



# Newsletter

Ocean Grove,  
Uniting Church in Australia  
Sunday August 9th 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.

UNITING BARWON—EDUCATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM  
2019-2020 FINANCIAL YEAR.

The program has assisted 357 Secondary Students and 27 Primary School students from 30 schools at a total of \$128,148.00. there were 265 families seeking financial assistance for their children.

Digital E book of \$48,000.00 was the highest expenditure. Uniforms \$37,000 was the next highest. It was very pleasing to hear the appreciative comments from the clients we assisted - how happy their children were to have a uniform where they felt part of the system, in lieu of being judged of what they never had, due to external circumstances.

Encouraging signs from the program is that there were 104 children engaged in VCE years versus 78 from the previous year. This is encouraging to know that these children are working towards their future aspirations and Uniting Barwon is assisting them towards their aspirations.

The Education Assistance Program is entirely run by 8 dedicated volunteers, and a reception team who have assisted tremendously. Without their dedication and tireless work, the program would not have been able to achieve the goals and aspirations of those who need it most.

CHURCH CLOSED

This does not mean that you have to miss out on worship though.

The Reverend Bob Thomas is posting the complete service on the **website** which includes You Tube clips of the hymns, and there is a hard copy of the service that you can download if you would prefer to read the litany for worship.

And do not forget that each week you can join in worship through **zoom.**

**Key verse for this week**

"And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. Then those who were in the boat worshipped him, saying, Truly you are the Son of God.

Matthew 14: 32, 33

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.

## 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.