



PARTNERSHIP IN PRINT



ISSUE NO. 103 NOVEMBER 2024



Deck the Halls, already

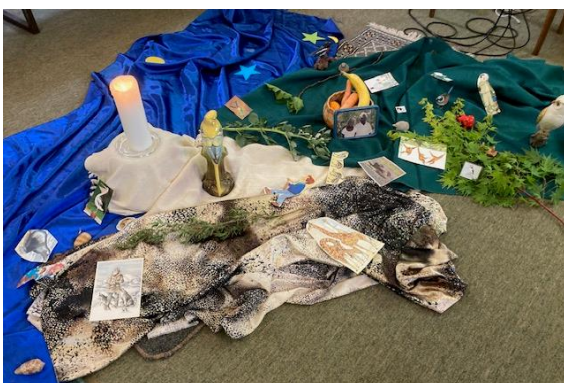
... ALREADY?!

A few years ago, when I was working with John in his practice in the Craigieburn Plaza, we were intrigued by the crew of people who turned up the day after Cup Day and proceeded to set up the Plaza's Christmas decorations for that year. November. The first week of November. When asked, the Centre managers said that the company doing the decorations was so busy that they had to start this early to get all of their jobs done in time for the festive season. Made perfect sense. We did amuse ourselves with the idea of this company expanding their business so much that they might have to start setting up the next year's decorations before they had time to take down the current ones. Ho ho ho.

At that stage I had already become a bit of a liturgical year purist, huffing and puffing every November that "it isn't even the Christmas *season* until the 25th of December! this is Advent!!" type of thing. Of course, the Church is waging a losing battle on that front, but it hasn't stopped me doing my King Canute impersonation every year. (Side note: While looking up the spelling, I discovered that the story of King Canute is actually about his humility. He was well aware that he couldn't hold back the tide, and one version of the story is that he got his feet wet on purpose to show his fawning courtiers that he was not omnipotent, but that God was the supreme Ruler. But I digress...)

Imagine, then, my consternation upon entering a local shop on the 23rd of October (October!!) and seeing that the halls were already decked with tinsel and silver snowflakes. Five minutes later, the next shop I went into also had their decorations up and Christmas gifts on display. Their cheery response to my saying that I wasn't quite coping was "Well, it's only two months away!", as if that made perfect sense. No. No it didn't make any sense. I just muttered and grumbled my way home.

It's an ongoing struggle for me to work out where I'm called to lean into the prevailing culture and when I'm called to be counter-cultural. Advent is such a gift: more than just a lead-up to Christmas, it's the annual reminder that God's perspective is eternal and cosmos-wide. It's intended to be a slowing down and deep listening in a time that is becoming ever-more frantic. It reminds us to think about (*continued on page 3*)



AROUND THE PARTNERSHIP LAST MONTH

At Kyneton, Gisborne and Woodend: For details see next page

REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY Readings Year B

Pentecost

A period of time that varies in length depending on whether Easter is early or late. In this period, the church recalls its faith in the Holy Trinity. It seeks to relate its faith as a people of God to Christ's mission in the world. It commences with Trinity Sunday and concludes with the feast of Christ the King.

Date	Day/Season	Col.	1st Reading	Psalm	2nd Reading	Gospel
27 Oct	Pentecost 23	G	Job 42:1-6, 10-17	34:1-8, (19-22)	Hebrews 7:23-28	Mark 10:46-52
1 Nov	All Saints Day	W	Isaiah 25:6-9	24	Revelation 21:1-6a	John 11:32-44
3 Nov	Pentecost 24	G	Ruth 1:1-18	146	Hebrews 9:11-14	Mark 12:28-34
10 Nov	Pentecost 25	G	Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17	127	Hebrews 9:24-28	Mark 12:38-44
17 Nov	Pentecost 26	G	1 Samuel 1:4-20;	1 Samuel 2:1-10	Hebrews 10:11-14, (15-18), 19-25	Mark 13:1-8
24 Nov	Christ the King	W	2 Samuel 23:1-7	132:1-12, (13-18)	Revelation 1:4b-8	John 18:33-37
1 Dec	Advent 1	P	Jeremiah 33:14-16	25:1-10	1 Thessalonians 3:9-13	Luke 21:25-36

Colours: P – Purple

W – White

G – Green

R – Red

B – Black

AROUND THE PARTNERSHIP LAST MONTH

Kyneton congregation celebrated the end of the **Season of Creation** with an illustrated reading of creation from Genesis 1: The waters were separated and land appeared; the sun and moon and stars and all creatures and species of the earth; the skies and the seas appeared including humanity to care for all that had been created.

