



Toorak Uniting Church Update 3 February 2019



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Phone: 9829 0300
Sunday services 9am & 10.15am

Still Thinking — Faithful Belonging — Christopher Page

“Christianity did not begin with a confession. It began with an invitation into friendship, into creating a new community, into forming relationships based on love and service... If we think of belonging only as membership in a club, organization, or church, we miss the point.

Belonging is acceptance of the risk to move beyond the world we know, to venture out on pilgrimage, to accept exile. And it is the risk of being with companions on that journey, God, a spouse, friends, children, mentors, teachers, people who came from the same place we did, people who came from entirely different places, saints and sinners of all sorts, those known to us and those unknown, our secret longings, questions, and fears. Diana Butler Bass, ***Christianity After Religion: The End of Church and the Birth of a New Spiritual Awakening.***

Our theme at TUC this year is “Faithful Belonging” As you see from the quote above, belonging is central to our Christian faith. In the recent past the mantra has been Believe, Behave and then you can Belong. Surely the Christian way has always been to Belong and then Belief and Behaviour will follow. To finish with another quote from one of Butler Bass’ books which emphasises welcome and belonging....

“While contemporary Christians tend to equate morality with sexual ethics, our ancestors defined morality as welcoming the stranger. Unlike almost every other contested idea in early Christianity, including the nature of Christ and the doctrine of the Trinity, the unanimous witness of the ancient fathers and mothers was that hospitality was the primary Christian virtue.”

— Diana Butler Bass, ***A People's History of Christianity: The Other Side of the Story***

Welcome to Toorak Uniting Church. We welcome all people irrespective of race, religion, political views, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, or age. Wherever you are on your faith journey, wherever you have come from and wherever you are going to; whatever you believe, whatever you do not believe, you are welcome here at TUC. Please come and join us after the service for fellowship and a cup of tea or coffee. TUC has been a proud member of the Toorak Ecumenical Movement since signing the Ecumenical Agreement in 1980. We pray for our partner churches: St Peter’s Roman Catholic Church, St John’s Anglican Church and the Swedish Church.

Hospitality Weekend



Did you attend Hospitality Weekends in 2016 and 2017?

We are planning to repeat this convivial weekend in March 2019; the dates are: Friday 29th and Saturday 30th March.

Everyone is warmly invited to partake in a mystery pairing of hosts and guests at various simple meals in private homes during the weekend. It will be a time for companionship and getting to know the members of our congregation.

Everyone is welcome to be a guest and we welcome offers of hosting.

Forms will be available from this Sunday for you to complete, so mark the weekend in the diary as an exciting opportunity to get to know others in the congregation. Please return your named and completed forms to the box at the rear of the church by Sunday 17th March.



A friendly reminder to Flower Roster volunteers to please make sure you have entered your rostered date/s into your diaries and calendars.

~Annette Baldwin

In our thoughts and prayers:

Patricia Begg and Chris.

Ray Watson, in Epworth with heart trouble

Andrew Blackburn and Jean.

Ray Northrop.



Health issues, family & travel commitments mean our **10.15 door duty team** is in need of a few more volunteers! It isn't complicated, plenty of training & support will be provided, & duty swaps are possible if needed. Please contact Jenny to find out more: 0400 800 471 or 9819 2636.

2019's First concert—24 February at 2pm

The TUC Soloists Concert will feature our soloists Catriona De Vere, Ursula Paez, Stephen Carolane and Andy Long, accompanied by pianist Justin Jacobs. Highlights of the concert include

“Bella figlia dell’amore” from Rigoletto, “Cast thy burden upon the Lord” from Elijah
“Soave sia il vento”, “Ah guarda, sorella” from Così fan tutte, Duet from “Eugene Onegin” by Tchaikovsky

The concert is free admission with a donation at the end to support the music ministry and the Virginia Davey Music Fund. Please support our wonderful TUC soloists, come along, bring a friend, bring many friends, the more the merrier!



The Pamela Brown Handbell Choir is now recruiting for 2019. Please speak with Jennifer Chou if you want to join. The group rehearses on Wednesday evenings from 6.30pm to 7.30pm during school term times. Absolutely no experience or musical ability is required, however a good sense of rhythm is necessary.

