

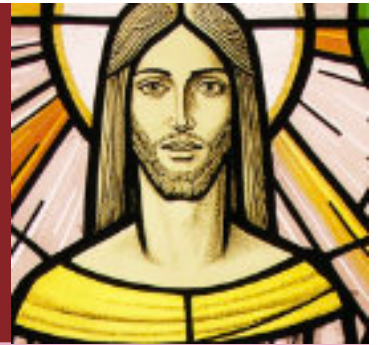
Toorak Uniting Church Newsletter

Update 14 September 2025

office@toorakuc.org.au
03 9829 0300

Sunday services:
9am & 10:15am

Deadline for Update submission is 3pm on the Wednesday prior.



Working Bee this Sunday following the services

We are looking forward to assistance with gardening and cleaning activities in Argyle and Kinross House this Sunday following the services. BYO tools, and the focus will be on pruning.

Towards a Masterplan for TUC - Discussion following Combined Worship Service on September 28

Sunday, September 28 is proposed to be a Combined Worship Service followed by a discussion of our vision for the future, current draft plans for the site, and options to be considered.

Please Support Kinross Cafe

Six weeks ago, Stonnington Council instructed us to remove our bright yellow signage which had an immediate and drastic impact on cafe patronage. Numbers are gradually building back up, but you can also offer your support by spreading the word about this lovely place of warm welcome for all.

Exciting News - Digital sign to proceed

The VCAT appeals deadline for objections to the Stonnington Council decision approving our digital sign for Toorak Road has passed, with no objections received.

‘Exploring Psalm Therapy’: Quiet Day, Saturday 4 October 10am - 4pm at St Joseph’s by the Sea, Williamstown

The Quiet Day will explore the ways in which we can allow the Psalms to comfort us, challenge us, and bring us to prayer and praise.

Revd Dr Wendy Crouch will use her experience as both priest and psychologist to present some ways to do this - how to bring the psalms, our experiences in the world, and in our own lives, engaging in deep listening to what we find there, and responding in prayer.

Between the guided reflections you can take time to enjoy a walk along the beach or through the Botanic Gardens, which are right next door!

BYO Lunch - Tea & coffee provided.

\$20 per person. RSVP by Sunday, 28 September.

For any questions about the day, or to register your interest and make payment, contact Revd Dr Wendy Crouch

assistant@saintjohnstoorak.org OR the Parish Office on
03 9826 1434, enquiries@saintjohnstoorak.org.

2025 Synod Meeting of Synod of Victoria/Tasmania

The weekend before last, Sylvia and I attended the 2025 meeting of the Synod of Victoria/Tasmania. We met on Saturday morning with a worship service at Kingswood College in which the new Moderator, Rev Salesi Faupula was inducted.

Three major decisions were made by Synod:

1. Synod meetings will now be held every two years rather than every eighteen months.
2. To adopt the vision, goals and administrative processes for the Faithful Futures program that is designed to improve the ability of existing and new congregations to be viable.
3. To agree to the proposed Response to the Yoorrook Justice Commission Final Reports and Truth Telling requesting land or sale proceeds of land with little or no title consideration, to the Traditional Owners. This involves 127 of about 4,500 properties held by the Synod Property Trust. This decision is important as it expresses the Uniting Church's position in regards to the rights of, and compensation to, the peoples of the First Nation.

The 603 Toorak Road property is not one of the 127! If you would like more information, Sylvia and I welcome you talking to us.

Chris Begg

Communications Committee Report

The Communications Committee at TUC has four members. Our previous Office Administrator, Jayfel, Church Council member Thomson Sennitt, and most recent member Thisby Lau, with occasional assistance and input from Jon Sennitt.

The committee's recent work has been focused on three main activities. The website, the wayfinding on site, and the process to erect a Digital display sign at the exit from Campus on Toorak Road. There have been challenges with all three activities but they are all nearing completion hopefully in the coming weeks.

The focus of the Committee is moving towards provision of content for the upgraded website and for panels that will show information publicly via the digital sign. Jayfel is the new editor of Update which has provided great continuity between the Committee and the main weekly news source. The committee also steps in when asked for assistance and is at the moment working with others on a publication booklet for TUC's 150 year celebration. If you have thoughts or ideas for the Comm Com (as we call it!) please make contact with me or any of the other committee members.

