



Dunedin Methodist Parish

Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone

www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz

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Mornington:		

PARISH BULLETIN

12th October 2014

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 19th October

9.30 am	Mornington	S Pole
9.30 am	Mosgiel	E Merrett
11.00 am	Glenaven	S Pole
11.00 am	Wesley	E Merrett
1.00 pm	St Kilda	TBA

THANK YOU

President Rev Rex Nathan and Vice-President Jan Tasker wished to convey their thanks and appreciation for the generosity and hospitality that they received during their presidential visit last weekend. From Friday evening to Sunday afternoon they both experienced the warmth of the love and friendship from the Parish. Thank you everyone for your contribution and support. May God bless you all.

WESLEY CHURCH – MISSING TEATOWELS – Could people using the kitchen at Wesley, please return any teatowels you may have taken to wash. Much appreciated.

OPEN EDUCATION: THE WISDOM OF THE AGES

The final session of Open Education this year will be held on Wednesday 22 October (one week later than usual), at Mornington Methodist Church, Galloway Street, starting at 7.30pm. As usual it will offer a group of presenters sharing what they do best. And this year is the Year of the Grandparents! Yes, some of our older folk sharing their stories, and talking about how they relate to their grandchildren in this difficult world. Don't miss this session: it will be a great one. Sign in for Judy Russell's delicious pre-session meal or ring her (455-3727). Bring a fellow grand parent: there are plenty of them about in our community.

MOSGIEL'S MID-WEEK SERVICE Wednesday 15th October 2pm at: "Maran-atha" all very welcome.

PARISH PRAYER GROUP anyone wanting prayer please phone Elaine 489 7663 (prayer convenor).

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT RADIO MICROPHONES

On Wednesday 1st October an important public notice was printed in major newspapers. From 11th March 2105 it will no longer be legal to use radio microphones which use the 698 -806 MHz frequency range. It is vital that churches with cordless or radio microphones take the required steps to retune or replace their radio microphones before March 2015 if they use the 698 - 806 MHz range. Ideally replacement or retuning would occur before 1st January 2015, as after that date 4G cell phones will interfere with some presently used frequencies.

Details can be found at www.retune.co.nz

PF&R COMMITTEE - The PF&R Committee will meet at the Mission building at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 15 October.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Caitlyn Elkins, who turns 11 on 16th October!

THE 2014 QUAKER LECTURE, 'Standing in this Place', by David James, Jillian Wychel, Murray Short and Linda Wilson.

Date: Friday 17 October at 7.15 p.m.

Place: Barnett Lecture Theatre, Great King Street (near Dunedin Hospital).

Entry free. All welcome. Copies of the lecture will be on sale afterwards for \$10 (cash or cheque only).

David James and Jillian Wychel describe their involvement in Treaty education and initiatives in the Whanganui River area, Murray Short compares his personal and professional life experiences, how they interrelate and have shaped his understandings, and Linda Wilson explores working in Crown and professional organisations after Treaty settlement. Together they explore opportunities for Pakeha to work for justice for indigenous people through political and social change in very different ways on a day to day basis.

David James and Jillian Wychel have worked since 1988 as the Rowan Partnership, offering education mainly about Tiriti/Treaty of Waitangi issues to organisations of all kinds.

Murray Short has a background in social services including as a Maori welfare officer and as a manager in a number of public service departments. Since retiring he has been involved with Treaty Education and management development work.

Linda Wilson was up until recently, Principal Lecturer in Occupational Therapy at Otago Polytechnic, where she was Foundation Head of School 1990-2005.

For enquiries please contact Elizabeth Duke at elizabeth.duke@actrix.co.nz , phone 03 467 5367.

MEMBERS OF THE PARISH enjoyed the visit of the presidential team last Sunday, President Rex Nathan and Vice President Jan Tasker. They are the first presidential team to hold the position for a two year term, and they spoke freely of the advantages for a better coverage of parishes and synods around the Connexion. They particularly enjoyed the tour of all the church buildings in our Parish and the in-depth time spent with our leaders throughout the 2 days of their visit. A good attendance at the Wesley Hall marked the occasion, with a highlight being the spirited singing and Vice President Jan's moving tribute to the small Methodist group at New Brighton and their response to the grievous damage to peoples' lives in the Christchurch East area. One hopes that sooner or later the post-quake story of the New Brighton Methodists will be recorded.

Another highlight was the magnificent lunch provided by the Tongan congregation. Malo e lelei. Your generous catering was much appreciated.





FUNDRAISING QUIZ NIGHT to raise funds for suicide prevention

The Life Matters Suicide Prevention Trust is hosting a fun quiz night of trivia questions to raise money for the production of educational leaflets and to fund educational events on issues of mental health and suicide prevention.

