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honoured

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A NEW RELIGION?

Mardi Lumsden

A sea of wide eyes reach to grasp the prize. Hope and fervour swirl through the air. A voice bellows and the audience rise to their feet as if one. In chorus they pour out their heart's desire, some with tears in their eyes, others with wide smiles. Some stand with arms lifted in victory, others fall on weary knees, hands clenched to their hearts. All have been moved by an immeasurable, unexplainable force.

This could describe the scene at a Billy Graham rally or National Christian Youth Convention worship service. It could equally describe the crowd at a football final.

Irish academic and *Psychology Today* contributor Dr Nigel Barber said that psychologists and social scientists have noted that sport has many of the same effects on its spectators that religion does.

"Sports spectatorship is a transformative experience through which fans escape their humdrum lives, just as religious experiences help the faithful to transcend their everyday existence," he wrote in his article "Is Sport a Religion?" (November 2009).

We cannot deny the core purpose of Christian worship. As stated in the Uniting Church's foundational document, the *Basis of Union* (paragraph three): "The Uniting Church acknowledges that the faith and unity of the Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church are built upon the one Lord Jesus Christ."

Yet a great many more people are sitting in cold metal stadium seats each week than in our pews.

Bicycle Queensland Development Officer and former *Journey* editor Andrew Demack said being part of a sporting community can give people the emotional, social and sometimes spiritual support the others get from being part of a Christian community.

"I don't think sport or recreation replace church, well, not deliberately anyway. The struggle is for the church to be relevant and engaged in the questions that young people are talking about: to be a place (or a group of people) where people want to spend their time.

"Cycling lends itself to routine and ritual, and thus to the comfort that those things afford. Routine gives our lives structure, ritual overlays meaning onto the routine," he said.

"If you ride every week with the same group of people for two or three or four hours, there's plenty of shared experience, and plenty of time to chat," said Mr Demack.

Bayside Uniting Church minister, former Queensland Reds chaplain and self-confessed "sporting tragic", Rev Lu Senituli, said sport is very much part of the fabric of Australian society.

"Whether it's an individual or team sport, or in a school or club context, the matrix for sport provides people with many opportunities to develop self-confidence, self-esteem, commitment and many other positive elements.

"The other important dimension is the fact that the individual becomes part of something outside of themselves.

"Many people I've spoken to over the years have shared how sport clubs have given them the things they have longed for: a sense of belonging; valued participation; positive connections with others; and a sense of community."

As a minister in a sporting context Mr Senituli said it was important to assist players on a spiritual and emotional level.

"There is immense pressure for some of those young blokes to deal with fame, money, and other related life issues ... the chaplain can assist in an unobtrusive manner by just simply being available."

Few things are as divisive as sport or religion but the challenge for Christians is to play the game well and fairly and to represent their faith in all they do.

Running the good race is only the beginning.

MONTHLY PRAYER

God of life,
Strengthen us to run the race set before us.
Lift us up when we feel weary and spur us
on when we flag in zeal.
May our efforts for you always be our
personal best.
Amen

JULY 2012

Sport, porn and good Aussie culture

Mardi Lumsden, Editor

IT used to be the rule not to talk about religion or politics at a dinner with people you don't know. These days I add sport to that list.

Not because I don't have an interest in sport, I do. I love certain sports but they are usually the sports (e.g. gymnastics) that don't get any media attention and the athletes are not national celebrities or on any kind of sponsorship deal.

I find it frustrating that some sports get so much media coverage, and others (particularly women's sports) don't.

So, how do we get more Australians to watch women's sport? Get them to play in their underwear, apparently. At least that seemed to work for the Lingerie Football League, a women's gridiron league where players wear underwear and gridiron shoulder padding. Two American teams toured Australia in June to drum up support for the potential launch next year.

While it was wildly successful as far as attendance to games and publicity went, it was criticised by many people, including Federal Minister for Sport Kate Lundy who called it a "cheap, degrading perv".

These women are true athletes and you could argue that they are getting well paid to do a sport they enjoy. But would Australians watch it if they were wearing clothes? I doubt it.

So, what does this say about Australia's sporting culture and where can the church fit into this world of sport bordering on porn? How do we, as the church, engage in all aspects of Australia's sporting culture?

Many high profile and high budget sports have chaplains on staff. Uniting Church minister and former Queensland Red's chaplain Rev Lu Senituli said it is an invaluable part of the team structure, particularly for young players trying to deal with the realities of sudden celebrity status.

You could argue that the Lingerie Football League is exactly where the church should be – out where the people are rather than staying in our buildings condemning others.



Being havens of hope

Rev Kaye Ronalds

I have been married to my bicycle-riding husband for more than 30 years and I still don't get it. How can all that pain and sweat be so satisfying? He likes competition and he likes challenging himself. He has ridden across the Simpson Desert and East Timor.

At school I was always in the B team for softball, hockey and netball. I was usually the one with the oranges. For the Army Reserve I had to pass fitness tests and have completed a number of lengthy marches, but I would not describe myself as an athlete.

I like walking, but for me it is usually about having time alone with God and being nurtured by nature. In my life the challenges come from belonging to the Uniting Church. During the 35 years since it was formed we have faced many challenges together.

In the early years, there was pain about the differences in practices of Holy Communion. Methodists were used to kneeling at the rail and the monthly ritual. Presbyterians were served in their seats and elders delivered

a token to members every three months. Congregationalists appreciated having communion every month. We debated whether or not to allow children to receive communion before being confirmed.

A point of pain for many ex-Methodists was that some members of the other churches were more permissive about drinking alcohol. Heated discussions at parish councils and synod meetings revealed the deeply held positions.

Different opinions remain about whether or not congregations and agencies should accept money for projects from the casinos' community benefit funds. Some congregations view it as God's provision for mission, while others see it as hypocritical even to consider using money gained from people affected by problem gambling.

Mostly we have found a way to live together respectfully despite some profound differences in lifestyles and values. Along the journey we have also argued about land rights, abortion, Indigenous affairs, divorce and remarriage, sexuality and

leadership, and many more issues.

The National Assembly will gather in Adelaide this month.

A range of issues will take the attention of members. One proposal requests the Assembly to reaffirm its public statement on marriage; however, another requests the church to develop a liturgy for blessing same gender relationships. Once again we will find ourselves in a season of heated discussions on matters of doctrine, theology, beliefs and lifestyle.

Some of my own hot buttons are pushed by the current conversations about the meaning of marriage. Managing our responses is just as important as making the right decisions.

What we have learned from past debates in the church is that there will be people who hold polarised positions with a Bible in hand and knees callused from prayer. We have also discovered that guarding deeply held beliefs and seeking to convey "the truth" can lead people to behaviour that is just as despicable as the sins (actions and attitudes) they are condemning. The media likes controversy because it makes



news. Choose carefully who you listen to and read.

It would be easy to make our debates in the Christian church a competition with winners and losers. We can sweat over letters and emails and speeches and sermons by which we hope to convince others of the rightness of our positions. We can add to the anxiety in our communities – or we can be havens of hope where people work to build one another up rather than tear each other down.

I urge you to stretch yourself to consider the point of view of the other; to challenge yourself to seek to understand how a Christian with a different point of view might have arrived at it on the journey.

I urge you to pray for all who will attend the Assembly, for the discernment of the church, and for all who will implement the decisions – including the ones that won't make the media.



Presbytery ministers, the General Secretary Dr Shirley Coulson, and Synod Ministries Coordinator Rev John Cox meet in June. Photo by Kaye Ronalds

Where's the Moderator?

This month Rev Kaye Ronalds will be at many events, including:

15 – 21 July 13th National Assembly, Adelaide.

27 July Logan Central Multicultural Uniting Church Youth Rally.

28 – 29 July Central Queensland Presbytery meeting, Pioneer Valley, near Mackay.

Snap that!

SEND us a photo that captures the *Journey* theme.

This month's Snap That is brought to you by Moggill Uniting Church. Luke, Keira, Sophie, Sam and Nathan celebrate the 35th anniversary of the Uniting Church. Photo by Andrew Jarvie Photography www.andrewjarviephotography.com

August theme: 13th Assembly (*Life Overflowing*).



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Jubilee dissenters call for economic justice

WHILE the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations dominated the media in early June, the dissenting voices of some Christian groups were raised behind the pomp and pageantry.

The presence of anti-monarchist protestors at the celebrations was not unexpected, but some of the demonstrations that occurred across the United Kingdom had a more pressing message than republicanism: a radical, even prophetic, call to economic justice.

Christians from all denominations are among the multi-faith protestors who continue to challenge the status quo during this Jubilee year. Christianity Uncut, a network whose supporters include clergy,

theologians and writers, points out that "jubilee" is a biblical concept originally about a time of justice when slaves were freed, debts cancelled and equal relationships restored.

The celebration of a jubilee as a special year of remission of sins and universal pardon kept every 50 years has its origins in Leviticus 25: 8–55.

The protestors say that, at a time of cuts and huge gaps between rich and poor, this is the jubilee that society really needs.

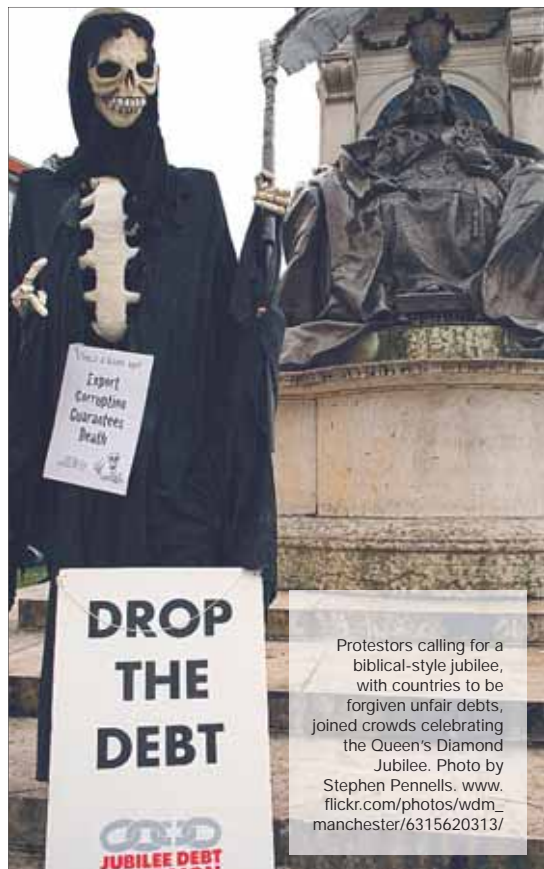
Global poverty campaigners first applied the idea of jubilee to the Third World debt crisis during the 1980s, and the Jubilee 2000 movement saw \$120 billion of debt cancelled for developing countries, resulting in increased

spending on schools, healthcare and social development.

