



Dunedin Methodist Parish

Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone

www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz

Presbyters:	Rev. Siosifa Pole	455 2923
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PARISH BULLETIN

16th March 2014

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 23rd March

9.30 am	Mornington	R Mitchell
9.30 am	Mosgiel	D Phillipps
11.00 am	Glenaven	R Mitchell
11.00 am	Wesley	D Phillipps
1.00 pm	St Kilda	TBA

OPEN EDUCATION: THAT THEY MAY LIVE - Open Education for 2014 opens with an important topic, the way we treat our children in New Zealand. Do you know that many New Zealand children are experiencing abuse? Did you know that New Zealand has the fifth worst child abuse record out of 31 OECD countries? That on average one child is killed every five weeks? That most of these children are under five, and the largest group is less than a year old?

Open Education brings a speaker from the Women's Refuge in Dunedin and will have a free booklet available to those who attend. Learn what we could do about it. See you at Mornington Church, Galloway Street, at 7.30pm; bring a friend, and spread the news. As usual, the koha for admission is \$5, and a pre-session meal starting at 6pm will be offered by our wonderful cook, Judy Russell, for a charge of \$15.

FREE CONCERT MORNINGTON METHODIST CHURCH – 2.30pm Sunday 16th March. Dunedin Musical Society featuring Sunny Side Up Choir and piano items. All welcome.

THE MORNINGTON METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP - Monthly meeting on Wed March 27th at 2pm. The special project – Women's Refuge and CWS Sri Lanka. The speaker is Marie Nissanka. All welcome.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Beth Mosley who turns 5 on 20th March.

THE OTAGO DISTRICT WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Celebrating 50 years of Women's Fellowship

SATURDAY 29 MARCH 2014 at 2:30pm

At Mornington Methodist Church

Celebration Dinner \$20,00

If you have any memorabilia of District Events please lend to Margaret Connor or Fay Richardson for displaying during the afternoon.

Come dressed as if you were attending your first meeting in 1964
Hats, Gloves, Pearls and Furs etc.

Come with stories to share

RSVP by 19 March

Fay Richardson 489 5485

malk_com@hotmail.com



QUARANTINE ISLAND: Fitting in with the parish meeting on 22/3 which the YAM members are invited to take attend from 1:30p.m. until approx. 2:15p.m. to have their input. Following this an overnight camp has been arranged on Quarantine Island. The boat is arranged to provide transport from the back beach at Port Chalmers at 3:00p.m. (weather permitting) There are 30 bunks on the island with electricity for cooking and lighting. Sleeping bags and a pillow will be required. Church members are invited to experience the island on

Sunday 23/3 when the boat is booked to provide transport at Midday from the back beach at Port Chalmers with the trip back for all at 4:30p.m. on 23/3. Cost of the boat is \$10 return and there is a landing donation of \$2 to the island wardens. The noted transport has been booked but numbers are needed for catering for the camp. Please bring a cut lunch if coming on 23/3 and hot drinks will be available on the island. If you would like to come please advise Cam Weston on 4545600 or at church by 15/3 to allow to planning. Those overnighing will be advised of the specific details for this.

HORSE RIDING: YAM and any other children, who may wish to come, have been offered the opportunity to experience horse riding. The date is Sunday 30/3 and location just out of Balclutha. All are welcome. The arrangement is to leave church about 11:00a.m. after the service travelling together to Balclutha. Those taking part are asked to take their own lunch and a drink. There will be 2 plus horses to ride and due to location, near the Telford Equestrian Center, this is not weather dependent. All participants will be able to have a ride and will be asked to help with the horses and saddles. Please advise Cam by 22/3, 454 5600 or at church, if you would like to attend to allow for transport arrangements.

COMBINED DUNEDIN CHURCH SERVICE

Sunday 6th April 7pm Dunedin Town Hall . Special Guests: Ian Grant, Brad Thorn, OBHS and OGHS Choir.

All welcome.