Date: Tuesday 21st October 7pm

Venue: Mosgiel RSA 6 Church St, Mosgiel.

\$30 per team registration, max of 8 people per team.

Amazing Prizes!!

To register a team please contact Nikki Cockburn at

cockburn.nikki@gmail.com

or ring Greg Hughson on 027 212 1048/479 8497

<https://www.facebook.com/events/716046238450852/>

TUI MOTU GOLD AWARD

Tui Motu, the liberal and independent Catholic magazine edited in Dunedin, has been named publication of the year by the Australasian Religious Press Association. It has also gathered several awards from the Australasian Catholic Press Association. The latest (Spring) issue, with the usual high quality articles and stunning visuals, has just been added to the file kept at Mornington Methodist church and available free to all readers in the parish.

STORY FROM THE MISSION

A referral for a student to attend Approach Community Learning under the Youth Guarantee programme. This young person



was shy, withdrawn and did not engage well with other youth, often at times isolating themselves. We offered Support & Advocacy to this student and a safe place in which to retreat when other students became 'too much'.

We spent time building a trusting relationship in order to work together. This young person had been ostracised from their family, placed into a residential care facility, and had no contact with friends or family.

There are some Mental Health issues, anxiety, depression, eating disorder etc. I have been proud to see that this person has attended appointments as a result of referrals from S & A at their request, and is now in a position to seek alternative accommodation.

In the short time this person has attended ACL they have grown into a capable mature young person. Capable academically of achieving the Qualifications we offer, capable of building new relationships and friendships and a mature outlook on life. This young person has developed a clear vision – which is to go on to further study to study animal sciences.

This was about guiding and supporting a young person to work towards the outcomes that they already had the solution to.

MUSICAL SOCIETY CONCERT 19 October 2.30pm at the Mornington Methodist Church. Items from Highland Harmony, a barbershop group and Items from a Gamelan. All welcome. Adults \$2.

WEEK OF PRAYER for World Peace Annual Interfaith Peace Gathering “Join hands, people of faith”

Organised by the Dunedin Interfaith Council

Date : Thursday 16th October 7.30-9pm

Venue : Quaker Meeting Rooms, 15 Park St, Dunedin

All welcome. Information: Greg Hughson 027 212 1048 or Kristan Mouat 027 4737137

The Mornington Methodist Choir will be attending the service on 16th October to lead the singing of “Hold hands people of faith” , by Colin Gibson .

PIN for Parish Bulletins October 2014

NZer’s Values, Environment and Economic Prospects

After the election we can be pleased that the Prime Minister has put Child Poverty on the Government agenda. The Government is also fast tracking changes to the RMA to speed up economic development. A Christian principle for the economy is stewardship, which means linking economy with environmental protection. Key issues to watch for in RMA changes are:



1. Reform that removes the landscape and stewardship values in Sections 6 and 7 in part 2.
2. Participation in RMA decision making – the collaborative management proposals
3. Increases in Carbon mission from development
4. Effect on water quality
5. Expansion of dairying

The environment is central to our economy – Tourism dairy, meat and wool, wine, horticulture, forestry and fisheries – rely on natural assets, so let’s look after them.

Location, location, location

If, as both the UN head and church leaders like Desmond Tutu are saying, climate change “the defining issue of our age”, then it is also the defining issue for the future of Methodism in Dunedin.



is

A map of the Dunedin area was published showing which parts of the city are most threatened by sea-level rise, and South Dunedin is definitely up there. What was historically called The Flat was more like The Big Swamp when my great-grandfather (City Surveyor 1865-1903) began working on its ‘reclamation’. As well as managing the shifting sandhills at St Clair -- an area increasingly vulnerable to high tides and storm surges, as ODT photos attest -- in 1878 he produced a drainage scheme that is the basis of our entire sewerage system.

Yes, we are in for more of what Christchurch East experienced in the earthquakes and after: liquefaction following any earth movements, but even if we have no earthquakes, major interference with sewerage and other underground systems from a rising water table. The Council has proposed cistern-based mitigations such as are used in the Netherlands (where even more complicated dyke-engineering is being done to future-proof low-lying land), but that will be prohibitively expensive if applied to the whole Flat.

At a forum arranged by Mike Bradstock relating Theology and Public Issues, climate change was discussed in terms of its social impacts. Taking part were climate scientist Jim Salinger, whose Jewish background (in a Dunedin family close to mine) led him to stress guardianship of the environment; economist Rod Oram, whose Anglican background meant he acknowledged the growing sense of environmental responsibility that led to there being a season called Creation in the church calendar; and the Mission’s CEO Laura Black,

who explained what it was like to live on The Flat, or have a business and own property there, when because of groundwater rising all the time, the very earth under you is becoming less dependable, yet you don't (of course) want to live/work anywhere else.

