

Welcome to the Surf Coast Uniting Church newsletter.

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We acknowledge that we meet to worship on the land of the Wadawurrung people and pay our respects to their elders past and present, and emerging. Find out more at www.wadawurrung.org.au.

A CALL TO PRAYER week 6 by Maxine Flakemore

What seems insurmountable.

I heard a story once about a tour group visiting a factory. People were taken to a room to view a massive elongated bar of steel weighing about 250 kilos, suspended vertically by a chain. Near it was an average sized piece of cork, suspended by a silk thread.

The tour guide explained to the visitors that they were about to see something happen which would seem impossible.

"This cork is going to set the steel bar in motion!"

Everybody laughed as he pulled the cork slightly to the side of its original position and released it. The cork swung gently against the steel bar, which remained motionless.

This motion by the cork continued for 10 minutes, striking the steel bar. Finally, the steel bar vibrated slightly.

The people left the room chuckling and continued their tour of the factory. As they were leaving the factory an hour later, they passed through the room again and were amazed to discover the huge steel bar swinging like the pendulum of a clock!

Many of us can feel overwhelmed by circumstance at times. We can begin to feel that we are small and insignificant and that our striving is in vain.

We can be tempted to think ***"I'm only one, what can I do to create change!"***

Jesus came to remind us that each one of us is important and loved individually by God. The scriptures are filled with examples of people who on the verge of failure or disaster experienced God's answers and empowerment in their lives. All big things have started from small. Jesus reminded us that the kingdom of God is like a mustard seed. It first starts from the smallest of tiny seeds and becomes the largest tree.

Sometimes in a small congregation of believers we can also feel like the little piece of cork and feel overwhelmed. We can be tempted to think that it's large numbers we need to attract, in order to be able to survive. I am encouraged by reading exodus 16, of how God provided daily manna for the Israelites for 40 years, to sustain them after their exodus from 400 years of slavery in Egypt. They had become totally reliant on everything that Egypt provided for them. In the desert wilderness, they needed to be taught to rely only on their faith in God. God's instructions were very clear and continual daily faith was required to follow them. When the Israelites disobeyed, the manna spoiled.

Jesus timely reminder to us is that we are not alone. He is with us. We can talk to Him through every moment in prayer.

His Kingdom here on earth started out with 12 insignificant flawed people. He called to them, they left what they were doing and followed Him. ***And all He requires is a willing heart.***

Prayer points for this week are:

- ***To name our blessings and give thanks for all we receive.***
- ***To give thanks for what we are learning and for how we are growing together, as we work through the financial issues we are currently challenged with.***

Lectionary Readings

July 11:

Amos 7: 7-14

Ps 24

Eph: 1:3-14

Mk 6: 14-29

Preaching Roster

July 11th: Pentecost 7

Airey's Inlet 9.30am

Bellbrae: 11:00am.

.....Robert Packett

Torquay 9.30:

Rev Suzie Sermon. HC

July 18th: Pentecost 8

Airey's Inlet 9.30am

& Bellbrae: 11:00am.

Rev Suzie Castle

Torquay 9.30:

Rev Suzie Castle Video

Reconciliation in the Park, Take 2 is on THIS SUNDAY!

A day filled with fun activities celebrating the Aboriginal community and sharing the culture with non Indigenous and Indigenous people.

The theme for National Reconciliation Week 2021 is: "More than a word. Reconciliation takes action".

Reconciliation in the Park 2021, Take 2
11 July 10am-3pm

Johnstone Park

[#EventsGeelong](#)

For more: <https://bit.ly/3aQ14Ss>

Opportunities for Giving:

Weekly offerings can be made via direct debit or credit to the congregation account :

BSB: 083-929 and Account Number 93-009-8403

Account Name: **Surfcoast Uniting Church**

Please identify your congregation in the notes area:

Aireys Inlet:3231AI, Bellbrae:3228BB or Torquay:3228TQ

OUR NEXT COMBINED SERVICE:

Sunday 29th August @ Bellbrae- Celebration of Ministry:
Time, Talents, Creation & Treasure

The Torquay UC are hosting a Christmas in July Casserole Lunch with Plum Pudding.

A great opportunity to have some fun and enjoy company and a delicious meal.

On Sunday July 25th we will worship in a café church style in OTP at 9:30am and then follow through with some carol singing before the casserole lunch.

If you can't attend worship you are still very welcome to come to the luncheon, beginning about 11:30am ; the cost is \$10 per person



The very blessed sacrament of Baptism and Confirmation was celebrated last Sunday in Torquay with **Sam Nolan** being baptised and confirmed and **Alan Harper** being confirmed.



Many congratulations and blessings to both of you as you continue your journeys of faith.

FUTURE events: PUT THEM IN THE DIARY...

SURF COAST ARTS Trail is back on for 2021 and both Torquay & Bellbrae congregations will be involved.

Venues are dotted around the Shire where artists who don't have home studios will be on hand to talk visitors through their artistic process, in the presence of their work .



Call John A at Bellbrae, or Robyn H at Torquay to volunteer.