REPORT FROM SYNOD AND SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY held at Lakeland camp, Frankton, (Queenstown) 7-10th March. (written by Hilda)

Present: Rev Rex Nathan (President), Rev Diana Tana (Tumuaki of Te Taha Māori), three other reps from Te Taha Māori, Laura Black (Methodist Mission Southern). From Dunedin: Rachael Masterton (co-superintendent of the synod), Jenny Winter (Synod sec), Fay Richardson, Ian Bartlett, Colin Gibson, Rev Siosifa Pole, Rev Rod Mitchell, Rev Donald Phillips, Rev Greg Hughson, Hilda Hughson. Well done Dunedin!

It's a great venue, with spectacular views of the mountains. Can you name them? That was one of the first questions our North Island visitors asked. We gave each other time to introduce ourselves to our visitors (*manuhiri*), with reference to landmarks which are special to us and our families.

Te Taha Māori led us, deepening our understanding of their world view, around *wairua* (spirit), *tikanga* (the right way to do things), and *tapu/noa* (sacred and its opposite, free from *tapu*). These were illustrated with personal stories. Sadly they had to leave early to attend two *tangihanga*, but they got us thinking about continuing our bicultural journey.

Let the Children Live vision: there are 10 lots of up to \$500 available for projects each quarter. Any ideas? Laura suggested we might consider:

1. Support the breakfast programme at Bathgate Park school, as many children would benefit from talking to interested adults, along with the food.
2. Individual church members write to politicians, voicing concern on social matters such as poverty.
3. Continue to knit. Laura thanked the wonderful ladies who knit for The Hub newborn gift packs. She said that the people who receive them feel loved.

Check out information on the web about **Neighbours Day Aotearoa**. March 29/30th. A survey quoted that only ¼ of us feel connected to our local communities.

Donald wrote an interesting **history of our Synod**. He challenged us to seriously consider the two questions Conference is asked each year:

1. What more can be done to promote the work of God?
2. What is God saying to us now?

Synod agreed to support (up to \$2000) the visit of **Lord Leslie Griffiths** (from Wesley's chapel). He will preach at a Dn parish service, July 6, give the annual Peace lecture, & more.

Rev Martin Oh from Alexandra will be available for stationing this year. There are new presbyters at Milton: Revs Luisa and Malu Fruean (Presbyterian).

Are we fishers? Rev Peter Taylor, (co-superintendent), shared a fishing story based on the Biblical metaphor, which we discussed. Some of us are not comfortable with this model and anyway it has definite limitations – you don't eat these fish! What is your alternative?

STORY FROM THE MISSION

Development of friendships through play and shared interests is a focus at Little Citizens. One of the children in the Kiwi room had been following his interest in throwing, rolling and catching by exploring with a wide range of equipment – it was interesting to watch his exploration with an object that had a bell in the middle of it, discovering the relationship between speed and the loudness of the bell. This created a lot of excitement for him and one of the other children came over to join in the game. The inclusion of the other child in the game was a natural part of the development of friendship and sharing.



FUTURE DIRECTIONS FOR THE PARISH

Next Saturday, 22 March, the Parish will meet to consider our dreams for the future and the realities that confront us. Everyone is invited to attend to bring together our collective wisdom, our visions for Methodism in Dunedin and possible solutions to the difficulties we face, particularly in the matter of buildings.

We start at 10am at the Mission (Corstophine Road buildings) under the experienced guidance of Michael Greer, former Director of the Christchurch Mission and present member of the Connexional Property Committee. We will finish no later than 4pm. A simple lunch will be provided by Judy Russell; please bring your own mug for soup and a cup for a drink.

There will be important contributions from the Yam group (Mornington, and the Tongan Youth Group (the future Church) timed for 1.30pm and opportunity to listen, contribute and mull over ideas. Please join us if you can in this important meeting. If you need transport ring 453 6662 and we will try to arrange a pickup. If you can't be there, but want your ideas to be known, communicate them in advance to Colin Gibson (same phone number).