Added to this local awareness is the international awareness that it is often in the low-lying areas of the world that people live in high-density housing with compromised facilities for water and sanitation. In my breaks as a night support-worker at McGlynn Homes I used to see on BBC World News reports of whole chunks of land in Bangladesh getting swept into the sea, carrying people's flimsy houses with it. Although still periodically reported, this has become so normal we can easily forget it is happening all the time. Sifa has similarly made us aware of the plight of people in low-lying Pacific Islands. In Kiribas and Vanuatu, the soil is so heavily salinated by rising (salt)water that crops can no longer be grown. This is an irreversible trend, more permanent than inundation through storms.

Last week I drove an elderly woman of great character home (from a day-programme at Ross Home) to her little house right on the street in Wesley Street, where she lives alone. She was ranting – good-humouredly, in a North Country accent – about how the incoming government won't look after the “working classes”, and she may be right. It is Presbyterian Support that offers the Maybank programme in North East Valley, with a meal and activities, while our Mission supports local South Dunedin groups like Span.

In the same week I attended our combined service, again in Wesley Street, where Methodist Vice-President Jan Tasker described ways in which the Methodist parish in low-lying East Christchurch, under the leadership of Mark Gibson, serves the community of people affected – perhaps the most of anybody – by the earthquakes in and around Christchurch. Afterwards we were served what can only be called a feast, under conditions that were constraining, to say the least. If we

are keeping this building -- as I think we should – we need to spend some money on it, so that it can host with dignity the inspiring occasions it is now called upon to house.

At this point, I want to recall our excellent combined service at Knox, because that is somewhere we could always consider for large gatherings. We don't need to build another big church while that option exists -- either combining with the Knox congregation, or holding a Sunday service there at a later time.

The success of the Mission's Forbury Hub shows, to me, that we should intend to make our future base in South Dunedin, on the Wesley site, so that we can serve the surrounding community in the difficult times ahead, as Wesley himself said: every way we can. The needs and resources of South Dunedin are there to be met and to be shared -- in an area lacking a library or community centre as such. Our resources could include advice on adapting to climate change: we have at least one composting toilet in the (Methodist) family, and plenty of experience of growing vegetables in raised beds! Out of the books we already give away (speaking for myself), we could even establish a library. If there was a decent kitchen, we could do things like the school-holiday cooking-lessons that were very successful at St Paul's, run by volunteers in association with Family Care.

Access

In any future multi-purpose building we should recognize – as Knox and First Church have done – the cultural need of Pacific peoples to separate spaces that are, in te reo, *tapu* (sacred) and those that are *noa* (ordinary). Any reconfiguration of the Hall complex should also concentrate on access, which is a strong element in inclusivity. The toilets are at present down some steps, and the kitchen is cramped, with a narrow doorway through which people can't go in and out at the same time, and which leads into a small corridor, also narrow, with similarly one-way traffic.

Identity

The continuation of combined services at Wesley gives us an experience of being together as a parish. They express our unity, while the separate centres express what Siosifa has recognized as a remarkable diversity. We've shown we can have both now, and we should be able to retain both for some time to come.

My proposal:

AIM for a future Methodist Hub with Church and Mission at Wesley.

KEEP other centres, especially Mornington, as long as they are viable.

1. Sell Broad Bay Use money to demolish Wesley church and redevelop the hall complex as a worship space with separate multi-purpose social spaces.
2. Sell former Wesley Church site on Hillside Road unless the land is needed to develop another Hub for the Mission.
3. Sell St Kilda Use money to strengthen Glenaven and develop the Wesley Hub in association with the Mission. This step can be skipped if the Tongans so decide.
4. Sell Glenaven Build a licence to occupy the church building on Sundays into the agreement with Montessori. Use money from sale to redevelop Mornington Church, adding (?order of priority) toilets, kitchen, small meeting-room(s) to south and/or west. Demolish Hall and provide new entrance and parking on site.
5. Sell Mosgiel if and when necessary to finish developing Mornington and new Wesley Hub. Congregation to decide.

This would leave the Parish with three churches plus associated spaces for parish and/or community use:

1. Wesley for a second Mission Hub, for combined services, for the Wesley and Tongan congregations and to serve the South
2. Mornington to serve the hill suburbs and

3. Glenaven to serve NEValley and students

This statement of aims is being circulated for discussion at the next Parish Council meeting in November. Only the first proposal needs to be attended to, in which the Parish decides where to put the money from the sale of Broad Bay. We have been asked, however, to frame some vision of where we are headed when we take that next move.

-- Helen Watson White