

M U C Magazine

The News and Views of the
Murrumbeena Uniting Church



To make Christ known by preaching the
gospel in word and deed

CONTACT DETAILS

Church Office: 9568 8177

E-mail:

office@murrumbeenauniting.org.au

<http://murrumbeenauniting.org.au/>

117 Murrumbeena Road,

Murrumbeena, VIC 3163



The Uniting Church in Australia
MURRUMBEENA UNITING CHURCH

June – July 2023

ABOUT US

MINISTRY TEAM

REV. JAY ROBINSON

Minister

jay@murrumbeenauniting.org.au

0410 465 836



CHURCH COUNCIL



CHAIR:

**Alison Campbell
Rate**

0438 569 690



TREASURER:

Greg Pressey



Warren Cramer



Rachel Dart

Minutes
Secretary



**Sharon
Pereira**



**Dave
Robinson**

Correspondence
Secretary

USEFUL LINKS ON THE INTERNET

As well as our own website at <https://www.murrumbeenauniting.org.au/> you might find the following links of interest (if you haven't already).

Live stream of 10:00am Worship and Service:

facebook.com/murrumbeenauniting/

Recorded Service (view anytime on YouTube)

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-v0xIBPkGfZJcOl062yCjg/>

ORGANISATIONS AND GROUPS

Community Garden

Knitting and Craft Circle

Murrumbeena Connect

Adult Fellowship

Friendship Fellas (Men's Group)

LIFT (Women's Group)

THE CHURCH

Adult Bible Studies

Pastoral Care

Worship Band

Lending Library

YOUNG ADULTS (18-35)

Sonder Collective

Sunday Brunch

CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Countdown to Christmas

FEAST (Families Eating And Sharing Together)

SHARON PEREIRA

Culture of Safety contact person
9568 8177



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Welcome to this edition of the *MUC MAG*. May the peace of the Lord be with you. This edition features a summary of the AGM, a special recognition of Volunteers, the introduction of Ann Van Leerdam (our Community Development person), as well as our regular features, although this time there is also a puzzle from Doug Faram as well as a Wordsearch from Christina.

As you know, we are in the midst of exploring our Life and Witness, both within our congregation and reaching out into the local community. Along the way, we have touched on those aspects of our church life that appeal (or otherwise) to our members, considered issues that members are passionate about (particularly suggestions and activities from which the wider community could benefit. In parallel, the Church Council has started grappling with questions such as:

- » What do you see as the main challenges facing Murrumbena for the next 10 years?
- » What is your vision for this congregation and its mission?
- » What do you see as the top three ministry and mission goals for the next 5 years?

It seems to me that the one element that has not yet been thoroughly investigated is Needs, either of our congregation's members or of the Murrumbena Community. The 20th century psychologist Maslow postulated a 5-level hierarchy of needs, these being:

- » **Biological and physiological needs** - air, food, drink, shelter, warmth, sex, sleep, etc.
- » **Safety needs** - protection from elements, security, order, law, stability, freedom from fear.
- » **Love and belongingness needs** - friendship, intimacy, trust and acceptance, receiving and giving affection and love. Affiliating, being part of a group (family, friends, work).
- » **Esteem needs** - which Maslow classified into two categories: (i) esteem for oneself (dignity, achievement, mastery, independence) and (ii) the need to be accepted and valued by others (e.g., status, prestige).
- » **Self-actualisation needs** - realising personal potential, self-fulfilment, seeking personal growth, and peak experiences.

The basic premise of this hierarchy is that a person is unlikely to attempt to fulfil a higher-level need if they are lacking the lower-level needs.

