such person.

"The legendary Charles Farnsworth shall be known as one of the great unsung and unknown heroes of this century."

When referees Ray Nutley and Allan Hanson blew the final whistle the result was closer than a vote on assembly resolutions.

The match was a one all draw and City player Russell Day wondered if the game really was the winner.

A complaint received by the *Journey* office allegedly from

Charles Farnsworth III Esq. expressed dismay at finding his name used in conjunction with the word, "mythical" on the www.journyonline.com.au website.

"I expect a full and frank apology published in the next *Journey* or my congregation will withhold 1/3 of its Mission and Service Fund," Mr Farnsworth said.





25 Synod

Making waves for Justice

Social Responsibility Advocate Andrew Johnson launched the Making Waves: Dreaming Justice Today resources at the 25th Synod. The resources feature a book of stories, companion study guide and resources for worship. They focus on God's call to justice lived out in everyday situations.



More time needed to sort out theological education

Chair of the Theological Education Task Group Mr Rob Leivesley brought a preliminary report to the 25th meeting of the Queensland Synod.

The Task Group understands the need to provide quality theological

education in a financially sustainable environment and said that, while the face-to-face college environment remains important, it needs to be supplemented by other facilities which provide for self directed and alternative learning experiences.

Describing the current arrangements significantly under-developed, Mr Leivesley called for a more robust relationship with Griffith University.

"The Task Group is well aware of the complexity of the task and the need for wide consultation before making substantive recommendations," said Mr Leivesley.

The Theological Education Task Group asked for an extension of time to complete its work before a final report is brought to the 26th Synod in 2007.



Mr Robert Leivesley
Theological Education Task Group



Rev Shane Blackman, Calvary

Calvary initiates education programs

Rev Shayne Blackman from Calvary Presbytery reported two new education initiatives to the 25th Synod. A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between Calvary Presbytery and Education Queensland on a new Ipswich Employment Transitions Project, and a new nationally recognised leadership development program has commenced through the Yalga-binbi Institute.

Hats for a thinking synod

Moderator Rev Dr David Pitman opened the 25th Synod business by assuring the Synod that the Uniting Church makes every effort to make meetings interesting and to hear all voices.

Dr Pitman introduced the idea of the six hats, a concept developed by Edward de Bono.

The theory assists people to intentionally adopt understandings of an issue normally different to their own. Each colour hat (white, orange, black, yellow, green and blue) represents different approaches to issues.

"The six hats represent the different ways people feel and think and it is important to realise that no one hat is more important than the other," said Dr Pitman.

The six hats cover different roles people play in the conduct of Synod meetings including logical thinking, creativity, intuition, information giving and judgement.

Dr Pitman quoted C.H. Dodd saying, "The interchange of intimate conversations among friends is itself the process of uniting people with Christ".

The Synod was reminded that its meeting was more like a series of intimate conversations with friends.

Lingo Bingo: words apart

Rev Robyn Kidd and Rev Gerda Olafson were joint winners of a new Synod game called Lingo Bingo.

The object of the game was to find four cliched catch-phrases in a line to win the prize.

Words included "contextual", "relational", "viable", "innovative", "passion", "missional", "creative", and "empowering".



Synod affirms multicultural proposal

As he welcomed a large group of multicultural congregation visitors, the Moderator Rev Dr David Pitman reminded the Synod that in 1985 the Uniting Church made a commitment to be a multicultural church.

He explained that we see this in many ways in the Queensland Synod in congregations which worship in other language groups, and in congregations which are made up of a range of people from many backgrounds and countries across the word.

"We have in recent months discussed ways in which our multicultural and indigenous people can participate in the councils of our church and in the meeting of the Synod," said Dr Pitman.

"It is in that spirit of partnership and respect that we begin this process which reflects the desires and expectations of the leaders of the multicultural communities."

Rev Lu Senituli introduced a number of proposals by reading from 2 Timothy 4:1-5 and offering a rebuke of Assembly Resolution 84.

"Our encouragement to you, our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ (is) to stand firm on the doctrines and teachings of the one holy catholic and apostolic church," said Mr Senituli.

Rev Hedley Fihaki quoted from the constitution of the Methodist

Church of Tonga, "When a sexual relationship is not of its natural state and therefore not Christian, whether that be committed between a man and a man or between a woman and a woman, such a person shall not be accepted as catechist or preacher or an ordained minister or an employee of the church."

Mr Senituli said that, "The assembly has made this change which is vital to the continuing life of the UCA, without the concurrence of its members represented in Congregations, Presbyteries and Synods as provided in the Basis of Union."

"The change has been foisted on the church by a minority group who has seized control of the avenues of information and decision making in the church," he said.

"By endorsing Resolution 84 the Uniting Church has accepted the world view of our western culture and post modernity, not the biblical view," said Mr Fihaki.

Mr Fihaki said the Uniting Church in Australia had watered down its doctrines and theology because of fear and pressure from society to be an all inclusive church.

Mr Senituli claimed that the church becomes mono-cultural and imperialist when it rejects the correction and rebuke from brothers and sisters in different cultures.

Mr Senituli and Mr Fihaki requested that the Synod ask the Assembly to adopt the process used by the Queensland Synod for listening to multicultural and indigenous voices of the church on the matter of homosexuality in leadership.

They also moved a resolution asking the Assembly to adopt a statement calling people to live in faithful heterosexual marriage, rejecting homosexual practice and requesting the church not to normalize such practices.

The proposals was passed 181 votes for to 114 against.



Youth assist with communion at the celebration service
Photo by Osker Lau

\$2 Million kicks off Synod Vision for Mission

Moderator Rev Dr David Pitman opened his introduction to the Queensland Synod's Draft Strategic Vision by saying, "Vision without action is a day-dream, action without vision is a nightmare".

"This Vision is not a blueprint. It's more a description of what new initiatives in mission might look like as new work is established," he said.