As a new cycle of debt and austerity hits home throughout Europe and across the world, the Jubilee Debt Campaign has renewed its mission, calling for 100 per cent cancellation of the unpayable and unjust debts of poor countries.

The campaign has launched a Jubilee for Justice petition, and is asking faith leaders to sign an open letter to the British Prime Minister calling for a renewed jubilee.

Source: www.ekklesia.co.uk
The Jubilee for Justice petition can be viewed at www.jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk



Protestors calling for a biblical-style jubilee, with countries to be forgiven unfair debts, joined crowds celebrating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Photo by Stephen Pennells. www.flickr.com/photos/wdm_manchester/6315620313/

Thirteenth triennial Assembly in Adelaide

PEOPLE who have no business to be together will gather for the 13th triennial Assembly meeting of the Uniting Church in Australia in Adelaide from 15 to 21 July.

This unsettling image of Christian community is one proposed by President-elect the Rev Professor Andrew

Dutney during an interview about the Assembly theme, *Life Overflowing*.

The church is a sign and a foretaste of the kingdom of God, suggests Professor Dutney, that "thin place" where relationships between unlikely people – men, women, slaves, gentiles and Jews – allow the kingdom to break

through into history and into the world.

The theme draws on John 10:10, "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly", and was chosen by Professor Dutney, who begins his presidency on the first day of Assembly, succeeding the Rev Alistair Macrae.

Professor Dutney sees his role as nurturing congregations, as well as championing the work of ministry. The local church is the hope of the world, he says.

"It is a sign, foretaste and instrument of reconciliation and renewal. It is a beachhead of the kingdom of God."

Key discussions at the 13th Assembly

A wide range of issues will be canvassed at the 13th Assembly. For example, the Assembly has responsibility for setting the standards of theological education for people in specified ministry. The Ministerial Education Commission has done that work, but there is a proposal

to form an Education and Ministry Working Group to be responsible for that work instead. A proposal to review the Ministry of Pastor adopted at the 11th Assembly meeting in Brisbane in 2006 will be put to the 13th Assembly. The Assembly will also be asked to consider establishing a task

group to review the operation of the part of the regulations related to appeals. There will be several items of business in relation to marriage, but there is no proposal before the 13th Assembly that will change the existing doctrine of marriage of the Uniting Church in Australia.

Fast facts about Assembly

WHO

The Assembly is the national council of the Uniting Church in Australia and has responsibility in matters of doctrine, worship, government and discipline. The triennial Assembly meeting will bring together some 265 representatives elected by the six synods and 30 presbyteries, plus participants from various agencies and working groups, to form the decision-making body of the Assembly.

WHEN

The Assembly meets every three years for one week. Between meetings, the Assembly Standing Committee gathers three times a year to follow up decisions and deal with matters arising in the intervening period.

WHAT

The discussion revolves around social and policy issues relating to the Uniting Church in Australia. The outcome is a series of decisions affecting the corporate life of the Uniting Church.

UnitingWorld works for community in PNG

A report released at the end of May on the impact of the multi-billion dollar Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) project in Papua New Guinea (PNG) highlights the value of bringing diverse interest groups together to address social challenges, said Dr Kerry Enright, National Director of UnitingWorld.

The LNG project offers the prospect of substantial economic growth to PNG's Hela region. But with that promise has come significant social upheaval.

The report, "The Community Good – Examining the Influence of the PNG LNG Project in the Hela Region of Papua New Guinea", recognises the industry's

contribution to the community and also, Dr Enright said, "does not shrink from naming key issues the community, church, government and industry need to face up to."

"It also shows the various parties' willingness to work together for the community good. The challenge is to act on

the report in the crucial next two years."

Uniting Church in Papua New Guinea Development Secretary Uvenama Rova echoed Dr Enright's hope. "The research project enabled people with a range of views – the community, government and industry – to talk together about the issues we face," he said.

"We're especially grateful to our partner, UnitingWorld, for recognising the need and

the value of this project and for supporting the production of the report."

"As a result we now have the chance to work together on the challenges identified in the report for the good of the community."

UnitingWorld will continue to work alongside the United Church of Papua New Guinea to communicate the report's findings and empower communities in the Hela Region.



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Youth lead the way at Kairos

KAIROS Uniting Church in Clayfield has started a monthly youth service led by young people on the last Sunday of every month at 10am.

"It is awesome to be able to express my faith by singing and playing the guitar", said Brianna, who plays guitar and leads the singing.

Paris, who plays piano and acts, and Dominique, who sings, reads and leads prayers agreed.

"It's a great way for us to be involved in a significant way

in our church service," they said.

Rev Sandra Jebb said these gifted young people working together had encouraged the whole congregation.

"We have a responsibility as a church to encourage our young people and nurture their faith," she said. "This cannot be done if they feel sidelined and uninvolved. What's wonderful is discovering the talents that these young people are happy to use to worship God."



Young people enjoy leading worship at Kairos Uniting Church in Clayfield. Photo by Susan Dio

Full house for reconciliation service

COLD weather did not deter enthusiastic attendance by people from all denominations at the annual Queensland Churches Together and Churches Together Indigenous Peoples Partnership (CTIPP) Service of

Reconciliation.

The service was held at St John the Evangelist Anglican Church, Enoggera, on 31 May, during National Reconciliation Week, with over one hundred people in attendance. The Malu

Kiai Torres Strait Island Dancers provided the welcome, alongside other musicians including guitarist Eric Barkmeyer.

Uniting Church Indigenous minister, Rev Rodney Minniecon, used the "Valley of dry bones"

passage in Ezekiel 37 as the basis for the sermon. He likened the restoration of the bones to the restoration of the identity and respect for Indigenous people and culture that is occurring in Australia. Mr Minniecon reminded the congregation that, although some steps have been taken in this process, there is still a long way to go.

During the service, Uniting Church Elder Aunty Jean Phillips spoke

with the local participants in the recent Grasstrees Conference in Melbourne about growing and encouraging young Indigenous Christian leaders.

CTIPP Coordinator, Georgia Corowa, was encouraged by the turnout and said it was "a good indication of support for stronger relationships between our Indigenous and non-Indigenous Christian community".

stuff kids ask

Why didn't God let me win?

Answered by Mardi Lumsden, Director of Uniting Communications and former gymnastics coach.

DO you do a sport because you want to win or do you do a sport because you love it?

Sure, it feels great to win, to stand on the podium or get a ribbon, but I think it feels better when you know you have done your best.

As a coach of course I was proud of my gymnasts when

they did well at competitions, but I was most proud of the ones who had worked their hardest and improved within themselves, even if they didn't get a medal.

There is a poster that says, "If you want to be number one, you have to train like you are number two."

Sometimes you can learn more from not winning. You can learn about the things you need to improve on. You can also learn how to be a good sport.

When you are playing in a team it is not the team with the best players which wins, it is the team that works best together.

And you know what? It really is more important how you play the game because that tells a lot of people what kind of person you are. If you help and encourage others (both on your team and not) you will be showing them the kindness that Jesus would show them. And together you will all become better.

This year *Journey* will feature this column of great questions from the mouths of babes. If you have heard a great question from a young person, please send it to journey@ucaqld.com.au



Guitarist Eric Barkmeyer performs at the service at Enoggera's St John the Evangelist Anglican Church. Photo by Michael Stephenson

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LIFE OVERFLOWING
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assembly2012.uca.org.au

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Church members honoured on Queen's birthday

Mardi Lumsden

THE Governor-General, Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC CVO, congratulated award recipients in The Queen's Birthday 2012 Honours List on Monday 11 June.

The diversity of service across all fields of endeavour was recognised with a range of awards within the Australian Honours System. These awards include the contributions from the community as well as Defence, Police, Fire and Emergency Services personnel.

"These awards recognise shining examples of men and women who display the finest community values of respect and giving, dedication and commitment," Ms Bryce said.

Among the 540 recipients were a number of Uniting Church members, including Aspley Uniting Church member Peter Waltisbuhl (OAM) who was awarded the Medal (OAM) of The Order of Australia for service to the community through executive roles with church and service organisations.

Mr Waltisbuhl is a long-standing Aspley Uniting

Church member and has held numerous positions within the congregation, including choirmaster for 20 years.

Mr Waltisbuhl isn't relaxing on his laurels, though. As chair of the management committee of the Aspley Early Childhood Education Centre, run by Aspley Uniting Church in Brisbane, he and the team are preparing for the opening of a school-aged care program.

"This was all in the vision we had back in 2005 when we started working on this idea of a Christian-based childcare centre that would provide a service to the parents and children in the area."

Mr Waltisbuhl said he was very surprised to be awarded such an honour.

"It makes you feel very humble because you think of all the people that you know who probably deserve it as much or more than you do," he said.

"The biggest surprise I got was the strong reaction from our family; they were so excited about it."

"It is a big thing really. I'm just excited that the work we have done has been recognised."