More recent developments have added three more levels, two between Esteem and Self-actualisation, and one above Self-actualisation. These are:

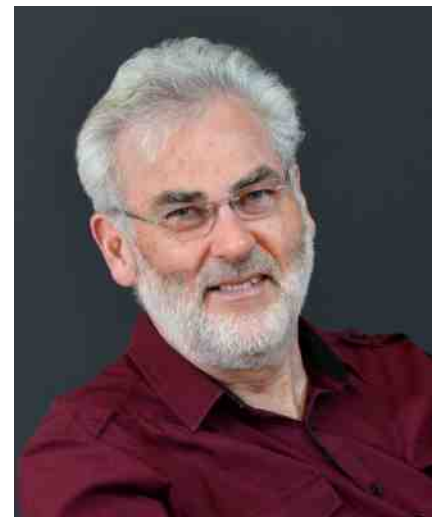
- » **Cognitive needs** - knowledge and understanding, curiosity, exploration, need for meaning and predictability.
- » **Aesthetic needs** - appreciation and search for beauty, balance, form, etc.
- » **Transcendence needs** - A person is motivated by values that transcend beyond the personal self. Examples of transcendence needs include mystical experiences and certain experiences with nature, aesthetic experiences, service to others, the pursuit of science, religious faith, etc.).

I raise all this because it is likely that we assume that Murrumbena and surrounding suburbs are moderately "well off", in that people's needs at the two lowest levels are satisfied. This assumption might be true. Then again, it might not. Therefore, before we rush headlong into implementing our Life and Witness programme, we should properly investigate people's needs, both of our congregation's members and the wider community. To effectively enact our mission (To make Christ known by preaching the gospel in word and deed) we need to be cognisant of and attuned to people's needs at all levels.

Furthermore, the recent developments imply that it is only when one is ready to seek fulfilment of the Transcendence needs that one is able to embrace the Christian faith, although aspects can occur at the Cognitive level..

Blessings,

Roger McCowan



Please e-mail articles to:
triumphguru@gmail.com, or
hand them to Roger on a
Sunday, preferably no later
than 16th July.

Rev Jay Robinson

As you read this, we will have just celebrated the birth of the church, the coming of the Holy Spirit, Pentecost. There is something special about this time in the life of the church and it is my hope that the Spirit will blow through us all as we move forward from our Life and Witness Consultation. There will be more coming about this as the comments, thoughts and feedback is processed, I hope we will get some ideas around the end of June.

We also come into this issue of the MUC Mag with some changes in our leadership teams. It is great to have some new voices and ideas on church council as well as look forward to possibilities and opportunities with our newly elected elders. Keep your eyes out for changes as they all grow into their roles.

This time between Pentecost and the second Sunday in September usually sees us focusing on a subject or a particular Biblical book for a while. Have a look at the readings for June and July - you'll notice I'm still working on June readings - and you'll get an idea of where we're heading.

One of the interesting things that has been happening since Ann began towards the end of April are the number of conversations that are bringing up connections and overlaps with our community here at MUC and the wider community. Whenever I see this I know that God is in amongst what is going on and that is really exciting.

Over the next couple of months there are a number of things on my radar that I will be working on. One of them is our involvement in Uniting in Prayer. This is a time of prayer set aside from Pentecost Sunday to the anniversary of the Uniting Church on 22nd June. This is an initiative from the Assembly and the Act2 Project. Here is what the President Rev Sharon Hollis is inviting us to -

"Through Uniting in Prayer, we want every part of our Church to be joined together in prayer for one another and our life together," said Rev Hollis.

As whole-of-Church discernment about the future of the Uniting Church continues through the Act2 Project, Uniting in Prayer is an opportunity to come together in thanksgiving and hope to pray and seek the leading of the Spirit.

For 26 days we'll be sharing prayers from across our Church, gathering for prayer and inviting

Uniting Church communities to pray for each other.

"At the heart of the Act2 Project is prayer, for the leading of the Holy Spirit as together we seek to discern the shape of our life together," said Act2 Project Lead Andrew Johnson.

"At the heart of this year we are inviting everyone that calls the Uniting Church home to enter into a time of prayer. Prayer is a simple yet powerful act."

"In this time we will remember our past, recognise our present reality and with hopeful expectation listen attentively to Spirit's leading for our future."

Save the dates in your personal and church calendars and speak with others in your community about how you might take part.

I'll be working on how we will include this in our worship and day to day life here at Murrumbidgee. One way is by praying for our prayer partners Euroa Uniting Church in country Victoria and Elizabeth Grove Uniting Church in suburban Adelaide in South Australia. We'll be in contact with these congregations to share our and their prayers at this time.

I'm also planning to give us the opportunity to explore and ask questions around The Voice to Parliament so that we can go into the referendum process as informed as we can be. This will begin with a joint event between us and Ormond UC on Sunday 25th June at 2pm in the afternoon. The event will take place at Murrumbidgee UC, more details to come.

