



Newsletter

Ocean Grove,
Uniting Church in Australia
Sunday August 16th 2020

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COVID REPORTS FOR CHURCH ACTIVITIES

PRAYER CHAIN: The Prayer Chain still operates but we are very small in number but that doesn't matter. We don't meet in person. Because the group is small I phone everyone with the request. Members are myself, Velda Willis, the Scott's, the Barry's, Lyn Mulligan, and Helen Baum, and Dawn Quarrell who both worship at another church. Cheers Robin Munro.

OPPORTUNITY SHOP *the dove*: Over the past weeks *the dove* Committee and other volunteers have been busy with the process of endeavouring to re-open *the dove*. The shop has had a deep clean, the clothes have been sorted with much new stock replacing the old stock and all other items have been cleaned. Perspex screens have been made for the shop counter.

The Committee has been in regular contact with the volunteers informing them of developments. Work has been done on safe distancing regulations and a Working Procedures document has been prepared and will be sent out to volunteers before we re-open.

The Committee had hoped that the shop could be re-opened in mid August but unfortunately that has been postponed until the time comes that it is safe to do so.

The Committee wrote to all the volunteers wishing them well in these difficult times and expressing the hope that we will see each other again when we resume the valuable work at *the dove*.

On behalf of *the dove* Committee
Gonni Runia Secretary.

THE WELCOME PLACE

For the past 5 years the “Wesley Asylum Seeker Welcome Place “ has provided a drop-in centre in central Geelong. People seeking asylum can meet for social activities and a shared meal. They are able to improve their English skills, receive information, support, referrals to other services, and to enjoy friendship and laughter.

The “Welcome Place” is auspiced by the Wesley Church, Geelong Parish, who provide the oversight and the rooms for our volunteer organisation to operate. We are staffed entirely by volunteers who are fully screened and trained. This much-needed service depends completely on community donations and small non-government grants to keep operating.

2 years ago a food bank was opened. Our purpose is to provide groceries and food vouchers to those refugees and people seeking asylum who do not have any adequate means of support, and who are not eligible for any safety-net income government support.

Now that we are experiencing the consequences of the covid-19 pandemic, we have had to close the doors to our social meetings, though we meet once a week through zoom link-up! Although we can't share a meal, we are still sharing laughter and friendship!.

Thankfully, our much-needed food bank support is still active!. We have been amazed at the community response to our call for help with our Food Bank donations. We have had incredible support from groups across the whole community over these past difficult months.

We have been assisted by church groups from different denominations, (including wonderful support from the Seventh Day Adventist Church, Uniting Church, Catholic Church), community service groups and individual donors. They have all helped us provide essential food, store and food-bank vouchers for our friends in need.

The fact that we can still offer ongoing help is a testament to the generosity, kindness and care that abounds in our diverse and broad community.

To you all, we say a heart-felt “Thank You”!

Cathie Bond
Co-co-ordinator, Wesley Church Welcome Place.

History repeats itself!
This poem was written in 1869 and
reprinted during the
1919 Pandemic.

This is timeless.....
And people stayed at home
And read books
And listened
And they rested
And did exercises
And made art and played
And learned new ways of being
And stopped and listened
More deeply
Someone meditated, someone prayed
Someone met their shadow
And people began to think differently
And people healed
And in the absence of people who
Lived in ignorant ways
Dangerous, meaningless and heartless,
The earth also began to heal
And when the danger ended and
People found themselves
They grieved for the dead
And made new choices
And dreamed of new visions
And created new ways of living
And completely healed the earth
Just as they were healed.

Please note that it appears that this poem was written in March this year, not 1869 as claimed on many social media sites.

According to many "fact verifying" sources, it was written by Catherine O'Meara, a retired Wisconsin teacher and 1st appeared in her blog on the 16th of March. She was evidently interviewed about it by the Oprah Magazine.

Information supplied by Robert Cox.

CROSSLIGHT AUGUST ON LINE

Regrettably the Stage 3 restrictions mean next month's issue of Crosslight will not be able to be printed and distributed. However, as with the June edition, it will be available online in an easy –to-read “flip book” format. You will also be able to download it as a PDF and print it out. The August edition will be of particular interest to our CALD Congregations, as the feature story asks: “What does an intercultural church look like?”

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

You can make your contribution to the income of the church in a variety of ways

You may like to send a cheque to PO Box 393 Ocean Grove

Make a deposit in our bank account at the
Commonwealth Bank:

Account Name Ocean Grove Uniting Church Council

BSB number 063 834

Account number 1005 1143

Notarisation: your surname and/or envelope number

If you would like to help with boosting the income for the church,

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Can you help the editor fill the pages of the weekly newsletter with interesting articles?

It would be great to have people send in their special weekly events or even short articles they have read in newspapers or seen on television.

The newsletter is compiled on a Thursday morning, so if you have something suitable please have it to the office by 8.30am every Thursday.