OMARAMA WITH LOVE

Our family holiday in Omarama was truly an experience of love. Our holiday connected well with the meaning of the name 'Omarama', which is 'Place of light'. Love is really enlightening and empowering as is light. We experienced love ourselves and from others during our time in Omarama. These experiences renewed our love for each other, for other people, and for the natural world. We arrived in Omarama on the 12th of January, which was a Sunday. It was very quiet and the weather was overcast. We arrived safely at the Omarama Holiday Park and we went straight to pick up the key of our cabin. The girls were excited with our cabin, especially having there a bunk bed. However, that excitement was only short lived when they started to quarrel and argue about who is going to sleep on the top of the bunk bed. I immediately intervened trying to resolve this conflict situation but with no success. At the end we thought that to satisfy them, they would both have to sleep on the top of the bunk. Although, it might be a risky option it became a successful one! As the nights were in progress the girls started to learn slowly how to share and allow the other person to take that space. This is the kind of experience that our girls learned. They learned to love each other in the midst of their disagreement. Perhaps, they started to realize that love has a cost.

We arrived in Omarama in the evening and I could see everyone in the Holiday Park was ready for dinner. The facilities in the Holiday Park are for everyone to share. There is only one kitchen, one bathroom and toilet for everyone to share. Families and individuals are obligated to share these facilities and it was really an amazing experience. I was quickly to learn how to work together in a community of different people. The dynamics were wonderful. Fathers and mothers, wives and husbands, friends, boys and girls were all worked together. There was no conflict or dispute among families or individuals in the sharing of the facilities. Everyone was willing to share and to give space. Although, we did not know each other there was still a common concern in this community for the wellbeing of each other. Both mothers and fathers were cooking for their families and children were helping in washing their dishes. Families shared their food with other families. Our family started to adapt quickly to the life of this community. It required us to reinterpret and restructure the way we understand roles and responsibilities in the Tongan culture. This attempt to

learn new way of doing things fits in well with our family's situation. When we arrived at Omarama, my wife, Naomi Sr had a stomach bug, which caused her to vomit and felt nausea. It means that I would be the only one in our family was fit to do the cooking and dish washing. This responsibility lasted for four days of our one week holiday. I did the cooking and also the dish washing, which gave Naomi time to enjoy the holiday fully. Certainly, it meant I did not get such a good holiday. However, this experience prompted me to realise the importance of sharing responsibilities, which affirm our mutual love and respect for each other. Omarama gave us that realisation and the significance of it for our relationship. Perhaps, that was a fulfillment of the advice that I had from one of the women of our church who told me that Naomi deserves to have a rest and for me to do the cooking during the holiday!! It was a dream come true for that person!!

The purpose of our holiday was not only to relax and renew strength so that when we come back to work we feel renewed and afresh. For me the purpose of our family holiday was more than that. One of the purposes of our holiday was to explore the natural world. Because of my wife's sickness we were not able straight away to fulfill that wish. We had to wait until Naomi recovered. It was a long wait and I thought that we couldn't fulfill our original plan. However, after three days of waiting Naomi was recovered and was then able to travel to distance places. On the fourth day our dream came true. We woke up in the morning and had breakfast and then prepared our lunch and drink for our adventure. It was truly a fine day. The sun was shining and the sky was clear. Our plan for this day of adventure was certainly enjoyable and exciting because of the wonderful weather. We planned to drive to Mt Cook to view and experience the beauty of those mountain ranges but we did not make it to Mt Cook. There were some health issues of our passengers and we couldn't travel that far.

However, no one was moaning about the fact that we couldn't visit all the sites we would have loved to visit. Wherever we visited on this one day, we took great pleasure in the natural beauty of our surroundings. On our way to Lake Ohau we started to realise our lack of experience in that region. We thought that we are so lucky to live in this land that is peaceful and to have the chance to explore its environment. It was really opened our eyes to see the splendor and wonder of God's creation. When we left Omarama, driving to Lake Ohau we immediately encountered the magnificence of the Waitaki Valley. The route we

travelled, the desert we drove pass, the hills that surrounded us, the valleys, the mountains, the rivers, the lakes and the native birds opened our eyes to new ways of understanding the creation. These marvelous dynamics gave us the impression that if we love and care to this natural world, its beauty will continue to be maintained. When we arrived at Lake Ohau, our destination, we stopped and had picnic there. The girls courageously bathed in the shallow part of the lake, while Naomi and I took pleasure in the peaceful environment. It was really a day of great adventure for our family. We came home after our family holiday with renewed love in our family, in our diverse community, and also in our natural world. We also returned home with a deeper love for God who guided and protected us throughout this marvelous voyage. It is through these experiences that we will always remember Omarama with love.

Siosifa Pole