

SURF COAST LINKED CONGREGATIONS
QUARTERLY NEWS BULLETIN
WINTER EDITION (June, July, August 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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Minister's Reflection

We have so recently celebrated Pentecost, and it seems appropriate to think some more about the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. There are some Christians who put an enormous emphasis on the demonstrations of the power of the Spirit, and of course I'm thinking of speaking in tongues and miracles. There are others who find such things distressing, even frightening. It's so interesting to read what Paul had to say to the church in Corinth, about their attitude to the work of the Spirit. They seemed to be in competition with one another to prove themselves to be the more spiritual person.

Paul spent a good deal of effort in the letter we have as 1 Corinthians to teach them that while the gifts of the Spirit are very valuable, the 'more excellent way' is the way of love. He speaks of the way God gives each of us different gifts which enrich the life of the Church, and enable us to support each other in our efforts as Christians. Paul is saying that it's not wise for us to compare ourselves with others, which might possibly lead to resentment and jealousy if we think others seem more important than we are in the "scheme of things".

When we look at the gifts we are able to contribute to the life of the Church, sometimes we may see others as doing things which appear more important than our own work. If that happens, it's quite unfortunate. God loves each one of us equally. We are not above one another in God's sight. Whatever we do to benefit others either in the Church or outside it is seen and blessed by God. None of us need ever feel less needed, less wanted, or less important than any other person.

Paul's point in writing to the Corinthians about the Church as the body of Christ is surely that the Holy Spirit has gifted each of us in different ways. All of it is essential for the life of the Church. The body of Christ really is the best way of describing this, because who we are together is 'organic', it's growing, it's changing, it's becoming more of what God wants us to be. And each one of us is a part of it. Thanks be to God.

Love from your minister, Helen.

SURF COAST PREACHING PLAN 24 JUNE TO 26 AUGUST 2012

<u>USUAL WORSHIP TIMES:</u>		Anglesea – 9.00 am	Aireys Inlet – 10.30 am
		Torquay – 9.30 am	Bellbrae – 11.00 am
24 JUNE	COMBINED SERVICE AND SHARED LUNCH – UCA Anniversary 10.30 am, Aireys Inlet Community Hall		REV HELEN ROBINSON
27 JUNE	10.30 AM COMMUNION, ANGLESEA		REV HELEN ROBINSON
1 JULY	ANGLESEA AIREYS INLET 10:30 AM TORQUAY & BELLBRAE, HC		WORSHIP TEAM ANGLICAN CHURCH REV HELEN ROBINSON
3 JULY	ELOUERA, 2.15 PM		REV HELEN / JEAN M.
8 JULY	ANGLESEA & AIREYS INLET, HC TORQUAY BELLBRAE		REV HELEN ROBINSON WORSHIP TEAM WORSHIP TEAM
11 JULY	10.30 AM COMMUNION, ANGLESEA		REV HELEN ROBINSON
15 JULY	ANGLESEA AIREYS INLET TORQUAY & BELLBRAE		ANGLICAN CHURCH REV HELEN ROBINSON
22 JULY	ANGLESEA & AIREYS INLET TORQUAY & BELLBRAE		REV HELEN ROBINSON BRIAN SHAW
29 JULY (5 th Sun)	ANGLESEA/AIREYS/TORQUAY/BELLBRAE		WORSHIP TEAMS
5 AUGUST	ANGLESEA AIREYS INLET 10:30 AM TORQUAY & BELLBRAE, HC		WORSHIP TEAM ANGLICAN CHURCH REV HELEN ROBINSON
7 AUGUST	ELOUERA, 2.15 PM		REV HELEN / JEAN M
8 AUGUST	10.30 AM COMMUNION, ANGLESEA		REV HELEN ROBINSON
12 AUGUST	ANGLESEA & AIREYS INLET, HC TORQUAY BELLBRAE		REV HELEN ROBINSON WORSHIP TEAM WORSHIP TEAM
19 AUGUST	ANGLESEA AIREYS INLET TORQUAY & BELLBRAE		ANGLICAN CHURCH REV HELEN ROBINSON
22 AUGUST	10.30 AM COMMUNION, ANGLESEA		REV HELEN ROBINSON
26 AUGUST	ANGLESEA & AIREYS INLET TORQUAY & BELLBRAE		REV HELEN ROBINSON JEAN MURRAY

