

SURF COAST LINKED CONGREGATIONS
QUARTERLY NEWS BULLETIN
SPRING EDITION (Sept, Oct, Nov 2012)

Surf Coast Uniting Church with Linked Congregations at Aireys Inlet, Anglesea, Bellbrae and Torquay. MINISTER: REV HELEN ROBINSON Mobile 0408 527 521
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DEADLINE for Summer Edition – Friday 23 November.

Minister's Reflection: Welcome to Spring!

I am so pleased that the colder weather is coming to an end. Most of us have felt that it's been a cold, wet winter, and we're "over" sloshing around in the mud. My main concern is that our folk have been hit quite hard with illnesses this winter. I am worried that too many of us are working too hard, stretching ourselves to the limit, and becoming sick. This is not the life that God wants for us. God wants us to have balance in our lives, between work, rest and recreation. That was the original intention in God's declaration of the seventh day as a "Sabbath".

Think of what that would have meant to a group of slaves, so recently freed from their oppressors. A day when No-One worked, not even animals. A day of rest. What a gift! I truly believe that part of "the getting of wisdom" is knowing what we can and can't do. We are finite human beings. We have our limitations. That is not a bad thing, it's simply the way we are made. We need rest to function properly. We know that, and we need to live according to the wisdom of that truth.

Society encourages us to ground our self-respect and self-worth in "productivity". Now just a minute: we are flesh and blood, not machines. Moreover, we are made up of physical, emotional and spiritual dimensions. Each of these aspects of ourselves needs to be nurtured. Some work, some exercise and some prayer are necessary parts of our day and our week. We are "fearfully and wonderfully made". None of the aspects of our whole selves should be neglected. There's that word, "should", but in this case it's being used in the service of not burning ourselves out, of getting the best out of life and of ourselves.

A wholesome spirituality encourages us to see ourselves as the totality of what we are: body, mind and spirit. A life that is well lived takes into account all these aspects, and respects the truth that each should be nurtured in its own way. May God grant that we live such balanced lives.

Love from your minister, Helen.

SURF COAST PREACHING PLAN – SEPTEMBER TO NOVEMBER 2012

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

2 SEPT	ANGLESEA & AIREYS INLET TORQUAY & BELLBRAE, HC	REV JOE FRASER REV HELEN ROBINSON
9 SEPT	ANGLESEA & AIREYS INLET, HC TORQUAY & BELLBRAE	REV HELEN ROBINSON WORSHIP TEAMS
12 SEPT	10.30 AM COMMUNION, ANGLESEA	REV HELEN ROBINSON
16 SEPT	ANGLESEA AIREYS INLET TORQUAY & BELLBRAE	REV BERNIE LONG J & L RICHARDSON REV HELEN ROBINSON
23 SEPT	ANGLESEA & AIREYS INLET TORQUAY & BELLBRAE	REV HELEN ROBINSON REV BRIAN GIDDINGS
30 SEPT	ANGLESEA AIREYS INLET TORQUAY & BELLBRAE	REV HELEN ROBINSON M & K BREMNER WORSHIP TEAMS
7 OCT	ANGLESEA & AIREYS INLET TORQUAY & BELLBRAE, HC	JEAN MURRAY REV HELEN ROBINSON
9 OCT	10.30 AM COMMUNION, ANGLESEA	REV HELEN ROBINSON
14 OCT	ANGLESEA & AIREYS INLET, HC TORQUAY AND BELLBRAE	REV HELEN ROBINSON WORSHIP TEAMS
21 OCT	ANGLESEA AIREYS INLET 9.00 AM TORQUAY & BELLBRAE	REV BERNIE LONG REV SHIRLEY COXHELL REV HELEN ROBINSON
28 OCT	ANGLESEA & AIREYS INLET TORQUAY & BELLBRAE	REV HELEN ROBINSON NONI JOHNSON
4 NOV	ANGLESEA & AIREYS INLET TORQUAY & BELLBRAE, HC	JEAN MURRAY REV HELEN ROBINSON
11 NOV	ANGLESEA & AIREYS INLET, HC TORQUAY & BELLBRAE	REV HELEN ROBINSON WORSHIP TEAMS
13 NOV	10.30 AM COMMUNION, ANGLESEA	REV HELEN ROBINSON
18 NOV	ANGLESEA AIREYS INLET TORQUAY & BELLBRAE	REV BERNIE LONG NONI JOHNSON REV HELEN ROBINSON
25 NOV	ANGLESEA & AIREYS INLET, HC TORQUAY & BELLBRAE	REV HELEN ROBINSON ROBERT PACKETT

