



Dunedin Methodist Parish

Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone

www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz

Presbyters:	Rev. Siosifa Pole	455 2923
	Rev. Dr. Rod Mitchell	477 3700
Parish Stewards:	Dr George Davis	453 6540
	Mrs Hilda Hughson	487 6226
	Mrs Earlene Owens	489 8146
Tongan Steward:	Mr Kaufusi Pole	455 0096
Parish Office:	Siosifa: parish@dmm.org.nz	466 4600
	Katrina: admin@dmm.org.nz	
Pastoral Convenor	Beryl Neutze	476 7447
Mornington:		

PARISH BULLETIN

31st August 2014

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 7th September

9.30 am	Mornington	R Mitchell
9.30 am	Mosgiel	S Pole
11.00 am	Glenaven	R Mitchell
11.00 am	Wesley	S Pole
1.00 pm	St Kilda	TBA

MOSGIEL IS HOLDING OUR SPRING FLOWER SERVICE on SUNDAY 7th SEPTEMBER, "FATHER'S DAY" please bring your flowers already bunched ready to go to our older members we need a least 15 bunches in total.

MOSGIEL MWF Tuesday 2nd September at 1:30pm in our hall lounge Elizabeth & Peter Matthews will be telling us of their recent cruise to the D DAY LANDINGS CELEBRATIONS all interested people very welcome. Please phone if coming to 489 7663.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Kakala Pole, who turns 7 on 1st September!



FAITH THINKING EVENTS IN SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER

In September:

Music and Worship through the Ages

Presented by Malcolm Gordon (Worship, Music and Arts Enabler, Knox Centre for Ministry and Leadership within the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand), this course will be held on **Friday September 19, 7-9pm and Saturday September 20, 9-12.30** at Knox Centre for Ministry and Leadership, Knox College, Arden Street.

Cost: \$30 for waged and \$20 for unwaged/students.

In October:

The Other Church History:

How Christianity went East and South into Asia and Africa from the Beginning until the Present Day

Presented by Dr Tim Cooper (Department of Theology and Religion, University of Otago), this course will be held on **Friday October 10, 7-9pm and Saturday October 11, 9-12.30** in Burns 5 (Albany Street), University of Otago.

Cost: \$30 for waged and \$20 for unwaged/students.

To register contact the Summer School & Continuing Education Office, University of Otago,

Email: continuing.education@otago.ac.nz

Phone: 479 9181.

INVITATION TO SPRING AFTERNOON TEA, SUNDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER

Mary and Sue invite our Mornington friends to a spring afternoon tea at our place, 197 Balmacewen Road on Sunday 7th Sept; come any time between 2.00 pm and 4.00 pm.



LIFE MATTERS DUNEDIN WORLD SUICIDE PREVENTION DAY SERVICE

"Every life matters" Date: Wednesday 10th September 7pm, supper to follow. Venue: ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, THE OCTAGON, DUNEDIN. **ALL WELCOME.**



ON FEELING AWKWARD

I recently gave an interview to the ODT about the Labour Party's promise to give over 65's a health care subsidy.

The reporter asked about whether I thought that was it necessary to provide this subsidy, because the research showed older people doing (comparatively – and that's an important word, so I'll come back to it) better than younger people.

We had a really interesting conversation. During which I mentioned Dr David Thomson's work on the baby boomer generation across a range of articles and one book, which he called "The Selfish Generation". I also mentioned the work of Dr Jonathan Boston, Max Rashbrooke, and others. I had statistics and considered reflections.

The next day the article started with me calling older people selfish.

Well, it's one way to get attention.

Several people rang up the office and when they couldn't get me, they yelled at Katrina. Really. Shouted. More emailed their disgust.

Several said they would never support us again (to my surprise because I wasn't aware they were doing that in the first place). One told me to resign. Most said I should publicly apologise.

Almost all had stories of personal hardship, hardwork, and never having taken anything from anyone. Quite a few mentioned that young people today were bludgers and needed to develop a better work ethic.

I rang the reporter back and congratulated her.

So for the record, and just in case anyone was wondering, I don't think baby boomers are selfish.

But. There are some awkward facts. They are the only generation that has fully benefited from all the welfare state has offered – health care when it was completely free, tertiary education without massive fees and loans, state houses when they were new, welfare benefits, national super (for a time) and now superannuation at 65 (an age most countries can now not afford), and now free public transport (gold card). Boomers are the only group in society that have enjoyed all those advantages.

Boomers also have an unfortunate tendency to vote for political parties that are happy to deny those entitlements to the generations that have followed.

As many of you also know, New Zealand is very unusual amongst OECD countries for the degree to which we protect the elderly from poverty (3-4%, particularly when we compare how happy we are to expose children to it (20-25%).

None of which is to say that the over 65s are overly well off, or shouldn't be getting the support they do.

None of which is to say that we shouldn't try harder for older people.

But the interview was about the Labour party's announcement of additional funding for a group that is already comparatively so far ahead that it was clearly vote-buying.

Going by the emails and the phone calls I got, they have locked up a (fairly grumpy) block of voters in Dunedin with this announcement!

Laura Black