

**SURF COAST LINKED CONGREGATIONS**  
**QUARTERLY NEWS BULLETIN**  
**AUTUMN EDITION (March, April, May 2013)**

Surf Coast Uniting Church with Linked Congregations at Aireys Inlet, Anglesea, Bellbrae and Torquay. MINISTER: REV HELEN ROBINSON Mobile 0408 527 521  
email: [helenrobinson12@bigpond.com](mailto:helenrobinson12@bigpond.com)  
Church Web Site: [www.surfcoast.unitingchurch.org.au](http://www.surfcoast.unitingchurch.org.au)

Editors: Val Clarke [valclarke@rocketmail.com](mailto:valclarke@rocketmail.com) Ph 52 61 4207  
Jean Murray [jeanmurray45@bigpond.com](mailto:jeanmurray45@bigpond.com) Ph 52 61 2281

DEADLINE for Winter Edition 2013 – approx 26 May – all articles to Val Clarke.

**MINISTER'S REPORT FOR AUTUMN QUARTERLY BULLETIN**

**Aireys Inlet:**

We have an encouraging number of visitors to worship, both “once off’s” passing through, and swallows. Many thanks are due to all those who participate in worship leadership, so capably and so regularly. Your work is such an essential part of the life of the Church. Special thanks go to Noni Johnson for her work as a Lay Preacher, and to Joan Richardson and Keith Bremner for their excellent contribution to our music. The TV monitor has been a welcome addition to our presentation of worship. Thanks go to Fred Matyear and Keith Bremner for organizing the purchase and installation. Unfortunately TV #1 was stolen, and we now have TV#2, thanks once again to Fred and Keith for organizing this, and for ensuring that we have the greatest possible security for it in the circumstances.

Sue Townsend and Cath Yates join us whenever they are in Aireys Inlet, and helped out wonderfully at the Salvation Army Veteran’s Band Concert. This was an excellent social event for the community, extremely well attended and enjoyed by all. Thanks to all who worked very hard to make it all happen, especially Joan Richardson who made all the arrangements.

The CyberSafety Seminar was a very important community event, reaching all school children at Aireys Inlet and Lorne. The message is vital for young people of this age, and delivered expertly by Susan McLean, AFP. It was surprising that more parents did not take up the opportunity for the free public seminar in the evening. Many thanks to Mary Bremner who worked tirelessly for months to make this all happen.

Coffee and Chat, our social gathering on the first Friday of the month, continues to be a good meeting place for members of the community. Thanks to our Uniting Church members for being the mainstay behind this occasion. Thanks also to Mary and Keith Bremner for initiating our association with JWOC in Cambodia, and the sponsorship flowing from that.

We mourned the loss of Gwen Gaylard, 98 yrs., greatly loved and admired by all. Many people worked hard to make her funeral a fitting tribute to a remarkable lady. Thank you to all.

**Anglesea:**

Thanks are due to all who participate in worship leadership, your work is very much appreciated. Our faithful folk at Anglesea have made some appropriate decisions this year.

We now have BYO lunch second and fourth Wednesdays of the month, instead of lunch provided. Our celebration of Holy Communion on those days continues as usual. Due to seasonal absences in winter, SPAN will be in recess for June, July and August. Our worship services at Blue Cross (now Anglesea Aged Care) are greatly appreciated by those who attend. Thanks to all those who worked to make the annual bookstall the success that it was. Thanks to our musicians, who add so much to our worship every week. We mourned the loss of Jean Yule, Alex Peerman, and Bill Geeves this year. Thanks to all in the Anglesea congregation for the huge contribution made to music and hospitality on these occasions. Your hard work does you great credit.

Thanks also to Peter Heath for putting together our Newsletter every week. It's such an important part of keeping us up to date with everything that happens. One of the real achievements this year has been updating our website, and Peter and Noni Johnson have played a key role in this important and complex project, as have Bob Hale, and Martin Hooper. In the 21st Century, this is a key part of our public face to the younger generation.

### **Bellbrae:**

Thanks to all at Bellbrae for the lovely worship we share week by week. Our discussions are a favourite part of the service. Your faithfulness is so good to see. Thanks to all who lead worship on the second and fifth Sundays of the month. Your work is so much appreciated. The constant work in running the Op Shop and Bookstall are a credit to all who participate, and are a real announcement to the community that the church is alive and well. The caring presence of the workers is such a good witness to the community of the quality of our faith.