Dr Pitman said that the Vision for Mission was about bringing three things into a dynamic relationship: the vision, the resources we need to ensure that initiatives will happen, and the flexibility to ensure that this work can develop unhindered by too many rules and regulation, and too many committees getting in the way.

"If we submerge the vision under the weight of our structures, it will die"

Rev Duncan Macleod shared stories of new mission initiatives that are already happening.

Deacon Rev Tim Hodgson is involved the work of the Wesley Mission making connections with the homeless, prostitutes and most

vulnerable people in the City of Brisbane.

"It is about breaking down barriers, building lasting relationships, and introducing them to the love of Christ," said Mr Hodgson.

"We aim to seep into the host culture like salt and light; to infiltrate and transform the community."

Synod Secretary Rev Jenny Tymms reported that the Synod Leadership Team intended to release a two million dollar fund to resource new ventures across the Synod.

"We hope that that two million might be the beginning of even more funds to support the new ventures that are bubbling up around the Synod," she said.

Ms Tymms reported that the Synod Leadership Team had also recognised the need for a person or team moving around the synod to help give legs to projects and encourage the Synod to act on the new possibilities being offered to the church.

Diverse church celebrates

A trumpet fanfare and procession with children, balloons, robed ministers and massed choir opened the celebration of the 25th Queensland Synod of the Uniting Church.

Uniting Church members from across Queensland joined the outgoing Moderator Rev Allan Kuchler as he welcomed and inducted the new Moderator Rev Dr David Pitman.

Local aboriginal elder Graham Dylan welcomed the gathering on behalf of the traditional owners of the land in his traditional language.

The words of the service were signed for the deaf and the Gospel was read in Tongan by Rev Hedley Fihaki and from the Braille Bible by 14 year old Haydn Smith.

Prayers were offered in Korean, Indonesian, Samoan, Taiwanese and English as the celebration offered an image of a multi-generational, multicultural and inclusive church.

Welcomes were offered by the Uniting Church President Rev Dr Dean Drayton and President of the Lutheran Church in Australia Pastor Tim Jaensch on behalf of other denominations.



Rev Lu Senituli



Rev Jenny Tymms

QUEENSLAND CHURCHES TOGETHER

What's our faith got to do with it?
Two workshops on faith, practice and the environment

Sunday, 9th October, 12:00 noon (lunch)–6:00 pm
Exploring the theme with other faiths:
Faith, Spirituality and Ecology: an Interfaith Dialogue toward Sustainable Futures for Humanity and Planet Earth.
Multi-Faith Centre, Griffith University, Nathan campus (hosted jointly by QCT, the Multi-Faith Centre of Griffith University and the Key Centre for Ethics, Justice, Law and Governance of Griffith University). Cost: \$12.
RSVP and details: Multi-Faith Centre, ph 07 3735 7052

Saturday, 15th October, 2:00 – 5:00 pm
Churches learning together:
And God saw that it was good.
A theological reflection on Creation, Communion and Consumerism (QCT Dialogues No. 1).
Greek Orthodox Community of St George, Edmonstone St, South Brisbane. Cost: \$10.
RSVP and details: QCT ph 07 3369 6792

carols with a Pacific flavour
by Ruth Ladley Fanshawe

Kerisimasi combines traditional carol words such as Silent Night and Hark the Herald with new, uplifting pacific-influenced music (you can buy one score then photocopy for your choir).

For new Christmas music for church choirs and ensembles, visit
<http://pacifichord.moderatec.com>

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For rates and information visit www.journey.ucaqld.com.au or call Mardi on (07) 3377 9795.

Advertising and editorial deadline for November Journey
Wednesday, 12 October.



Dr Kathryn Tanner

God offers a radical new economic agenda

Kathryn Tanner set out to convince people of just one thing when she delivered the Rollie Busch memorial lecture in Brisbane in August.

Dr Tanner is convinced that Christianity has the potential to offer a whole new vision of economic life; one opposed to the inhumanities of the present global economic system and offering direction in trying times, a practical path to a better world, to a brighter economic future for everyone. You can read more and download the full text of the Rollie Busch lecture at www.journeyonline.com.au.

Sunshine Coast college unites Catholic and Uniting Churches

The first combined Uniting Church and Catholic school will open in 2006 on the Sunshine Coast.

Unity College is situated on an 11-hectare site within the Bellvista Estate at West Caloundra and will eventually cater for 1200 students from preschool to Year 12 and employ around 140 staff.

Foundation principal Rudy Goosem is just one of the many staff already appointed and is excited about the possibilities of the shared school project.

"Unity College is a community partnership between the Catholic Church and Uniting Church and we have found a great deal of interest

in joining a fresh organisation that has the opportunity to incorporate the very best in teaching and learning delivery," Mr Goosem said.

Mr Goosem and the college's Head of Primary, Mr Steve Chapman, marked the first stages of construction at a turning of the soil ceremony on 22 September.

Enrolments are currently being taken for preschool to Year Three and Year Eight. Further information, including enrolment forms, is available online at www.uc.qld.edu.au, or by phoning 5438 2511. A temporary school office is situated at 10 First Avenue, Caloundra, opposite K-Mart.



Unity College Principal Mr Rudy Goosem

Christmas Bowl - Elizabeth sews her way out of poverty

Elizabeth Amungulu works at the Katatura Women's Centre in Windhoek, Namibia. The local people struggle to sustain it.

Elizabeth made the dress she is wearing on the morning that Eira Clapton, General Secretary of the Council of Churches in Western Australia, visited Katatura. It is a traditional outfit which Namibian women wear for celebrations.

Elizabeth had been part of a sewing program at the centre but the women have difficulty finding money for materials to make clothes.

The bowl Elizabeth is holding normally contains traditional foods. The women's centre has a commercial kitchen and cooking is taught so that people can obtain

employment. Traditional foods are part of the cooking program - in an attempt to get people to remain true to their culture, and to eat foods that are more nutritious, and cheaper.

