

Surfcoast Uniting Churches Newsletter

For assistance, please contact :

(Torquay) Jane Skelton:0400 190 580

(Bellbrae) Maxine Flakemore:0422 632 809

(Aireys Inlet) Keith & Mary Bremner:0427 701 276

Rev Bob Thomas : 0479 169 931



Sunday 19th February 2023

We acknowledge that we meet and worship on the land of the Wadawurrung people and pay our respects to their elders past and present.

Find out more at www.wadawurrung.org.au.



Giving Hope on the Coast

The Aireys Inlet congregation is working to resettle a refugee family on the Surf Coast.

This is part of the Community Refugee Integration and Settlement Pilot (CRISP) program, which is inspired by the successful Canadian community refugee sponsorship scheme and supported by the Australian government.

We have called our project "Giving Hope on the Coast."



The people brought to Australia under this program will be in addition to Australia's annual humanitarian intake. The families are currently offshore (eg Syria, Afghanistan, Myanmar) and have been deemed to be in urgent need of resettlement by the UNHCR (United Nations High Commission for Refugees). They will be granted permanent residency by the Australian Government.

The Uniting Outreach group is supporting the Aireys Inlet Rural Australians for Refugees (AIRAR) who have also formed a sponsor group under the banner "Bring Them Here". The family sponsored by AIRAR will arrive early in the year, followed by the Uniting Outreach family.

This is both an exciting and challenging undertaking. In order to offer a refugee family a new start and a brighter future, the team will commit to supporting the family for their first year, including help to find housing, employment, a car, access to education, medical and social services, familiarising them with the local community, and helping them settle into their new life in their new country.

While the family has access to Centrelink support and will be aiming to get employment as soon as possible, additional financial support will be necessary. This is expected to be approximately \$25,000 for the year.

We are very grateful to have received generous donations from the Surf Coast Linked congregations and the Simpson Fund. However, we need more and are currently embarking on a concerted effort to raise funds. If you would like to contribute, or have suggestions for other avenues for funding, details are below.

To find out more about the program go to <https://refugeesponsorship.org.au/>. You can follow the group's Facebook page – search for "Giving Hope on the Coast" or use this link Giving Hope on the Coast.

For donations: A/C: Surf Coast Uniting Church, BSB: 083-929, Account: 20-987-6337.

Reference must include "CRISP" and some identifying information.

For more information contact: Mary Bremner 0427701275, bremnerkm@gmail.com



We are grounded in a belief that every life matters and that faith, by itself, without works, is not true faith.

James 2:14-23

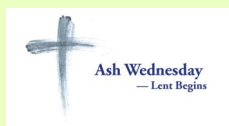


Sunday Feb 19th: Transfiguration of Jesus

Aireys Inlet @ 9:30am Rev Bob Thomas
Bellbrae @ 11am Rev Bob Thomas
Torquay @ 9.30am Pherina Tuaiti

Ash Wednesday Feb 22nd.

Combined Reflective Service



@ Bellbrae at
10am

Sunday Feb 26th : Lent 1

Aireys Inlet @ 9:30am Rev Bob Thomas
Bellbrae @ 11am Brian Shaw
Torquay @ 9.30am Rev Bob Thomas

Events this MONTH and beyond

Bunnings BBQ@ Torquay Bunnings: Saturday 18th Feb. Thank you our roster is full, but DO come along for a delicious sausage and contribute to our surfcoast fundraising.

Pot Luck Supper at OTP at 6.30pm on Saturday 18th to meet the Tuaiti family. We will share a meal with Pherina Tuaiti and her family who are leading our worship this Sunday at Torquay. Pherina and her family are members of West Brunswick Uniting Church and hail from the Cook Islands. They led worship at both Aireys and Bellbrae in early 2022 and will share lots of music with us. Please join us with a plate to share for dinner—salads, cold meat, finger food, and sweets of any sort!

Pancake Day

Tuesday 21st February

12 noon to 3.00pm for table service

Very reasonable prices, two toppings, huge pancakes!