### **Torquay.**

Worship at Torquay is going well, and we have the welcome addition of a TV screen which adds greatly to the experience. Thanks go to Alan Harper for carrying out the purchase, and putting together such excellent presentations week by week. Thanks to the Choir for their lovely contribution to worship so very regularly throughout the year. Thanks also to our Choir leader, Julie Andrews, and to our musicians Barbara Purnell and June Angus, who do such an excellent job.

Many of our committees have been working hard in the areas of Mission, Development, Property Maintenance and Worship. Thanks to all for the remarkable things you have achieved. Heather Jackman and her team continue to make a wonderful success of Coffee and Kids, and also the Christmas program. Heather Dennis and Heather Jackman have also done a wonderful job of addressing the complex red tape needed to get our Occasional Care up and running. They deserve hearty thanks for their handling of a task which presented many unexpected twists and turns in the road. Staff have been employed, and we will be starting on Friday mornings very soon. John Angus also played a key role in important funding applications, as did Bob Hale. Thanks for your financial acumen and skill.

Many people have worked hard on development plans for our church. Much paperwork and many negotiations were involved in considering building plans and preparations to sell the blocks facing Beales St. The entire Development Committee is to be thanked for the progress we have made to date. John Angus, Heather Dennis, Bob Hale and Heather Jackman have played a key role in getting us this far. Thanks also to the Property Committee for work which needed to be done to facilitate our Mission plans. Particularly we thank Alan Harper for maintenance work which he regularly does, and also

important "one off" work such as is being done with Jack's Shed. We await the sale of the Beales St. blocks to see what funding is available for further progress.

Thanks to those who organized concerts this year, which generally were a delightful success. Jan Hale and Val Clarke get a special mention here.

We are grateful for the faithfulness of groups such as Beaut Beanies and our Afternoon Fellowship, who welcome also those who do not worship with us on Sundays, and whose generosity to others shows the quality of their faith.

We thank our Worship Committee for their faithfulness and skill in leading worship on the second and fifth Sundays of the month. Especially we recognise Jean Murray's willingness to lead worship where the Presbytery has needs. She has been very faithful in this regard. We look forward to the occasion of her recognition as a Lay Preacher in the near future. Our Church Council has done all that is necessary in this regard, and we await the response of Presbytery.

We have suffered the sad loss of Joyce Barnes and Ray Edebone this year, both of whom were greatly respected and loved. Thanks to all who honoured their memory by making each funeral a fitting tribute to them.

Grace and Peace, Your Minister, Helen.

**SURF COAST PREACHING PLAN - 3<sup>rd</sup> MARCH TO 28<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2013**

**USUAL WORSHIP TIMES: Anglesea – 9.00 am      Aireys Inlet – 10.30 am  
Torquay – 9.30 am      Bellbrae – 11.00 am**

SUN 3 MARCH      ANGLESEA & AIREYS      JEAN MURRAY  
                                 TORQUAY & BELLBRAE      REV HELEN ROBINSON

MON 4 MARCH      ELOUERA AT 2.15 PM      REV HELEN ROBINSON

SUN 10 MARCH      ANGLESEA & AIREYS      REV HELEN ROBINSON  
                                 TORQUAY & BELLBRAE      WORSHIP TEAMS

WED 13 MARCH      HOLY COMMUNION 10.30 AM ANGLESEA      REV HELEN

SUN 17 MARCH      ANGLESEA & AIREYS      WORSHIP TEAMS  
                                 TORQUAY & BELLBRAE      REV HELEN ROBINSON

**SUN 24 MARCH      PALM SUNDAY**  
                                 **ANGLESEA & AIREYS      REV HELEN ROBINSON**  
                                 **TORQUAY & BELLBRAE      ROBERT PACKETT**

**THURS 28 MARCH      MAUNDY THURSDAY**  
                                 **AIREYS INLET 2.30 PM      REV HELEN ROBINSON**  
                                 **TORQUAY 7.30 PM      REV HELEN ROBINSON**