The centre is an Indigenous Namibian Women's Program which was established in 1991 as a not-for-profit organisation.

Its aim is to promote educational and cultural activities for women. The centre has meeting halls, classrooms, kitchen/eating areas and administration offices.

Activities include literacy courses, kindergarten groups, meals for older people, cooking courses (for people wanting employment), needlework training and a quilting project.

The Christmas Bowl supports training and development programs of partner organisation, CABIN (Capacity Building Initiatives of Namibia).

Training including a program which provides teachers with lessons so they know how to speak English.

This story is included in the Worship and Group Resources of the Christmas Bowl kit.

To get a corflute sign featuring Elizabeth and a Christmas Bowl kit email christmasbowl@ncca.org.au freecall 1800 025 101 or order online at www.christmasbowl.com.au.



On display - Alex Kuzewicz's photograph entitled 'Proud Mum'

Redlands residents snap winners

Redland Uniting Church received record entries for their national photographic exhibition in August.


Local entries were successful in a number of categories.

Proceeds assist the youth programs in Redlands Uniting Churches and the Day Camp which travels to rural and remote congregations each year.

Champion A-grade print was awarded to Mark Davis, while Selena Inglis received Champion B-grade print.

With so many entries, only those of a very high quality were able to be displayed. Alex Kuzewicz's 'Proud Mum' was one such photograph. David Luckett received a merit award for his photo 'Amelia'.

help the bowl overflow



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Obtain your own corflute sign by calling freecall: 1800 025 101 or email christmasbowl@ncca.org.au www.ncca.org.au

What's On

October 2. Spiritfest. Festival of church choirs conducted by Dr Robert Boughen. St Stephen's Cathedral, Brisbane. Massed choir rehearsal 1.30-4pm. Festival 4.30-5.30pm. All welcome. Contact Ralph Morton 3336 9104 or email mortonr@bne.catholic.net.au.

October 3, 6pm. Brisbane College of Theology information night. Trinity Theological College, 47 Cadell Street, Auchenflower. Find out in more detail about the programs that are running in 2006 and meet the lecturers. www.bct.edu.au.

October 7-8. Brisbane Preaching and Teaching John's Gospel in the Year of B. Trinity College's Dr Malcolm Coombes tours major theological themes of John's gospel. Friday pm, all day Saturday, Chermide Kedron UC. Bookings essential. Contact Rev Michael Skinner on 4681 2173.

October 7-9. North Queensland Presbytery young adult camp. Theme: "Soul Whisper" with speaker, Mark Cornford. Take some time out to relax, have fun and to be with God. Contact Stephen Kersnovske on 4036 4440 or email stevek@yacmu.ucaqld.com.au.

October 8, 7-10.30pm. Make Poverty History gig. Braken Ridge UC. Doors open 6.30pm. Local music stars Claye Middleton with Nick McKone plus Translucent, Chris Mundy and more! Join the half time talent show with prizes up for grabs! Contact Julie Prideaux 0419 747 082 or Renee Archer on 0400 525 735.

October 8, 2.30-8.30pm. National Lay Preachers Seminar Day and AGM. Graceville Uniting Church (Oxley Road, Graceville). Rev Jeff Lawrence "the Story Catcher" will talk and workshop the theme 'Biblical storytelling'. Contact Grahame Tainton on 07 3279 0185 or email gtandwt@bigpond.net.au.

October 9, 2pm. Welsh Hymn Singing Festival. Community singing in English and Welsh. Bayside UC, Wondall Road, Manly West. Contact Rene on 3341 4819 or Bronwyn (A/H) on 3876 0091.

October 10, 6pm Brisbane College of Theology information night. St Francis' Theological College, 233 Milton Road, (enter from Baroona Road), Milton. Find out about 2006 programs and meet the lecturers. www.bct.edu.au.

October 10, 9am-12.30pm. When Children Witness Domestic Violence Seminar. Lunch follows. Joint Churches Domestic Violence Prevention Project. St Francis Theological College, Milton. Lunch donation. 07 3369 6792 Fax 07 3369 8573 qctcws@tpg.com.au.

October 13, 7-9pm. Leadership That Really Makes a Difference In People's Lives, evening for leaders in Children's, Youth & Family Ministry. Indooroopilly UC. Speaker Rev Dr David Pitman. Contact Tom Kerr 07 3377 9935 or Tom.Kerr@yacmu.ucaqld.com.au.

October 15, 10am-4pm. Craft Show Morningside UC. 43 Thynne Rd, Morningside. \$2. Quilt display and a variety of crafts, cards, candles, ceramics, leather goods, cakes. Good time to buy Christmas gifts. Delicious morning/afternoon teas.

October 27, 7pm. Young Adults Formal Dinner. Summit Restaurant, Mt Cootha. A Young Adults Ministry and Mission Cooperative project, supported by YACMU. Bookings and enquiries to Tom Kerr Tom.Kerr@yacmu.ucaqld.com.au or 07 3377 9935.

15 October, 2-5pm. Creation, Communion and Consumerism: What do different Christian traditions have to say about the role of Creation in our faith, worship and everyday living? Father Anastasios Bozikis, Greek Orthodox Church and Prof Dr Tony Kelly, ACU. At Greek Orthodox Community of St George, Administration Bldg, Cnr Edmonstone & Besant St, Sth Brisbane. \$10 at door. RSVP Friday, 7 Oct to QCT, Cynthia Randall, 07 3369 6792 / qctamin@tpg.com.au.

October 28, 10.30am. Australian Church Women annual service - Fellowship of the Least Sin. Ann St Church of Christ, Brisbane. A light lunch will follow. Contact M. J. Hunt on 3358 4349.