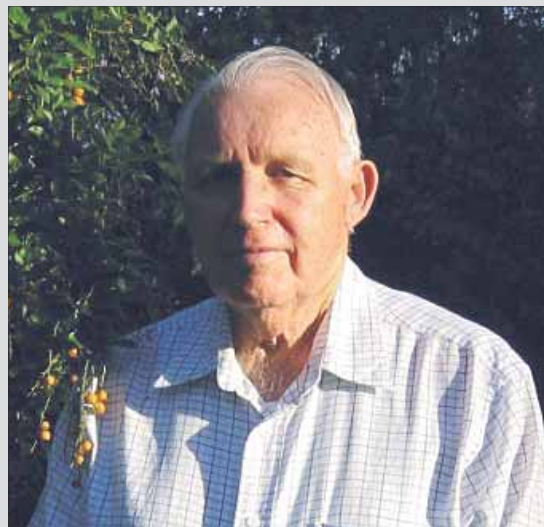
It's not me, it is all the people who work with me that make it tick. We have nine or ten people on the management committee who have all worked very hard over the last seven or eight years.

"We have wonderful staff who work very hard; they spread God's love through the district in what they do and that is the important thing."

Mr Waltisbuhl, who will attend a ceremony later in the year to accept his medal, said that until earlier this year Aspley was the only Christian-based childcare centre in Brisbane's north side.

The centre will celebrate its fourth birthday on 8 July and Mr Waltisbuhl said they hope to open the school-aged care also in early July.

Victorian Uniting Church member Simon McKeon (AO) was appointed an Officer (AO) of The Order of Australia for distinguished service to business and commerce through leadership and advisory roles, and to the community as a supporter of national and international charitable, educational and sporting organisations, including his



Aspley Uniting Church member Peter Waltisbuhl (OAM) was awarded the Medal (OAM) of The Order of Australia. Photo courtesy of Peter Waltisbuhl

position as Director of World Vision Australia from 1994 to 2005.

For a full Queen's Birthday 2012 Honours list visit www.itsanhonour.gov.au



Morgan and Ari at the lemonade stand. Photo by Daryl Moritz

Creative kids: Jam Club makes a difference

Tara Burton

LITTLE people can do big things.

The children and youth at Ashmore Uniting Church on the Gold Coast were moved when they heard stories about the effects of poverty.

UnitingWorld and members of the congregation spoke to the children in Jam Club about Third World countries.

Children's Ministry Coordinator Sharon Moritz said that after hearing the stories the children wanted to raise money to donate to UnitingWorld to make a difference with their ongoing projects.

"Our ambitious goal was to raise \$250 to buy a sewing

machine for the Zambia project," she said.

"There was much excitement as the children made toys, craft and sweet treats."

Ms Moritz said that the success of the fundraiser was overwhelming, and after doubling their target goal they were able to sponsor a second UnitingWorld project.

"The children raised an amazing \$541, which we used to purchase the sewing machine for a Zambian community to produce garments for sale, providing school uniforms for local children as well as income for the community."

"But we were also able to provide funds for the Fiji eye

centre, which trains local staff in using basic medical equipment and carrying out basic eye care," she said.

Ms Moritz said that the Ashmore congregation gives thanks to God for empowering the children and opening up the hearts of all those who contributed and participated.

"We all learnt through God's grace a very valuable lesson – that we can all make a difference to someone in the world."

"Our age, our wealth and our power do not matter if we do it in love to glorify God."

For more information on UnitingWorld projects visit www.unitingworld.org.au



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space to learn

New swim club helps memories surface

THERE'S something in the water at Toowoomba, where people with dementia are participating in a new swimming program that is stirring up happy memories and delivering surprising benefits.

Every week, eight Blue Care residents head along to Milne Bay Aquatic Centre. Some know why they are going and some don't, but everyone has high spirits and a sense that something fun and exciting is about to happen.

Blue Care Residential Support Officer Stuart Donohoe said the Water Memories Swimming Club was developed by the University of Queensland/Blue Care Research and Practice Development Centre.

"The swimming club is a

dementia-specific, evidence-based aquatic exercise program developed by UQ exercise physiologist Dr Tim Henwood, who specialises in exercise for older people, and Associate Professor Christine Neville, an expert in dementia care," Mr Donohoe said.

"The program has resulted in a number of psychological and physical benefits for the participants."

Blue Care's program facilitator, clinical nurse Marjorie Crawford, said it was great to see the smiles on participants' faces as they revisited childhood memories in an environment where they felt safe.

"We were advised on some of the benefits residents could expect, but I was surprised by



Blue Care Toowoomba Aged Care Facility Assistant in Nursing Mirta Alonso Silva and resident Jim Brown make a splash during Water Memories Swim Club. Photo courtesy of Blue Care

the number of additional benefits we hadn't anticipated," she said.

"The wider community gets to see and interact with people with memory loss and it also brings a lot of joy to family members and staff to see the residents outside the care environment."

The program is open to participants of all age groups and levels of care. It is delivered by a qualified swim instructor and each participant is assisted in the pool by a family member or volunteer.

The program will restart in September. Contact Tim Henwood at the UQ/Blue Care Research and Practice Development Centre on 3720 5303 or t.henwood@uq.edu.au

Blue Care service model is tailor made

Hayley Campbell

AFTER months of consultation and planning – involving people from across Australia – UnitingCare Queensland's Blue Care has announced its new service model, Blue Care Tailor Made.

Blue Care Executive Director Robyn Batten said the new model will guide and shape the organisation's services and will be implemented at Blue Care's 260

sites during the next two years.

"Blue Care is a leading not-for-profit organisation, which has been built on the skills and expertise of its staff during the past 59 years," Ms Batten said.

"The new model builds on our strengths and creates services which are 'tailor made' to suit the 49 000 individuals we assist across Queensland and northern New South Wales every year."

A focus of Blue Care Tailor Made is to offer services

which are flexible, appropriate, sustainable and seamless – working in partnership with families, friends, other health providers and communities.

Services will still be offered in people's homes and across Blue Care's retirement living, community and residential aged-care settings.

"Clients and families will continue to receive the quality care and assistance they expect from Blue Care, and will

be offered more choice and flexibility," Ms Batten said.

"Blue Care Tailor Made is an approach that actively listens to the needs and wants of each of the people we assist."

"A person can engage with one or several components of our new model at any time to receive a combination of care and services that is right for them."

"Rather than providing a list of services to our clients, our clients will tell us what they need and we will work with them to find options to suit them."

More than 500 clients, families, staff and health industry

leaders helped inform the model's design, which is Blue Care's response to an ever-changing and emerging aged and community care environment.

Ms Batten said supporting staff to bring the model to life would now be the next focus.

"Just as individuals are unique, so are the communities in which Blue Care operates, which is why the model's design will be flexible to suit each metropolitan, regional and rural location," she said.

For more information visit www.bluecare.org.au

Volunteers pick up tools for Frontier Services

VOLUNTEERS are travelling outback and picking up tools, paintbrushes and scrubbing brushes to help with the vital upkeep of Frontier Services buildings across the country.

A work party consisting of 12 people from across Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria has met in Charleville for a two-week stint to complete vital jobs at a number of the services based in the town.

They have painted walls, repaired ceilings, replaced doors, relocated a clothesline, removed mould, moved a garden shed and ticked off countless other jobs over the past week.

Frontier Services Work Party Coordinator Gordon Hill said the volunteers signed up because they wanted to make a difference, particularly for people in remote areas.

"It is particularly rewarding to help out the Frontier Services staff – they are the ones supporting people in the community and so we are helping them."

"It can be very hard to find people to do these sorts of jobs, particularly in the remote areas we go to, so the contribution of the work party volunteers is very significant."

While there has been lots of work to do, Mr Hill said everyone was having a great time. The volunteers include couples and single people and some who are volunteering for the first time with a work party.

If you are interested in becoming a work party volunteer contact Gordon Hill on (02) 6836 3002 or cobill@bigpond.net.au



Lindsay Herbert working inside the Remote Area Families Service office. Photo courtesy of Frontier Services



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Going for gold

Dianne Jensen

THE list of inaugural members of the International Association of Athletics Federations Hall of Fame is nearly complete. So far, Australia is represented by the inimitable track and field "Golden Girl" Betty Cuthbert whose speed and spirit enchanted us in the 1960s.

The Olympics have given us so many riveting images across the decades – of courage, endurance and achievement against the odds.

There is defiance and tragedy too, as illustrated in the series "50 Stunning Olympic Moments" put together by *The Guardian* in the United Kingdom. Number 13 on their list is the moment when black American athletes Tommie Smith and John Carlos, the 200m gold and bronze medallists, gave the Black Power salute on the podium in Mexico in 1968.

With them on the podium was the Australian silver medallist Peter Norman, who indicated his support by wearing the badge of the Olympic Project for Human Rights. It spelled the end of Norman's Olympic career, despite his qualifying for the 1972 Munich games. Smith and Carlos were pallbearers at his funeral in 2006.

We can't help but watch it all, and the 2012 Australian Olympic team will have most of us riveted.

But what explains our fascination, we could ask,

when the Olympics is about nothing more than personal aggrandisement and nationalist bombast? That moment when the national anthem plays, the crowd roars, and the winner salutes like a demi-god who has performed the neat trick of transcending human boundaries? Not forgetting that gold medals are hard currency, drawing sponsorships and all the economic benefits of celebrity status.

"If you don't try to win you might as well hold the Olympics in somebody's back yard," said Jesse Owens, the black American athlete who won four gold medals at the 1936 Berlin Olympics, infuriating the Nazi hosts. He's right, of course.

Perhaps this is a good time to pull a neat trick of our own, one that Christians should be good at: living in this world with our eyes wide open to its vainglory and double-dealing, but with the heart to see all that is courageous and compassionate in humanity.

As Paul counselled in Romans 12:2, "Do not follow the customs of the present age, but be transformed by the entire renewal of your minds, so that you may learn from experience what God's will is – that will which is good and beautiful and perfect" (The Weymouth New Testament).

Pierre de Coubertin, prime mover for the revival of the Olympic Games in 1894, said



Decathlete Matthew McEwen and sprinter Cathy Freeman meet the Queen in Manchester in the lead-up to the 2002 Commonwealth Games. Photo courtesy of Matthew McEwen

that the most important thing "is not winning but taking part; the essential thing in life is not conquering but fighting well".

Betty Cuthbert would probably agree with that. The Golden Girl was diagnosed with the debilitating disease Multiple Sclerosis in 1969 and is now wheelchair-bound.