STOP PRESS: IMPORTANT NEWS FOR EVERYONE

There will NOT be any worship services conducted in our four churches on SUNDAY 24th JUNE. Instead we will be gathering together in the Aireys Inlet Community Hall for combined worship and lunch to celebrate the 35th Anniversary of the formation of the Uniting Church in Australia. **PLEASE PASS THIS NEWS ON TO EVERYONE SO THAT NO ONE IS LEFT ALONE AT ANY OF OUR CHURCHES ON THAT DAY.** If you have room in your car for passengers, **PLEASE OFFER A LIFT TO SOMEONE TO COME WITH YOU.** Further details are set out below.

COMBINED CAFE CHURCH SERVICE FOR THE CHURCHES OF THE SURF COAST UNITING CHURCH - 10.30 AM - SUNDAY 24th JUNE

Members and friends are invited to arrive at the Aireys Inlet Community Hall at 10:30 AM on Sunday June 24th, 2012 to have a hot drink and fellowship prior to taking their places at tables for Worship followed by a shared lunch, where Aireys members are looking forward to hosting members of the other three congregations with hot soup and crusty bread at the commencement of lunch. Others are asked to bring a plate or either savouries or sweets.

The Aireys Inlet Community Hall is located on the Great Ocean Road, left-hand side as you enter Aireys from the Anglesea direction. You will see the large car park and tennis courts adjacent to the hall. Looking forward to seeing you there.

If you wish to make last minute donations of goods for the Old Timers Fete (Alice Springs), please bring them with you to this Combined Service. Jean Murray will be at the lunch and will willingly accept your gifts.

AIREYS INLET NEWS – MARCH, APRIL, MAY 2012

The Annual General Meeting

Aireys Inlet congregation had its AGM after worship on Mar 25th. The results of the election of office bearers for the remainder of this year were; Chairperson – Keith Bremner, Secretary – Phyllis Mill, Treasurer – Ray Mill, representative to Presbytery – Jim Barton, Linked Council reps – Edie Barton, Noni Johnson.

Coffee and Chat

We have continued to enjoy Coffee and Chat on the first Friday of each month. At these get togethers we have discussed our future involvement in the JWOC projects in Cambodia.

Church services

We have enjoyed welcoming visitors to our Sunday church services and wish to thank Helen and other worship leaders for their inspirational services. It was a pleasure to celebrate Easter Sunday with a full church and joyous singing. For the winter months, the Aireys Inlet Uniting Church congregation has joined with the local Anglican congregation for Sunday services. Worship leadership alternates between the two denominations and while we have heard a lot of “what do we do now?” as both groups face unknown traditions and rituals, the experience has led to warm fellowship between the two groups. Watch this space to find out if it becomes a winter tradition between the two church congregations.

Outreach Team Initiatives

May 1st Band Concert

Our May 1st Band concert was a huge success. Over a hundred people gathered for lunch followed by the concert. The audience knew they were in for a treat when two flag bearers marched into Aireys Inlet Community Centre, as the 45 strong Salvation Army Melbourne Veterans' Band struck up their first number. Toes were soon tapping as the trombone section sounded out the next item, Seventy Six Trombones. The 90-minute program featured a great variety of music including popular vocal solos and television theme tunes and some traditional hymns, bringing back memories from times when Salvo bands were a familiar sight on city street corners and in country towns.

The concert was the brain wave of Joan Richardson. Joan read an article about the band in the Seniors magazine and recognized the name of the band's executive officer, Howard Davies, who had been a fellow employee at the National Bank in the 1950s. As part of its program of outreach in the community the Uniting Church congregation was planning to hold a concert in Aireys Inlet. Joan said, "We were delighted when the band and their entourage agreed to make the journey to the Surf Coast."

