



Dunedin Methodist Parish

Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone

www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz

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PARISH BULLETIN

29th September 2019

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 6th October 2019

9.30 am	Mornington	R Mitchell
10.00 am	Mosgiel	Lay Worship Team
11.00 am	Glenaven	M Hardy
1.00 pm	St Kilda	TBA

DATES TO REMEMBER

29th September 6.30pm Mornington Combined churches meet
at the Catholic Church

11 Nov – 14 Dec Pre-Christmas Summer School

DAVID'S LONG SERVICE LEAVE

David Poultney is on long service leave and will be back at work on 25th October. In his absence the Rev Dr Rod Mitchell is available for funerals and to deal with any pressing pastoral situation specifically requiring the input of a presbyter.

PRE-CHRISTMAS SUMMER SCHOOL PAPER:

Theology and the Environment (CHTH224/324).

In light of climate change, ocean acidification, and our over-use of plastics, to name a few ecological issues, this timely course investigates what Christian theology has to say about care for the environment. The course invites students to look at how theology can speak to these pressing issues. The will taught by Dr. Andrew Shepherd.

Find out more here:

<https://www.otago.ac.nz/summerschool/study/otago714604.html>

Each Course costs \$20. Please register online at www.otago.ac.nz/continuingeducation

STORY FROM THE MISSION YOUTH TRANSITION HOUSE

Currently supporting one resident to transition out of the house and into a flat and seek part time employment. Transitions of all types can be a challenge to traverse, and this month my work with residents of the House lay primarily in supporting them to transition between the worlds of education and employment-seeking. Many of the residents have said that they appreciate support in being able to help them break larger goals down into manageable steps, and motivational support to check in on progress.



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

SUPPORT OUR APPEAL FOR BAHAMAS HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Hurricane Dorian hit the Bahamas on September 1. The category 5 storm stayed over the islands for 48 hrs and wrought horrendous damage.

The International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) reported that more than 13,000 houses have been severely damaged or destroyed – about 45 per cent of all homes on the two worst affected islands. Abaco Islands are the most severely affected with thousands of houses levelled, telecommunications towers down, and water wells and roads damaged, very limited or no water, electricity and sanitation, and most of the Marsh harbour infrastructure is damaged. In Grand Bahama, the eastern part is the most affected, with homes damaged between Freetown and Deep Water Cay.

Across Abaco Islands and Grand Bahama, airports and seaports are increasingly becoming operational, allowing humanitarian assistance to be delivered. However, access to affected people, particularly in the Abaco Islands, remains challenging mainly due to damaged roads and infrastructure.

ACT Alliance is deploying a Rapid Assessment Team to be led by the Servicio Social de Iglesias Dominicanas (SSID) in the Dominican Republic, on behalf of the Caribbean Sub-regional ACT forum. The assessment will identify the needs of the affected population, assess local capacities to respond including those of churches, provide recommendations for a possible ACT Response on behalf of Christian World Service.

Please donate to the Bahamas Appeal so people can get emergency assistance.

By post: CHRISTIAN WORLD SERVICE, Box 22.652 Christchurch

Online: CWS@cws.org.nz

Via the Parish Sunday offering marked "Bahamas"

Let's Finalise our Parish response to this worthy appeal this week.
Receipts will be issued on request. Thanks everyone.

LATEST ATROCITIES IN WEST PAPUA

At least 20 people have been killed, including three shot by police, and dozens injured following a new wave of violent clashes between demonstrators and government forces in Indonesia's West Papua region on Monday, prompting President Joko Widodo to call a security meeting.

Sixteen people were killed in Wamena city where hundreds demonstrated and burned down a government office and other buildings, authorities said.

Four of the other fatalities were from the clashes that took place on Monday in Jayapura, the provincial capital, Aloysius Giyai, head of Papua province's health office, told the news website, Jubi.

Dedi Prasetyo, a spokesman of Indonesia's national police, also confirmed to Al Jazeera that one police officer was killed. He could not confirm the number of fatalities among the demonstrators.

In a statement sent to the media, Lt Col Eko Daryanto, a military spokesman in Papua province, said members of the Papuan Student Alliance (AMP) gathered at the Cenderawasih University.

Authorities later ordered the protesters to move the demonstration outside of the campus, which resulted in deadly clashes.

Albertho Rumsaur, a resident of Jayapura, said he witnessed the clashes between the joint police-military forces and the students.

"The students threw rocks and the police fired tear gas," he told Al Jazeera.

Siska Manam, a student, said she also saw civilian militia, who support the military, carrying wood and machetes, giving a chase to the students.

The AMP student alliance, however, denied that they have members in Jayapura, adding that they only have a local group in the restive region.

The AMP is a leading organisation of Papua students that has called for more freedom in the region.

Jhon Gobai, chairman of the alliance, told Al Jazeera that the government should "stop scape-goating" the student group for Monday's protests.

Indonesia's West Papua region is divided into two provinces: West Papua and Papua. Jayapura is the biggest city in Papua province, with a population of some 500,000 people.

Several people were killed during protests in Jayapura last month when the unrest erupted.

Since then, the government has deployed thousands of troops to the region and arrested activists to quell the protests.