We also participated in a community reading of Psalm 104.

At the conclusion of the service, we paused to enjoy, appreciate God's marvellous creation and what our response should be.

On a lighter note, we enjoyed another Marvellous Creation for morning tea!!!

Gisborne We had a very successful day for Kay's Classic Fashions "Summer Parade" with approximately 70 ladies attending. It was a very enjoyable event, for those who paraded the fashion as well as attendees. The proceeds raised in door takings, commissions from clothing sales and the sale of some donated paintings meant we raised \$1,180. Maree expressed a big thank you to all those who helped to make the day socially and financially successful. Everyone seemed to have a great day!

Woodend

An old banner was discovered during a clean out of the back room in Woodend and put up on the front fence – you may see it if you're driving past!



Photos on the front page are (bottom left) Kyneton worship space for the Season of Creation service; (bottom right) models and attendees in Gisborne's Summer Parade. The Christmas pup is from Canva.

(from page 1) what it is we really yearn for, individually and collectively. It offers a vision of a world of deep hope, peace, joy and love beyond easy sentimentality. But even within the Church, most of us get swept up in the busyness and consumerism, and somehow Advent feels impossible to really grasp.

And now the 'silly season' is beginning even earlier than ever, and I'm thinking I need to take a new tack. What might it look like to embrace this instead of fighting against it, but in a way that still tries to nurture the gentle spirit of Advent? Several ideas spring to mind: what if I turned my grumblings into blessings, each garland of tinsel and each bauble an opportunity to bless the retail staff getting busier and busier, bless the Council workers putting up decorations and caring for our communities, bless the families beginning to wonder how they'll pull it all together in strained financial circumstances. Instead of beginning conversations by saying I'm not coping with the early onslaught of decorations, what if I said instead how nice it is that people want to celebrate Jesus' birthday for such a long time? I'm going to keep pondering this, but let me know if you have any ideas!

Because beyond Advent, the Christmas message is God *is* with us, and God shows up all the time, in surprising ways, thwarting my grumpiness and challenging me to notice where the seeds of new life are being sown. It's unhelpful to go round with a huge dose of 'Bah! Humbug!', even if I think it's theologically justified sulking. If I let go a bit and contribute some hope, peace, joy and love to the beautiful, broken world that often seems to forget what C.S. Lewis might call the 'deeper magic' of Christmas, I might find God was waiting there patiently for me all along. Ask me on the 25th of December.

Annette
November 2024

COCO REPORT

The Coordinating Council (CoCo) of the Macedon Ranges Partnership met again recently – Saturday 5 October 2024 – at Kyneton.

One of the main issues discussed was the ongoing development of the Macedon Ranges Partnership in light of the recent Act2 Report into future directions for the Uniting Church in Australia. (Act2 Decisions Summary – Uniting Church Australia) Of particular relevance to the Macedon Ranges Partnership is the Report's Vision for local Uniting Church communities which states that Communities of faith will sustain a life of worship, build one another up in love, grow disciples of Jesus and participate in God's mission. These diverse communities of faith will shape their life in response to God's call in their context and deepen their relationship with God, one another, the wider church and the world.

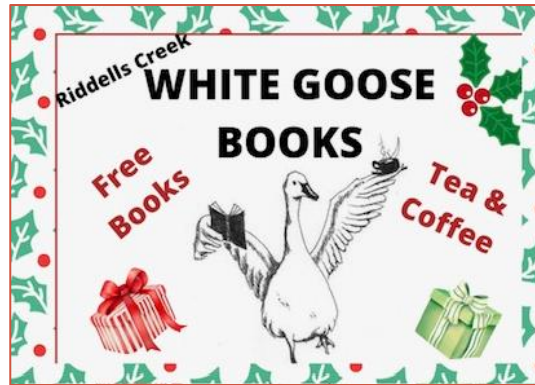
Members of CoCo have interpreted this 'vision' to mean, in part at least, that there needs to be ongoing development of a creative, and enabling theological environment, that there needs to be continued enhancement of links both within and outside the Macedon Ranges Partnership, that there needs to be a plan for future prosperity of the Macedon Ranges Partnership, and that there needs to be a plan for the optimal use of the Macedon Ranges Partnership's resources.