"One of my favourite verses is Isaiah 40:31, which was given

to me by my grandmother just before I ran in Melbourne. 'But those who trust in the Lord will find new strength. They will be strong like eagles soaring upward on wings; they will walk and run without getting tired'," wrote Ms Cuthbert in an autobiographical reflection.

So let's cherish the Olympics for filling us with pride and inspiration, and look for all that

is good and beautiful and perfect in the meeting of nations at the 2012 Olympic Games in London. Go for gold, whatever it may be for you.

Sources: www.thegoal.com;
www.topendsports.com;
www.guardian.co.uk/sport/series/50-stunning-olympic-moments

Running the good race

Billy Diehm

FIRSTLY, I need to declare I am a sports tragic. I love playing, watching, reading about, coaching and driving my kids to

sport. I love the whole package.

Over the years I have learnt a lot of life lessons from hanging around various sporting fields. And now that I am an officially retired player and a coach and

driver for kids' sport, it is my kids who are learning those valuable life lessons.

I love sporting clichés. Not the ones on television, but the actual coaching and playing ones

we use. Clichés like "you learn more from a loss than a win". It's true, because in defeat you learn humility; not to blame but accept responsibility; to admit your mistakes and to learn not to do them again. And in accepting losing, you also accept winning and how to win graciously.

You learn that sport is not about being the best but rather about doing your best. Think about that statement. It's a big one and extremely liberating as a life lesson.

Only one person can be the best, but everyone can do their best. Sometimes your best means you are the best, but most times it doesn't – and that is okay as long as you have done your best.

Sport teaches you a lot about life. Being involved in kids' sport teaches you that not everyone will play for Australia or Queensland or even their district.

Here is another life lesson: that's okay. Sport is about having fun, playing and getting on with others.

No matter what their skill level is, it is far better that they play a game than PlayStation.

Be real in your expectations; don't become one of those parents.

Sport teaches you about the value of teamwork and getting on with others. You learn that many times those on the sidelines are just as important as those on the field. Sport gives you a taste of volunteerism and you learn some new life skills as you help out. You meet new and interesting people and develop a sense of community and loyalty.

Sport teaches you how to play by the rules and respect the referee, an authority figure. You can't cheat in sport. Break the rules and you get penalised and suffer the consequences straight away. Accept the rules and sport becomes fun. Wouldn't it be great if in life we accepted the rules and consequences so willingly?

When I played, some of my most memorable moments happened on a footy field or cricket oval. Now as a parent, some of my most valuable moments have happened not on the field but in the car driving to and from the fields. Fun moments mixed in with teachable moments. Those will be the treasured memories I will keep around sport.

Billy Diehm is Community Partnership Manager for 96five Family Radio



Billy Diehm with former Queensland Firebirds netball stars Janelle Lawson (left) and Tamsin Greenway. Photo courtesy of 96five Family Radio



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The pilgrimage of the Camino de Santiago St Jean Pied de Port to León: What were we thinking?

Dr Shirley Coulson and
Rev Lyn Burden

WE wanted to do an epic journey – or another one in Lyn's case – and Everest Base Camp was definitely off limits! A chance conversation with then Archbishop Battersby gave us the idea of a pilgrimage, which seemed to fit our criteria of "epic-ness". We were never going to manage 36 days off together, but there were 20 days between Synod Standing Committee (Shirley) and the Festival of Homiletics (Lyn), so we planned to start at St Jean Pied de Port (in France, and the traditional starting point for the Camino Francés) and walk to León, 400km away. It was only much later that we discovered that the distance to León is actually more than 470km!

Every day there were challenges for, after all, walking 20 plus kilometres a day stretches your body's boundaries. There were mountains, steep descents, poor weather, limited food options and blisters with which to contend; but the idea of doing a pilgrimage is to go on, to see what the day brings.

Shirley used the time for thinking and made up amazing word games about the experience. Lyn replaced counting steps with hymns. Did you know that "This Is the Day" plus "Halle Halle" takes 50 steps?

Meeting people along the road and engaging our story with their amazing stories was a highlight. Annabelle was walking with Emilie in her heart, Emilie who has Multiple Sclerosis.

The pilgrim menu each night is served with free bread and red wine. Every night we enjoyed breaking bread and on one memorable night we held hands



Queensland Synod General Secretary Dr Shirley Coulson and Wesley Mission Brisbane Superintendent Minister Rev Lyn Burden at Sahagún in the province of León on the last day of their pilgrimage. The pilgrim statue is outside the 13th century Iglesia de la Trinidad, which houses one of the town's pilgrim hostels or "albergues". Photo courtesy of Dr Coulson and Ms Burden

with two French pilgrims we had just met, and said grace together – to the astonished looks of people at nearby tables!

At times when we were feeling a bit low and thinking "What are we doing?" people were there to help, in all sorts of ways: to offer advice, strap our feet, take time to chat, share their stories.

The best advice came at one of those times. This is a pilgrimage;

like Jesus who had to carry a cross, on a pilgrimage we carry our accumulation of life that is a burden, and the pilgrimage helps us to learn humility, patience and adaptability.

For many of the millions of people who went before us this had been a spiritual pilgrimage, and so it was a particular delight to come upon crosses, labyrinths, small sacred spaces. We didn't

need to think about where God was, because God was there before us, beside us, beneath us and within us. God seemed to intrude into the day in many ways – and thank you for all the lovely supportive texts we received along the way. We felt loved!

We learnt that we were resilient, and able to face new challenges.

We learnt that we needed to develop those lessons of the Camino: humility, patience and adaptability.



WATCH

Film: *The Way*

Olympics prayer relay

AS the Olympic Torch Relay makes its way across the United Kingdom, passing within reach of almost the entire population on the journey from Lands End to London, a parallel 70-day prayer relay will link local churches in more than a thousand communities across the country.

The prayer relay is the project of More Than Gold, an umbrella agency of Christian groups with the mission to encourage United Kingdom churches to engage with the 2012 Olympic Games. The More Than Gold label has been used by the Christian community since the 1996 Atlanta Summer Games, for events including the Commonwealth Games, the Pan American Games, the Olympics and the Paralympics.

More Than Gold is coordinating resources for local churches to participate in

outreach, hospitality and service in their communities, such as planning creative events, hosting visitors, or providing volunteers for the official relay.

The first exchange of the prayer baton – accompanied by prayer for the 2012 Olympic Games and United Kingdom communities – occurred on 19 May, when the baton travelled to Plymouth. Similar exchanges are happening daily.

On 27 July, the Olympic torch will be used to light the cauldron in Stratford's Olympic Stadium at the opening ceremony of the games.

Churches are also being encouraged to support the Paralympics, which run from 29 August to 9 September, by nominating one of the Sundays during the games as a Paralympic Sunday, and promoting inclusion and diversity.



Runners during the test event for the Olympic Marathon entering Tower Hamlets, London. Photo by Diamond Geezer www.flickr.com/photos/dgeezer/5777448205/sizes/o/in/photostream

Faith in sport

Tara Burton

ACCORDING to the Australian Bureau of Statistics one in three Australians regularly play sport or exercise twice or more a week.

What is it about sport and physical activity that has an estimated 4.5 million Australians getting involved?

South Australian Southern Redbacks star Cullen Bailey grew up in the Aberfoyle Uniting Church. Mr Bailey said that his faith is central to his cricket and everything that he does in life.

"I feel like God's given me gifts and I want to use them the best that I can. Cricket is an extension of that for me. I'm working really hard to get where I think God is calling me," he said.

Mr Bailey said that despite his achievements he has also faced many challenges in elite sport.

"What I want is for my faith to help get me through the difficult times. I want to be very faithful with what God's given me. I feel like God's put me here to build relationships with the people in that world – the cricketing world, which isn't exactly full of Christians."

Brisbane Boys' College Christian Educator and 2002 Commonwealth Games silver medallist Matthew McEwen agrees.

"After I came second at the Nationals for the Sydney Olympic Games I got a stress fracture in my foot and I couldn't train. Unfortunately I didn't make the Olympic Games, which was a major disappointment in my athletic life.

"For me even though you have those problems, the Bible says God will never test you to a point where he will break you. God can actually guide you through these situations and also draw you closer to him.

After growing up in the Mitchelton Uniting Church, Mr McEwen said that his faith has always been an integral part of his life, and helped guide him through the anguish over his injury.

"I never had a foot injury before and I haven't had one since. But I've always known that no matter what I went through, God was there assisting me through those troubled times and I could always rely upon him."

Eighteen months ago Andrew Fisher made a statement in the racing world when he created Jesus Racing, which is a part of the "Jesus. All about Life" campaign.

"I started Jesus Racing to challenge the paradigm of other people. People put Christians in a box. People think that to become a Christian you have to live by all of these rules and regulations.

"The last thing they expect is for a Christian to be racing cars



at 300km per hour at Australia's most competitive racing championship."

Mr Fisher said that Jesus Racing is made up of many components, which include both racing and ministry.

"Firstly, we race all over Australia in front of a live audience of 1.2 million people and 30 million worldwide, so it's a fairly high-profile championship. Secondly, I go and speak in high schools all over Australia.

"I speak to about 30 thousand high school students each year. I speak to them about being courageous and making courageous decisions.

"We've helped people through a range of different circumstances and events in their lives just by being part of that community."

If you would like Andrew Fisher to talk in your high school, or for more information, visit www.jesusracing.com.au

Top: Jesus Racing. Photo by John Morris
Below left: Matthew McEwen. Photo by Nick Lorenz
Below right: Cullen Bailey. Photo courtesy of the South Australian Cricket Association



WATCH

Film: *Struggle and Triumph*
www.struggleandtriumph.com



READ

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<http://shop.biblesociety.org.uk/shop/9780564095247>



WEB

Global network for Christian athletes
www.athletesinaction.org



Chaplains on the starting blocks

Dianne Jensen

AUSTRALIAN Nett Knox is gearing up to join the chaplaincy team at the 2012 London Olympic Games. The sole Australian, she will be one of 193 faith chaplains representing nine faiths – Christian, Muslim, Hindu, Sikh, Jewish, Baha'i, Jain, Buddhist and Zoroastrian – in the Multi-Faith Centre in the Olympic Village during the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The chaplaincy service will be available to around 17 000 athletes and officials, plus staff, volunteers and members of the press. The 20 Christians will provide Bible studies and worship services as well as personal support.