**FRI 29 MARCH      GOOD FRIDAY**  
                                 **ANGLESEA 9.00 AM      REV HEATHER MARSHALL**  
                                 **TORQUAY 9.30 AM      REV HELEN ROBINSON**

**SUN 31 MARCH      EASTER DAY**

**ANGLESEA & AIREYS  
TORQUAY & BELLBRAE**

**REV DAVID WALKER  
REV HELEN ROBINSON**

SUN 7 APRIL	ANGLESEA & AIREYS TORQUAY & BELLBRAE	JEAN MURRAY REV HELEN ROBINSON
MON 8 APRIL	ELOUERA AT 2.15 PM	REV HELEN ROBINSON
WED 10 APRIL	HOLY COMMUNION 10.30 AM ANGLESEA	REV HELEN
SUN 14 APRIL	ANGLESEA & AIREYS TORQUAY & BELLBRAE	REV HELEN ROBINSON WORSHIP TEAMS
SUN 21 APRIL	ANGLESEA & AIREYS TORQUAY & BELLBRAE	WORSHIP TEAMS REV HELEN ROBINSON
SUN 28 APRIL	ANGLESEA & AIREYS TORQUAY & BELLBRAE	REV HELEN ROBINSON NONI JOHNSON



**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER – 2013**

As this Quarterly Bulletin is going to print we have just celebrated World Day of Prayer with services at the Anglesea Uniting Church and Torquay Anglican Church. This year the service, with the theme “I was a stranger and you welcomed me”, was prepared by the World Day of Prayer Committee of France. As Patrons-in-Chief, the Governor of Victoria, the Honorable Alex Chernov and Mrs Elizabeth Chernov wrote: “We are pleased to extend the message of good will to all those involved with the 2013 World Day of Prayer. The theme for 2013, “I was a stranger and you welcomed me”, is a poignant one. It reminds us all of the importance of opening our hearts and minds to others and of the ever pressing need to stay connected to our fellow man in these truly 'global' times.”

The report of 2012 states that 267 services were held throughout Victoria, plus those held in aged care facilities, retirement villages and schools. We are told that over 3 million people in 170 countries join together in a Day of Prayer that circles the globe. World Day of Prayer is grounded in prayer and has tremendous potential to witness to the love of Christ through the ecumenical fellowship.

Next year's service is being prepared by Christians in Egypt with the theme “Streams in the Desert”. As usual, this will be held on the first Friday in March.

**DAY LIGHT SAVINGS**

Day Light Savings will come to an end in the early hours of SUNDAY 7 APRIL, so you'll need to turn your clocks back one hour when you go to bed on **SATURDAY 6 APRIL**. The CFA urges us to change the battery in our smoke alarms on that day.

**COLLECTION OF GOODS FOR 2013 FETE AT OLD TIMERS, ALICE SPRINGS**

Already a delightful array of handknitted and purchased goods has been given for this year's fete at the Old Timers Aged Care Facility at Alice Springs. Also, the Bellbrae Op Shop has made a considerable donation of clean soft toys. Thank you very much for all donations. You have just a few more weeks if you wish to add to our collection. Goods

can be received up until **SUNDAY, 21 APRIL**, and can be given to Rev Helen or to Jean Murray or placed in the marked box in the Torquay church foyer. (Please note this deadline is much earlier than in previous years.) Each year we have supported the work of Frontier Services through this fete. Our donations are always greatly appreciated.

## **LINKED COUNCIL NEWS**

The Linked Council held their elections last week and we thank the Anglesea contingent for taking office on the Council. Peter Heath as Chairperson and Ken McCasker as Secretary. Robin Dennis has taken over the job of Linked Congregations Treasurer. Robin took this over from our very able Bob Hale who held the position for 11 years. We thank Bob most sincerely for all the years, time, stress and frustration that he has endured over this time firstly sorting out the Parish finances, and then the Linking Congregations finances. We wish him all the best in his future, without worrying about the churches finances which is now Robin's big headache. All the best to Robin for taking over this major role.

Due to the Anglesea Reps taking on the Executive role this year, it is decided to go with that format for future years – a congregation take responsibility for these positions. So Torquay will be able to sit back and relax for the next three years.

The Rev Helen Robinson has taken the position of Preaching Plan Coordinator and will commence in April. I am very happy to hand this task over.