October 28-29. North Qld Preaching and Teaching John's Gospel in the Year of B. Trinity College's Dr Malcolm Coombes tours major theological themes of John's gospel. Friday pm, all day Saturday. Berserker St UC, Rockhampton. Bookings are essential. Contact Rev Michael Skinner 07 4681 2173.

November 5, 10am-3pm. Family Fun Day. Earnshaw State College Sportsfield, Banyo. Hosted by combined churches Toombul District. Bigger & better! Everything Free admission, show bags, food, entertainment, craft, games etc. Contact Joan or Graham 32675895.

November 5, 10.30am. Caboonbah Undenominational Church centenary, Brisbane Valley. Bring share lunch. Contact 5423 1211.

November 11-13. Young Adults Informal Camp Broken Head Holiday Park - 7km south of Byron Bay. Details from Tom Kerr (07) 3377 9935. or email Tom.Kerr@yacmu.ucaqld.com.au.

November 24, 10am. Frontier Services Auxiliary Christmas Cheer morning tea. St Andrew's hall, Creek Street, Brisbane. Music by the Brothers James. \$6. Contact Jessie Logan on 07 3278 1868.

Want to promote an event?
Email mardi.lumsden@uccentre.ucaqld.com.au
with the subject 'What's on' or fax (07) 3377 9796.



A stylish gates at Warwick UC

Warwick displays winter warmers

Seeing trees dressed in knitted jumpers may be an odd sight, but for the people of Warwick it is a yearly event called Jumpers and Jazz in July.

The Warwick Uniting Church enjoys getting involved in community events so participated by dressing stone posts at the front of the church.

Jean Dodd of Warwick Uniting Church said the event sparked a lot of interest in the church.

"We got given a whole lot of old curtain material and we used that as fabric off cuts to make patchwork," she said.

"We had a lot of comments. *The Daily News* local paper, came and took photos."

Desert helps renew spirituality

Four Desert Spirituality trips took Uniting Church members deep into the red centre during July and August.

Holland Park St David's minister Rev Heather Griffin attended the "Feeling the desert" trip which travelled from Birdsville to Alice Springs.

After spending time with the Frontier Services Padre from Charleville and organising their supplies, the group met local Birdsville families with large pastoral holdings and those whose



The music team heads home from church in East Timor
Photo by Andrew Johnson

UCA offers education for East Timorese

Mr Andrew Johnson from the Office of Social Responsibility and Justice praised the work that is being done through the scholarship fund when he personally visited students in poor families in East Timor

The Uniting Church provides over 200 scholarships to pay fees for senior high schools students, university students, and young men and women for trades education.

"During the ten days I was there I saw the difference that our small contribution was making to the lives of the people of East Timor," said Mr Johnson.

Coordinator of the East Timor scholarships program Mr Arie van Klinken said, "Education is particularly important in this country where the average age is fifteen years."

Donations to the East Timor Scholarship Fund are tax deductible through the Uniting Church and \$100 per annum pays for a senior high school student and between \$300 and \$800 per annum for a university student.

For more information about the East Timor Scholarships Fund contact 07 38702128 or email avanklin@yahoo.com.



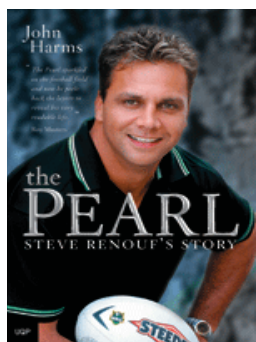
Desert Spirituality participant Rev Heather Griffin heads for the hills

ancestors journeyed through the land well before Europeans even knew it existed.

"In both cases we learnt of their joys and struggles and of their spirituality," said Mrs Griffin.

"We heard some of the Aboriginal stories of the desert and found out that those who were taught to sing their stories never got lost in the desert because the stories were, in effect, maps that guided them through the landscape."

Reviews



The Pearl: Steve Renouf's Story
By John Harms
University of Queensland Press
RRP: \$29.95

The Pearl is a moving story of a rugby league footballer, his family, and his Aboriginal identity.

John Harms is a sports journalist and former high school teacher, who has described Steve Renouf's sporting glory and heritage.

While Steve Renouf's journey is still a work in progress, this book is complete. Renouf is a thoughtful celebrity with character and values.

Anchored to his family by a sense of place and to his community by a love of play, Renouf's story describes vividly the struggles of growing up as an Aborigine in Murgon and moving to Brisbane.

Harms also pays homage, in an understated way, to the influential figures in Renouf's life: his grandmother Eileen South, his parents Nerida and Charlie, his wife Lis, and his coach Wayne Bennett.

Steve and Lis were married in the Uniting Church in Murgon in February 1990 and now have five children. He would miss the notorious end-of-season football trips so that he could be with his young family.

There were other personal challenges for him too: racism, diabetes and maintaining direction as a young man with a sudden rise in fame and wealth.

In telling Steve Renouf's story, John Harms reveals the unfamiliar world of Indigenous athletes, elite coaching, and race relations in Queensland.

Not a bad effort for a 'sporting biography'.

Mark Young

Worship Today: Understanding, Practice, Ecumenical Implications (Faith and Order Paper No. 194 from the World Council of Churches),
Edited by Thomas F. Best and Dagmar Heller
RRP: \$52.95

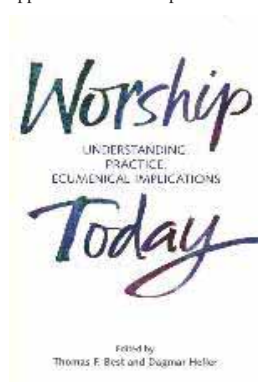
The commentators in this collection seek to find what is common in

Christian traditions, East and West, such as the central place given to the worship of God by all Christians.

There is also recognition that there are continuing difficulties for Christians to participate fully in the worship of other churches; the eucharist or Lord's supper remaining perhaps the major stumbling block.

