



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
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Mornington:		

PARISH BULLETIN

22nd May 2016

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 29th May

10.00 am	Mornington	Combined at Wesley
10.00 am	Mosgiel	Combined at Wesley
10.00 am	Glenaven	Combined at Wesley
10.00 am	Wesley	S Pole
1.00 pm	St Kilda	TBA

CHILD POVERTY ACTION GROUP POST BUDGET BRUNCH - Come along and hear about the budget from a child poverty perspective - how has the budget addressed the issue?

Speakers: Mayor Tim Shadbolt, Community speaker, plus student panel of respondents. Friday 27 May 10.30am-12.00pm

Venue: College of Education Staffroom, 145 Union St East

Entry: Koha on the door

SUNDAY 22 MAY 12.30: All present at Glenaven at the end of the service 11-12am are invited to bring partners and families to a pot-luck lunch at 12.30 at the Watson/White house, 5 Cairnhill St 9010. Maps to get there, then tea, coffee and juice provided; please bring a plate of finger-food to share. No need to indicate numbers in advance, but other inquiries to 467 2936.

MUSICAL SOCIETY CONCERT Sunday 22 May at Mornington Methodist Church at 2.30pm. Pianists playing music by NZ composers. Also saxophone trio. All welcome. Cost \$2.



MORNINGTON METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP - The May meeting will take place on the 25th May at 2 p.m. - in the Church Lounge. Laura Black will be the Guest Speaker & her subject will be "Thoughts from the Mission". Please remember The Fellowship of the Least Coin. See you there.

INVITATION

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This is a warm invitation to and a reminder of our combined winter worship at our Presbyterian Church on May 29th at 4.30pm. We'll explore the riches of the Pentecost season together. We will have a straight forward well known hymn as an offering sung by a combined choir, so invite singers from your congregations to come half an hour early, at 4pm, to practise together. As soon as we can we'll let you know the hymn so you might get a chance to practise in your own choirs. We look forward to this opportunity to worship together, and to share a light tea together after the service, which we'll provide.

God's riches t blessings on you and your congregations,

Rachel

EXPLORERS GROUP: No meeting this Sunday (22nd). Next meeting, Sunday 26 June.

DAVID CLARK, Member of Parliament for North Dunedin, was the welcome guest at this month's Open Education Meeting. A goodly number of visitors also attended, doubtless attracted by the topic "Can Religion and Politics Mix?" - to which David answered with a resounding YES. As a Presbyterian minister himself, he joins a succession of clerics who have graduated to Parliament from the ranks of the ministry - just two who come to mind are Arnold Nordmeyer and Russell Marshall. And David informed us that three of the intake into Parliament in his year came with degrees in theology. David put a big stress on questions, and interaction with his audience. As it happened, the questions put a strong focus on New Zealand's relationship with West Papua, and the harshly oppressive occupation by Indonesia, an issue largely ignored in the trade and military ties preferred by the NZ government. The questions sparked some interest in David, and he promised to follow up on the social justice issues raised in the meeting.. Photo - David Clark chats with George Davis, Shirley Ungemuth and Siosifa Pole.



DUNEDIN REFUGEE SUPPORT - profits from this week's OPEN EDUCATION night were devoted to support for the Syrian refugees recently settled in Dunedin. A total profit of \$320 from the dinner and lecture are being forwarded through Red Cross. Thanks everyone!!

CHRISTIAN WORLD SERVICE (CWS) has a special event in June, the 'Refugee Ration Challenge', to raise funds to support and empower refugees in camps in Jordan and Lebanon.

For five days, ending on 20 June, World Refugee Day, volunteers are committed to living on the rations supplied to a person in the camps.

Elizabeth Duke (from Dunedin Quakers) has volunteered, and invites support at her page –

<https://operationrefugee.everydayhero.com/nz/elizabeth>

There is more information about the challenge and why it's needed at www.cwsoperationrefugee.nz This is also the site through which others can volunteer.

PARISH COMBINED SERVICE - At Wesley Methodist Church, Sunday 29th of May, 10am. Mornington and St Kilda choirs will be singing. Please bring a plate for our shared morning tea.

BIBLE WITH ATTITUDE - A reminder for those who want to join this training to contact us as soon as possible so that we know how many booklets to print out. Thanks, Siosifa and Rod.