Robyn Harper

## **UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA – SURF COAST LINKED CONGREGATIONS**

### **Part of the Treasurer's Annual Report**

I am very pleased to report that parish income for the year 2012 exceeded expenses, and by \$1,823. Remarkably, we reached this result without drawing on funds from the Parish Reserve. During the year we have had the manse let on a commercial basis, and after paying our minister the full Synod manse allowance, some net income accrued to the parish. The practice of using local worship leaders, rather than many visiting preachers, has resulted in considerable savings. We have also been free of major maintenance costs for our church properties during the year.

Fund-raising efforts within the congregations provided \$12,376. Over \$9,000 came from the Bellbrae OpShop. Other amounts came from the Anglesea Fair, the Parish Garden Party, the Salvation Army Veterans' Band concert at Aireys Inlet, the Sausage Sizzle at Bunnings, and special efforts at Torquay. We were able to add the entire funds raised to our Parish Reserve. It is likely that we will need to draw \$13,000 from the Reserve to balance the 2013 books.

In addition to supporting our church, our congregations contributed \$7,365 to external causes. Almost \$2,700 was given for the Christmas Bowl. Church related gifts were also made to Access Ministries, Frontier Services, Christmas Island Chaplaincy, and to Share and Uniting World appeals. Other gifts were made to the Bellbrae CFA and Primary School, Africa Stoves, North Geelong Secondary College, and the Fellowship of the Least Coin.

This will be my final report as treasurer. After 11 years in the job, I am happily passing the mantle to Robin Dennis of the Torquay congregation. I have enjoyed my term of office. I was greatly helped by the constant work of the congregational treasurers who collect and bank offerings each week, and for the advice and experience of former treasurer Thelma Western.

Bob Hale *Treasurer 2002 to 2012*

February 9, 2013

***A most hearty "THANK YOU" and "WELL DONE" go to Bob for his eleven years of wise counsel and faithful and accurate work as Treasurer!!!***

## **CONCERNED ABOUT UNITING CARE GEELONG ?**

In July 2008 the organisation we used to know as “CONCERN” became “Uniting Care Geelong” following the merger with the “PEX” organisation in Norlane. The new entity is now fully integrated and working efficiently as a welfare agency serving the whole of Geelong, the Bellarine Peninsular, the Surf Coast and Winchelsea.

In an average year the agency deals with about 7,000 requests for emergency relief; over 500 students with their education expenses; and more than 100 people with loans to enable them to deal with some financial emergency or other urgent need. The total value of these benefits provided to our clients is close to half a million dollars. In recent years the Federal Government has provided about a third of our total funds and the five Op Shops yield another third. The organisation is still heavily dependent upon the support of the Uniting Churches in our region for much of the clothing and bedding, and some of the food, that is given to our clients.

The great majority of the volunteer staff come from these churches. The Surf Coast Parish is well represented. Jim & Edie Barton run the whole operation at Winchelsea, and Rod Lingard, John Peck and Rosemary Thompson work as interviewers at Balliang Street. Jean Murray occasionally assists at Winchelsea, and for many years Heather Peerman worked in the clothing sorting area, until she reluctantly retired due to poor health.

There is a bin for donations in the entrance foyer of the Anglesea and Torquay churches – still labelled “CONCERN”. The annual ‘Harvest Festival’ brought in an impressive quantity of foodstuff, but there are now noticeably less of the small weekly donations which used to appear in the bins in the past. Perhaps we need a little reminder to revive the habit. Obviously, the clients’ needs extend through the whole year so continuing gifts of canned or packaged food and toiletries are very much appreciated. We do receive quite a lot of used clothing, but can always use clothing and bedding that is in really good clean condition.

Job losses, and the recent harsh cuts to benefits for mothers with children turning 8 years, are generating a steadily growing demand for the welfare services provided by Uniting Care Geelong. These people need our ongoing support. Just one extra item on your weekly shopping list will make a real difference.

Rod Lingard

## **AIREYS INLET NEWS**

The words “It’s a Wonder” resounded repeatedly from the lawns at the Bark Hut, during this year’s Community Carols at Aireys Inlet. The children had great fun with their performance of the Nativity story and the audience sang along with their favourite carols. Judging by the increase in attendance this event is gaining in popularity each year. The gifts brought to the empty Christmas tree were distributed through UnitingCare and made up the bulk of the gifts received by needy families in the Winchelsea area.