This is the sixth Olympic Games for Ms Knox, a Sydney-based member of the Uniting Church who first applied to be a chaplain at the Sydney Olympics in 2000. She was a chaplain at Sports Chaplaincy Australia from 1998 to 2010, and has a lifelong passion for playing and coaching sport.

Along with a strong streak of competitiveness, this background

provides Ms Knox with an insight into the world of elite athletes, and the highly pressured and emotional world of the Olympic Games.

"The key message I hope to convey to athletes is that their worth is not in how they perform on the sporting field, but in who they are as a person," said Ms Knox.

"They are just as valuable without a medal as they are with it. Their performance does not affect who they are."

Ministering effectively in such high-stakes arenas is about trust, she says.

"For me, the core is relationships. Building on the ones I already have, and forming new ones as the opportunity arises.

"I feel very blessed to have the honour of representing Australia in this unique way."

The sentiment is echoed by Bayside Uniting Church minister Rev Lu Senituli, former chaplain for the Reds Academy team, and club player and coach, admits to being a Rugby tragic who just doesn't know when to hang up the boots.

His chaplaincy role with the Reds brought him into contact with the extreme pressures faced by elite sportspeople.

"I think [chaplaincy] is really about a sense of Christ's presence," he said. "The chaplain's role is to provide a person who can journey alongside the players. There is immense pressure for some of those young blokes to deal with fame, money and other related life issues, let alone dealing with the pressure of trying to consolidate a playing spot on the team.

"The chaplain can assist in an unobtrusive manner by just simply being available to the players, especially during the down times of injuries."

Mr Senituli plays with the Sunnybank Puffin Dragons, and is their "unofficial chaplain", the go-to person for "religious" ceremonies or to say a few words on special occasions.

He is also the second grade Rugby coach for the Wynnum Rugby Union senior grades.

"One of the spin-offs from this role is the many opportunities of getting alongside individuals and listening and sharing stories."



Sports chaplain and Bayside Uniting Church minister Rev Lu Senituli.
Photo by Osker Lau

World Vision in the Pacific

AUSTRALIA'S largest aid and development agency, World Vision, has created a special Brisbane-based office to spearhead an ambitious plan to double its investment in fighting poverty in the Pacific and Timor-Leste.

The agency plans to increase its annual investment in the region from \$15 million to \$30 million in the next four years.

Staff at the new office, based in West End, will also oversee the deployment of rapid response teams in the wake of natural disasters and other humanitarian crises.

World Vision Australia CEO Rev Tim Costello said almost half of all people in the Pacific region (four million people) are living in poverty and in some countries the numbers of child deaths and malnourishment near those of sub-Saharan Africa.

"There is a human tragedy unfolding – daily and silently – on Australia's doorstep in which 18 000 children die each year of preventable diseases," said Mr Costello. "The misery and death poverty is inflicting on our closest neighbours is a tragic reality that should be seared into our national consciousness."

Mr Costello said Australians had a special relationship with the Pacific due to its proximity and the bonds forged through theatres of war such as Kokoda.

He said the global economic crisis, the rise of China in the region, increased foreign investment and revenues from extractive industries created an "unparalleled window of opportunity" for the Pacific to make inroads into tackling the levels of poverty and disease that have blighted the region.

Several Pacific nations have made huge leaps towards stable governance in recent years. Timor-Leste recently celebrated 10 years since independence and a peaceful and democratic Presidential election. Papua New Guinea held parliamentary elections in June and Vanuatu will do the same in October, Mr Costello said.

"Yet the Pacific is also facing incredible challenges such as threats to political stability, climatic changes and the reduction in foreign aid by European nations and



Rev Tim Costello (second from left) with key World Vision leaders in the Pacific.
Photo courtesy of World Vision Australia

multilateral organisations such as the World Bank," Mr Costello said.

"The sad reality is that the current efforts to reach the Millennium Development Goals – the world's agreed blueprint to tackle chronic poverty – were failing in the Pacific and efforts to save children had to be intensified."

Mr Costello said the Pacific is one of the largest recipients of Australian Government overseas

aid and he applauded the move to increase aid to the region by 37 per cent in the last Federal Budget.

"Yet there are also opportunities for Australian corporations and donors to make a contribution to eradicate the worst poverty in the region and World Vision's new office will aim to be a bridge for Australians seeking to link with Pacific countries," said Mr Costello.

World Vision's new Pacific unit will focus its operations on Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Timor-Leste. The initiative also involves expertise and resources provided by World Vision New Zealand.

The new Brisbane office will also accommodate the agency's Queensland operations, which seek to raise funds and advocate on behalf of people living in poverty, and was officially opened on 31 May.

HEAD OF COLLEGE

GRACE COLLEGE
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Grace College is a women's college associated with the Uniting and Presbyterian churches. Owing to the retirement of the current Principal, the college is seeking to appoint a new Principal from the 1 December 2012.

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For a position description and further details email graceadmin@grace.uq.edu.au

Applications close 31 July 2012

Indigenous Christians making their own way in ministry

Georgia Corowa

FROM 18 to 21 March Indigenous Christian leaders gathered in Melbourne to support, train and network with emerging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders at a conference called Grasree Gathering.

This much-needed national, non-denominational conference was planned and led by Indigenous Christian leaders, hosted by Jisas wantaim and endorsed by senior church leaders Rev Graham Paulson, Pastor Ray Minniecon, Pastor Denis and Maureen Atkinson, and Auntie Jean Phillips.

Estimates suggest that there is one Indigenous minister for every 5000 Indigenous people, compared to the wider population with approximately one minister to every 500 people.

There is a need for qualified Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander pastors and ministers in Australia. Over the years invaluable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ministers and workers have been heavily inundated within their own ministries tending to the needs of their community without adequate support and resources from their denominations.

A group of Indigenous Christian leaders have begun to bring a solution to this need of training and support through Grasree Gathering.

Elders have said that a gathering of this sort has not happened since an event in 1974 sponsored by World Vision.



Georgia Corowa, Larissa Minniecon and Layla Schrieber at the Grasree Gathering in Melbourne in March 2012.
Photo by Bobby Hopkins

The conference aimed to build a support and communication network among young Indigenous leaders; offer community development training; develop skills in planning, vision-building and problem-solving; and, importantly, it included representation from marginalised communities.

The conference also developed mentoring relationships for each participant.

As we walk together on this journey of reconciliation, we as the church need to continually ask ourselves, "What is our role

in this journey and what can we actively do?"

Some of the history between churches and Indigenous peoples in our nation has been detrimental; however, we cannot forget that the reconciliation movement, and other movements such as NAIDOC, began with people praying.

For more information visit www.jisaswantaim.org.au

Georgia Corowa is the Churches Together Indigenous Peoples Partnership (CTIPP) Coordinator

Life Overflowing

To have life, and have it abundantly

Rev Prof Andrew Dutney

JESUS said, "I have come that they may have life, and have it abundantly." John 10.10 is a favourite verse for many people, including me. I went to it for a theme for the three years of this Assembly.

The verse is translated in different ways. In addition to the NRSV version that I just used, the NIV has it as "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full," and the NLT as "My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life."

The tricky word to translate is "perisson" which, used adverbially as it is here, means something like "abundance": enough, and then more than enough; what's necessary and then more than that; up to the brim and then overflowing.

Life overflowing: it's a captivating image of the life that Jesus invites us into.

But I have to be careful with this theme of abundance too. Australians know a thing or two about abundance.

We've become used to having or wanting an abundance of stuff – an abundance of the things we want as well as the things we need. Just to hold our stuff, houses have become too big to allow space for backyards.

We throw away as much as we can just to replace it with even more. We're getting used to living with an abundance of opportunities and commitments too: an abundance of things to do.

Time poor and sleep deprived, we just don't have time to be good neighbours, patient drivers, careful listeners, available friends, thoughtful citizens, prayerful Christians.

Australians know about the kind of abundance that leaves us cluttered, bloated and burnt out, at odds with each other and entwined in unjust, unsustainable economic systems.

That's not the abundance that Jesus offers us.

That's not the "life overflowing" that this Assembly will be celebrating.

As the national church reflects on the first 35 years of



Rev Prof Andrew Dutney is a man of many strengths – musical, academic, teaching and more. This year he will take up the mantle of President of the Assembly. Photo courtesy of *New Times*

existence, the theme also sets the positive tone of the 13th triennial Assembly.

We'll be celebrating the life that overflows within the two and a half thousand congregations, large and small, that are scattered across the continent – worshipping God, witnessing to the transforming power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and serving the world that God loves so much in whatever ways are available to them.

We'll be celebrating the life that overflows in the skilful, innovative work of the Uniting Church's many agencies.

They form a network that connects to every part of the country, from the most remote to the most populous, among Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities, within almost every ethnic, cultural and linguistic group represented in the Australian community,

making the Uniting Church one of the largest and most effective agencies for care and community development in Australia.

We'll be celebrating the life that overflows in our partnerships with churches in Asia and the Pacific forming relationships of mutual awareness, support and solidarity between Christian communities in strikingly different social, political, and economic contexts.

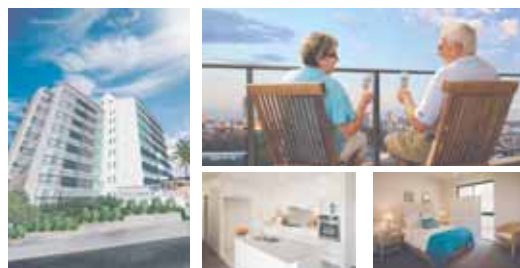
Jesus said, "I have come that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

For the National Assembly these next three years are an opportunity to really pay attention to the life into which Christ invites us and to see how this overflowing life heals, reconciles and renews broken lives and communities in this generation and this country.