Attention is given to the hesitations of the Orthodox churches and the theological bases for these. Some consider questions of enculturation. Disappointments and future hopes are voiced.

This book is valuable for those who would like to enlarge their understanding of the Christian churches world-wide and their approaches to worship.



Does it lead to further practical developments towards Christian unity? It does not propose precise steps for the churches to take, but its force may well be in the wider understanding it offers to its readers and the way that this becomes reflected in local gatherings of Christian people for common prayer and the tasks of mission: doing together what can be done together.

It can speak to all by indicating that there is never simply one right way for Christians to worship God, made known in Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Rev Dr Geraldine Wheeler

Going to work with God: Eight flexible study guides for use at, after, or outside work.
By Robert and Linda Banks
Bible Society.
RRP: \$5.95

At a time when many working Christians are being asked to commit more time to church activities and mission initiatives, it is good to be reminded that our "secular" work is also at the very heart of God's purposes today.

Robert Banks is one of Australia's foremost writers in the field of the theology of work. He has joined with Linda Banks, a Christian Educator and Baptist



Pastor, to develop a Bible study series *Going to Work with God* designed to be used by small groups.

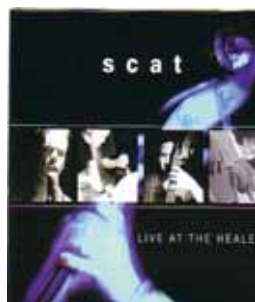
This cluster of eight studies, the first of several projected small volumes in the Bible@Work series, invites participants to wrestle with a range of issues relating to work from a biblical perspective.

Drawing on a wide range of biblical passages and with questions designed to evoke open-ended conversation, these studies explore such areas as: biblical understandings of the place of work in life; the nature of God's ongoing daily work in the world; looking at work from a divine perspective; turning work into mission; and balancing work, rest and other responsibilities.

In addition to plumbing the depths of the biblical material on work, the studies also seek to explore the complexities of modern work and workplaces. The authors believe that it is only when these two intersect that we will be able to fully integrate God's perspective into our daily lives.

Not a study for people who want to be spoon fed. Excellent if you're willing to work as hard with the scriptures as you do in your workplace.

Jenny Tymms



Live At The Healer (music CD)
By SCAT
RRP: \$27.95

Brisbane based Christian Jazz group Scat are an amazing act live and that energy and power has been captured on the CD *Live at the Healer*. Although this album was recorded back in June 2003 at "The Healer" in Brisbane's Fortitude Valley, it recently won best Jazz Album of the year in the USA Christian Music Awards.

Live at the Healer combines the relaxed casual sound that jazz bands are renowned for, with the

energy of a group of guys who just love to play. The tracks on the album are diverse in tempo and great listening for all ages of Jazz fans.

This album is perfect for a quiet evening at home or a relaxing chill out session with friends. Check out track 5, "True Religion."

Matt Gees



Slow Steady Heart (Music CD)
By Leo Nine
Label Iron Duke.
RRP: \$24.95 or \$22.00 from
www.leo-nine.com

Originally known as Battered Fish, Leo Nine have quietly been working away at a new sound since their last full length release seven years ago.

Their self-titled EP release in 2001 gave fans a taste of what was in store and the result, *Slow Steady Heart*, proved worth the wait with the single, 'Stay', getting airplay on Triple J.

Slow Steady Heart heads Leo Nine in a new direction. While their well-known darker sounds are still present, they have taken more risks on this release (including experimenting with electronic elements) and the final product showcases their versatility.

The title track easily soars from depths to heights with thick vocals, layered guitars and a tight sound that is reflected throughout the album.

The haunting Rhodes piano and static sounds on 'Dragging My Head Through Mud' lead to a methodical masterpiece with hints of the delicacy of Jeff Buckley.

Overall, the sound is positive and uplifting, but reading the lyrics proves there is more than meets the ear to Leo Nine. Let's hope we don't have to wait another seven years to see what they do next.

Mardi Lumsden

Punished not Protected
Directed by Judy Rymer
DVD in four parts, total 58 Mins
Ronin Films
RRP: \$49.50 for private home use

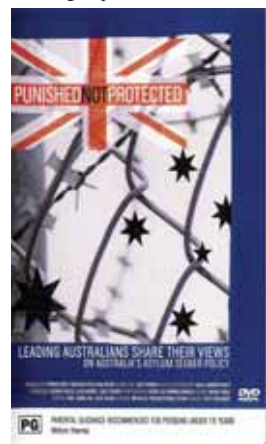
Refugee rights advocate Julian Burnside QC sums up the content of this educational documentary, *Punished not Protected*: "Once you know what we are doing – you have a simple choice. You can collaborate or you can oppose and there isn't any middle ground. If you know what's going on and you keep quiet, you are a collaborator."

Predominantly featuring the voices of leading concerned citizens with complimentary images, the impressive line up of interviewees from Malcolm Fraser to Tim Costello pull no punches in their criticisms of government policy and the lack of viable opposition, and articulate their criticisms with passion and vigour.

Punished not Protected challenges the standard rhetoric of "queue jumping", cheats, and threats of an impending flood of refugees in a blunt and direct manner.

Expect no subtlety here: this is designed to confront and challenge. If you have been sympathetic to government policy and the "Hansonite" attitudes to refugees you won't enjoy this DVD offering.

A study guide for schools is available from the producers which features information about age levels, subject strands and key learning areas. This can be downloaded from <http://www.roninfilms.com.au/video/1886697/0/2391222462.html>. No doubt someone will produce a small group study guide for adult and church groups.



Punished not Protected is firmly based on Edmund Burke's famous quotation, "All that is required for evil to prevail is for good men (sic) to do nothing."

Bruce Mullan

Read more reviews at journeyonline.com.au

JOURNEY

Are you giving up your hobby?