West Papua was a Dutch colony until the early 1960s when Indonesia took control, cementing its rule with a controversial referendum.

The government in Jakarta maintains the West Papua region, which occupies the western half of the island of Papua New Guinea, is Indonesia's because it was part of the Dutch East Indies that forms the basis of the country's modern-day borders.

A low-level armed rebellion by indigenous Papuans, who now make up about half the population after years of migration by people from other parts of Indonesia, has been rumbling ever since.

West Papua is the poorest region in the country and there have been allegations of human rights violations.

At least 17 people were killed after violence erupted in December, which triggered a military crackdown.

Some 35,000 civilians have been forced from their homes as security forces attempt to flush out the rebels from the forested mountains.

SOURCE: Al Jazeera News Sept 24, 2019



Many from the Parish recently attended the funeral of Elizabeth Brooke-Carr. Elizabeth was a former member of our Glenaven congregation and as a contributor to the Connections columns she wrote beautiful and perceptive articles - contributions which she said herself began her short career as a writer. In Elizabeth's memory we reprint one of those articles, which is highly relevant in this season of the Rugby World Cup. - KHR

FLAGS ON THE TOUCHLINE

Flags, bunting and banners have transformed our clean, green islands into a colourful theatre of celebration. Flapping and fluttering, from Cape Reinga to Stewart Island - on mountains, mansions, cottages, cribs, lighthouses and loos - sets the scene for a grand show. There are flags galore; stretched flat on walls and windows and wardrobes, painted on faces, and hoist on mental touchlines. Aotearoa New Zealand is in party mode. The Rugby World Cup has kicked off a playful level of patriotism in The Land of the Long White Cloud, with a floodtide of flags. (A local manufacturer says his staff has been 'run ragged' trying to keep up with the demand, filling orders for all manner of flags including those of the 'underdog' teams.)

In the recent history of our nation ANZAC day has tended to dominate flag flying events, often sombre occasions marked by the half-mast raising of the New Zealand Ensign and the Australian flag to honour our war dead. The flag of any nation is a symbol of respect. We fly it as a mark of esteem for others and to uplift ourselves. Desecration of the flag is an offensive act. Allegiance to it, instilled through education, caught or taught, is part of how we identify our cultural selves.

Every Monday morning in my early schooldays, the Bell Monitor stood on the top step, sharp at nine-o'clock, and rang the teacher's hand-held brass bell to call us into line. Our country schoolyard was also the tennis court and we assembled on the marked white lines, girls in front, boys behind, facing the flag. In lieu of a flagpole, (that came later) two Flag Monitors, chosen for their ability to stand staunch, each clutched a corner of the Union Jack, pulling it as taut as they could without tearing it apart. We waited for our teacher to call us to attention. When she commanded, 'School, salute!' we followed her lead, each holding a hand to brow for three strict seconds before dropping it stiffly to our side. Then we lifted our voices, in less concordant strains, to God Save The King.

After the final notes of the National Anthem had drifted away over the pony paddock next door, we trooped inside to begin the week's lessons while the Flag Monitors carefully rolled up the Union Jack until next Monday's unfurling. The Ink Monitor, whose hallmark was trust and reliability, had already filled the little ceramic inkwells in the desks and made sure there was plenty of chalk on the blackboard ledges. But before we settled into Reading, Writing and Arithmetic there was another monitoring ritual, 'Hands on Handkerchief', a fingernail inspection by our teacher. Her aim, nay, her bounden duty, was to fly another sort of flag - Cleanliness (which was next to Godliness) - and in the process to counter annoying sniffing. Make no mistake we were monitored to within an inch of our lives.

And would you believe it? Monitors are still alive and well, doing their duty in the 21st century. In this High Season of Celebration two staunch Flag Monitors stand on their individual touch lines, firm in their opposing views, with the fabric of nationhood stretched between them tight as a schoolmistress's lips. One, a businessman, 'incensed' to see a Maori flag flying at a local school, has sent emails objecting in very strong terms to the flag's presence in the community. He believes tino rangatiratanga has no place in our country because it sends 'mixed messages' about our cultural identity. 'We are all one people here and this division is not good for the country,' he says. The other, the school's Board of Trustees chairman, citing

the cultural and national diversity he sees reflected in the school community, hopes the children will grow up in an atmosphere that not only represents but also actively celebrates that diversity. The clash between these two Flag Monitors touches on much deeper social, cultural and political tensions. But their disagreement also highlights the amazing power of flying the flag.

A flag, any flag, is much more than its patriotic message. In the current New Zealand climate the painted flags on gleeful faces, the wind-whipped flags on convoys of campervans, or the sweep and dip of home made flags in a buoyant crowd are intimately connected to mood. And the mood of the moment is celebration.

Of course it's important to keep the flag flying for social justice, in both real and metaphoric terms. But for now, for a little while at least, its time to loosen up a bit. Slap on some face paint, sidestep the issues that divide people and communities, and run with the emotional flutter and flap. Whether we're for the top dog or the underdog we can score by showing our true colours in this convivial theatre of celebration. And if we're not rugby fans we don't even have to go to a game. Just grab a flag and fly it.

Elizabeth Brooke-Carr