



Dunedin Methodist Parish

Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone

www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz

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PARISH BULLETIN

25 February 2018

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 4th March

9.30 am	Mornington	M Hardy
10.00 am	Mosgiel	S Pole
11.00 am	Glenaven	M Hardy
11.30 am	St Kilda	S Pole

Dates to remember:

28 February:	Lenten Studies continue, Mosgiel Church, 7.30pm
28 February:	Mornington MWF first meeting and luncheon, 12noon
2 March:	World Day of Prayer Ecumenical Service, Mosgiel, 1.30pm
4 March:	Rev Dr Robert Stringer, Mornington Church, 7pm, preceded by catered meal, 5.30 pm

MORNINGTON MWF: The first Meeting for the year of Mornington Methodist Women's Fellowship, will be a luncheon, to be held at the church on **Wednesday 28th February at 12 noon**. Please bring a plate of suitable food to share. The programme committee will provide the sweets. After lunch, Greg and Hilda Hughson have kindly agreed to give an illustrated talk and reflection on their 2017 trip to the UK and Europe. All are welcome to come and learn about Greg and Hilda's tales of their travels.

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER
ECUMENICAL SERVICE TO BE HELD**



Friday 2nd March 2018
MOSGIEL METHODIST CHURCH
Time 1.30 pm. All Welcome

This worldwide movement of informed prayer involves people from 170 countries also many denominations, who together observe a common day of prayer each year.

Through World Day of Prayer:
We affirm our faith in Jesus Christ.

This year, our service is from Suriname which lies in the North-eastern part of South America. The theme is:

ALL GOD'S CREATION IS VERY GOOD

Join us, to enjoy this happy time, with stories & singing from Suriname.
"Wear your bright colours."

Say a warm greeting in Sranan Tongue:
"A heri grontapu di Gado meki bun Doro Doro."
ALL WELCOME. Followed by afternoon tea.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT - COME AND HEAR *Rev Dr Robert Stringer*, formerly of the Methodist Church of NZ and now with the United Church of Australia in Melbourne, discussing the challenges facing the indigenous people of West Papua, and the brave response of the Papuan Church, rising to the challenge. These are issues that seldom capture the attention of the contemporary media and for the most part are avoided by politicians in New Zealand and Australia.

When - Sunday evening, March 4, 7pm

Where - Mornington Church, Galloway St

Preceded by a catered meal in the Church Lounge,
5.30 pm, \$15 per head.

This initiative is supported by Mornington Leaders Meeting and the Parish Council. All profits after expenses will be directed to the West Papuan Women's Office in Melbourne (Papuan, Indonesian and Australian women working together to support liberation and social justice groups on the ground in W/Papua.)

COME AND HEAR A STORY THAT WILL SHOCK YOU
AND ENCOURAGE YOU.

Sign up for the dinner today or ring Judy at 455-3727.

REV PETER TAYLOR VISITS - The Superintendent of Otago-Southland Synod, will visit and preach in Dunedin Methodist Parish at Mornington Methodist Church on the 20th May 2018. I suggest that we will have a Parish Combined Service so that all the people of the Parish will have a chance to meet Peter. This Service will be at 10.00 am for the whole Parish.

MOSGIEL FOOD BANK - At our last meeting it was noted that they require toilet soap, toothpaste, dish washing liquid, coffee, small empty dish washing liquid bottles and empty egg cartons. Remember items for the Food Bank can be brought to church on Communion Sunday. Many thanks for your continued support and contributions to the Food Bank.

BULLET POINTS FROM THE PARISH MEETING

- Purchase of people-mover van approved.
- Games night to be organised at Mosgiel.
- Congratulations to the eight new Lay Preachers appointed at St Kilda.
- St Kilda choir sang at the Museum and the Dunedin United Nations World Interfaith Harmony Week dinner.
- Workshop to be held on recovering and recording our churches' and people's heritage.
- Representation to be brought to all congregations, reviewing our financial giving to meet current needs and new Parish Initiatives.

SYMPATHY - On behalf of the Dunedin Methodist Parish, I would like to convey my condolences and sympathy to Rev Donald Phillipps for the death of his brother John Phillipps this week. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family during this time of mourning and sorrow.