Journey is seeking a donation of some very particular camera equipment. If you are able to assist please contact bruce.mullan@uccentre.ucaqld.com.au 07 3377 9801

We are specifically seeking one Canon EF telephoto lens, one EX series flash for Canon camera and one tripod.



Mustering ecumenical courage

In September, 30 representatives of the Anglican, Catholic and Uniting Churches gathered in Mount Isa for the 10th annual Western Muster.

Ministers and lay leaders from as far as Winton, Cloncurry and Townsville gathered to share ideas, form and strengthen relationships, and air issues of ministering in the remote areas in an ecumenical environment.

North Queensland Presbytery chair Rev Bruce Cornish said the decision was made to be more intentional at working together locally in Mt Isa, especially in youth ministry.

"It was noted that the Townsville based YWAM team 'Reef to Outback' has now based two of their team in Mt Isa," he said.

Patrol Padre Rev Gary Hardingham was encouraged by the ecumenical discussions.

"Ecumenism is not only alive and well in the west, but with the problematic absence of clergy in the bush, it has become more than just a dream but a comment upon how ministry is and can be formed in the remotest part of our state.

"There is much to do, but gatherings such as the Western Muster continue to remind us we are all in together, that our dreams and goals are usually the same, and ultimately, our unity lies within the person of Jesus Christ our Lord."



Bruce Cornish (front) enjoys a bite to eat with Heather and Greg

PRAYER DIARY

The exercise of faith in prayer is a healthy activity. The bird in the nest must learn to fly, and gather what is available. Having to ask is an excellent reminder to us of our dependency on God, and is arranged to bring us to seek Him. It gives birth to a spirit of childlikeness, looking to our Heavenly Father at all times.

Reinhard Bonnke, evangelist

9 October: Blackall Range Region Churches

The angel said to them, "Don't be afraid! I am here with Good News." This scripture will be presented to people attending the Maleny Christmas Street Carnival. This scripture together with bejewelled angels, that started life as paper-clips, will be gifts from the churches of Maleny working in ecumenical cooperation.

On Thursdays after school the Kids Club meets in Maleny. There are Bible stories, songs, games and crafts and fun. This is an ecumenical venture, as is support of the school chaplain.

The Maleny Uniting Church is pioneering a monthly visit from Macaroni the clown and his friends at morning worship. Some of Macaroni's friends and supporters are the worshippers who come from the Errowal Retirement Village.

We do ask that our friends will support these ventures in prayer. It is very easy in a beautiful place like Maleny for people to forget their need of God, so we are very aware of our need to tell of our Saviour to our friends and neighbours. Please join us in this task through your prayers.

Pray for Bev and her band of workers at Montville Uniting Church as they continue planning and preparation for the Christmas Display titled "Perfect Gift - Ritual or Relationship" and pray that those who witness the display will be challenged by the Spirit of the

Living God to respond to the love of Jesus.

Pray that the work of the ecumenical Montville Kid's Club might continue and be fruitful, transforming young lives as they learn of the grace of God.

The members of the Palmwoods Uniting Church are small in numbers, but strong in prayer. Please join them in prayer for new directions and new initiatives that will reach the many new people coming into this fast developing area.

16 October: Tallebudgera Community Church

We are a congregation of the UCA in the hinterland region of the Gold Coast, behind Palm Beach and Elanora.

We became a congregation in our own right earlier this year, having been seeded by the Southern Gold Coast Uniting Church.

Since amalgamating two quite diverse congregations into one, we have grown numerically and spiritually offering a weekly contemporary service and monthly informal "Christian Chat" designed for the un-churched or irregular worship attendee. Our congregation spans a wide age range from babies to age 80+, who together create a vibrant atmosphere and willing heart ready to serve God in numerous ways.

We give thanks to God for: Encouraging and recent inroads

into the relationship with the local State Primary School as a key witness and ministry for us.

An enthusiastic and generous congregation.

A great team of both men and women committed to make a difference within the local community.

A vibrant home group network with approx. 50% of the congregation involved.

Please pray specifically for:

- Our community centred in and around the scenic Tallebudgera Valley. That we may be instruments in bringing an awareness of Christ's grace and love to them.
- How we engage with the School in an effective and fruitful way, ensuring we bring the message of Christ's hope and love to kids, parents and teachers.
- Our new leadership team and Ministry Co-ordinators, many of whom are new to the Uniting Church.
- Our monthly 'Christian Chat' and the opportunity we have through this medium to connect with husbands of regular worshipping women and the general community in a non-threatening, but targeted Christian way.
- A continuing impact of our monthly article in the local newspaper.
- Our "Carols Under The Stars" (planned for 18 December) that the community will not only have a great night out, but they may catch a glimpse of how cool and groovy it is to be in God's band.



UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA Youth Ministry Worker Glen Waverley Uniting Church

Glen Waverley Uniting Church is currently seeking expressions of interest for the role of a full-time Youth Ministry Worker. The current youth program is a vibrant and expanding ministry which is strongly supported by the congregation. At GWUC, through our commitment to relationship with Jesus Christ, we aim to build an integrated and inclusive faith community in which people are both supported collectively and mentored individually.

The abilities and gifts sought include:

- a sense of call to youth ministry,
- a passion and ability to nurture faith,
- an ability to lead creative worship,
- a willingness to work constructively within a ministry team, and
- a commitment to encourage outreach into the community.

This role will be a stipended position under the UCA guidelines. Expressions of interest are sought from lay or ordained applicants.

For further information, including congregation profile and job description, contact: GWUC Church Office (03) 9560 3580 or email: office.gwuc@vic.uca.org.au

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BLUE CARE, TOWNSVILLE CHAPLAIN - Part-time (0.5 FTE)

Blue Care North Queensland has a rewarding employment opportunity for a Chaplain to work with its Regional Office staff and Townsville centres including the Respite and Domiciliary Nursing services and Townsville Garden Settlement.