NEWS FROM AIREYS INLET

The Aireys congregation has instigated a most valuable community event – “**BE CYBERSAVVY!**” - to be held on Monday, 10 September at 7.30 pm in the Aireys Inlet Community Hall. Surf Coast residents, of all ages, parents, grandparents and young people, will have an exceptional opportunity to learn about the benefits and pitfalls of communication technology. The presenter, Ms Susan McLean, formerly a Victorian Police officer, is Australia's foremost expert on cybersafety and young people.

Ms McLean will talk about what young people do online, including popular networking platforms such as Facebook and Twitter, and will advise on setting guidelines for use of the internet within the home.

The seminar is sponsored by Aireys Inlet Uniting Church, the Uniting Church Simpson Bequest, Anglesea and District Community Bank and the Surf Coast Shire Council.

Please spread news about this event to friends and families in your neighbourhood. For further information contact: bremner.mary.e@gmail.com or visit surfcoast.unitingchurch.org.au

NEWS FROM ANGLESEA – FORTY-FIVE YEARS AGO **(FROM THE ARCHIVES)**

26th October, 1968

Dear Mr & Mrs Liddle,

The congregation of the Anglesea Presbyterian Church wishes to express its appreciation of your long and devoted service to the church at Anglesea, and the enclosed cheque does this in a practical manner.

However, neither the money nor this letter can really express the appreciation we all feel for Mrs Liddle's many years service as our organist, and for the pleasure her music has given. So many of us neglect to use the talents God has given us, in the way Mrs Liddle has used hers, constantly and devotedly week after week, year in and year out. I am sure we can all take a lesson from this example of worship and service.

We also appreciate Mr Liddle for the support he has given the Board of Management by his presence of a Sunday, giving out the intimations and making people feel welcome and wanted, and for attending to the various chores necessary to prepare the church for services. Mr Liddle has done this quietly and without fuss, even though he is not a Board member, and this is also an example of quiet devotion from which we can all learn.

We all regret you are leaving Anglesea as your presence and friendship will be missed by the church, and individually by many.

The best wishes and prayers of the congregation go with you both for a happy new life at Bentleigh. We trust the enclosed cheque will allow you to purchase something from which you will gain much pleasure.

Yours sincerely
Iris McBride, Hon Secretary

NEWS FROM ANGLESEA – IN 2012

OP SHOP TREASURE: CORAL BUCKLEY

Coral has been a faithful member of the Anglesea Uniting Church for many, many years. Recently the Anglesea Baptist Congregation printed this article about her in their news bulletin in gratitude for her continuing work in the Baptist Op Shop at Anglesea.

Coral Buckley, at the age of 93, has the distinction of being our eldest Op Shop volunteer. In fact, she has spent her whole working life as a volunteer, never having done a day's paid work in her entire life. Coral and husband Jim started "Meals on Wheels" in Williamstown, and when moving to Anglesea 40 years ago, they started "Meals on Wheels" here too. They both played bowls. Carol was on the Committee of the Senior Citizens. She is also a member of the Uniting Church and does many floral arrangements for the church.