PUBLIC ISSUES FOR PARISH NEWSLETTERS & BULLETINS

25 FEBRUARY 2018

Let us urge the government to refrain from block offers for new oil and gas exploration. We are concerned that offers for new oil and gas exploration could be made at the Petroleum Industry Conference 26th March. Please write to Hon Megan Woods, Minister for Energy and Resources, to Prime Minister Ardern and Hon James Shaw, Minister for Climate Change to request an end to new oil and gas exploration. A draft letter is being circulated to Parish secretaries. We ask parishes to pray for a moratorium on new oil and gas exploration. We see action on climate change as essential for caring for our common home, and our global neighbours. Climate justice is part of our commitment to peace and stewarding our resources responsibly for future generations. The *Climate Conversations* Resource is available as hard copy from Betsan or on the Public Questions website

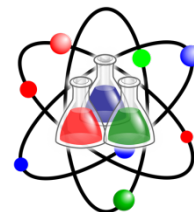
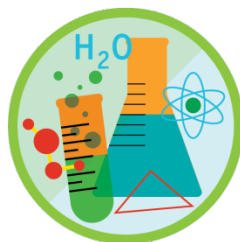
http://www.methodist.org.nz/public_questions_network/index3

STORY FROM THE MISSION

Science Kids: Working with smaller schools for term 4 has been a real pleasure, both Ravensbourne and Pine Hill have total roles of about 30 students. Working with smaller groups has been really successful with more time for one on one with the children, it's lovely to see them build stronger bonds with each other and the facilitators throughout the course of the programme. The feedback received from both schools has also been really positive, especially because the programme provides opportunity for the children to do things that they would not normally be able to.



To end the programme we had our usual whānau shared kai and sharing of experiments and learnings. Unfortunately the turn out from whānau this term was not fantastic, with parents at work or prior commitments. A great time was had nonetheless and the children enjoyed the celebration, and worked really well together to present their science experiments to the families present.



If you would like to support the Mission's work with a donation, please visit www.givealittle.co.nz and search for The Methodist Mission.



UNCONSCIOUS BIAS AT WORK

Last month the Children's Commissioner and School Trustees Association reported "disturbing and serious complaints about racist behaviour toward students in schools".

One of the substantial culprits appears to be *unconscious bias* – the disadvantaging of a group by indirect and often unthinking means.

The classic example in schools is when teachers expect a group to do less well, so set lower expectation, and because children respond (in learning environments) to expectations above all else (it is called the Pygmalion Effect), their achievement drops. That's *unconscious bias*.

And it goes some way to explaining why in an education system that is at its heart conceived as egalitarian, Māori and Pasifika children do so much worse – even controlling for all other factors – than their peers.

This week the New York Times reported on an Israeli study into another form of unconscious bias *How Elementary School Teachers' Biases Can Discourage Girls from Math and Science*. Which shows how powerful even a little encouragement can be: students who had been encouraged in primary school did substantially better than children who had not – even when controlling for all other factors. .

A separate US study has shown that when school teachers who are marking papers cannot see the name of the author, boys and girls assignments are marked similarly. When the teacher can see the name of the author, boys are marked higher. *Unconscious bias* again.

Unfortunately, unconscious bias has traditionally been regarded as very difficult to remedy. It is about micro moments in the classroom between teacher and student. It is the repetition of those micro moments, and sometimes it is simply the absence of a moment.

So let me introduce you to Chris Sarra. Check him out on YouTube if you have time, because Chris has some answers to the problem of *unconscious bias*. In the late 1990s, Sarra became the first Aboriginal principal of Cherbourg State School in South-East Queensland. Under Sarra's leadership the school became nationally acclaimed for its pursuit of the 'Strong and Smart' philosophy, which led to dramatic improvements in educational outcomes:

- Unexplained absenteeism reduced by 94% within 18 months;
- Real attendance improved from 62% in 1999 to 94% in 2004 (without touching welfare payments);
- Year 7 diagnostic reading tests went from 0% at state average in 1998, to 81 % in 2004; and 58% improvement in Year 2 Literacy within 2 years;
- 5 Aboriginal teacher aides completed teacher training while studying and continuing to work at the school;
- Enrolments nearly doubled.

At a presentation last year, I heard Chris talk about the basis of the changes he made being a shift to a “high expectation relationship”.

Chris defines high expectation relationships as honouring the humanity of others, and in so doing, acknowledging one's strengths, capacity and human right to emancipatory opportunity.

So when the school instituted uniforms and most parents couldn't afford them, the school agreed to buy the uniforms if the family helped

out a school (supervising homework classes, reading to the younger kids) for a specified time.

The secret lies in co-creating the opportunities, not in seeing them as write-offs before the work even starts. How very Methodist I hear you thinking!

Laura Black