Cyber safety Seminar

The Outreach team is working towards presenting a series of seminars to the Aireys Inlet/Lorne Schools and the community on Cyber safety. Arguably Australia's foremost expert on cyber safety, Susan McLean, has agreed to lead these seminars. In order to offer this to the community we have applied for several grants. While we await results from two of the grants, we are happy to report that we were successful in receiving a \$1000 grant from the Surf Coast Shire.

BELLBRAE BRIC A BRAC AND BELLBRAE BOOK ROOM

Following an appeal from "Concern", very generous donations of winter woollies have been made from the Bric a Brac shelves and store room to Uniting Care Geelong - "Concern". No doubt there will be many clients warmed and comforted by these items. The Bric a Brac also supported our appeal for toys for the Old Timers Fete in Alice Springs by generously donating bags and bags of nearly-new soft toys. The toys have all been washed and placed attractively in separate plastic bags. No doubt they will sell well at the fete!

There is nothing like curling up, warm and cosy, with a good book to read on these chilly winter days and nights. The Bellbrae Book Room has a wonderful variety of books which will provide many hours of good reading. Come and buy your winter supply of books!

The Bellbrae Bric a Brac and the Book Room are open on Thursdays and Fridays from 10 am to 4 pm, and on Saturdays from 10 am to 1 pm.

FROM THE ARCHIVES – SOME BELLBRAE HISTORY

"It is interesting to note in 1866, only thirty-one years after the first service in Melbourne, thirty-two people were meeting in a "Class Meeting" (a regular weeknight devotional gathering) in the Jan Juc area under the leadership of a Mr Bland and a Mr Musgrove.

In February 1868 at the Geelong Local Preachers' meeting it was notified that preaching services were to begin at Jan Juc, as Bellbrae was then known.

In February 1868, land for a church was granted by the Government. In March of that same year, permission was given by the Geelong Methodist Circuit Quarterly Meeting for the building of a church on this land in Jan Juc. The church building was completed in 1869 and by January of that year worship was being conducted twice each Sunday at Jan Juc.

Many of these services were conducted by Local Preachers from the Geelong Circuit who rode out on horseback, often conducting three and sometimes four services, then returning to Geelong in time to resume their business or work early Monday morning.

Jan Juc was part of the Geelong Circuit and by 1869 the Church Membership had risen to 51 members. In 1872 no fewer than 42 children were attending the Jan Juc Sunday School.

The closing service of the original Jan Juc church, but this time known as Bellbrae, was held on December 30th, 1956”

(From Historical Outline – Bellbrae U.C. 110th Church Anniversary Celebration. 1978)

Thank you to Rev Joe Fraser for this article from the Archives.

NEWS FROM TORQUAY

HEATHER CLUB – 50 YEARS YOUNG

The Heather Club was founded at the Manse by the Rev Dunkley's wife in May 1962. For 25 years (1962 – 1986) up to 56 members were tireless fundraisers. To-day there are only 8 girls who still meet monthly for coffee and a chat, or to celebrate a special event, such as an 80th birthday.

During the active years the Heather Club raised money for the church through catering for Deb Balls, Weddings and Ministers' Conferences, running Street Stalls and stalls at Joan Cairney's home (opposite the former school) on Election Days, as well as creating and selling thousands of recipe books. Those were the days when the church had nothing!!! There was a hall, but the Heather Club supplied the crockery, cutlery, crystal, and tablecloths. Food was all homemade – meats, salads, cream cakes, pavs, trifles, fruit punch. Lots of hard work, but lots of fun and fellowship working together.

They knitted for the Bethany Babies' Home, cooked Christmas cakes, and made hampers for Kildonan. They visited and served afternoon tea to the Huntington Disease folk and did hospital visitation courses at Wesley Church. Heather Club members worked tirelessly for the yearly Church Fete. They joined with the Evening Ladies' Fellowship at Anglesea, and today belong to the Torquay Afternoon Fellowship.