Hey! It's February, AND of course you all remember that the used stamps you have been collecting can be left here in the church office during this month. It's all about helping the Sammy Stamp volunteers in the Synod office make lots of money for worthy Uniting Church causes. Thank you all again.



Save The Date!

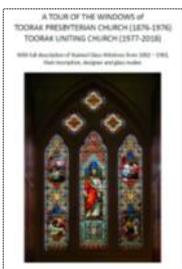
ROACH LECTURE

Thursday 21 February, 7:30pm at TUC

Reverend Dr Robyn Whitaker,
Senior Lecturer at Pilgrim Theological College,
University of Divinity
will be speaking on

***“The Bible and Secular Australia -
Are they Compatible?”***

Please join us for an inspirational talk from one of Australia's most highly regarded Christian theologians.



Stained glass windows self-guided tour.
Borrow a booklet from the western porch entrance.

Missing tablecloths — 1 round, self-patterned, white and 1 small, square, plain white. Please return to the Office.

John Macrae Centre seeks volunteer help for lunchtime washing up between 12noon & 2pm on Tue, Thu & Fri. If you can help, please call 9829 0320.

Diary Dates

Thu	07 Feb	6.30-8.30	opening of photography exhibition	Kinross
Thu	21 Feb	7.30pm	Roach Lecture—Rev Dr Robyn Whitaker	Church
Sun	24 Feb	2.00pm	TUC soloists concert	Church
Thu	28 Feb	10.00am	Prayers for Christian Unity	St John's

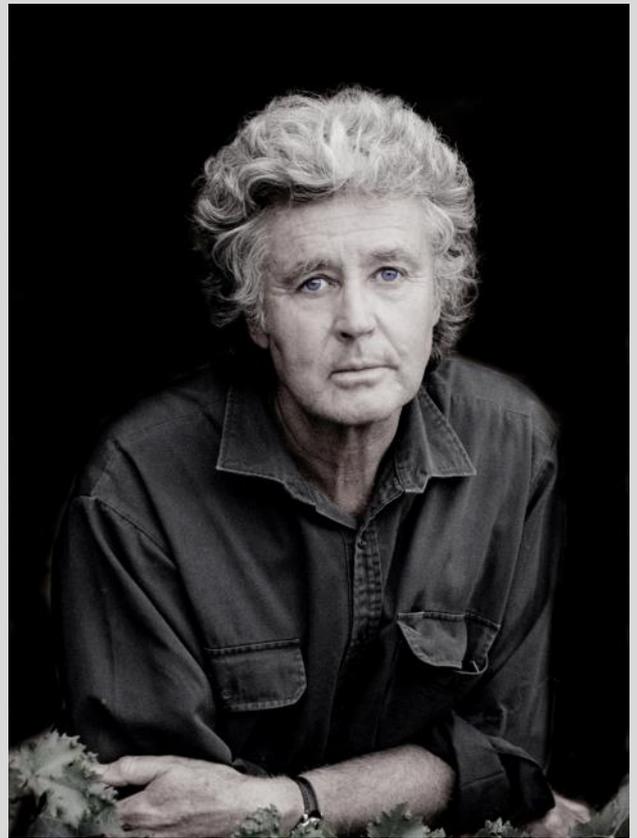
'Celebrated Australians' shows a selection of photographic portraits over the past 30 years by Jacqueline Mitelman. Winner of the 2011 National Photographic Portrait Prize and represented in many collections including the National Portrait Gallery of Australia, Ms Mitelman's works are powerful and evocative. Join us for the Opening at Kinross Arts Centre 6.30-8.30pm Thursday 7 February and meet Kinross' new Director, Hugo Leschen.



Pamela Wilson, Hugo Leschen and Lyndel Wischer.



Miss Alesandra 2010



Michael Leunig 2004

*Dear Toorak Uniting Church Congregation,
Thank you all for your warmth, kindness and support during my almost six years working at TUC. It has been wonderful to be connected with you all again; to work with you and for you as you journey together in faith and love. I wish you all good health and every happiness and I look forward to seeing you again in the not too distant future.
With love and very best wishes, Kimberly Hobbs*