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New Ministry Position

Uniting Church in Australia, WA

The Uniting Church in Australia, Presbytery of WA is seeking to fill a vacancy within the First Third Ministry team.

The First Third Team is the first of its kind in Australia and is a distinctive way of looking at how all ages belong within the community of faith and what that means for ministry among those in the first third of life. It brings a new and exciting approach to ministry with children, young people and families.

The appointee (First Third Specialist) will continue the ministry established two years ago amongst Congregations based in the South Metropolitan/coastal area of Perth, in both established and new, rapidly growing areas of the community within a vibrant multicultural ministry context and will continue to build partnerships with Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (Congress) WA.

If you can offer leadership within this integrated approach to ministry and demonstrate a high level of ministry skills that encourage creative expressions of worship, witness and service amongst people within the first third of life, then please contact

Janine McDonald, project officer
janine.mcdonald@wa.uca.org.au

or Rick Morrell, team co-ordinator rick.morrell@wa.uca.org.au
(08) 9260 9800

Applications to Rosemary Hudson Miller, Associate General Secretary, close at 5pm Friday 20 July 2012

This full-time position is open to lay or ordained people.





1 JULY 2pm – 5pm

Who is my God? Multi-Faith Centre, Griffith University, Nathan Campus. Gold coin donation. The forum will conclude with refreshments. Contact Ari Heber on 0423 192 737 or mfc@griffith.edu.au.

3 JULY 7.30pm – 9.30pm

Public lecture: Reflections by a husband and theologian. Emmanuel College, St Lucia. Led by internationally renowned Old Testament scholar Professor John Goldingay of Fuller Theological Seminary. (Annual Conference of the Australian and New Zealand Association of Theological Schools.) Contact Rev Dr Geoff Thompson on 3377 9950 or geoff.thompson@ucaqld.com.au.

6 – 7 JULY

Flourish Arts Festival at Southport Uniting Church. Art and craft market, arts workshops for all ages, demonstrations, displays and live performances. Contact Dona Spencer on 0405 319 404 or flourishfestival@hotmail.com or visit www.southportuniting.org.au/events.html.

7 JULY 3pm – 6.30pm

St Paul's Uniting Church Soccer Club light switching on ceremony at Yandina Park, Wecker Rd, Mansfield. Contact Karen Stehbins on 0407 890 644 or visit www.stpaulssoccer.org.au.

8 JULY

Please pray for St Paul's Uniting Church, Mansfield, Soccer Club.

- Give thanks for all of the volunteers who help run our club.
- Pray that the club can continue to be a successful outreach program in the community.
- Pray that the members of our club will be great examples of fair play and sportsmanship, both on and off the field.
- Give thanks for the parents who support their kids in their sports.

15 JULY 2pm – 4.30pm

Cool and Classic Concert at Kenmore Uniting Church featuring Pepperazzi big band playing jazz hits from the Swing era. Entry \$25/\$20/\$5, includes refreshments. Contact Dawn Langford on 3878 3936 or langfords@askandrew.net or visit www.kenmore.ucaweb.com.au.

15 JULY

Please pray for the Townsville Central City Mission.

- For our Seeds Project for PNG. Pray for a fruitful harvest and peace within communities.
- For our Joint Nominating Committee as it seeks to call a new ministry agent. Pray for discernment for the committee and a call on the heart of the person God.
- For church renovations after cyclone Yasi. Give thanks for the generous support of the congregation in meeting extra finances. Pray for smooth and timely renovations.
- Pray for Townsville's new City Council and the Combined Churches of Townsville events (Stable on the Strand, weekly pastor's prayer meeting, Neighbour to Neighbour, Street Chaplains).
- Upholding of marriage – pray for the husband-wife marriage relationship, as it is the foundation of our society; for children who are affected by marriage breakdown; for absent fathers. Also pray for those who will be involved in the Growing Together in Marriage weekend.

22 JULY

Please pray for Chapel Hill Uniting Church, Brisbane, as it strives to fulfil its Mission Statement of "Sharing God's love through caring, sharing and serving". Support for Mission and Outreach is an ongoing part of our church life. Please pray for:

- the process of calling a new minister and the election of new elders
- ministry to young families through Kids on Sunday, Chapel Hill Youth, Playgroup
- "Invite a Friend" to church on Sunday 22 July
- our upcoming market/garage sale on 25 August.

23 JULY 10am – 12pm

Moreton Rivers Presbytery Adult Fellowship service at Kairos Uniting Church, Clayfield. 2012 Offerings will assist the work of Frontier Services in the outback. All welcome. Contact Pastor Terry Stanyer on 3266 9211 or kairosuc@bigpond.com or visit www.moretonriverspresbytery.org.au.

27 JULY 7.30pm – 9pm

Theology in the Uniting Church in Australia course at Glebe Road Uniting Church, Ipswich. (Bremer Brisbane Presbytery with Pilgrim Learning Community.) Suitable for people wishing to enrich their personal faith and understanding; those seeking to fulfil the academic requirements for the specified ministry of Lay Preacher; those engaged in a Period of Discernment; and for pastors developing competencies or undertaking CEM. No prior knowledge or qualifications required. Contact Jenny Brecknell on 3378 5281 or jenny@brecknell.name or visit gleberd.com.au.

28 JULY 9.30am – 2pm

Australian Christian Meditation Community Qld, Quiet Day at 219 Fort Rd, Oxley. "Growing in Innocence". Suggested donation \$10 includes morning tea. Contact Jeanette Jones on 3824 0550 or jeanette043@optusnet.com.au or visit www.christianmeditationaustralia.org.

29 JULY 2pm – 4pm

King's College Centenary Service, St Lucia. Afternoon tea. All welcome. Contact Sally Carson on 3871 9705 or s.carson@kings.uq.edu.au or visit www.kings.uq.edu.au/kings-centenary-2012.

29 JULY 2pm – 4pm

On the wings of Song – from Bach to Gershwin concert at Elanora Uniting Church. Fundraising for the Flying Padre, Rev Garry Hardingham. Australian Chamber Musicians. \$15 (including afternoon tea). Contact Janine Kinnear on 5598 3142 or visit www.elanorauuniting.com.au/concert.

29 JULY 6pm – 8pm

South Moreton Regional Service at Bayside Uniting Church. Guest preacher Rev Lu Senituli. Contact Matt Gees on 0427 768 228 or rovingbat4bcr@yahoo.com.au or visit www.bayuca.org.au.

29 JULY

London Olympics (27 July – 12 August). Please pray for:

- the health of athletes and officials; fair competition; and global diplomacy
- the visible presence of God during the event.

Upload your What's On entries at www.journeyonline.com.au

Items may be shortened due to space limitations.

School Chaplaincy Program update

THE High Court of Australia has ruled that the Australian Government direct-funding model for school chaplains is not constitutionally valid. However, the 20 June decision left open the option for the government to continue funding, either under new legislation or by a grant of funds to the states and territories.

The case was brought by father of four Ron Williams, who objected to the presence of a chaplain at Darling Heights State School in Toowoomba funded through the Australian Government's National School Chaplaincy Program.

The basis of his challenge was that under the Constitution, Commonwealth officers are not allowed to be subject to a religious test.

The court dismissed that claim, but did find that the Commonwealth had no power to enter the agreement which funded the program.

The national chaplaincy program was set up in 2007 and later modified to allow schools to choose either a chaplain or a non-religious student welfare

worker. More than 2000 school communities across Australia have chaplains.

Scripture Union Queensland incoming CEO Peter James said the decision meant that the work chaplains do across the nation will continue, as long as the government acts swiftly to ensure that funding continues.

Independent Schools

Queensland Executive Director David Robertson also yesterday called on the Australian Government to continue the program, and praised Australian Attorney-General Nicola Roxon's commitment to do so.

"Chaplains offer important support and guidance in more than 100 of Queensland's 186 independent schools. Schools are empowered to choose the person most appropriate for the chaplaincy and, in turn, the chaplains can respond to each individual school's needs."

The Uniting Church in Australia will examine closely the High Court judgment on the National School Chaplaincy Program and any subsequent government response to assess the implications.



The congregation at Living Rivers Nerang celebrated Billie and Keith Genders' 69th wedding anniversary on 13 March. The congregation also celebrated the 65th wedding anniversaries of Dorothy and George Ludeman on 11 April and Merle and Merv Veivers on 14 May.

Obituary

Lady Leila Wilson

THE Uniting Church in Australia mourns the passing of Lady Leila Wilson, who passed away in Perth on 8 June.

The former President of the Uniting Church in Australia Rev Gregor Henderson, who was closely acquainted with Lady Wilson and her late husband Sir Ron Wilson, said that the Uniting Church has lost a much loved and highly gifted church leader.

"Leila gave leadership in at least three particular ways – in her involvement in ecumenical organisations such as Australian Church Women; in her constant support for those suffering discrimination and injustice, including Indigenous groups and

the church's work in social justice and community welfare; and in her unstinting love and support for her husband Ron as he gave leadership in various roles within church and nation, not least when he was President of the Assembly of the Uniting Church from 1988 to 1991."

The current President of the Uniting Church in Australia Rev Alistair Macrae also played tribute to Lady Wilson.

"To all who knew her, Lady Leila embodied the Christian faith in such an integrated way. Her love for God and the gospel was transparent and it expressed itself in the warmth of her relationships and her many commitments to working for justice and care in the world."

Religion for Atheists: A non-believer's guide to the uses of religion

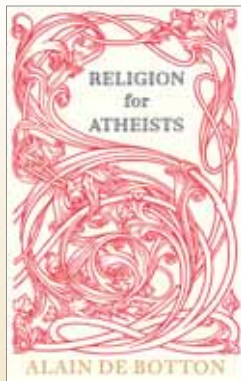
By Alain De Botton, Penguin UK, 2012, RRP \$35

Reviewed by Owen Ronalds.

ALAIN De Botton does not propose a kind of cranky "new atheism" like Dawkins or Hitchens. Neither is he quite like older philosophers such as Bertrand Russell in his style and outlook. Religion for Atheists is a warm and positive appreciation of much that different religions have to give to humanity.

