

Toorak Uniting Church Newsletter

Update 13 April 2025

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Phone 9829 0300
Sunday services 9am & 10:15am

The deadline for Update submissions is 3pm on the Tuesday prior



The Renew 603 Project Update

The Renew 603 committee (Barbara McKinnon, Catriona De Vere, Rudi Doku and Chris Begg) have been meeting monthly with David Brown from Synod Property Services and Rev Jay Robinson from Presbytery to progress a plan for the long-term redevelopment of the TUC campus. We have been gathering information about the site, including statistics on current usage, a report from RBA Architects and Heritage consultants on the heritage status of Kinross House and most recently have commissioned a site survey. Proposals have been received from three architect firms to work on the site masterplan. The master planning stage will also explore options for the financing of any redevelopment.

The ultimate aim of the redevelopment is to upgrade our current facilities to be able to continue to meet the needs of our community at all stages of life in a suitable manner. At present, the costs of servicing the site facilities substantially exceeds the income from their use. In addition to caring for the community at all ages, we would like to incorporate housing on the site, housing which could include appropriate accommodation for a future minister and site caretaker.

A key ingredient for the development of the masterplan is the recently circulated survey of priorities that the congregation places on current and possible future uses of the site. The committee is looking forward to receiving your responses no later than this coming Sunday, 13th April.

Kinross House Update

A proposal has been put to Church Council to return the main part of Kinross House to use as a residence. We recently received a report from building surveyor, Neocheck, on the considerable scope of actions required to proceed with the necessary change of use application that would bring the current uses of Kinross House as a combined residence, gallery, artist studios and café into compliance under the building regulations.

Since receiving the report, our minister Rev Sylvia Akau'ola Tongotonto has confirmed a strong preference to live onsite, as part of her commitment to being actively present within the life of our church community. This joyful development has led to the proposal to return the main part of Kinross House to use as a manse. The care-taker's flat would continue to be a separate residence.

The studio licensees have been informed of the proposal which Church Council is currently deliberating. Options for relocation of current uses, in particular the café are being explored as well as the timing of any changes.

Church Council asks for your prayers for all concerned as we consider this new chapter in the life of our community, in particular for our studio artists and the Uniting Arts Toorak committee whose dedication and vision has so faithfully fostered our creative arts mission for the last twenty years.

2025 Federal Election and TUC Mini Fair!

TUC is a polling station for the 2025 Federal Election being held on **May 3. Voting opens at 8am and closes at 6pm.**

TUC will also hold a Mini Fair on the day. We will have our second-hand bookstall, a cake stall, and Kinross Café will be open. TUC's community groups have also been invited, as well as local Kooyong businesses.

Donations of books are welcome at the TUC Office, from now until May 2, or pick-up can be arranged for you. Donations of cakes and baked goods are also welcome, either to the office the day before, or on the day to the stall. Please ensure all baked good are labelled with your name and list of ingredients.

Please contact the office on **03 9829 0300** or email Jay at **office@toorakuc.org.au**, for more information.

TUC Office Closures

TUC Office will be closed on Good Friday (April 18), and Easter Monday (April 21). The Office will also be closed on ANZAC Day (April 25).

Kinross Café will also be **closed on Good Friday and the week of Easter Monday (April 21-25)** and will re-open as normal on Monday, April 28. We apologise for the inconvenience and thank you for your continued support!

April Diary Dates

Sun	13 Apr	9:00am	Worship in the Round	Rev Sylvia
Sun	13 Apr	10:15am	Worship Service	Rev Sylvia
Sun	13 Apr	11:15am	Morning Tea	Faichney Room
Sun	13 Apr	All Day	Vision and Priorities Surveys due	
Mon	14 Apr	9:30am	Pastoral Care Meeting	Faichney Room
Thu	17 Apr	7:00pm	Maundy Thursday Service	Rev John Edwards
Fri	18 Apr	8:30am	TUC Office Closed	Good Friday
Fri	18 Apr	10:00am	Good Friday Service	Rev Sylvia
Fri	18 Apr	11:30am	Ecumenical Walk	St John's Toorak
Fri	18 Apr	12:00pm	Ecumenical Morning Tea	Hall
Sun	20 Apr	10:15am	Easter Combined Worship (HC)	Rev Sylvia
Sun	20 Apr	11:15am	Special Morning Tea	Hall
Mon	21 Apr	8:30am	TUC Office Closed	Easter Monday
Mon	21 Apr	7:30am	Kinross Café Closed	Kinross Café



Scan this QR-code for the Zoom link to the 7:30pm Tuesday evening Discussion Group

HC—Holy Communion

TEM—Toorak Ecumenical Movement