Michael Kenihan, Chair

Synod Women's Intercultural Conference 2025

The Synod Women's Intercultural Conference is taking place between **3-5 October** from Friday evening to Sunday afternoon across three locations: Box Hill Town Hall, 1022 Whitehorse Rd; The Centre for Theology and Ministry, 29 College Crescent, Parville; and St. John's Essendon Uniting Church, Cnr Mount Alexander Rd & Buckley St. This year's theme is 'For such a time as this' (Esther 4:14) and the conference will include key-note speakers, discussions, workshops, and networking opportunities. Tickets are \$60, with catering included. To book, please visit [**https://events.humanitix.com/wic2025**](https://events.humanitix.com/wic2025)

Confronting Extremism - a conversation with Dr Mark Duckworth

Join us for an important conversation on the rise and resurgence of violent extremist movements in Australia. Robyn Whitaker sits down with Mark Duckworth from Deakin University, an expert on violent extremism and counter measures, to discuss the theology and ideology of such extremist views as well as how we can helpfully combat them.

12:30pm - 1:30pm on Thursday, 18 September at Wesley Church, Lonsdale Street.

This is part of the Wesley Centre's "Conversations that Matter" series. Find out more at [**https://thewesleycentre.org/conversations-that-matter**](https://thewesleycentre.org/conversations-that-matter)

Blessing of Animals Day

Sunday, 5 October is the Blessing of Animals Day. Pets are welcome to join us for worship and blessing at the 10:15am service which is celebrating St. Francis Day and the UCA emphasis on the 'Season of Creation'.

TUC Sewing Circle - 22 September

TUC Sewing Circle is taking place again on **Monday, 22 September** in the Wettenhall Room. Please arrive between 11-11:30am with a finish time of 2:30pm. BYO lunch, coffee and tea provided.

To RSVP, contact either **Margot 0409 361 877** or **Angela 0407 887 596**

Euphony Australia & The Victorian Welsh Choir present *A Musical Journey Down Memory Lane*

Saturday, 15 November at 3pm | St Columba's UCA, Noble Park

Join these two fantastic choirs following their sold-out concerts in Sri Lanka and enjoy choral arrangements and genres of all music that will take you down memory lane.

\$25 per ticket, for enquiries and purchases, please contact **Yvonne 0407 588 512** or email [**pears_53@hotmail.com**](mailto:pears_53@hotmail.com)



Big Hymn Sing

Toorak Uniting Church is celebrating 150 years as a house of song with the Big Hymn Sing on Sunday, 5 October at 2pm. Come along for an enjoyable hour of all your favourite hymns.

Bookings not required

603 Toorak Rd, Toorak



**TOORAK
UNITING
CHURCH**

Save the Dates! Sesquicentenary Celebrations

Please join us as we continue to celebrate 150 years of being a Church at 603 Toorak Road. We are Toorak Uniting Church, formerly Toorak Presbyterian Church.

On **Sunday, 5 October** we will hold the Big Hymn Sing, and **Sunday, 16 November** will be the 150th Celebration service.

We look forward to celebrating with you!

September Diary Dates

Sun	14 Sep	9:00am	Worship in the Round	Rev Sylvia
Sun	14 Sep	10:15am	Worship Service	Rev Sylvia
Sun	14 Sep	11:15am	Morning Tea	Faichney Room
Sun	14 Sep	12:00pm	Working Bee	Argyle House
Mon	15 Sep	10:30am	Exploring the Bible	Hodges Gallery
Tue	16 Sep	7:30pm	Exploring the Bible Online	Zoom
Sun	21 Sep	9:00am	Worship in the Round (HC)	Rev Sylvia
Sun	21 Sep	10:15am	Worship Service (HC)	Rev Sylvia
Sun	21 Sep	11:15am	Morning Tea	Faichney Room
Mon	22 Sep	10:30am	Exploring the Bible	Hodges Gallery
Mon	22 Sep	11:00am	TUC Sewing Circle	Wettenhall Room
Tue	23 Sep	7:30pm	Exploring the Bible Online	Zoom
Wed	24 Sep	5:00pm	Worship Committee Meeting	Faichney Room
Wed	24 Sep	7:00pm	Handbells	Church Space
Thu	25 Sep	10:30am	Prayers for Christian Unity	St Peter's Toorak
Fri	26 Sep	All Day	AFL Grand Final Holiday	TUC Office Closed
Sun	28 Sep	10:15am	Combined Worship Service	Rev Sylvia
Sun	28 Sep	11:15am	Morning Tea	Faichney Room