Our services were very well attended throughout January, with many of our “swallows” in town, along with holiday-makers and assorted visitors, some of whom returned a second time. They must have liked us! With three fine musicians backing up some wonderful male voices, there were times when we were sure the singing could be heard over on the deck at Truffles. Since the end of winter last year, the Worship Team has undertaken to provide the service on the third and fifth Sundays of each month. We are very appreciative of the support Rev Helen provides us as we rise to this challenge. We now have a new TV replacing the one that was stolen last year. Big thanks must go to Fred Matyear for his tireless work on this. Our TV is now secured with bolts specially imported from America – would-be burglars please note.

The Outreach Team, after more detailed investigation, has decided not to go ahead with the proposed concert by the Choir of Hope and Inspiration. In its place, we have plans afoot for an event related to this year's United Nations Year of Quinoa. What is quinoa (pronounced keen-wa) some of you may ask. It is an ancient grain native to Peru and Bolivia, highly regarded for its nutritional value. The broader issue of future world food shortages is one of concern to us all, and we feel this will make a great theme for a community outreach event

Pancake Day provided the opportunity for our first community outreach event for the year. Following a well-established pattern, our tireless team of workers slipped into their respective roles to produce and serve hundreds of delicious pancakes, along with tea and "real" coffee. Customers enjoyed the café style setting and many lingered-long for a chat with friends over their cuppa and pancakes. As a bonus, \$350.00 was raised for UnitingCare Geelong.

Mary Bremner

## **ANGLESEA NEWS**

Our Anglesea congregation had the sad loss of our wonderful member Rev Alex Peerman with a Memorial Service being held on Friday 25th January at Anglesea. Although moving out of Anglesea, our church has been privileged to have had Alex & Heather touching our lives for many years and our love surrounds Heather and the family at this sad time. The loss of members over the last year, who have given their lives to the Church, is very evident in our congregation at present but fortunately we have members who are prepared to take on many responsibilities.

Our long standing Elder Iris Speare has moved to Geelong and the Elders sadly accepted her letter of resignation although Iris hopes to maintain a connection at times with Anglesea. Best wishes to Iris in her new abode and we thank Iris for her contribution to the Church.

All our Rosters have run smoothly with all areas able to be filled.

Our liaison with the Baptist church is excellent and joint Sunday morning teas have been arranged for 17th March, 2nd June and 1st September.

We were pleased to celebrate with Rev Bernie Long his 50 years of ordination on 13th January.

We have been pleased to have some of our Swallows returning over the holiday period.

Elizabeth McKenzie

Mention must be made of the wonderful Anglesea Fair held on Saturday 12 January. Once again the Anglesea congregation excelled themselves, and not only was the Fair a great financial success, it was an absolutely great day of food, bargains and fellowship. As well as enjoying breakfast, morning tea and lunch, much browsing, buying and chatting was the order of the day. It was a pleasant surprise to have Rev Peter Batchelor and his wife Ruth come to the fair and to mix and mingle with the crowd!

The members of the Anglesea congregation worked extremely hard to make this day such a success, and once again it was pleasing to see members of the Baptist church lending a hand.

Well done, Anglesea, on another great Fair! Jean Murray

**BELLBRAE REPORT FOR February 2013**



The highlight for December at Bellbrae was our lovely Christmas Eve service. Helen planned the service to include lots of singing and all present went away feeling peaceful and ready for the day to come.

After Christmas Bellbrae church had a quiet time over the summer break with many regulars away, but still enjoyed all services including the second and fifth Sundays organised by the worship committee.

The church grounds have had a much needed clean up thanks to the initiative of Martin Hooper who organised a group from Geelong to come and do a complete cutting and removal of long grass, fallen branches and twigs etc. The result is most impressive and we are now certainly much better situated should there be any fire threats in the area.

With regard to the Bellbrae Op Shop and Book Room it seems that December and January are the time that people spring clean their wardrobes and cupboards. The shop was closed for ten days but the donations piled up. Members of the regular sorting group had to go in during this time and work their way through the bags that had been left outside. After the shops opened again we had daily loads of donations left outside the shop and the weeks in January were the busiest for sorting for the entire year. This seems to have settled a little with the return to work of most people in February.