(We have take-away for school children & families

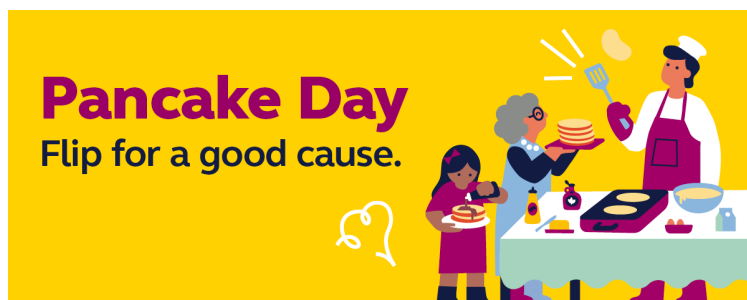
3.00 to 3.45pm)

@ Aireys Inlet Community Hall.

Tea and coffee served with a smile.

Check out pancakeday.com.au to buy a virtual pancake

All our proceeds to [Barwon Uniting](#)



Learn more
pancakeday.com.au

Uniting

An ecumenical Lenten Bible Study will be held at St Aidan's

Church, Aireys Inlet. Starting on Thursday, February 23rd at 10:30 AM. Anglican priest Rev Sharon Valentino will lead the first two studies. Rev Bob Thomas will lead the remaining studies. We will use the Anglican Board of Mission study booklet, "The Imaginary Doorway" by Stephen Daughtry. All welcome. For more information contact, celebrant.noni@gmail.com

Pastoral Care Meeting @ Torquay for all interested Tuesday 28th February at 2pm at Oak Tree Place.

Geelong Progressive Christianity Discussion Gp –Thurs 23rd Feb 1.30-3.30pm

Waurm Ponds Library Meeting Room, 230 Pioneer Rd Grovedale (next to Leisurelink) & by Zoom

At our first meeting for 2023 we will discuss two short Youtube videos. One a short sermon offered by Rev Dr Barbara Brown Taylor on the Good Samaritan stories. "The Right Answer," It has interesting depth on this well known biblical story; while being delivered in a lively manner. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wds3OxzHNAI>

The second is an armchair interview with Dr Diana Butler Bass suggesting "that people who are leaving church, or people who call themselves spiritual but not religious, are raising really significant questions about faith, about community life and about the future of religion that religious leaders should pay more attention to."

<https://www.pbs.org/wnet/religionandethics/2013/03/15/october-26-2012-diana-butler-bass-extended-interview/13585/>

You are welcome to view these interesting videos even if you don't wish to join the meeting. Contact Heather on 0409176319 to attend the meeting via Zoom or ask any questions

Coffee Time for everyone: Thursdays 10:30am @ Bomboras, Torquay

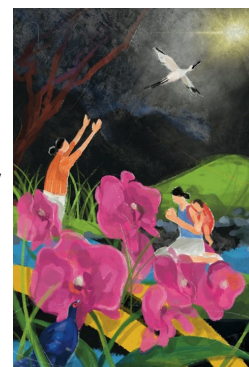
Beaut Beanies meet Tuesday morning 10:30 in the TQ church foyer

Coffee and Kids @ OTP - Fridays at 9:30am during term time @ OTP.

**EVERY
WEEK**

World Day of Prayer

On the Surf-
coast
@ Torquay
Uniting
1pm on Friday
3rd March



Country this year is Taiwan.
Everyone welcome

Thanks to all who are honoring their financial pledges and those who give what they are able, so we may continue to worship and serve our communities. Gifts are valued in electronic or paper format.

Surfcoast Uniting Church.

NAB : BSB: 083-929 & Acc No: 93-009-8403. ADD notes:
Aireys AI3231; Bellbrae BB3228; Torquay TQ 3228

OUR CHURCHES
ON THE SURF-
COAST

Airey's Inlet St Aidan's Church, 29 Great Ocean Rd, Airey's Inlet.
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
Open Fridays and Saturdays 10am to 4pm.