Simple to read, it has chapters like Community, Kindness, Education, Perspective and Art. The book is full of photographs and illustrations of religious life, real and imagined. I reckon it could even give you ideas on how to improve your church.

In contrast to the bad theology of Dawkins, there is little to no theology in this book. It takes for granted an atheistic perspective in the reader, so a conservative reader will likely be confronted by his liberality on some issues and complete rejection of supernaturalism. However, De Botton is aware that to own God as a human creation means also to own that religions are much more concerned with creating community and helping humans with everyday life. He feels that the lessons learned and applied over the ages are still relevant and needed in human communities.



In many places he points out, as does the church, where modern secular life is failing people.

His concluding sentence perhaps sums it up: "Religions are intermittently too useful, effective and intelligent to be abandoned to the religious alone."

The same could be said of atheism.

Generation WTF:

From "what the #%\$&?" to a wise, tenacious, and fearless you

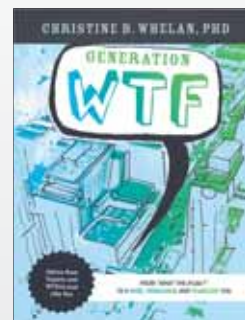
By Christine B Whelan, PhD, Templeton Press, 2011, RRP \$23.95

Reviewed by Karyl Davison.

IF you don't understand this book's title, you're definitely not part of this generation, and are not part of its intended readership. For the uninitiated, generation WTF are 18 to 25 years old and "WTF" is an exclamation of frustration and anger at the world in which young adults find themselves, post-Global Financial Crisis. (If you want to know what the letters stand for, ask a young person.)

The primary aim of this book is to guide the members of generation WTF to move beyond frustration and protest to become wise, tenacious and fearless. It's a self-help book specifically written for and geared towards people in that generation, but it's not your average self-help book. The advice comes from the best, timeless self-help books, psychological experiments about behaviour change, and real-life experiences of generation WTFers.

The book gives its WTF readers examples, exercises and real-world guidance on how to navigate school and university, work and personal life, and would be particularly helpful to young adults about to finish university and enter the job market.



The first section is about self-awareness – reflecting on strengths and weaknesses, and values; the second is about setting goals and meeting them; and the third is primarily about getting finances in order and acquiring the life skills for a successful life.

While *Generation WTF* is definitely geared towards the 18 to 25-year-olds, it deals with challenges we all face: budgeting, prioritising, and relationships both personal and professional. For those of you not part of generation WTF, this book will give you a valuable insight into the particular issues faced by this generation.

The Gospel Among the Nations: A documentary history of inculturation

By Robert A Hunt, Orbis Books, 2010, RRP \$57.95

Reviewed by Rev Alan Renton.

I am interested in mission. This book attempts, I believe successfully, to show how the church shares the holistic gospel not only with her own people but also with those who live in entirely different cultures.

By holistic I mean witnessing both by spoken words and by the Word speaking through our caring.

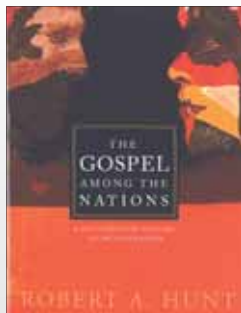
The book is made up mainly of official documents from churches and statements from the World Council of Churches and the World Evangelical Fellowship, from

the first century until 2010.

The basic faith, as presented through all these documents, is that of our One God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, of salvation in Christ, and of all Christians being called by the Holy Spirit to witness to those who haven't found the love of God in Christ.

The most recent of the documents relates to the current culture. This includes globalisation, pluralism, secularism, atheism, and relativism. It is in this world that we today are called to mission.

Almost all countries now have locally governed churches. These



live out their faith in Christ in and through their own culture. If we would mission there, we must respect local cultures and work in partnership with local churches.

This is a deep, scholarly Christian book. I recommend it to all who would give serious thought to mission.

Mischief, Morse Code & Ministry: Life, loss and the legacies of love

By Ruth Delbridge, 2011, RRP \$40 plus postage (available via 3395 2198 or ruth@mary-and-ellen.com)

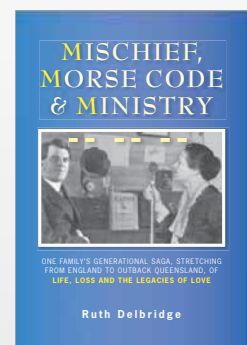
Reviewed by Bruce Dingle, Elder and Lay Preacher at Maroochydore Uniting Church.

WHAT a wonderful book of memoir, imagination, history and strong Christian faith! It's the story of Rev Reg Delbridge, his wife May, their family and ancestors.

Rev Reg Delbridge was born in 1888 and died in 1964. His memoirs of life in Kent, adolescence, conversion and work as a morse code telegraphist are extensive, personal and fascinating.

He began his Queensland ministry in 1912 and in 1916 he joined the army. On his first leave back in England he married his sweetheart, May Hobbs. After World War I service, his ministry took him to the Methodist churches in Emerald, North Rockhampton, Kingaroy, Childers, Paddington, Hamilton, Silkstone, Ashgrove, Stanthorpe, New Farm, Northgate and Toowoong.

David Busch's review said, "It is told both in the winsome, eloquent prose of Reg himself in his private memoirs and an engaging narrative woven by his daughter-in-law Ruth, from the threads of meticulous and loving research. Evocative and absorbing, candid and at times philosophic, it's a story of journeys geographic,



emotional and spiritual, populated with characters, places and incidents remembered with clarity, wry humour and affection."

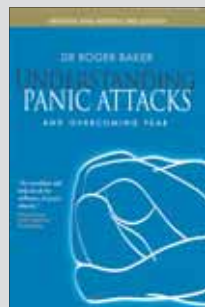
Reg's vivid descriptions of being a Methodist home missionary at Sarina, Charters Towers, Ingham and Oakey before World War I reveal his love of people and his willingness to adapt to challenging experiences.

He was one of the first ham radio operators in Queensland. As well as communicating with people in many continents, he and May broadcast local Christian programs with a small group at Hamilton and Silkstone. At Northgate, 60 years ago, in Reg's radio shack, my father, brothers and I watched as he spoke with people far away.

More reviews online at
www.journeyonline.com.au including:

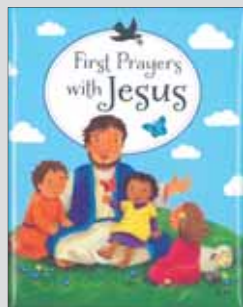
Understanding Panic Attacks and Overcoming Fear

By Dr Roger Baker, Lion Hudson, 2011, RRP \$12.90



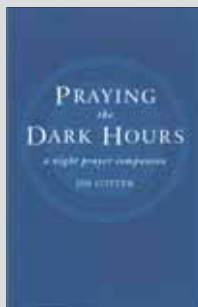
First Prayers with Jesus

By Sophie Piper
Illustrated by Melanie Mitchell
Lion Hudson, 2012, RRP \$10.99



Praying the Dark Hours: A night prayer companion

By Jim Cotter, Canterbury Press, 2011, RRP \$29.95



Books available from ...

Many of the titles reviewed in *Journey* are available from St Paul's Bookstore in Brisbane city or Christian Supplies in Milton. Books can usually be ordered from Vision Books at Broadwater Road Uniting Church, Mansfield, or may be available from www.mosaicresources.com.au or www.rainbowbooks.com.au.

World peace: not just for beauty queens

Mark Cornford

"BLESSED are the peacemakers for they will be called children of God" (Mat 5:8); "If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all" (Rom 12:18) – with these verses in my mind I headed off for a week in May to attend an interfaith conference in Bangkok entitled "Achieving World Peace Through Religious Harmony and Conflict Resolution".

Now, whenever I think of "world peace" the first thing that comes to mind is the movie *Miss Congeniality* and a parade of beauty queens wanting world peace ... but thankfully this was nothing like that!

World peace is of course a utopian idea, but as the point was made time and time again at the conference, more than 50 per cent of the world's population identifies with a religious faith.

Therefore if people from different religious faiths were able to get along without violence then we would have made a large step towards world peace. The question, of course, is what does it take for people of different religions to get along peaceably – and this was the point of the conference.

Before going any further it is important to clear up some common misconceptions about interfaith relations that I have heard, especially since starting my role as the Uniting Church

chaplain with the University of Queensland Multi-faith Chaplaincy Centre.

Firstly, it is not a conspiracy to promote one world order by undermining "true" Christianity and democracy in league with either the Illuminati, the Catholics or the Muslims, depending on who you talk to.

Secondly, it is not about watering down each faith into some sort of generic world religion.

At this interfaith conference, there was no talk of "unifying" the faiths. Indeed, one of the outcomes, and the first key point of agreement at the conference, was the need for each faith to better educate its members in their own faith. Each faith pointed to their own teaching's equivalent to the Golden Rule and about practising compassion to the other.

The foundation point for interfaith relationships has to be each faith's own teachings on how to treat others. The second point is that peace was built upon people of different faiths then building relationships of trust with each other.

For me, the telling point was that at this conference we had over 300 people from eight countries in South-East Asia (Thailand, Singapore, China, Malaysia, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India and Australia) representing eight different faiths (Buddhism, Hinduism, Sikhism, Baha'i,



The Brisbane and Toowoomba delegations to the interfaith conference eagerly await their flight to Thailand. Photo by Mark Cornford

Zoroastrianism, Islam, Judaism and Christianity), and the atmosphere of goodwill, respect and trust was amazing.

Each person was strong in their own faith belief, yet also respectful of each other's faith, and most importantly, wanting to get along.

Of course difficulties were noted, and this is why issues of cooperation and conflict resolution were high on the agenda. Fundamental to this was the attitude of goodwill.

People there wanted to get along with each other, and the success of the conference showed that when this attitude was there, living in harmony with each other is certainly possible despite our differences.

I travelled there with three other chaplains from UQ – the Anglican, Hindu and Jewish chaplains. For us, the chance to spend so much time together also formed a microcosm of what we were talking about at the

conference. In our discussions together we were able to challenge, disagree, poke fun at each other (in our uniquely Australian way) and in general have a great time.