When the Op Shop in Anglesea opened she was there from day one. She remembers a classic blooper from back then of marking the ivory handles of cutlery with a texta, ooops! It was a natural progression to continue Seaside Seconds. She enjoys helping out, working with volunteers, and sorting the things that come in – once she found a \$20 note in the pocket of a pair of trousers. Her "tag" as she calls it, is to tidy all the material, tea towels, table cloths, napkins, runners etc, which involves quite a lot of gymnastics – and tidy she does, cheerfully every Friday afternoon.

Coral had three daughters, many grandchildren and now lives alone since Jim's passing a few years ago. She does all her own gardening except the mowing, is a sprightly walker, does not need glasses or a hearing aid, and says she thanks God every night for her good health. And we thank God for her too.

Prepared by the Baptist congregation.

BELLBRAE NEWS

QUARTERLY REPORT FOR BELLBRAE CONGREGATION AUGUST 2012

Our big event for this quarter was a christening at our little church among the pine trees in July. The church was filled with four generations of a loving family. Bellbrae congregation provided a delicious morning tea which was enjoyed by all.

Otherwise, this has been a quiet quarter for Bellbrae as many folk have been on holidays and the usual winter ills and chills have taken their toll. However, services have been enjoyable, varied and uplifting. We continue to enjoy Helen's engaging services on the 1st and 3rd Sundays. At other times we have had visiting preachers or the Worship Committee has been using Helen's liturgy as well as drawing on members' inputs. The varied environment has provided rich opportunities for discussion among attendees. We have had occasional visitors from the Bellbrae Country Club and on one occasion these were return visitors.

The Bellbrae Ensemble was pleased to contribute to the music at the Combined Service at Aireys Inlet to celebrate the Uniting Church's 35th birthday. Four musicians and a singer from Bellbrae added to the celebratory spirit of the day.

There has been some maintenance carried out on the gardens and gutters have been cleaned on the church, op shop and bookroom. However there is always more to do and we are awaiting an

improvement in the weather before doing more, including getting quotes for necessary stump replacement under the church building.

The Op Shop continues to be a place of activity and fellowship. With the cold wet winter, some weeks have been less busy than others. (However both the congregational treasurer and parish treasurer are still looking pleased.) Monday sorting days have lengthened due to large quantities of donations (some good, some not so good) and we seem to be down on helpers to do the sorting. As always more volunteers are needed for sorting and working in the both the Bookroom and the Bric-a-Brac shop and would be welcomed.

The Torquay Ladies Fellowship was made welcome at the Op Shop and took the opportunity to visit our Bookroom when they visited in July. An enjoyable afternoon was had by both visitors and volunteers.

Warm regards from All at Bellbrae

TORQUAY NEWS

Nancy Burns is a long-term faithful member of the Torquay Congregation, who lived in her own home until she was well into her 90's, but then moved into care in Melbourne to be near to her only daughter. Nancy phoned us recently to thank us for forwarding the Quarterly Bulletin as it enables her to keep in touch with the Torquay Uniting Church. She is now 98, has had a fall so cannot go home, but sounded happy and well. (It was lovely to hear her voice sounding just the same!) She sends her best wishes to everyone. We're sure she'd appreciate a phone call – 9879 7757. If you would like her mailing address, please contact us. Val Clarke and Jean Murray.

Two Special “Big-O Birthdays”: Two ladies who were part of our church family for many years, but who moved away from Torquay to be close to family, have recently celebrated very special birthdays. Our congregation sent them cards expressing our best wishes and love. Congratulations, Thelma and Edna!

Thelma Henderson, now residing at the Cohuna Retirement Village, celebrated her 100th birthday with two birthday parties on two successive days – one with the residents of the Retirement Village, and the other with her extended family. A lovely photo of Thelma appeared in the newspaper - Cohuna Farmers' Weekly.

Edna Dart, now residing in care in Western Australia, close to her daughter who lives at Riverton, celebrated her 90th birthday. Her daughter was hoping to bring Edna back to Victoria, to Ballarat, in order to celebrate her special day with extended family.