One of our important resources is the audiovisual system that has been painstakingly assembled and developed as a means of enhancing communications within the Macedon Ranges Partnership and beyond, and it has been discussed at many CoCo meetings in recent times. At the most recent CoCo meeting the following issues were discussed: ways to overcome poor internet connectivity, particularly at the "Northern" churches; development of checklists and guidelines for preparation and presentation of Powerpoint slides in services of worship; options for the use of hymns during services of worship; and the benefits/drawbacks associated with the use of data projectors and/or TV screens.

Management of church property is often discussed at CoCo meetings. This time the discussions included: rental of the manse at Woodend, something that has to take account possible land tax consequences, amongst other things; ongoing maintenance issues at Kyneton Uniting Church; insurance issues across all the churches, church halls and manses; and the costs and scheduling of Essential Safety Measures. Budget issues are discussed at every CoCo meeting. This time the important issues were: the possible need in the future to weigh up a choice between maintaining buildings or having a ministry team; and an estimate of the Macedon Ranges Partnership's annual budgets over the next 5 years. The next scheduled CoCo meeting will be at Riddells Creek on Saturday 7 December 2024.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>November 2024</h1>					1	2
					All Saints Day 10am Prayers at Gisborne	Workshop cancelled
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Pentecost 24 9.30am Tylden (AB) Communion, streamed.	12.30 Souper Lunch 2.30pm Faith Community 4pm Meditation Romsey		9.30-1pm White Goose Riddells Creek	2pm Romsey coffee	10am Prayers at Gisborne 6.30pm Fish & Chips Worship Kyneton	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Pentecost 25 9.30am Streaming Gisborne 10am CFA Metcalf (AB) 10-2pm White Goose	12.30 Souper Lunch 2.30pm Faith Community 4pm Meditation Romsey	10am Muffin Morning Gisborne	9.30-1pm White Goose Riddells Creek	2pm Romsey coffee	10am Prayers at Gisborne	*PiP items due tomorrow
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Pentecost 26 9.30am Streaming from Kyneton	12.30 Souper Lunch 1.30 Kay's Fashion Pde 2.30pm Faith Community 4pm Meditation Romsey	10am Ministers Munchies	9.30-1pm White Goose Riddells Creek	2pm Romsey coffee	10am Prayers at Gisborne 12pm lunch Gisborne 6.30pm HC Fish & Chips Worship Kyneton	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Christ the King 9.30am Local services, no streaming. AB leading at Tylden	12.30 Souper Lunch 2.30pm Faith Community 4pm Meditation Romsey	10am Gisborne alternative worship	9.30-1pm White Goose Riddells Creek	2pm Romsey coffee	10am Prayers at Gisborne	

White Goose On four days in December (two Wednesdays, one Sunday and one Saturday) the White Goose will be open for people to take books for Christmas Gifts. They can be wrapped in Christmas paper for a small donation. We would appreciate gifts of any wrapping paper you don't need or can donate AND more importantly at this stage: **helpers** to wrap books. Even half an hour of your time will be greatly appreciated.



OPEN for FREE BOOKS for CHRISTMAS GIFTS: SUNDAY 8th, WEDNESDAYS 11th and 18th and SATURDAY 14th

Don't forget we're open Wednesdays from 9.30am - 1.00pm and the 2nd Sunday 10 am - 2.00 pm.

We look forward to seeing you there (or anywhere really!)

Lyn & Meg.



A Prayer for Peace

For peace in your country
 For the victims of violence everywhere
 For those struggling for peace and justice
 For churches in conflict situations
 For a world without war and violence
 Lead me from death to life, from falsehood to truth,
 Lead me from despair to hope, from fear to trust.
 Lead me from hate to love, from war to peace,
 Let peace fill our beings, our world and our universe.
 Amen.

(World Prayer for Peace from the WCC Vancouver Assembly)

Free Entry!

The churches of Kyneton and district warmly welcome



Geelong Welsh Ladies Choir
 Victoria Welsh Male Choir
 & guest artists The Couriers



to help everyone join into



KYNETON SINGS PRAISES

Community Hymn-singing



2:30-3:30pm, Sunday 24th November 2024

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY CHURCH
 53 Ebdon Street, Kyneton

Afternoon tea in St Mary's Hall.