I'm looking forward to walking through June and July with you all!



READINGS FOR APRIL/MAY 2023

Following Pentecost Sunday, we enter into a time where there are no set readings in the lectionary. There are plenty of suggestions and thoughts, but nothing set in concrete. In the past we've spent some time on particular topics or themes or even biblical books.

This year I am still a little undecided as to our direction. We are in the midst of our Life and Witness Consultation, we have Ann on board to help us work with the community and ourselves, there's a lot going on. What can I say from the pulpit, bringing out what the bible gives us, that can help with all of that?

I've decided to go with some material from Rev Dr Sam Wells from the UK. Sam speaks some really great stuff about mission and ministry and I think they are worth exploring, so we'll begin with that.

In July I'm thinking that we might take a look at some Bumper Sticker Theology. This could be enlightening as well as a bit of fun. I'm not committed to this, so if you have some other ideas of themes or a series, please let me know.

4 June	Incarnational Mission - "Working for"	
11 June	Incarnational Mission - "Working with"	
18 June	Incarnational Mission - "Being for"	
25 June	Incarnational Mission - "Being with"	
2 July	"I can do all things through a verse taken out of context"	Philippians 4:1-13
9 July	"Too blessed to be stressed"	Matthew 5:1-12, Psalm 69:1-3, 13-16
16 July	"God won't give you more than you can handle"	John 16:29-33
23 July	"God is my co-pilot"	Matthew 16:21-26
30 July	"Everything happens for a reason"	Ecclesiastes 3:1-15
6 August	"Jesus loves you but I'm his favourite"	Acts 10:34-35, 44-48

CONTACTS FOR GROUPS

On page 2 is the list of current organisations and groups, whilst on page 11 is the calendar of events, many of which involve these groups. Listed below are the contact details for the facilitators of each of these organisations and groups. Contact them if you would like to know more about the events.

Friendship Fellas Roger McCowan 0439 711 381 Geoff Edwards 0409 568 206	F.E.A.S.T. Jay Robinson 0410 465 836	Murrumbeena Community Garden Kay Pentland Glynis Ramsay 0407 506 662
Knitting and Craft Circle Glynis Ramsay 0407 506 662	LIFT Mary-Lou Keur 0409 937 727 Roz Franklin 0403 762 695	Murrumbeena Connect Ann van Leerdam 9568 8177
Lending Library Anne Don 9578 4217	Murrumbeena Uniting Afternoon Fellowship Group Anne Don 9578 4217	Women's Bible Study Alison Campbell Rate 0438 569 690

AGM 30TH APRIL 2023

The AGM for the congregation was held on Sunday 30th April 2023. Below is a summary of the meeting.

REPORTS

The following reports were presented as attached to the agenda:

- » Presbytery of Port Phillip East Annual Report 2022
- » Minister's Report for 2023 AGM - Murrumbeena Uniting Church
- » Report from Chairperson Of Church Council For The Year 2022
- » Elders Annual Report and Membership Update
- » Thursday Bible Study - Online
- » Tuesday Prayer Group - Online
- » Murrumbeena Uniting Church Music Annual Report 2022
- » Annual Report for LIFT Ladies Group, 2022
- » Annual Report Church Lending Library, 2022
- » Friendship Fellas Annual Report for 2022
- » Murrumbeena Knitting and Craft Circle Annual Report 2022
- » Murrumbeena Community Garden 2022 Annual Report
- » Murrumbeena Connect/Drop Ins
- » Annual Report Sammy Stamp, 2022
- » Annual Report for Women's Bible Study and Discussion Group, 2022
- » Annual Report Murrumbeena Uniting Afternoon Fellowship Group, 2022
- » Report on Vouchers and Food Program 2022

The 2022 Financial statements and reports as presented were received. The budget for 2023 was

received and adopted.

ELECTIONS

The following congregational members were elected.