Judith Duffield

FUNDRAISER TO STOKE CHANGE – SUCCESSFUL EVENT AT TORQUAY

Thank you to all the people who attended the concert at Torquay given by Lucy Wise and Micha Herman on Sunday 10 June. Thank you to all the people who made and served afternoon tea. Lucy and Mischa enthralled the audience singing their own compositions, accompanied by Mischa on his accordion and Lucy playing a variety of instruments made by her father. It was wonderful to see so many people enjoying original music in the comfort of our church. We all had a very pleasant afternoon.

The support for Africa Clean Stoves has been beyond expectations. With money paid for concert tickets and donations to the project (including a generous donation from the Torquay Afternoon Fellowship), a total of \$790 is being forwarded to Hearts for Africa to support the project. Current plans are to set up the first hub at St John's University, Dodoma, Tanzania, in October this year, at the beginning of the new academic year. The latest news is that the team in Dodoma has found local metal workers who can make pellet burning stoves for \$20 each - a great saving on the initial price of \$50 for stoves imported from China, and of great benefit to the local economy.

Val Clarke

OFFICIAL CENTENARY CELEBRATION

Already many activities have been held in Alice Springs, as part of their Heritage Week, to celebrate 100 years since the inauguration of the Australian Inland Mission by Rev John Flynn. The Uniting Church's Frontier Services continues the work of the Australian Inland Mission. On Wednesday 26th September 2012, an official Centenary Celebration will be held in the Dallas Brooks Centre, Melbourne, from 7 pm to 10.30 pm. This date marks 100 years to the day since the work of spreading "The Mantle of Safety" over remote Australia began. All are welcome to attend.

Other Centenary activities include:

17 July, Nissan Simpson Desert Commemorative Crossing – from Birdsville.

10 August, Centenary Exhibition, National Library of Australia, Canberra.

18 August, Centenary Classic Outback Trial – from Forbes NSW to Renmark SA.

GOODS FOR OLD TIMERS FETE, ALICE SPRINGS

There has been a wonderful response to our request for items for the annual fete at the Old Timers Aged Care Complex in Alice Springs. Thank you to all who have contributed in any way. We have received some wonderful items including beautiful knitware - colourful knee rugs, scarves and beanies. We have a delightful collection of children's summer clothing (thanks to a monetary donation from a friend at St David's, Newtown) which enabled clothing to be purchased during the Summer Sales, and recently the Bellbrae Bric a Brac donated bags and bags of lovely soft toys. We have many boxes of good quality items to take to the Synod Office. These will then be transported by rail to Alice Springs in time for the August fete.

Your last opportunity for donating items is at the lunch following the Combined Service at Aireys Inlet Community Hall on **SUNDAY 24th JUNE.**

Once again, a heartfelt thanks to all who have supported this outreach work of Frontier Services.

Jean Murray

SAMMY STAMP'S NEWS

Every Thursday a pool of volunteers (usually around 22 of them) arrive at the Synod Office, Little Collins Street, Melbourne, to trim and sort stamps. Their message is "Please keep those stamps rolling in. We are just getting enough to satisfy our eager customers."

A Torquay gentleman is part of this volunteer pool and is willing to transport our stamps to Melbourne each week. Recently we received some old Stamp Albums – these are always very valuable. Please continue to save your stamps and place them in the usual collection boxes. Rev Helen is more than willing to take them to Torquay for transportation to Melbourne. Thank you to everyone who saves those "little bits of paper" for Sammy Stamp. Up until mid-April the sales of stamps for this year had reached \$10,825.

THE END OF AN ERA AT LORNE

In 1922 a property, known as Wee-Loo, was built by Miss Margaret Dennis, to a design by her brother, Mr Richard Dennis. The Dennis family were early pioneers whose first home was Tarndwarncoort, near Colac. They were the first to breed Polwarth sheep. The late Miss Margaret Dennis had always been associated with the Noorat Presbyterian Church. In 1957 she gave the house at Lorne to the church, to be administered by the Presbytery of Barwon, for use as a holiday home for ministers and missionaries.

The house was divided into two flats, Wee-Loo and Willaring. To enable these holiday flats to have the fullest use, permission had later been given to extend the privilege to other Uniting Church families, whilst still giving preference to clergy. They were very popular with retired clergy, too. There have been opportunities in later years, in the missionary spirit, to give holidays to refugees and single parents at a lower rate. It has also been suitable for small group retreats.