Blue Care's mission is to promote and deliver quality caring services based on the compassion of Christ. The successful applicant will contribute to the achievement of the mission by planning and implementing a high standard of pastoral care and chaplaincy services.

A remuneration package will be negotiated, based on the Uniting Church in Australia stipend. For an application package, please call Alan Stephen on 47299202.

Church thanks Dr Wilson

The 25th Synod paid tribute to Dr Jill Wilson as she steps down from her role as the Chairperson of the UnitingCare Board.

Dr Wilson encouraged the Synod to continue reflecting on the changing nature of UnitingCare and to think about how it can remain relevant within the community.

"This church has an enormous amount to be proud of. The issue now is how we take it forward and what we do with it next."



Dr Jill Wilson enjoys Synod

LETTERS

Matching His mission

I was encouraged by Mark Cornford's letter in the latest copy of *Journey*. His emphasis was on mission as a step forward regarding Resolution 84. I have worked out my preferred model of mission, which is Incarnational Mission, the model of Jesus. What Mark mentioned resonated with me. My vision of mission follows:

The Son of God came down from glory. He did not stay in the safe haven of heaven immune and remote from human sin, suffering and heartbreak. He actually entered into our world and took on our nature, but without sin (identification without compromise).

He humbled himself and took up the towel and the basin in order to serve. He became small, weak and at risk. He entered into our pain, our estrangement and our temptations.

He not only proclaimed the good news of the Kingdom of God, but also demonstrated its arrival by healing the sick, feeding the hungry (all were invited to dine at Jesus' table), forgiving the sinner, casting out demons, befriending the dropout and raising the dead.

He penetrated deeply into our humanness and into our world. He never stayed aloof from the people we might be inclined to avoid. He had not come to be served, but to serve and to give his life as a ransom price for the freedom of others. He became a victim of crass injustice in the courts and, as they crucified him, he prayed for his enemies.

Then, in that awful God-forsaken darkness, he bore our sins in his own blameless body. He could not have become more one with us than he did. It was the total identification of love for human beings.

Now he sends us into the world, as the Father sent him into the world. In other words, our mission is to be modeled on his mission.

Moreover, all authentic mission is incarnational mission. It demands identification without loss of our uniqueness. It means entering other people's worlds, as he entered ours, though without compromising our Christian convictions, beliefs or standards.

I doubt that Jesus would have treated homosexuals differently.

Chris Alton

The inspiring Sandy Huang

I have just read today the racial prejudice experience of Sandy Huang from the Brisbane Taiwanese Uniting Church Congregation in *Journey* [September] and was very impressed with the manner in which she dealt with the issue and would like to encourage her in the Lord to continue to press on as she has no matter what.

Kerry Smith

wowed by website

I just wanted to commend you on the work that you have done on the *Journey* paper, but especially on the website.

I have found the website a breath of fresh air as not only does it look good, but it is useful!

The website hosts great articles and opinion pieces and provides easy ways for people to respond.

Finally the Queensland UCA has a communication tool that not only takes advantage of 21st Century technology, but also does it well!!

Mark Cornford
Redcliffe UC

Chaplain should make page one

The retirement of Chaplain to Prisons, Charlie Greer, made page seven of the September edition of *Journey*. Charlie Greer's work, witness, and informed comments deserved page one.

I cannot speak too highly of this tough, saintly, hard worker, who ministered in one of the roughest areas of work given to any minister.

Charlie deserves a huge pat on the back for his love, grace, compassion and generosity unselfishly shared with the prison's community.

My wife and I would like to publicly thank Charlie for his unique and challenging ministry, for sharing his experiences with congregations, and his inspiration as a Chaplain of the Church. It is our prayer that Pastor Charlie Greer will be given every opportunity to continue addressing Church congregations and new aspirants for future ministry

about his valuable work in the Lord's service.

Val and Ian Taylor

Have your say!

Letters to the editor may be edited due to space limitations.

Contact us:

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GPO Box 674
Brisbane 4001

email:

journey@uccentre.ucaqlld.com.au



CLASSIFIEDS

ACCOMMODATION

Beachfront Cottage. Currumbin Beach Queensland. Sleeps 4 to 6 people. Phone 3376 4247.

Coolumb Beach Holiday - 3 bd f/ s/c brick house, walk to patrolled beach & shops. Newly renovated. Website for details & photos: <http://users.tpg.com.au/coolumb> or call 0418 889657. 10% disc church members.

Bribie Island Holiday Unit. Welsby Court No. 4, overlooking Bribie passage, 2 b'rm, LUG, reasonable rates. Frank & Elva Dixon Ph 07 3264 8080.

Retired minister and wife want house to rent- Sunshine Coast or near, from late Oct for 5 months plus. Ex ref. Ph 07 47983134 or 0427012036.

London B&B + self catering. Private home, lge dble room & ensuite, TV, fridge, m/wave, central heating. Reas. Rates. Rachel Allen, 10 Beecroft Rd, Brockley, London SE4 2BS. Ph/fax 0011.44.20.86946538. e rachel@brockleybandb.fsnet.co.uk.

Historically Speaking



The oldest funeral business in Queensland

When Alexander Gow bought his Brisbane funeral business in 1910, he became the proud owner of the first and oldest funeral business in Queensland.

Care and compassion were old-fashioned - even in the convict days of 1840, two years before free settlement in the colony of Moreton Bay. But in 1840, they were watchwords for Andrew Petrie, often referred to as Queensland's first free settler, when he began the state's first undertaking establishment. His son, George Barney Petrie ran the business until it was sold to Walter Barrett in 1877.

The business changed hands four times before Alexander Gow bought it.

Today, Alex Gow Funerals is one of only two funeral businesses established in Brisbane before 1883, which remain trading today, but both under different names.

And today, guided through the years by four generations of the Gow family, the same highly-valued principles of old-fashioned care and compassion drive the company and its people.