On Tuesday the 5<sup>th</sup> of February Op Shop held its annual thankyou party for all the volunteers. This was a great success with approximately 45 people attending. The afternoon tea, provided by Bellbrae and some of the regular helpers, was a feast for the eye as well as for the appetite. Thankyous were said for all the people who help in a multitude of ways and everyone seemed to enjoy mingling and meeting other volunteers whose may have only been a name seen on the list prior to the event.

Special guests at worship on Sunday 13 January were Rev Peter Batchelor and his wife, Ruth. During the service Peter shared with the congregation his experiences as Supply Minister at the Corryong Uniting Church, Victoria, and the Broome Uniting Church, WA. He and Ruth were planning to head back to Corryong for a further term of Supply Ministry.

Carleen Thoernberg

## **TORQUAY CHURCH REPORT FOR AUTUMN BULLETIN 2013**

It gives me pleasure to write the report from Torquay Church Council for the Autumn Bulletin.

This quarter started off with the start of Advent – with the combined service being held at Anglesea church. For all those members who attended they did enjoy the day.

Our next major item was the Advent Workshop run very ably by Heather Jackman and her team of supporters. What a marvelous outreach this is for the very young people of Torquay. Heather and the team members work for several months prior to this event to make it a success and we thank them one and all. Even though it is an exhausting afternoon everyone is full of joy and hope at the end.

We had both the Theos Team, who target the teenagers and early 20 year old's and the Torquay Beach Mission, who target the younger children, come to speak to us at both the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of December (Theos) and the second Sunday in January (Beach Mission). It is a real inspiration to hear what these young people are doing to bring the word of God, and

by example, show the young ones how God can help them in their struggles or just with their future direction.

It is always lovely to see our visitors and Swallows returning for the summer. It is certainly a time for catching up with what has been happening in their lives and sharing time with them over a cuppa.

The Worship Team, with the help of the members of the congregation, are enjoying bringing you the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday services using Rev Helen's liturgy. We thank Rev Helen very much for her willingness to offer this alternative to us. We continue to organise the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday services and the theme for the December service was 'Luke's story' following Jesus after his birth up to around his 12<sup>th</sup> birthday, using scripture and hymn singing.

The Choir presented Anthems during worship up to and including Christmas Day. We were in recess for the summer school holidays and due to Julie not being well, we have not started our practice etc for this year.

It is the time for programs to start up this year. They have all had time off for the summer school holidays and now are looking forward to continuing the good work they did last year. Coffee & Kids started back a couple of weeks ago and this is very much a successful outreach program and Heather Jackman with her group of helpers, enjoy their time being involved with the Mums and the small children. Dine Out and Afternoon Fellowship have also started recently.

We are awaiting Surf Coast Shire permits prior to starting our Limited Hours Occasional Care Program on one half day a week. The staff have been employed and the children have been signed up but details such as Building Permits etc still have to be approved.

We are looking for a couple of people as back-up to Alan for the Audio/Visual facilities. Val has kindly offered but it is always helpful to have a few people that may be able to assist. So if you think you can help us, please let Alan know.

This week we saw the demise of 'Jack's Shed'. Yesterday it was raised to the ground and will be relocated temporarily to between the Church and the Hall. This is so that we can store equipment and provisions in it whilst decisions are made to the future of the Manse site. The blocks in Beales Street will be auctioned on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March.

We especially thank Rev Helen for all that she does for us at Torquay. She had a much needed break in January and time to regroup. We praise God for her leadership and guidance and the care she gives to all those who are not coping with life or are unwell or have lost a loved one. Blessings to you Helen.

We were very sorry to lose Ray Edebone in December. We will miss his smiling face and cheery nature. Our prayers and support go to Lyn and the family. We were sorry also to lose Rev Alex Peerman in January, he and Heather have been coming to Torquay services and we enjoyed their friendship and guidance with Social Justice issues. We will miss Alex and we wish Heather better health and our love whilst she comes to terms that God needed Alex for a very special purpose in heaven.