The accommodation offered was very, very basic (compared to Lorne's holiday accommodation standards), but was appreciated over those 55 years by many hundreds of people. For a variety of reasons, and with the guidance of the Presbytery of Port Phillip West, the flats have now been sold, thus bringing to an end the era of holidays at Wee-Loo and Willaring.

"YOU ARE MY SUNSHINE, MY ONLY SUNSHINE"

A True Story

Like any good mother, when Karen found out that another baby was on the way, she did what she could to help her three-year-old son, Michael, prepare for a new sibling. They found out that the new baby was going to be a girl. Day after day, Michael sang to his sister in mummy's tummy. He was building a bond of love with his little sister, even before he even met her.

The pregnancy progressed normally for Karen, an active member of the local Methodist Church.

In time, the labour pains came, but serious complications arose. Finally Michael's little baby sister was born, but in a serious condition. The paediatrician had to tell the parents that there was very little hope and to be prepared for the worst.

Baby remained in Intensive Care for 2 weeks, and still in a critical condition. Eventually Michael was allowed in to see her. He gazed at the tiny infant losing the battle to live. After a moment, he began to sing. "You are my sunshine, my only sunshine, you make me happy when skies are gray."

Instantly the baby girl seemed to respond. The pulse rate calmed down and became steady. "Keep on singing, Michael" his parents pleaded – and he did. The very next day the little girl was well enough to get out of ICU, and she went home two weeks later.

Woman's Day magazine called it "The Miracle of a Brother's Song". Karen called it a miracle of God's love.

Never give up on the people you love. Love is so incredibly powerful!

Peter Heath – My Story

I was born 16.12.43 at Moonee Ponds, the oldest of five boys. We grew up in rental accommodation in a concrete housing commission house in Braybrook. My dad purchased his first house in Heathcote when he retired.

Braybrook and Maidstone was a great place to grow up, so many kids to play with. We made life time friends. I went to Braybrook School and later transferred to the new school built at Tottenham North.

I attended Sunshine High School and scraped through with my leaving certificate just before my 16th birthday. My greatest achievement at school was playing in the football team in the annual match with Sunshine Tech. with all the students of both schools watching.

Jobs were easy to get, I started work the next year at the Motor Registration Branch in the annex of the Exhibition Buildings and in what I consider the biggest break of my life I was assigned to the Data Processing Division. So began my love of technology.

I was encouraged to study by my boss and eventually obtained a Diploma of Public Administration at RMIT. This enabled me to progress through the grades and when I resigned in my early thirties, I was the Training Officer.

After resigning, Faye and I travelled around Australia for a while, we came back, I went to work in her family's business in St Albans. The locals came to refer to the business as "Hampton's Corner", Hampton was Faye's maiden name.

My introduction to the church came when my parents (who did not attend church) sent me and my brother to Sunday School at the Maidstone Church of Christ. I did not know it at the time but that church changed my life, we attended not only Sunday School, we went to youth groups, we played cricket for the church team and we made life long friends.

I met my wife Faye there, Faye's dad was the Church Secretary, Faye's mum played the organ, Faye and I were married there and the boys' club which I was helping to run formed our guard of honour.

After we were married Faye and I built a house in East Keilor which was open paddocks at the time. We had two children, Carolyn and Travis. Between them they have given us five beautiful grand children, two girls and three boys aging from seven down to two. We attended the St Marks Uniting Church East Keilor until we moved to Anglesea in 2006 and we have many good friends at that church.

Our house in Anglesea was the holiday house of Faye's parents. We used to love to come down as young people, our grandchildren love to come down as children, how lucky are they.

After the business at St Albans closed down I worked for a Food Supply Firm for a year or so as their bookkeeper. Unfortunately, the 18% interest rates at the time forced them out of business. I found that I was suddenly too old to employ, so to keep a long story short, I got a chance to work one day a week doing the books for a company which magically turned in six different companies five days a week, and today more than twenty years later I am still working one day a week for one of those companies.

I have been blessed by God and life is still very good.