CHURCH COUNCIL

- » Rachel Dart (5 years)
- » Greg Pressey (1 year)
- » Warren Cramer (5 years)
- » Sharon Pereira (Lee) (5 years)
- » Kerry Gregoric (1 year)

ELDERS

- » Roger McCowan (5 years)
- » Nick Dart (5 years)
- » Peter Barnes (1 year)
- » Bruce Robinson (5 years)
- » Sharon Pereira (Lee) (5 years)
- » Kerry Gregoric (1 year)
- » Anne Don (5 years)

CONGREGATIONAL CHAIR

- » Roger McCowan

CONGREGATIONAL SECRETARY

- » Roz Franklin

PRESBYTERY REPRESENTATIVE

- » Marg Edwards

Motions of appreciation were received for Greg Pressey, Margaret Reid, Doug Faram, Dave Robinson, Caroline Kwong and Warren Cramer for the roles they have held or continue to hold.

Congregational Chair and Secretary will serve a 3 year term (previously 1 year) and may offer for re-

VOLUNTEERS

All volunteers are very special people. One of the special things about them is that they don't consider themselves special they are just helping out.

15th to 21st May is National Volunteer Week, which is Australia's largest annual celebration of volunteering. Due to some 'flies on the wall' we've found out that some of our congregational members have been recognised for their volunteering through the Glen Eira Council and other organisations.

Congratulations to Venora Fidler who has been recognised for her 40 years of volunteering with

the Bowls Club, to John White for his time given to driving for meals on wheels (I don't have the number of years but I believe it is a lot!). Congratulations also to Doug and Carol Faram, Bruce and Jay Robinson for their voluntary work with the Victoria Council of Churches Emergency Ministries.

Now, I am sure there are many other who could be recognised and thanked, but we don't necessarily know about them. As I said at the beginning, it can be hard to find out what our people are doing at times, particularly around their volunteering.

We can see the things that they do within our community and so I want to talk a moment to thank them here. Most of these names are in the Minister's report for the AGM, but always worth mentioning them again. These are in no particular order, just as I happen to remember them.

- » Colin Junor – putting out and bringing in our rubbish bins each week.
- » Kay Pentland – keeping our gardens looking good and cared for.
- » Paul Rate – looking after our offering on a Sunday
- » Doug Faram – general maintenance, lawn mowing, getting things done as well as contact with contractors.
- » Peter Barnes, Doug and Carol Faram, Roz Franklin, Dave and Erin Robinson and others for picking up those who cannot make it to worship on their own
- » All who offer to serve on the rosters
- » All who do little things around the place that no one notices
- » All who take time to visit others
- » Our Church Councillors both present and past – Alison Campbell Rate, Rachel Dart, Marg Reid, Dave Robinson, Greg Pressey, Catherine Kwong, Sharon Pereira, Kerry Gregoric, Warren Cramer
- » Our Elders and Pastoral Carers past and present – Doug Faram, Dave Robinson, Marg Reid, Anne Don, Peter Barnes, Roger McCowan, Bruce Robinson, Geoff Edwards, Marg Edwards, Kerry Gregoric, Nick Dart, Sharon Pereira.
- » Our congregational leaders and

representatives past and present – Warren Cramer, Roz Franklin and Marg Edwards.

- » Sharon Pereira who has accepted the role of Safe Church Contact
- » Sandra Tempes and Sue Sears in the office who are indispensable to us all
- » Our group leaders and volunteers:
 - Men's groups – Geoff Edwards and Roger McCowan
 - Women's group – Marg Edwards and Mary-Lou Keur
 - Murrumbidgee Connect Drop ins – Bruce Robinson and Gayle Howard
 - Knitting Circle – Glynis Ramsey
 - Community Gardeners – Kay Pentland and Glynis Ramsey
 - Women's Bible study – Alison Campbell Rate
 - Music team – Alison Campbell Rate, Dave Robinson, Josh Pereira, John Lever, Anne Don, Erin Robinson
 - Tech team – Bruce Robinson, Roger McCowan, Greg Pressey, Peter Barnes, Nick Dart
 - MUC Mag – Roger McCowan
 - Library – Anne Don

Thank you to you all, and thank you to everyone else who gives of their times and talents wherever they are needed. I would love to hear if you do any other volunteering outside of the church – make sure you stop me and tell me.

Jay Robinson



Left: Venora receiving her Volunteers Award from the Mayor of Glen Eira.

