



Dunedin Methodist Parish

Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone

www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz

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Mornington:		

PARISH BULLETIN

26th April 2015

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 3rd May

9.30 am	Mornington	R Mitchell
9.30 am	Mosgiel	G Watson
11.00 am	Glenaven	R Mitchell
11.00 am	Wesley	G Watson
1.00 pm	St Kilda	Combined at Wesley

FROM THE MOSGIEL CONGREGATION our sincere sympathy goes to the feather family on the sad loss of Linda's brother. Our thoughts and prayers are with all the family.

EXPLORERS GROUP: The next meeting will be on Sunday 26 April at 4.30 pm at Mornington. It will include a discussion on 'Passing on the flame to the next generation', led by Siosifa Pole and Rod Mitchell.

THE NEXT MORNINGTON LEADERS MEETING will be held on Tuesday May 5th 7.30pm. We still require a secretary so that the jobs are shared around.

SOUTH ISLAND MINISTRY CONFERENCE

The South Island Ministry Conference is held each year at East Taieri Presbyterian Church near Mosgiel. The theme this year is Resilience in Ministry.

To view the programme and register go to www.etchurch.co.nz
Members of the Parish are encouraged to attend this Conference.

PRAYER REQUEST

Please support our sick and frail people through your prayers. We have few people in the hospital to remember and others at home to pray for. If you have prayer needs please pass on to Elaine Merrett, the Parish Prayer Convener who will share with the members of the Prayer Group.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

- ☺ Jacaranda Horsfall who turns 5 on the 26th April!
- ☺ Rachael Pitts who turns 12 on the 29th April!
- ☺ Harry Sussman who turns 11 on the 1st May!

STORIES FROM THE MISSION...



An Email to our Independent Advocacy Service:

Hi C.J.

Thank you so much for your research and information around superannuation, asset versus income testing; My client and I attended Balclutha Work and Income today and came away with a little more than we thought she was entitled to.

She has now been approved for hedge cutting, and firewood with still need one more quote for gardening. Looks like the disability allowance

is all set go as application has been approved. We also managed to get, chemist, Drs fees and travel to Clutha [to visit husband in the home] all incorporated. – that was very exciting.

So thank you for researching the answers to all of those questions I threw at you, it pays to be well informed and prepared! The client was absolutely delighted, she cried and hugged me in Work and Income office. I must say I also felt pretty ‘professional’ – armed with all that knowledge. In the past it has taken up to 3 visits to capture the information required.

This has been a rather traumatic and life changing experience for her since the accident, but she tells me “she will now sleep well in her bed at night”. So from us both THANK YOU.

From Community & Social Services:

A client’s husband was suddenly admitted to Residential care; what does one do when this happens? How will this affect their work and income payments? How do you pay for the residential care? How do you manage weekly and monthly payments if your benefit changes? Who notifies them about what they need to do?

A previous Social Worker had given out pamphlets and information to her and did take the time to explain the situation, but the client was too traumatised and stressed to understand or ask questions. She has no family living in New Zealand, so very little assistance for personal issues. Her neighbour contacted Support and Advocacy as she was very concerned about her well-being.

The SAW role was to support the client who made a list of priorities, and then followed through on them. This included contacting Work and Income to make an appointment. The SAW contacted the Methodist Mission Independent Advocate to gain a clear understanding about the client’s rights and privileges. The client spent

two weeks finding appropriate documentation to support the change of conditions to their benefits. This was very stressful as her husband had always managed the financial concerns of the family.

At the Work and Income meeting, she produced all the required supporting documentation, asked relevant questions as to what else she would be entitled to. This was from information received from the Independent Advocate. As a result of this interaction, she was able to access home supports which means she is now able to stay in the family home. She has put together a folder and a book-keeping system to manage the financial affairs. She has also consulted her neighbour to help her with other things around the house.

The client has come out of this experience with a sense of personal responsibility taking on these new challenges with a sense of fulfilment. Her first PCOMS-ORS scored 6.0 but after 3 sessions she scored 40.0

Being part of her journey has been a humbling experience for me as SAW to see the client identify her own resourcefulness and continue to grow new skills and confidence.



ULTRACREPIDARIANISM – ULTRA WHAT?

Apelles, the 4th century BC Greek painter, was the greatest painter ever. At least, that's what Pliny the Elder, writing 500 years later, would have us believe. No one could draw a line like Apelles. Mind you, like all great artists, he practised every day. 'Not a day without a line drawn', he once said. Apelles was also asked why he kept on touching and retouching his paintings, trying to achieve perfection, to which he replied, 'I paint for eternity.'