Farewell to Heather Price. The Torquay congregation gathered for a special morning tea after worship on Sunday 26th August to celebrate Heather's contribution to the life of our church. Heather is reluctantly leaving us to live in Melbourne closer to her family. Heather and her late husband, Graeme, were much loved members and were very active and valued choir members. We will miss Heather's lovely nature, her smile, her apricot jam and her beautiful contralto voice!

Torquay Afternoon Fellowship

Last month we were treated to a stroll through the tulips, around windmills and canals, and historic family homes in The Netherlands, courtesy of Jean Murray.

September – Wednesday 19th at 1.30 pm in the Torquay UC foyer – Bring something made, something borrowed, and something blue, with your stories of their origins.

October – Wednesday 17th, meet at Torquay UC at 1.30 pm for car pooling, for a visit to the Geelong Botanic Gardens and afternoon tea in their kiosk.

November – Wednesday 21st at Torquay UC foyer – 12.00 midday, for our Annual Luncheon and sing your favourite Christmas Hymns.

PWMU Cookbook

(An email from Fiona Bligh.) The PWMU Cookbook History is coming along well. I am especially interested in hearing from people who have loved and used it over the years. Recollections of how they came to own a copy, and favourite recipes, etc would be very welcome. If so, email or write a letter to the PWMU Offices. Warm regards, Fiona Bligh.
www.pwmu.org.au PWMU, Suite 4, 96 Salisbury Ave, Blackburn. 3130, Ph 9877 1678

Interested readers of the Quarterly Bulletin are encouraged to respond directly to Fiona, as soon as possible, please.

Africa Clean Stoves Project Update and Forthcoming Concert

Our on-site managers, Dr Don Lotter and Mr. Joseph Kibugwa, have tested five different stoves. Joseph is currently writing up the results. A site for the first hub has been identified. As it is based on the Dodoma campus of St John's University of Tanzania, it has the advantages that: (1) there is an existing old shed with a concrete floor and corrugated iron roof that should be adequate for our purposes, thus eliminating the need to build a shed; and (2) it is located near the station of one of the campus security officers, eliminating the need for us to provide security. Fencing around the site is currently being erected. Research is now focusing on the selection of a hammer mill and pelletizer, assessing both cost and efficiency. If all goes according to plan, the hub should start operating in October.

So please, come and support our next concert at 2 pm, Sunday 23 September, at the Torquay Uniting Church, where you'll be entertained by The String Contingent. For information about The String Contingent, visit www.thestringcontingent.com and for information about the project, visit www.africacleanstoves.org. Val Clarke

WORSHIP SERVICES AT ELOUERA, TORQUAY **with Rev Helen Robinson and/or Jean Murray**

TUESDAY, 4th SEPTEMBER at 2.15 pm

TUESDAY, 2nd OCTOBER at 2.15 pm

TUESDAY, 6th NOVEMBER at 11.00 am. (NOTE CHANGE OF TIME)

TUESDAY, 4th DECEMBER at 2.15 pm

CAROL SINGING in DECEMBER (date to be arranged)

Members of the congregation are very welcome to come and assist with the singing and with the fellowship with residents. Your support is always greatly appreciated.

Torquay Church Report for Spring Bulletin 2012

This quarter some of our congregation members have been battling this dreadful flu that is going around. Others have been away on holidays up north or overseas. We have several members who are serious bike riders and one couple has just come back from three months riding around Europe.

Our Coffee & Kids program is going well with some Thursdays having as many as 40 children attending with their Mums or Dads. It is great to see the interaction of the children with some of our older church volunteers.

A large number of our members attended the Combined Linked Service at Aireys Inlet on Sunday 24th June to celebrate the Uniting Church's 35th Birthday. Our Choir also participated in the service. Everyone enjoyed the day of sharing and caring.

