

Toorak Uniting Church

Update 10 February 2019

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Phone: 9829 0300
Sunday services 9am & 10.15am

Still Thinking — Abundance — Christopher Page



Much of Jesus' teaching encouraged his listeners to live life with a sense of abundance. While later Christianity has tended to restrict and limit this teaching to what a person could or could not do, the Gospels give a strong message that the ministry of Jesus was about removing the restrictions and opening the lives of his followers to the abundance and fullness that one could encounter in this world. It is

probably no surprise that one of my favourite verse in the Bible is the passage in John's gospel Chapter 10, verse 10, where Jesus' says to his disciples, *"I have come that you may have life and may have it in all its fullness."*

Clive Hamilton in his books, *Growth Fetish* and *Affluenza*, takes Australian society to task for its financial and consumerist obsessions. He suggests that Westfield shopping centres are more the "quintessential icons of modern Australia," than the Sydney Opera House and Uluru. He argues that two thirds of we Australians can't afford what they buy and then once we have bought it, we become the third biggest generator of landfill per capita in the world.

I don't raise this because I am a non-consumer, that is not even possible, but because at its heart consumerism is a spiritual and theological approach to life. Buying stuff and having more and more things can be a way of dealing with the hunger in us for what is called "the More" and the more is the desire to live with abundance. But a grain of wisdom and a pinch of maturity shows us that the things, the stuff we have, seldom feeds the need in human beings to satisfy their desire for "the More." Spiritual hunger can only be satisfied spiritually. That means we apply spiritual principles to our lives such as; less is more; or to have something - one must let go of it; to find oneself - one must lose oneself; and abundance is discovered in who we are, not in than what we have.

Christopher

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.



Australia Day Honours

Congratulations to Judy Prasser who received an OAM in the Australia Day honours for service to tourism and hospitality. It was in her maiden name of VanRenan.

In our thoughts and prayers:

Patricia Begg and Chris.

Ray Watson, in Epworth with heart trouble

Andrew Blackburn and Jean.

Ray Northrop.

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.



MORNING GROUP

Communion & Annual General Meeting,
10.00am, Thursday 21 February
in the Faichney Room.

A Whole Church Family lunch will follow the service on 24 February. We are grateful for any offers of salads and slices. Offers can be made to Carrlo (0451 834 949), Barbara (0405 987 890) or Jaki (0499 442 347) or via the Office.



Diary Dates

Thu	21 Feb	10.00am	Morning Group	Faichney Rm
Thu	21 Feb	7.30pm	Roach Lecture—Rev Dr Robyn Whitaker	Church
Sun	24 Feb	10.15am	Whole Church Family service & lunch (NB no 9am service)	
Thu	28 Feb	10.00am	Prayers for Christian Unity	St John's



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.

The Progressive Christian Network of Victoria



invites you to

***“Possibilities for the future of
Christianity in Australia”***

with

**Two panels of speakers on February 24 and March 24
looking ahead 20 – 30 years to options for the future**

Churches of most kinds across the western world are declining. In Australia church attendance has reduced to a small proportion of the population with few people under 50 involved. Research evidence is strong that most of younger generations do not see churches as relevant to how they choose to live. As we look at the future, are there alternatives to the vanishing of Christianity and churches?

PCNV offers two consecutive programs, each presenting different options for the future by three speakers. Presentations of 15 to 20 minutes will be followed by two opportunities for participants to join a group with a presenter to explore an option of interest.

With three options in each program a wide range of 6 options will be considered over the two meetings using a common process.

February 24

- **The future of denominations – Philip Hughes**
- **A Progressive / Radical Church – John Gunson**
- **Living in a world of many faiths, cultures and ideologies – Julie Hall**

March 24

- **Spiritual not religious – Philip Hughes**
- **Vive la difference: Friendship models for a future church – Coralie Ling**
- **Living the wisdom of Jesus in a secular society – David Merritt4**

WHEN: Sunday 24 February 2019 & Sunday 24 March 2019
3.00pm to 5.00pm

WHERE: Ewing Memorial Centre of Stonnington Uniting Church
Corner of Burke Rd and Coppin St, Malvern East.

PCNV meeting cost is \$7 (\$5 for members)

**Concert—24 February at
2pm—Postponed**

Due to unforeseen circumstances, "From Sacred to Sublime" - the TUC Soloists Concert on Sunday 24 February is now postponed until further notice.



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

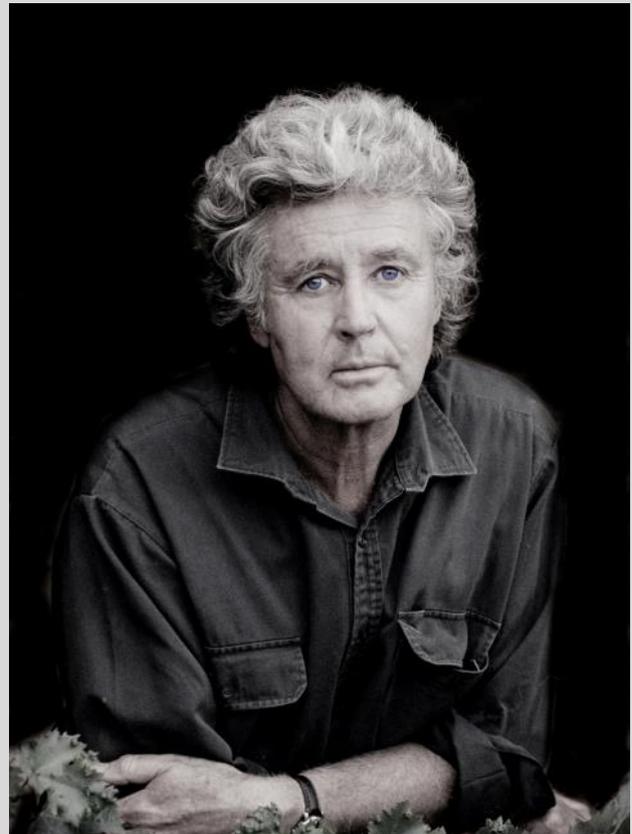
Mental Health Foundation Aust. **Grief and Loss Support Group.**
Non-denominational. All welcome. Last Tues. of the month, 12:00pm.
St. John's Church, 86 Clendon Rd, Toorak. 98261422 | www.mhfa.org.au



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.



Miss Alesandra 2010



Michael Leunig 2004

'Celebrated Australians' shows a selection of photographic portraits 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.

The exhibition continues at Kinross Arts Centre until 28 February 2019.



KAC Director,
Hugo Leschen