Blessing and God's love to you all

Robyn Harper, Secretary, Torquay Church Council

**OTHER TORQUAY NEWS -**

**TOM HARDING, OAM.** We all rejoiced with Tom and Joan Harding at worship on Sunday 27 January, as Tom had been awarded the Order of Australia Medal in the Australia Day Honours. Tom is the Founder and Convenor of the Farina Restoration Group. This group of caravanners and campers have adopted Farina, a ghost town in the South Australian outback. In four annual programs over 100 volunteers as well as Aboriginal Trainees and School Work Experience Students have given more than 15,000 volunteer hours reinvigorating this abandoned piece of South Australian history.

Tom has 25 years involvement with the not-for-profit sector of the Aged Care industry and has served on committees and boards of management with Strathdon Community (Forest Hill), Kalkee (Belmont) and Torquay Lions Village.

Tom is recognised as a person who is passionate about the things he considers worthwhile – and who then pursues these passions to achieve successful outcomes.

Tom's contribution to Australian history and service organisations has been greatly assisted through the loving support he has received from his first wife Doreen (who passed away in 2003), Joan and his family.

***Well done, Tom – we're all proud of you!!***

**ELOUERA WORSHIP SERVICES** – commence at 2.15 pm and will be held on **Monday, 4 March, 8 April, 6 May and 3 June.**

Last month this Blog was received on our church website:

“Yesterday (4/2/13) I visited the Elouera Aged Care facility for the first time to visit my cousin M (name supplied). I arrived at the end of the worship service and was most impressed with the way in which the team from Torquay Uniting Church showed such love and respect to the residents in attendance. As part of a large family of cousins we had lost track of M who is being cared for by a person unknown to any of us. It was therefore a great comfort to me, and will be to the others when told, that you good folk are playing such an important part in the life of our special cousin who, despite terrible losses in her life, always reached out to us “younger” ones. My only regret is that I live nearly 2 hours drive away but my great reassurance is that your branch of our great Church is truly alive and well on the Surf Coast. Bless you each one ..... from the bottom of my heart.

P (name supplied)”

**TORQUAY CHRISTMAS WORKSHOP** The Christmas Workshop was held on Tuesday 4th December. This was our way of bringing the Christmas message to many families in the Torquay Community. We had 92 children register, along with many parents and helpers. Thank you to all those who were involved in the preparations throughout the year and on the day. Planning began mid year- deciding on and preparing activities that were appropriate to the age level of the children. This year we had extra volunteers from a Coffee and Kids grandma, girl guides and family members. A Big Thank You!

The afternoon began with registrations, afternoon tea, and decoration of 'carry bags'.

Helen spoke to the children and read the Christmas Story accompanied by pictures on the Video screen; some singing; explanation of activities and then down to the hall. (This was probably the

last activity to be held in this hall, which was built with love and expertise by dedicated members of the Torquay Uniting Church approximately 50 years ago).

Well it's probably time to put our thinking caps on with regards to where the 2013 Christmas Workshop will be held. Just like Jesus' birth - new beginnings to challenge us all.

Heather Jackman

**COFFEE AND KIDS**

Coffee & Kids has had another busy year. We began this mission as an outreach to the community, an hour and a half for mums/careers to bring children to a safe, caring environment to play while they made friends. This objective has been more than met.

Here is the set of attendance figures:

Term 1 - 192 children, an average of 24 children per week.

Term 2 - 283 children, an average of 26 children per week.

Term 3 - 297 children, an average of 30 children per week.

Term 4 - 228 children, an average of 23 children per week.

When you add the church helpers, parents, grandparents etc, we would have another 25-30 adults inside the church at Coffee & Kids each week.

We have a beautiful environment for families to meet and 'share' with one another. Share what you may well ask? What about the Bible stories and Christian songs? Jesus asked us to walk beside our neighbours and support them in whatever their need. Listen to them. Encourage friendships and help them to support one another's families. We have seen this happen before our eyes, where we facilitate and provide the surroundings for this to happen.

Isn't that being 'The Church' that Jesus wanted? Who knows where this may lead to? Even the imminent opening of our Occasional Care, was the outcome of requests from the mums who had no family support in the local area. This project is in God's Hands at the moment.

My continual gratitude to all those people who are involved in some way with Coffee & Kids - this wouldn't happen so successfully without your continued help - what you are doing is vital for our community and ourselves and I encourage you to 'keep it up'. I also invite others to join us for one or two sessions per term - very rewarding! There are many different roles to choose from.