What a shame, then, that none of his paintings has survived, not even for 2½ thousand years. Just a few intriguing quotes and anecdotes remain. Apelles had a habit of displaying his paintings in public and then hiding behind them to listen to the comments of passers-by. Once a cobbler came along and observed that the sole of a shoe in one of the paintings was not painted correctly – whereupon Apelles (all credit to him) fixed the mistake overnight. The next morning, the cobbler was emboldened to comment on how Apelles had portrayed the leg. That was too much for Apelles who burst from his hiding-place to exclaim: ‘Shoemaker, not above the sandal’ (*‘Ne ultra crepidam’* in Pliny’s Latin).

Hence the mouthful of ultracrepidarianism – giving opinions and advice on matters beyond one’s knowledge or competence. It’s a thought that has become proverbial in many languages, including English – ‘a cobbler should stick to his last’. Fair enough, but I suspect a tinge of elitism. Would ‘a surgeon should stick to his scalpel’ have quite the same ring about it? That aside, we need to recognize an occupational hazard for just about all of us. Cobbling of sorts is a pretty common pastime for politicians and party-bloggers, CEOs and unionists, journalists and judges, editors and letter-writers to editors. Not forgetting agony aunties and uncles, and parsons and preachers. Throw in all the social media as well. Last but not least it also applies to commentators and columnists – you get the ‘Connection’?

Point taken. So, does the big ‘ultracrep’ word warn me against dealing with matters on which I have no particular expertise? Yes. So should I refrain from getting involved in such issues? That may depend, I suggest, on the seriousness of the question and the meagreness of my grasp of the fundamentals. A few examples may help to shed light on the issues at stake.

1. **Capital gains tax.** Last week the Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank proposed that the Government should introduce a capital gains tax as a means of helping to dampen the runaway property

prices in Auckland. The Prime Minister, the Housing Minister, the Treasury Secretary and even the leader of the Labour Party all disagree. Who's right? Don't ask me! I've only got an opinion. Decades as a taxpayer don't on their own confer enough expertise. All I know is that CGT is an important matter for public debate among those with some grasp of the pros and cons. I'll largely heed the warning on this one, while reserving the right to become more qualified.

2. Euthanasia. During this last week there has been a hearing in the High Court at Wellington arising from a 42 year-old woman's wish to end her life with medical assistance before her suffering from brain cancer becomes unendurable. A few weeks ago I attended a seminar sponsored by the Voluntary Euthanasia Society New Zealand which is opposed by the Care Alliance Trust. The seminar was addressed by a retired doctor who had helped draft the pioneering Dutch legislation on medically assisted dying. This matter is particularly relevant to the interplay between highly relevant expertise on the one hand and universal concern on the other. The medical profession cannot avoid being caught up in the debate as a deeply involved expert group, but neither can it assume a dominant position by reason of its particular expertise. This is a case where the public too has a major stake, and finally the preeminent one, in arriving at a resolution of the opposing forces. We have an equal duty to wrestle with the arguments and not abdicate our responsibility to pass judgement. Whether we like it or not, how we might die is within the proper province of us all.

3. War and peace. On the centennial of the Gallipoli landings we cannot avoid a similar tension. In the Anzac observances we mourn the loss of soldiers in battle during one horrifying episode, as an emblem of the suffering and sacrifice of a whole nation. Yet we also have to grapple with the rights and wrongs, or even just the pragmatic pluses and minuses, of warfare as an instrument of

statehood. In short, we all have to ask whether a 'just war' is ever conceivable under extreme circumstances.

My attention has been drawn to an opinion story on the stuff.co.nz website, entitled 'On the brink of WWI overload.' It covered a lot of ground, including this provocative sentence: 'It seems perverse that much more ink has been spilled over Gallipoli than our Government's decision, without any public debate, to send soldiers into the war zone of Iraq this year.' 302 responses ranged from 'Totally agree' and 'Well said' to 'Very nasty' and 'Disgraceful article'. Such is the sharp division over matters on which we are all entitled to have strong views. And this too is a case where expert groups, whether coming from strategic power or peace studies perspectives, cannot expect any privileged right to decide on public opinion. Each of us has to abandon our cobbler's last on this one.

It turns out that ultracrepidarianism isn't an awful lot simpler than the word itself. But, like the word, it's well worth remembering, as is the charming story behind it. It has a cautionary value. The main problem is knowing when one is truly out of one's depth. There are many degrees of knowledge and expertise. It pays on any issue to ask oneself: how competent am I to pass some level of judgement? Should I make clear that this is only a partially-informed opinion? Would I be better to acknowledge that the question is right outside my scope?

Often enough the situation presents a challenge. Not just to weigh up one's competence, but to extend one's knowledge. What it comes down to is: **Always know your limits, but never stop expanding the limits of what you know.**

David Kitchingman

P.S. Was I really qualified to say all that, or should I have stuck to my knitting? Now, there's another story!