The Worship Team has decided to take on board the 2nd Sunday services using Rev Helen's liturgy. We thank Helen very much for offering this material. We continue to organise the 5th Sunday services with the July one highlighting to the members of the congregation all the areas of mission that we are involved in. This also included a viewing of 'The Beanie Song' by Bruce Watson following his concert at Torquay during the Beanie Festival and the song writing session he held. This was a very interesting and informative service. On Sunday 30th September we will have a Frontier Services worship service entitled "Beyond the Furthest Fences" celebrating 100 years of work and mission in remote Australia.

We held a concert for 'Africa Clean Stoves' in June featuring Lucy Wise & Mischa Herman. We had a very good attendance and raised \$790 towards the project. We also have been selling chocolates at church on Sundays for extra funds. Our next concert is 23rd September at 2 pm featuring The String Contingent.

We had our Beanie Festival again this July with a fabulous array of beanies, jumpers, shawls and rugs all presenting a colourful display. We even had ladies come in one Sunday afternoon during the Festival, demonstrating their spinning wheels.

Our Audio/Visual facilities are going well and Rev Helen and the other preachers use the facility for their services. Everyone is comfortable with the hymns being up on the screen now and it seems to work well.

We are updating our Directory at the moment as we have had several people move out of the area and others change addresses.

Robyn Harper, Secretary, Torquay Church Council

SAMMY STAMP UP-DATE

Up to 2nd August, the sale of stamps has raised just over \$24,000 for the year, compared to \$18,000 for the same time last year. A recent grant of \$3,000 from Sammy Stamp funds was made to the Western Heights Uniting Church (in Herne Hill, Geelong) to assist in operating the "Listening Post" cafe and drop-in centre in Vines Road, North Geelong. Grants assist projects far afield as well as closer to home. Thank you to everyone who passes on used stamps, stamp albums and used post cards for Sammy. Your contributions are much appreciated. Rev Helen is always willing to bring the stamps to Torquay from where they are taken to the Sammy volunteers at Synod office.

NEWS FROM THE PRESBYTERY OF PORT PHILLIP WEST

At the Presbytery meeting held on 30 June, the Rev Dr Adam McIntosh was inducted as Presbytery Minister Mission and Education.

In the papers for the August meeting it is reported that the Rev Ann Key, Presbytery Minister Pastoral Care, has commenced her return to work on a part-time basis, the hours of which will gradually increase. Ann regrets that she will not be accepting invitations to lead worship services until March 2013. She is most grateful for the prayers, flowers and expressions of concern offered since the car accident on 22nd December 2011.

TWO IMPORTANT MESSAGES FOR EVERYONE

DAY LIGHT SAVINGS BEGINS in the early hours of SUNDAY 7th OCTOBER. So before you go to bed on Saturday 6th October, remember to turn your clocks **ONE HOUR FORWARD, or else you will be an hour late for church!!!!**

TO CELEBRATE THE FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT, a COMBINED LINKED SERVICE will be held at ANGLESEA at 11 am on SUNDAY, 2 DECEMBER. The service will be led by Rev Helen Robinson and will include Holy Communion. Please check in the weekly news sheets nearer the time for further details. **NO OTHER SERVICES will be held in our churches on that day.**

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

Mission Statement: Australian Church Women (ACW) seeks to unite Christian women across denominational boundaries to promote peace, understanding and unity through faith and love in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Two years ago I was asked by a UC minister from Melbourne if he could nominate me to be a Uniting Church delegate on the Victorian Unit of ACW. It is a three-year Synod appointment. The Uniting Church currently has six delegates, and other denominations represented are Anglican, Baptist, Churches of Christ, Lutheran, Roman Catholic, and Salvation Army. The long-term future of ACW doesn't appear to be very healthy, as I am one of the youngest to attend their meetings! We meet at the Victorian Council of Churches offices in Little Collins Street six times a year.

For special occasions the ACW banner is displayed, and when I first saw it I immediately recognised the beautiful and distinctive work of the late Joan Cooper. (Joan and her late husband, the Rev John Cooper had been greatly respected and very active members of the Anglesea Uniting Church.) Joan's banners continue to adorn the Anglesea church.