Each of us had critical questions about some aspects of the conference, but for me this showed that we were not being unrealistic about our differences or the obstacles to people of faith living in peace, but that we were there to engage from our different faiths in the hard questions of how to live alongside people who are different.

As a Christian, I believe that being involved in such discussions is vital. By being involved we witness to our faith in Jesus, not water it down.

If we truly believe the verses that I quoted at the beginning, then we are mandated to work at peace with people from different faiths, because whether we like it or not they are our neighbours.

Of course interfaith discussions are a fine line in witnessing to our own faith while being respectful to the faiths of others – but no-one ever said that peace was easy!

It is my hope that by participating in this event in the most positive and graceful way that I could, I (through the grace of God) in some small way contributed to peaceful relationships between faiths and showed something of what we proclaim the love of God shown in Christ to be.

While it is impossible to know the practical end results from this conference, what remains with me most from this experience was the ability to talk and relate across faiths and cultures in a way that showed peace between us is a real possibility, if we have the grace and courage to engage respectfully with those who are different to us.

World peace – it is not just for beauty queens!



Alexandra Park
conference centre

the
BIG benefit
is
relaxation

Relax over the New Year at Alexandra Headland on the Sunshine Coast. Join the Uniting Church Family Camp community. Read, swim, play, surf, chat around a jigsaw ... but no cooking or cleaning up!

A great children's program.

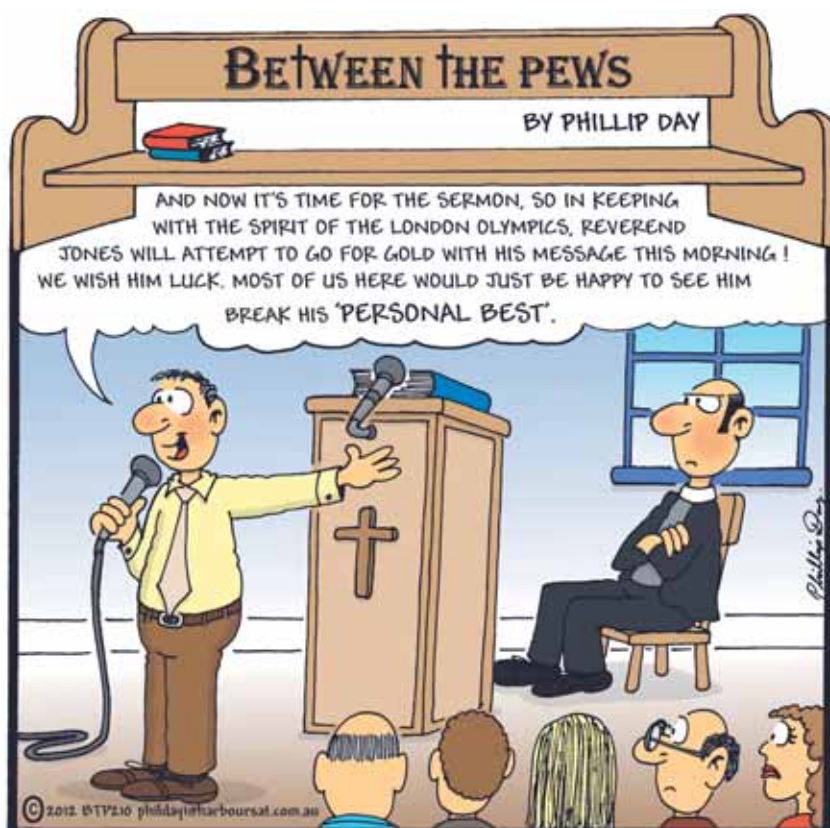
New Year's Day cricket test.

Evening strolls to Mooloolaba for ice-cream.

Singles, couples, families – all welcome.

Visit our Facebook event:
Family Camp 2012–2013.

Contact Kayleen or Phil on (07) 3882 3490
or ucfamilycamp@gmail.com



Journey welcomes a "newbie"

THANK you for sending us this wonderful and inspiring publication every month.

Being a newbie to the Uniting Church, I LOVE putting faces to names and finding who's out and about doing what! My favourite article this month (June Journey) was "Coming of Age" – the opening words

by Rev Macrae: "People of the Congregational ..." etc. gave me goose bumps! Again I guess as I'm a newbie, and realise just how blessed I am to be who I am, where I am!

Catherine Everiss
Office Secretary
Hervey Bay Uniting
Church



Golden years

LATE starters but strong finishers, Olive Webber, Ruth Frith and Dexter Kruger are giving a new meaning to "golden years" with their pursuit of big dreams.

Mrs Webber is 104 years old, while Mrs Frith and Mr Kruger are a sprightly 102.

These three remarkable Queensland centenarians feature in a new documentary, *The 100+ Club*, to be screened on ABC1 on 1 July.

Mrs Frith is the oldest competing athlete in the world, who sets out to break her own world records at the Australian Masters Athletics Championships in shot-put, discus, javelin, hammerthrow and weight events. "Age," she said, "is just a couple of numbers on a piece of paper."

Just two weeks before her 100th birthday, Mrs Webber came second in the Brisbane City Council's Senior Idol competition. Last year she directed and starred in a musical. She was 89 when she first started having singing lessons.

"I don't really know how it happened but I just had that feeling I could do better," she said.

The third member of this dynamic trio, Roma cattleman

Dexter Kruger, wrote his first book at 86, and has now penned seven in total, the latest his autobiography as a centenarian, *After 100*.

Mr Kruger enjoyed being part of *The 100+ Club*.

"Very exciting! Wouldn't have missed it for anything," he said.

And he cites the statistics proudly: "One in 7000 people reach the age of 100, let alone 102, so I'm one of a few. What's more, pretty well all of them have some sort of carer or they're in a hostel or whatever. But I live in my own home, and look after myself."

In his independence, Mr Kruger receives support from Meals on Wheels and his family and friends, including the Uniting Church community led by Rev Linda Hamill.

"I go to the Roma Uniting Church very regularly. And if I don't go, somebody comes to look and see why. But I haven't missed a sermon for many years."

The film follows Mr Kruger's writing of *After 100* with the help of his friend and transcriber, Bob Matthews, who he met at Roma Uniting Church.

"If you read all of my books, you'll get a pretty good idea of what kind of a bloke I am, and what kind of a life I led."



Dexter Kruger and Bob Matthews in the Roma Uniting Church.
Photo courtesy of Flickchicks

CLASSIFIEDS

Accommodation

Caloundra, holiday unit, 100m to Kings Beach. Fr: \$390/wk. Ph: 0427 990 161.

London B & B. Lovely home, reasonable rates. Ph 0011 44 20 8694 6538. rachel@brockleybandb.fsnet.co.uk

ACCOM WANTED. Geneva for 1 yr from Aug for single woman ph 3300 1581.

Email your classified advertisements to
journey@ucaqld.com.au

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Uniting Church Queensland |



Facebook comments

"Since my money is God's money ..."

A good way of approaching stewardship. That way there's no arguments about whether or not to tithe because the figure is now 100 per cent.

Graham Slaughter

Freebie Friday: Who was Irena Sendler?

She was a Polish underground social worker during the second world war :-)

Susan Brunt

In the back of her car and she had a dog that she trained to bark at the German guards so she could smuggle them out if memory serves correctly?

Lucas Smith

Saved around 2500 Jewish children by smuggling them out of the Warsaw ghetto.

Kate Wilson

Reconciliation Week plans

Every week is reconciliation week. Plus Scotch Oakburn College, a Uniting Church school in Tasmania, is developing relationships with Mapoon. They will also be here.

Michelle Cook

We just had an event at UnitingCare Qld – remembered, watched the Apology DVD, heard from Nancy Bamaga, and worked together to make a timeline of events in history which are significant milestones in the reconciliation journey for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Colleen Geyer

Having a barbeque in Roma on Tuesday 5 June.

Linda Hamill

Log in and have your say now!

Send your letters to journey@ucaqld.com.au or
Journey GPO Box 674, Brisbane QLD 4001.

**Please keep letters to a maximum of 250 words.
Letters may be edited due to space limitations.**

And what kind of a life has it been?

"Well, an extraordinary one!

Very varied. I've done lots of things, and connected with all parts of society. I've worked in grazing all my life and I've done everything in the church that's open to a lay person to do. I've got lots of friends and you don't have lots of friends if you're not a good bloke."

And does he have a secret to a long life?

"Be of good cheer. Look at things positively, not negatively, it all helps. People who get around with their bottom lip dragging on the ground – well, they won't last long. And sing plenty! I love singing. It's a great therapy. There're lots of hymns I know pretty well, so it doesn't matter that I can't read the words anymore."

One of the world's most exclusive clubs, with 132 Queenslanders on its books at last count and formerly boasting the Queen Mum as an honorary member, the 100+ Club was started in 1993 by Ken Mawdsley of the Queensland Community Care Network.

"We got a call from one of our volunteers who was visiting a gentleman called George Cartwright," Mr Mawdsley said. "He was turning 100 and this volunteer had asked George what he wanted to do. He said he'd really like to have morning tea or afternoon tea with one of his peers. And that's how it started."

The 100+ Club screens on ABC1 on Sunday 1 July at 6.30pm and can be viewed until 15 July at www.abc.net.au/iview

Roma Uniting Church is hosting a special screening on 1 July. Inquiries to Rev Linda Hamill on (07) 4622 1185 or linda@hamill.net.au



**You are invited to join us on
26 September, 2012**

**As we celebrate 100 years
at the heart of remote Australia**

Where: Dallas Brooks Centre
(300 Albert St, East Melbourne)
When: 7pm for a special Centenary
liturgy, followed by supper.
RSVP: 1300 787 247 or email
kate.h@frontierservices.org

Find out about more
Centenary celebrations:
www.frontierservices.org/centenary

PLUS, order your commemorative
Centenary Book, medallion,
tea-towel or keyring!
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frontier-shop or

Ph: 1300 787 247



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**Celebrating 100 years at
the heart of remote Australia**

1912~2012

Journey July 2012