TALANOA OCEANIA CONFERENCE 2016 - Will be held at Trinity College, Meadowbank, Auckland from 10th – 11th of June. The theme of the Conference "JustUs 2 Justice". The main speakers and presenters will address the issue of justice from various areas of our society. The registration is \$150 and you can contact

nvakauta@gmail.com or talanoaoceania@gmail.com



RADIO CHURCH

a weekly service presented by Dunedin Inner City Ministers' Assoc
Otago Access Radio 105.4FM & 1575AM and online www.oar.org.nz

8.30am Sunday



STORY FROM THE MISSION

Little Citizens Kiwi Room: Currently we have three children with special learning and developmental needs in the Kiwi Room. We have developed warm, close relationships with each child's caregivers and family. We have also had visits and conversations with several health professionals connected to the care of these children - an Early Intervention Teacher from the Ministry of Education and one from CCS, speech therapist, physio, occupational therapist, and psychologist. While it has been busy managing many new faces and visits, it has been very beneficial to have their suggestions and advice for the care of our children. And it is very rewarding working with these children. Each achievement is a cause for delight and celebration, and we share these moments with such pleasure with the caregivers and health professionals. And there have been many small moments of success in the time that we have had these children with us – With combined efforts from families, health professionals, us and of course the child's own hard work, determination and curiosity, we are making positive steps with these children's learning and development.



ON BALANCING ACCESS AND AGENDAS IN DECISION-MAKING

Yes, it is that time of year again: DCC consultation on their Annual Plan. There's a lot to think about: climate change, rates, food security, debt, mud traps and storm water systems, rates, the pool(s) for Mosgiel, debt, the ever-promised-completely-stalled South Dunedin

Library, rates, economic growth, debt, tourism, rates (you'll be noticing a picture here), all constituting the liveability of the place that is our home.

Or perhaps it's really about the contest of ideas about what liveability means for the diverse 110,000 or so of us that call Dunedin home. And there is much to contest: the equation that is the cost versus the benefits of living here swings wildly on what you think is too much or not enough.

There are some who do not want to promote Dunedin as a place to live and work because it will put up house prices, which is true. Others desperately want the entry level jobs that new businesses will bring and can see that new businesses come with new residents.

There are those who say Mosgiel should get its pool(s) because the people there have organised and want them (democracy in action) and those who say the South Dunedin library should go ahead first because that's a persistently poor suburb that has been without Council investment in facilities and recreation since, well, the dawn of time (meeting the needs of our community).

Normally Annual Plan consultation involves reading hundreds of pages of documents and complex tables. This year it was a single A1 fold out brochure, easy to read and with a lovely design, delivered to every house in Dunedin.

So in the language of marketers: a much more accessible product. And, because the questions about the proposals were pre-set (it is now almost impossible to submit outside of the pre-set questions), being consulted was a pretty quick and painless experience.

But. The DCC was only allowed - by recent legislation no less - to consult on their *proposed changes* to their Long Term Plan. And as you might have guessed, there are a number of problems with this.

Firstly, not presenting the full background for the plan makes it harder for submitters to propose alternatives. Say for instance that I thought that progressing the South Dunedin Library was more important than considerable additional expenditure on advertising of the city to outsiders. There is nowhere in the process that even invites that thought: the agenda has been set and the ability to introduce new ideas has been heavily restricted.

Secondly, the leaflet was so gnostic it was not possible to see how the additional advertising spend (for instance) would manifest. What is it supposed to achieve? How would we know the DCC is on track? Why is this a good idea compared to some of the other options?

So, not only was the agenda set, it seems we weren't going to find out much of the detail. Now, it was possible to search through - online - hundreds of pages of documents from previous plans and to try and stitch together an understanding from there. But you'd need a really good internet connection and a great deal of time up your sleeve to do that.

So, the process is simpler and the information that is provided is far more accessible. There will be less paperwork for Council (a cost saving) and there will be clear yes/no feedback on what it wants to do (which can really simplify decision making). All very good things.

At the same time, the agenda has been narrowed and dissent has been starved: two very dangerous things in a democracy, particularly in an election year.

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I'm not sure that this was a deliberate goal of the folks putting the stuff together. On the inside this will all have made perfect sense. What they really want to know is: could we agree with them please?

I have some real sympathy for this. I manage an organisation and straight up and down decisions makes life a lot simpler. A serious yearning for simpler decisions strikes us all most weeks!

But I'm not sure it makes decision making better, it doesn't mean the Mission is more likely to do the right thing, and it doesn't support creativity and innovation.

Achieving those goals is less about controlling the discussion and more about a tolerance for ambiguity, for the imperfect and the evolving, and the hunt for what can be learnt and known better tomorrow than it was today.

So here's to the disrupters, the ones with uncomfortable ideas, the troublesome priests, and those who want to talk about the things that as yet do not have a perfect solution.

For they are the ones who help us create a society that is more liveable for all.

Laura Black