Gymnfa
Ganu!

CoCo workshops for the whole Partnership

For a time, CoCo has been meeting bi-monthly on the first Saturday morning each month, after initially meeting monthly.

As we begin to consider what the future might hold, in the light of ACT2 and changes to ministry in the coming years, we have started gathering on the alternative monthly Saturday mornings; CoCo members, Church Council members and Elders, and any other interested people, to reflect and learn together. Last month we looked at the changes in our communities through the lens of different generations, looking at the similarities and sometimes vast differences in how life is lived by different age-groups in our communities.

All are encouraged to join us in the next gathering on Saturday 2nd November at 9.30 am at the Woodend church, to reflect on how the gifts of the Spirit in us might be the starting point for our thinking about how we serve our communities and God's world.

To start our pondering, from the Basis of Union:

"The Uniting Church affirms that every member of the Church is engaged to confess the faith of Christ crucified and to be his faithful servant. It acknowledges with thanksgiving that the one Spirit has endowed the members of Christ's Church with a diversity of gifts, and that there is no gift without its corresponding service: all ministries have a part in the ministry of Christ. The Uniting Church, at the time of union, will recognise and accept the ministries of those who have been called to any task or responsibility in the uniting Churches. The Uniting Church will thereafter provide for the exercise by men and women of the gifts God bestows upon them, and will order its life in response to God's call to enter more fully into mission."

and, from the Regulations:

"A Congregation, as the embodiment in one place of the one holy catholic and apostolic church, shall be those members and adherents who worship, witness and serve as a fellowship of the Spirit in Christ, and who meet regularly to hear God's Word, to celebrate the sacraments, to build one another up in love, to share the wider responsibilities of the Church, and to serve the world, and who are recognised as a Congregation by the Presbytery. (italics are mine)

The workshop will run until 11.30, and we will likely continue our conversation together over lunch in a cafe in Woodend. It will be market day in Woodend, so you may not be able to park close to the church. Please leave parking space outside the church for Op shop customers.

Looking forward to listening deeply to the Spirit's leading, and to each other.

Annette

Find us on



The Partnership has two sites on **Facebook** that you can support and share with others:

Our public Page, which lists worship times and upcoming events, and sometimes shares wider Church and other items of interest that we support. We also share photos of activities we've had (please send them to me if I'm not there!) This is the place where we make ourselves known to the wider community. You can find it by searching for "Macedon Ranges Uniting Church Partnership" on Facebook. Please follow us and like our posts so that we can grow our Facebook presence.

Our in-house Group, where we also have some of our information, but it's also a place for us to have conversations, or share resources and information with each other. For example, we posted the recent daily prayers for peace from the Assembly there. You can request to become a member of the Group, and members can invite others to join. To keep it simple, I'd prefer us not to join up too many people from beyond the Partnership. You can find this site by searching for "Macedon Ranges UCA"

Annette Buckley

Sunday Services are held weekly around the partnership at 9.30am at Romsey, Tylden and Gisborne. In Kyneton Sunday worship is held on the 1st and 3rd Sundays with a service on Friday evening as on the calendar above (Fish & Chips at Kyneton). On the first 3 Sundays in November, the service will be streamed digitally from the church as listed on the calendar. The fourth Sunday in the month there will be no streaming, to give the technical crew a break. The minister, Annette will lead worship where marked AB (Annette Buckley). Other services are lay-lead or streamed from the noted church.

Metcalf CFA Service – the annual blessing of the fire trucks at Metcalf will be held on Sunday 10th November at 10am. Annette will be leading worship in Metcalf for this service – you may remember photos in PiP from this time last year!