Aireys Inlet congregation is planning to have a

"FAMILY PET FAIR" in the church grounds on Saturday 16th October- 10:00am-1:00pm.



This will be Aireys' major community outreach for the year, with the following aims:

1. To engage with our community, sharing our faith, including our love for creation and its animals.
2. To provide a focus for one aspect of our two month long Stewardship campaign.
3. To stage a family event that taps into something dear to the people of Aireys Inlet-their pets.

We plan to have a Petting Zoo, presentations by local Vet, Liz Brown, Wildlife Rescue people, the Rubbish Rangers, and the local naturalist 'Possum Pete'.

Other planned activities include 'Pet Blessing' , face painting, pet grooming, pets as therapy, native birds in your garden, pet rock painting, and novelty pet competitions. We hope to run a raffle, a pet related OP Shop stall, a coffee Van and a BBQ lunch.

To help ensure that the event is a great success we are appealing for volunteers to help on the day—please contact Mary B (0427701275)

We would also appreciate any donations towards our three raffle prizes— a basket of goodies, a children's' basket, and a Pet related basket.

Second hand pet articles and children's' books suitable for the Op shop stall would also be gladly accepted, as well as old sheets, towels, etc, suitable for use by the Wildlife Rescue people.

If you wish to donate any of the above please contact Edie (5289 7415 or Suzie (0421023197)

Dineout is on again Monday July 14th at 12 noon at the Beach Hotel, Jan Juc. All welcome, Call Jean Elder on 0409969392

Aireys' Inlet St Aidan's Church, 29 Great Ocean Road, Aireys Inlet. aireysinletunitingchurch@gmail.com

Bellbrae: Bellbrae Uniting Church. School & Anglesea Roads, Bellbrae

Torquay: Torquay Uniting Church, 27 Anderson Street, Torquay

BELLBRAE BRIC-A-BRAC OP SHOP & BOOK ROOM :Uniting Church Hall, School Road, Bellbrae. Ph: 5261 5139

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS and all queries to: newslettersurfcoastuc@gmail.com DEADLINE: Thursday at 4pm

The Surf Coast Linked Congregations Council met on the 6th July.

The Forward in Faith group has been hard at work and many of you will have been present at meetings where Mary Bremner and Noni Johnson have presented information about the shortfall we are currently encountering and the financial models under consideration.

The SCLCC agreed to the following plans:

We will hold a two month long Stewardship campaign over September and October that covers the topics of Talents, Time, Care for Creation and Treasure. These themes will carry through the church services. The combined service on August 29th at Bellbrae will kick off the campaign with a visiting speaker, Jonathan Cornford, to introduce the concepts. We appreciate all the thought, preparation and planning that Suzie has put into these services and they promise to be a time of great learning.

Information will be distributed to congregation members on the financial needs of the church, current income, including the amount of our current giving and the figures that we are aiming for.

Over these two months, congregation members will be given the opportunity to make a pledge of their giving to the church.

We propose that each congregation will be allocated a target for their annual giving, which includes both weekly offering and fund raising. The target will be calculated according to the number of regular church members for each congregation with the current estimate for Torquay 70%, Bellbrae 18% and Aireys Inlet 12%. Final figures have not been finalised and are indicative only at this stage.

Please continue to discuss these issues and raise questions with your representatives on Forward in Faith or SCLCC. Make your feelings known your Church Council members, as Church Councils will be asked to formally adopt these in principle plans before August 22nd and they will then come to the next meeting of SCLCC on August 24th.

The Forward in Faith group shown amazing resilience and has been blessed with enthusiasm and persistence to get some alternative options. Please engage with this process as it will underpin our future as church on the Surf Coast.

Chair of SCLCC Rosemary Thompson

One of our OTP clients from the singing group noticed the Frogmouths were back in our tree and shared this great photo.

Good to see they are keeping an eye on us.



At **Oak Tree Place**, we have classes in Yoga, Qigong, Bridge, Karate, Wellness & Meditation & Surfside Choir plus our church Coffee & Kids playtime. In Term 3 there will be some vacant times slots. Email oaktree-placerentals@gmail.com to enquire re renting space.

Happy Birthday to

Joan Duval, Joan Harding, Jane Skelton, and Isla Gambetta

OPSHOP NEWS - we'd love a few more winter workers please call Helen on 0438 639 609 to fill a space

Friday 9th JULY: 1pm to 4pm: Sam, Val & Suzie

Saturday 10th JULY: AM: Helen, John A, Carleen

Saturday 10th JULY PM: Suzie, Lyn B, Carol M

WANTED: Tip vouchers for the Anglesea Tip. Do you have any excess Tip Vouchers for this year? The OP-SHOP is always needing to dump material which they cannot sell and would love to keep costs low by using any unused Tip Vouchers. Call Bev Hooper on 0419 221 514 to offer your vouchers. **THANKS**



NAIDOC week finishes today for 2021!

This year's national NAIDOC poster, 'Care for Country' was designed by Gubbi Gubbi artist Maggie-Jean Douglas, and is seen behind the statement shared below