Right: John setting out for his Meals-On-Wheels deliveries. (Photo courtesy of Glen Eira Council)



INTRODUCING – ANN VAN LEERDAM

As you know, my name is Ann Van Leerdam. I feel so very fortunate to have been invited by you to be part of the Murrumbeena Uniting community again. I have lived in Murrumbeena for 8 years. I have been an active part in lots of community activities and have been working for Murrumbeena Baptist Church for the last 5 years as a Community Development worker. I love being creative – craft, cooking, co creating fun things and hearing about what others are doing to make the world a more flourishing place. The photo is of my family. My husband Dan Sullivan, my 24 year old step-son Jem and my 9 year old son Willem. Jem's partner Gabi was taking the photo and James, my 17 year old step-son was not with us that night. While we spend time together, it was hard to find a photo with all of us in it!

My role, for the next year, is to use my skills as an Asset Based Community Development worker to sit and listen to you, the community that uses the property during the week and the wider community.

I need to hear about your experience of being part of MUC and listen to your expertise in how you have been part of partnering with God to bring about the Kingdom.

From the information I gather from you all, the research around what successful models other churches are using, and the academic research and data from the Community Development world, a model will be developed that will support MUC to continue to flourish.

I work on Thursdays and Fridays. I am looking forward to collaborating with you to develop something really meaningful for all of us!



DOUG'S PUZZLE (EXPLANATION ON PAGE 9)



WORDSEARCH PUZZLE – AUSTRALIAN RULES FOOTBALL

Find the following words, which may be horizontal (left to right and right to left), vertical (going down and going up), or diagonal. The leftover letters spell out what Deuteronomy 31:6 tells us to be.

U	M	U	D	L	L	A	B	D	N	A	H
M	A	R	K	S	L	C	H	E	E	R	T
P	L	A	V	O	K	I	C	K	E	R	O
I	N	D	C	L	L	A	B	T	O	O	F
R	G	W	R	U	C	K	R	F	A	C	E
E	P	O	N	A	D	A	U	L	O	C	L
O	O	R	B	O	U	N	D	A	R	Y	K
U	I	C	R	Q	R	G	C	G	A	A	C
G	N	O	S	E	E	H	H	A	G	L	A
C	T	E	N	N	B	O	O	T	S	P	T
M	U	N	I	F	O	R	M	E	U	O	E
H	A	L	F	T	I	M	E	U	S	O	A
B	O	U	N	C	E	T	O	C	S	A	M

BANNER
BOOTS
BOUNCE
BOUNDARY
CHEER
COACH
CROWD
FLAG
FOOTBALL
FUN
GATE
COLA
HALFTIME
HANDBALL
KICK
LINE
MARK
MASCOT
MCG
MOUTHGUARD
MUD
OVAL
PLAY
POINT
QUARTER
RUCK
SONG
TACKLE
TEAM
UMPIRE
UNIFORM

DOUG'S PUZZLE (CONTINUED)

Doug Faram was doing some cleaning out at one of the places where he works. He came across the peculiar clamp shown in the left hand photo opposite.

He brought it along to the Friendship Fellas' Breakfast in April. A bit disappointing, but none of the assembled gentlemen were able to explain the clamp's true purpose. However, there was much conjecture on what it might have been used for.

If you are reading this article, perhaps you can shed some light on the purpose of the clamp?

I know Doug will be willing to show you the clamp (not just a photo) if you wish to examine it in more detail.

Leighmoor – Coatesville – Murrumbeena Uniting Churches present.....



Songs of inspiration

A celebration of God's grace through songs, music and performance.

Songs of inspiration will feature music, song and performance celebrating God's grace. We'll share in contemporary, original and classic music led by musicians, singers and performers from Leighmoor, Coatesville and Murrumbeena. Sit, reflect and feel free of course, to sing boldly along to great music of worship.

This is an LCM combined music event:

Sunday 4 June 2023 – 1.00pm

Coatesville Uniting Church

(1050 North Road, Bentleigh East)

Cnr Mackie and North Roads, Bentleigh East

This event will include refreshments.



CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

Date	Time	Event
Thu, 1 Jun	10:30am - 11:30am	Worship Service at Regis
	7:30pm - 9:00pm	Bible Study
Fri, 2 Jun	10:00am - 11:30am	Murrumbeena Connect Friday Program
Sat, 3 Jun	2:00pm - 5:00pm	Knitting and Craft Group
Sun, 4 Jun	10:00am - 11:00am	Worship (Holy Communion)
	1:00pm - 3:00pm	Songs of Inspiration at Coatesville UC
Tue, 6 Jun	10:15am - 11:15am	Women's Bible Study
Wed, 7 Jun	10:00am - 11:30am	Monthly Bible Study
	7:00pm - 9:00pm	Church Council
Thu, 8 Jun	7:30pm - 9:00pm	Bible Study
Fri, 9 Jun	10:00am - 11:30am	Murrumbeena Connect Friday Program
Sat, 10 Jun	8:00am - 9:00am	Friendship Fellas' Breakfast
Sun, 11 Jun	10:00am - 11:00am	Worship
Tue, 13 Jun	10:15am - 11:15am	Women's Bible Study
Thu, 15 Jun	7:30pm - 9:00pm	Bible Study
Fri, 16 Jun	10:00am - 11:30am	Murrumbeena Connect Friday Program
Sun, 18 Jun	10:00am - 11:00am	Worship
Tue, 20 Jun	10:15am - 11:15am	Women's Bible Study
Thu, 22 Jun	7:30pm - 9:00pm	Bible Study
Fri, 23 Jun	10:30am - 11:30am	Murrumbeena Connect Friday Program
Sat, 24 Jun	9:00am - 10:30am	LIFT Women's Breakfast
Sun, 25 Jun	10:00am - 11:00am	Worship
	11:15am - 12:00pm	Library and Special Morning Tea
	2:00pm - 4:00pm	Conversations around The Voice
Tue, 27 Jun	10:15am - 11:15am	Women's Bible Study
	5:30pm - 7:00pm	Friendship Fellas' Dinner
Wed, 28 Jun	10:00am - 11:00am	Worship Service at Victoria By The Park
	7:00pm - 9:00pm	Elders Meeting
Thu, 29 Jun	7:30pm - 9:00pm	Bible Study
Fri, 30 Jun	10:30am - 11:30am	Murrumbeena Connect Friday Program
Sun, 2 Jul	10:00am - 11:00am	Worship (Holy Communion)
Wed, 5 Jul	10:00am - 11:30am	Monthly Bible Study
Thu, 6 Jul	10:30am - 11:30am	Worship Service at Regis
	7:30pm - 9:00pm	Bible Study
Fri, 7 Jul	10:30am - 11:30am	Murrumbeena Connect Friday Program
Sat, 8 Jul	8:00am - 9:00am	Friendship Fellas' Breakfast
	2:00pm - 5:00pm	Knitting and Craft Group
Sun, 9 Jul	10:00am - 11:00am	Worship
Tue, 11 Jul	10:15am - 11:15am	Women's Bible Study
Wed, 12 Jul	7:00pm - 9:00pm	Church Council
Thu, 13 Jul	7:30pm - 9:00pm	Bible Study
Fri, 14 Jul	10:00am - 11:30am	Murrumbeena Connect Friday Program
Sun, 16 Jul	10:00am - 11:00am	Worship
	Deadline for submission of articles for MUC Mag	
Sun, 18 Jul	10:15am - 11:15am	Women's Bible Study
Thu, 20 Jul	7:30pm - 9:00pm	Bible Study
Fri, 21 Jul	10:30am - 11:30am	Murrumbeena Connect Friday Program
Thu, 22 Jul	9:00am - 10:30am	LIFT Women's Breakfast
Sun, 23 Jul	10:00am - 11:00am	Worship
	11:15am - 12:00pm	Library and Special Morning Tea
Tue, 25 Jul	10:15am - 11:15am	Women's Bible Study
	5:30pm - 7:00pm	Friendship Fellas' Dinner
Wed, 26 Jul	7:30pm - 8:30pm	Elders Meeting
Thu, 27 Jul	7:30pm - 9:00pm	Bible Study
Fri, 28 Jul	10:30am - 11:30am	Murrumbeena Connect Friday Program
Sun, 30 Jul	10:00am - 11:00am	Worship