Contacts Other Groups		
<u>SUTTON GRANGE</u> <u>MIA MIA</u> <u>BARFOLD</u> <u>METCALFE</u>	<u>Congregation Chair</u> - Dot Smith <u>Elders - North</u> Dot Smith Marge Townrow	<u>Elders- Kyneton</u> Pip Elston, Jenny Elston, Helen Aldridge Andrea Strack
<u>KYNETON</u>	<u>Church Council</u> Helen Carey Chair – Pip Elston Sec – Helen Aldridge	<u>Congregation Secretary</u> Helen Adridge <u>Congregation Chairperson</u> Roy Gibbs
<u>ROMSEY</u>	<u>Church Council/Elders</u> Noel Shaw Jay Brooks Jeni Clampit Jenny Elliott Carol Toy	<u>UCAF</u> Pres/Sec - Jeni Clampit Treasurer - Carol Toy
<u>TYLDEN</u>	<u>Elders</u> Shirley Bowen, Joy Evans Max Hinneberg	<u>Worship Team Co-Ord</u> Janet Cole, Shirley Bowen <u>Op-Shop Contact:</u> Fiona Armour
<u>WOODEND</u>	<u>Editor Partnership in Print</u> – Robyn Zumstein	
<u>RIDDELLS CREEK</u>		<u>Craft Group</u> - Lynette Bucknall
<u>GISBORNE</u>	<u>Prayer Ministry</u> – D’Arcy Wood <u>Pastoral Care</u> - Bev Gilbertson <u>Social Justice</u> – Nola Anderson <u>Worship & Education</u> - Paul Gilbertson	<u>Faith & Community</u> – Kerrie Birch – Wendy Hallinan - Helen Hallett
<u>CoCo</u> - (Co-ordinating Council)	<u>Chair</u> - Colin Chapman <u>Deputy Chair</u> - Keith Hallett <u>Minute Secretary</u> - Keith Hallett <u>Treasurer</u> – Lyn Ward	<u>Tylden Woodend Op Shop CoCo members</u> Paul Gilbertson, Nola Anderson, Colin Chapman

Address label

Partnership in Print is a monthly magazine produced by the Uniting Church in Australia – Macedon Ranges Partnership and is available on the last Sunday of each month, except December

Macedon Ranges Partnership is part of the Port Phillip West Presbytery of the Uniting Church in Australia.

<p><u>MINISTER:</u> Pastor Annette Buckley Ph 5429 5351 or 0457 608 539 annettebmrp@icloud.com</p>		<p><u>Office Location and Postal Address</u> Wurundjeri Country 3 Sutherland Rd Riddells Creek 3431</p>
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<p><u>OFFICE PHONE</u> (03) 5428 6920</p>	<p><u>PARTNERSHIP EMAIL ADDRESS</u> macedon.ranges.partnership@hotmail.com</p>
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PARTNERSHIP WEBSITE www.macedonrangesunitingchurch.org.au

CONGREGATION DETAILS	CHAIRPERSON	SECRETARY	TREASURER	PROPERTY	CoCo REPS
<p><u>SUTTON GRANGE</u> - Church Access Rd <u>MIA MIA</u> - Matheson Rd <u>BARFOLD</u> - Heathcote-Kyneton Rd <u>METCALFE</u> - 3 Metcalfe-Kyneton Rd</p>	Pip Elston	Helen Aldridge miamiakynetonu c@outlook.com	<p><u>Finance Committee</u> Helen Carey (Treas) Roy Gibbs Jenny Elston</p>	Church Council Executive	<p>Marge Townrow Dot Smith</p>
<p><u>KYNETON</u> - 54 Ebdon St (PO Box 892)</p>					Pip Elston, Lyn Ward, Helen Aldridge(alt)
<p><u>ROMSEY</u> - 25 Pohlman St (PO Box 264, Romsey, 3434)</p>	Noel Shaw	Jeni Clampit	Roger Baker		Noel Shaw, Jeni Clampit, Jay Brooks (alt)
<p><u>TYLDEN</u> - Trentham Rd (c/o Tylden General Store, Tylden, 3444)</p>	Max Hinneberg	Janet Cole	Dawn Hinneberg	Max Hinneberg	Bronwyn Hewitt, Dawn Hinneberg
<p><u>WOODEND</u> - 37 Forest St</p>					
<p><u>GISBORNE</u> - 23 Brantome St</p>	Bev Gilbertson	Colin Chapman	Paul Gilbertson	Neil Moorhouse Rob Dunstan	Colin Chapman, Keith Hallett, Paul Gilbertson

Saturday 2nd November at 9.30-11.30 am is our next whole-of-Partnership workshop, working on the implications of ACT2, and planning for our future. Everyone is invited to come and share as we discuss *The Spirit's Gifts in our Congregations*
STOP PRESS – this workshop will no longer be held on 2nd November and has been postponed – new date to be confirmed – more news in Annette's email next week!

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