A big thank you must go to the Surf Coast Shire for their \$1000 grant for new tables and chairs for the children. Also, the Share Appeal granted us \$3360 some of which has been spent on wooden shelving for toys and equipment. The Simpson Bequest granted us \$5000 for outreach to children in our community. A special thank you to Heather Dennis for being very much involved in preparing those submissions. A great effort.

We look forward to a happy and successful 2013 where we will meet new faces and welcome old friends.

Heather Jackman

**DINE OUT DATES** Members of the Dine Out group gathered together for lunch at the Beach Hotel, Jan Juc on Monday 25 February. Future dates at Jan Juc are Monday 25 March and Monday 22 April. After that, with the cooler weather, we may resume back at the Torquay Hotel. Your Dine Out notice and the church weekly news sheet will keep you informed. Anyone who lives alone is welcome to join us for this monthly time of fellowship and a nourishing meal.

Jean Murray

**THE DEMISE OF JACK'S SHED**

On the morning of Monday 18 February Jack's shed ceased to exist on its original site, a group of guys, John Angus, Robin Dennis, Ted Duval, Rod Lingard, Bob Packett and myself attacked the shed with gusto and saw it dismantled and transported to its new site. The efficiency of these guys was incredible in fact we were finished and home before midday.

Only hope the reassembly goes so well.

Next step is to get a bin on site and dispose of the junk, thought this would wait till after the plumbing is done, we will then have a clean up working bee prior to auction.

Alan Harper

Asking people about Jack's Shed and how it came about, it seems all conversations head to Jack Palmer. I asked some people to write a few words about Jack's Shed.

Jenny Hergstrom wrote: Senior members of Torquay Uniting Church shall always remember Jack Palmer and his many contributions he and his wife Enid offered to our congregation over many years. The building known as 'Jack's Shed' was erected as a tribute to honor many hours spent at Thursday working B's and the growing of hundreds of plants for the fete (he had a green finger too). Jack loved being a choir member and assisting at church services.

Lyn Edebone remembers singing with Jack Palmer after church from their Sunday School Sunbeam books – What a friend we have in Jesus & Jesus loves me. She also told me that Ray used to help the other men in the shed each Thursday morning.

David Brown wrote: Helen and I moved from Coleraine fifteen years ago to retire in Torquay. Joyce Barnes welcomed us at the Torquay Uniting Church door and introduced me to Jack Palmer. Jack took my hand, and in a saw like movement, said "Welcome, what can you do boy – the Maintenance Group meets here each Thursday morning, I expect to see you here!". Next day Rev Jim Foley pushed our door bell for a coffee. As year one progressed, helping to strike and pot plants for the Annual Fete, making and painting toys, one soon realised that the Palmer's Fischer Street resident was a storage depot for the Uniting Church Fete. Jack discussed with the Team and the Church Council that his and Enid's fund raising efforts had grown so large a shed was needed. Parish Council approved Jack's plans and costings, permits etc were undertaken by Jack to build. I missed the site preparation and the floor pour having returned to Coleraine for Estate business. When Helen and I returned, I said to Jack "why did you decide to build under a gum tree?" Jack quickly replied "Only a farmer would ask a silly question like that".

Power was connected from the Hall, the Team digging the trench. Ken Ferguson connected the shed storm water to the Hall plumbing that crosses the block at Beales Street. Jack's shed was complete, the sign was made by Keith Jones and erected above the roller door; shelving erected; tools and lathe supplied by Jack. Most days Jack spent several hours at the shed making toys for the Team to paint or stain. From the shed the recladding of the outside of the church was undertaken and the Team helped Bob Skewes to renovate some of the Bellbrae interior of the church and sliding doors. Through Jack's shed thousands of dollars was raised not only for the Torquay Parish, Jack donated plants to sister churches fetes. It was a place of humour shared, friendship, planning, storage, whatever. Times change but values never change. Jack's Shed was a shed named after a Christian family man, a Uniting Church member who was also on the property maintenance committee, choir, an Elder, had a time as Parish Secretary, for the children – Santa arriving on the motorbike side car, propagating plants and doing woodwork. I am sure when Jack looks down and sees the shed relocated he will say "only a farmer would know I put it on the wrong block"

Cheers, David Brown