Practical aspects of ACW include providing scholarships to Christian women living in multicultural Australia, Pacific Island nations and countries of the Asian Church Women's Conference, for theological studies or lay leadership studies. Close affiliation is held with the Asian Church Women's Conference, the International Committee of the Fellowship of the Least Coin, National Council of Churches in Australia, Victorian Council of Churches, World Day of Prayer, National Council of Women of Australia and the Australian Women's Coalition. We are very proud of our current Publicity Convenor, Major Donna Bryan of the Salvation Army who is Chairperson of the Asian Church Women's Conference. This is a very demanding role, involving much travelling and working with our sisters in various Asian countries.

You may have seen a recent obituary published in The Age (20th Aug) headed "Wife of

High Court Judge - a rock for him, her church and others". Lady Leila Wilson passed away in June 2012. She was wife of the late Sir Ronald Wilson, who had been Moderator of the Uniting Church in Western Australia, President of the Uniting Church (national), Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commissioner, and High Court Judge. However, Lady Leila, in her own right, had led a very busy and fruitful life, including her work with Australian Church Women over many years at state level in Western Australia, and at national level.

Jean Murray

100th ANNIVERSARY - RAOUL WALLENBERG - "ROSEMARY FOR REMEMBRANCE"

On Saturday 4th August this year I embarked on a solo pilgrimage, via train and tram, to Kew Junction, Melbourne. It was 100 years to the day since the birth in Sweden of Raoul Wallenberg. My interest in Raoul had begun about 15 years earlier when I had been attending a seminar at "Otira", a training centre of the Uniting Church, located in Walpole St, Kew. During a break in lectures when there was an opportunity for a brisk walk to "clear the head", I headed down to Kew Junction and discovered a small yet restful triangular garden named the Raoul Wallenberg Garden, right there at the Junction on the corner of Princess St and High St. There was a large stone monument with the bust of Raoul and a short inscription "Raoul Wallenberg – Swedish diplomat, humanitarian, hero of the Holocaust. In Budapest, Hungary, in 1944 he saved the lives of tens of thousands of people threatened by Nazi mass murder. He was arrested on January 17th 1945 by Soviet troops, and has been imprisoned in the Soviet Union ever since."

I didn't have Internet access back then, but the name of Raoul Wallenberg was stored somewhere in my brain for fifteen years. Earlier this year his name came into my mind, I searched for him on the Internet and discovered that the 4th August this year was the 100th anniversary of his birth. Through the city council which now includes the City of Kew, I was put in touch with a most gracious and helpful Jewish lady, Judi Schiff. Judi's husband, Dr Peter Schiff OAM is the President of the Raoul Wallenberg Melbourne Unit. (It is one of five international units, the others being in Berlin, London, Santiago and Toronto.) She informed me that on Saturday 4th August there was to be a church service in his memory at the Swedish Church in Melbourne (all in the Swedish language), and that the Unit were having a special dinner and speaker on the Sunday night, as Saturday was their Jewish Sabbath.

Hence my decision to go it alone, and make my own pilgrimage in his honour on the actual anniversary, Saturday 4th August. I took with me a bunch of rosemary (blooming beautifully) from the Torquay church garden. "Rosemary for remembrance."

In correspondence from Judi and Peter Schiff they included: "It would be most appropriate and greatly appreciated if members of the clergy could speak about Raoul Wallenberg from their pulpits, telling the amazing, inspirational story of his heroic deeds and tragic disappearance so that he is remembered by people everywhere. It is the story of one person making a difference." In response to that I contacted Rev Robert Renton, Presbytery Minister Administration, who emailed all clergy in our presbytery. I spoke about Raoul Wallenberg at the service I conducted on 5th August at Moriac, and Rev Helen spoke about him in her services, too.