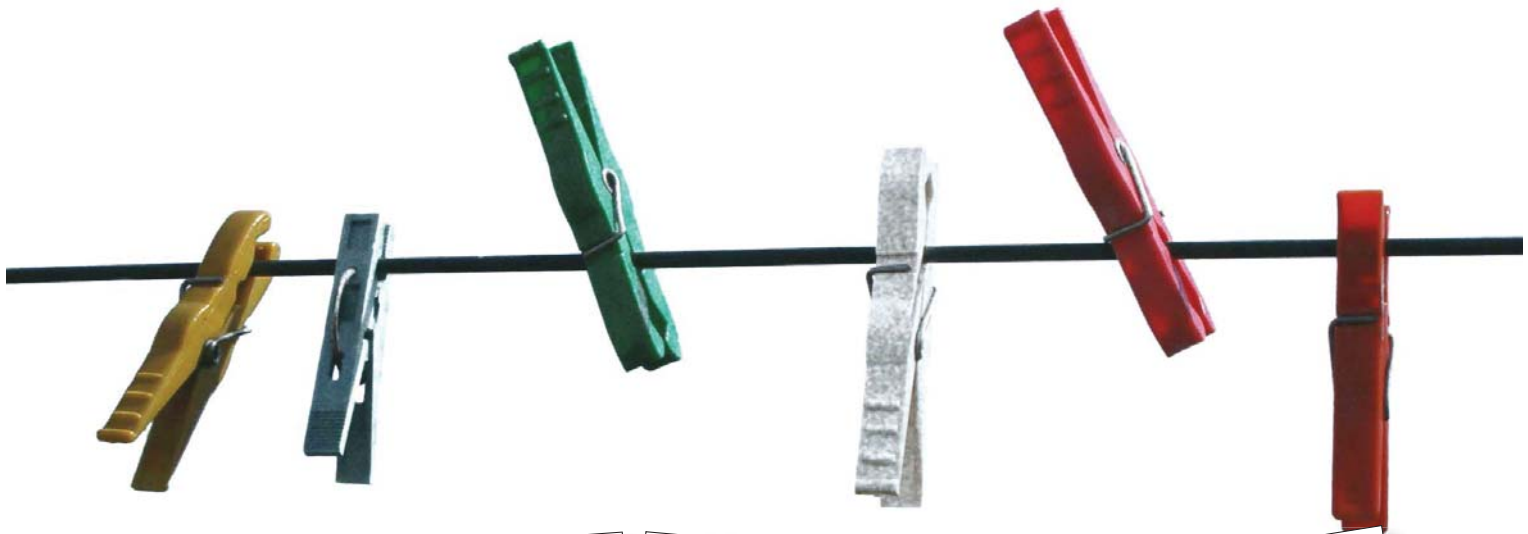
Times change, but some things which meant a lot in 1840 are still the same.

Alex Gow Funerals

A Brisbane-owned family business, established in 1840.
Phone 3852 1501

JOURNEY asks...

What was the best thing about synod?



Meeting people from all over the state of Queensland, experiencing their different ways of worship and seeing how the various committees deal with the issues on the agenda.

Robert Bennett (Ipswich)



The relaxed relational, positive "feel" of this Synod.

Jan Whyte (Toombul)



Table groups – a first for this Synod and hopefully a practise that will continue.

Lorna Skilton (Toowoomba)



Stories of faith and service expressed in challenging, inspiring presentations which vibrated with the dynamic, creative power of the Holy Spirit active in our world today.

Rob Corrie (Townsville)



Being part of a talented, enthusiastic team of singers and musicians was an honour and a joy.

Rowena Harris (Ashgrove)



Coming in from the wild and woolly bush to have a bath, get some new clothes, catch up with old friends, introduce myself again to those who have forgotten me, listen and rejoice at the work of God and the vision of the church.

James W. Hughes III (Mapoon)



The enthusiasm and excitement generated at the presentation of the Synod's Vision for Mission.

Ruth Beasley (Mareeba)



Best of all was the kindness, care and consideration I've received from members of the Synod. What a blessing it is to be part of the family of God.

Jenny Brecknell (Chapel Hill)



Getting acquainted with so many people and especially that our church is multi-cultural.

Lawes Waia (Thursday Island)



Eating and worshipping together and listening to people's stories especially the news from around the presbyteries.

Linda Hanson (Gympie)



Seeing Elma and Arthur Store receiving a Joint Moderator's medal, a wonderful in ministry. They are an inspiration to us – absolute gems!

Ruth Tracey (Tingalpa)



Having the chance to listen to how God is moving and working through different people, different organisations and in different situations across the state.

David Ferguson (Gladstone)



Having a say in the decisions of the Uniting Church and having opportunity to voice opinions especially in small groups.

Andy Airey (Holland Park)



Barbara Bailey's inspiring charge to the Synod speaking on behalf of retiring ministers. While commending the faithfulness of ministry in the past she challenged the church to be faithful to God's call to mission in a new age.

Graham Beattie (Mt Gravatt)



The grace, humility and servitude that leaders within the Synod conduct themselves.

Naomi Camille (Holland Park)



The table groups: far more relaxed and appropriate for more informal debate and listening, and conducive to business processing.

David Thomas (Tallebudgera)



The inaugural Charles Farnworthy Memorial touch football game.

Paul Clark (Burdekin)



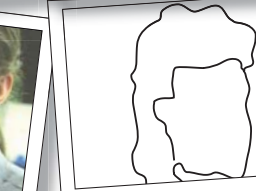
The tales of ministries old, new and future are met with such enthusiasm and excitement that it is impossible not to be moved by the works of God in this state.

Stephen Rae (Bayside)



To all the cynics, and everyone who thinks it's all a horrid waste of time, I would like to say "I have seen MUCH worse!"

Frith Footitt (Ennogera)



I was there, I really was!

Charles Farnworthy III Esq.