Raoul Wallenberg was born on 4th August 1912 in Kappsta, near Stockholm, Sweden. His father – a Swedish naval officer – died of cancer 3 months before Raoul was born. He was only 24 years old. His maternal grandfather died of pneumonia 3 months after Raoul was born. His mother and grandmother, now both suddenly widows, raised him together. When Raoul was 6 years old his mother remarried, and along came a step brother and a step sister for Raoul. (His step sister, Nane, later married Kofi Annan, former Secretary General of the United Nations, and is active in many humanitarian efforts.)

After high school in Sweden Raoul studied in Paris, then went to the USA to study architecture. He travelled widely and worked in South Africa and Israel. Although he came from a wealthy family, he worked at odd jobs when studying, and when travelling he would hitch hike, saying that “Hitch hiking gives you training in diplomacy and tact.”

His US qualifications were not recognised back in Sweden so he worked for an export-import company owned by Kalman Lauer, a Hungarian Jew. From the late 1930's, Lauer, being a Jew, found it increasingly difficult to travel to his native Hungary because of Nazi restrictions. So Raoul's travels to Hungary became frequent, as Lauer's representative. He soon became fluent in Hungarian. With the escalation of the persecution of Jews in Hungary, Raoul was appointed as a Swedish diplomat to go to Budapest to organise a rescue program for Hungary's Jews. (His paternal grandfather had been a diplomat.)

Raoul was only 32 years old but had developed the diplomacy and other skills required. Together with another Swedish diplomat, Per Anger, and with the permission of the Swedish government, he issued passports, established protective housing, soup kitchens, hospitals, orphanages and schools in Budapest. He rented 32 large buildings and erected signs such as “Swedish Library”, “Swedish Research Institute”, hung huge Swedish flags on the buildings and declared them protected by diplomatic immunity.

He rescued Jews from sealed deportation trains about to leave for Auschwitz (even when being shot at), and on one remarkable night he saved 70,000 Jews by having Adolph Eichmann's “final solution” orders countermanded. He was a young man of great courage. A humanitarian who made a difference.

Raoul Wallenberg is honoured around the world, having schools and streets named after him and being recognised as an Honorary Citizen of the USA, Canada, Hungary and Israel. Israel has also honoured him as one of the “Righteous Among the Nations” - the highest honour to be bestowed on a Gentile.

On 17 January 1945 the Russian troops detained Raoul Wallenberg on suspicion of espionage. He was taken to the Soviet Union and was never found, in spite of endless efforts by many people for many years. It was reported he died in 1947 in Russia, but this has never been confirmed. One rumour said he died suddenly of heart attack in a Russian prison, another said he was executed while a prisoner in Lubyanka.

Raoul's mother Maj and his stepfather Fredrik von Dardel spent the rest of their lives searching for their son. Such was their grief and despair, that tragically they both committed suicide by overdosing on pills two days apart in 1979, 34 years after Raoul had been detained by the Russians.

We owe it to this young, courageous Swedish Protestant who saved the lives of over 100,000 Jews, to keep his name alive. It is a remarkable story of one person making a difference. I am sure you now understand the reason for my pilgrimage to the Raoul Wallenberg Gardens, Kew Junction on Saturday 4th August, and for this lengthy article!

A great deal of information is available on the Internet, and in these books which the Torquay Library will make available through Inter-Library Loans (free of charge):

Raoul Wallenberg by Jenő Levai 1948
With Raoul Wallenberg in Budapest by Per Anger 1981

Wallenberg: Missing Hero by Kati Marton 1982
To Save a People by Alex Kershaw 2010

Jean Murray

POSTHUMOUS AWARD TO DR HELEN MACKENZIE

Many readers will remember the wonderful work done over many, many years by Dr Helen and Sister Cath Mackenzie at the Il Sin Hospital, Pusan, Korea. As Presbyterian missionaries, Dr Helen and Sr Cath established and developed the Il Sin Hospital into a major teaching hospital, training graduate nurses as midwives, and graduate doctors as specialist obstetricians and gynaecologists. At the same time they wanted to relieve the suffering of refugee women and children during and following the Korean War, and of poor women and children in the years that followed.

In their retirement, Dr Helen and Sr Cath lived in Melbourne, and both have now passed away. However, the Korean Government has posthumously awarded Dr Helen Mackenzie with the Mugoonghwa award to honour her work. Mugoonghwa is the national flower of Korea, the rose of Sharon. The flower's symbolic significance stems from the Korean word mugoong, meaning immortality. It is the highest possible award to be given to a civilian in Korea.

“There are no Australian missionaries in Pusan today, but the hospital, the fruit of Australian missionary endeavour, carries on the work begun by Dr Mackenzie 60 years ago, and we honour her name,” said Hyoun-mo Lim, Managing Director of Il Sin Hospital, Pusan.

(Taken from an article in September's Net Work magazine)

AUSTRALIAN INLAND MISSION / FRONTIER SERVICES

100th ANNIVERSARY

Wednesday, 26th September marks the 100th anniversary of the formation of the Australian Inland Mission by Rev John Flynn. When the Uniting Church was formed in 1977, the name was changed to Frontier Services. In 1912, Flynn was inspired to create a “mantle of safety” for the people in outback Australia where he was serving with the Presbyterian Church. He became the first Superintendent of the AIM and began opening nursing clinics/hospitals to provide basic health care, and established a network of travelling padres who visited properties and remote settlements to extend the hand of friendship and build community. With advanced transportation and communication today Frontier Services continues this long term commitment to stand with the people of isolated and remote Australia.

Perhaps Flynn's most famous initiative was establishing the Aerial Medical Service in 1928, now known as the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

A wonderful centenary celebration is planned for the evening of 26th September in the Dallas Brooks Hall, Melbourne.

FEELING WEARY? (Contributed by Vivienne Robert)

1. When you are feeling weary -
down and out and feeling blue,
when your world starts to fall apart
and you don't know what to do.
When you think your life is over
and have no reason at all to live -
put yourself into My presence
and My love to you, I give.

2. When your tears feel so heavy -
you want to set yourself free,
reach out your hand and I will take it
and pull yourself to Me.
When you feel so heavily burdened
and afraid you are much too weak,
all alone in this big world -
that's when you most need Me.

3. When your heart feels so very empty -
you cannot find a friend around,
remember I am with you -
I am always heaven found.
Remember you are special -
it's how I planned for it to be,
because, my child, you were made
In the image and likeness of Me.

4. Don't look so hard to find Me -
I'm closer than you may know,
I'm knocking on your door right now,
open it and My love will show.
No, my child, life isn't perfect -
that's because sin interfered,
but I will save you from all danger
And take away your dreaded fears.

5. When you feel all tired and worn -
your eyes tear up and you can't see,
rest yourself in my presence,
My love is for all eternity!

“I will never leave you or forsake you.” Hebrews 13: 5

THE WONDERS OF SPRING

(Adapted from Australian Prayers, Bruce D Prewer)

Wonderful God, all Your works praise You, speaking Your glory and singing Your grace;
We thank You, Lord.

For the changing moods of nature, with the signs of renewal and the promise of Springtime
We thank You, Lord.

For wattle with its golden robes, almond blossom pure as snow, the blossoming street trees and the
song of the birds in the morning;
We thank You, Lord.

For the joy of human love and warmth of friendship, and deeds and words that renew hope
We thank You, Lord.

For the deep-down springtimes of heart, mind and soul; the pleasure and inspiration from music, art
and crafts;
We thank You, Lord.

For Your word in Scripture, Your communion with us in prayer, songs of faith and inspiration, and
our fellowship within the church;
We thank You, Lord.

For Your call to new life in Christ – the call that challenges and encourages us, and the life that
inspires us;
We thank You, Lord.

For the divine love that forgives us in our human failures and renews us like living water washing
away the unlovely – and letting faith, hope and love develop like the new growth in the springtime;
We give You thanks and praise, through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

