

# Surfcoast Uniting Churches Newsletter

For assistance, please contact :  
(Torquay) Jane Skelton  
(Bellbrae) Maxine Flakemore  
(Aireys Inlet) Keith & Mary Bremner  
Rev Bob Thomas : 0479 169 931  
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Sunday 11th November 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](http://www.wadawurrung.org.au).*

Lectionary readings : Pent 24 [32] Jos 24:1-3a, 14-25 Ps 78:1-7 1 Thes 4:13-18 Mt 25:1-13

## GIVING HOPE ON THE COAST REPORT

It's been such a pleasure to finally greet our refugee family from Venezuela. Yaritza, Jhon and Camila still managed to have huge smiles on their faces when they arrived in Melbourne two weeks ago, after a 40 hour journey from Trinidad – the country where they took refuge after having to flee their home country four years ago.



Thank you to everyone at Torquay who gave the family such a warm welcome at the recent combined service – on only their second day in Australia. They have since joined us for worship at Aireys and enjoyed the relaxed vibe. We happened to be blessing prayer shawls that morning, so we took the opportunity to present one each to Yaritza and the children

Activities the family took part in during their first week included “trick or treating” with the local children for Halloween and our Lunch at the Pub on Friday, where Yaritza brought a traditional dessert to share. The family visited the Aireys Inlet School Fair on the weekend – the school donated wrist bands for the children, and they took full advantage of their unlimited rides.

The family are Spanish speakers and have very little English. Priorities for the support group have been keeping the family fed and warm, opening a bank account for Yaritza, getting her Centrelink payments started, orientating them in the town, shopping for food and essential needs for the house, getting school uniforms for the children, setting up English lessons for Yaritza and exploring employment options for her. She says she will go “loco” stuck in the house!

This week Camila and Jhon are attending the Aireys Inlet Primary School for half days, building up to full days next week. They have been given a very warm welcome by the school and Yaritza is already in the grade parents' WhatsApp group.

Jhon has been very keen to hit the surf – an activity we have given him lots of warnings about. At last the weather has been good enough for them to dip in the ocean, but they found it rather cold. The children are also enthusiastic about the idea of owning a dog – we are encouraging offering their services to walk local dogs as a starting point.

Thanks again to all of our wonderful Surf Coast UC people for your encouragement and support with this ambitious venture.

Mary Bremner

## “We gather here” by Barbara Hamilton-Holway

“Let us listen to the silence of this sacred space. We live at mystery's edge, watching for a startling luminescence or a word to guide us. Daily, there are glimmers, reflections of a seamless mercy, revealed in common intricacies. These circles of grace spill out around us, and announce that we are a part of that mystery. “

And in our prayers we pause to remember those among us who are unwell , recovering from surgery, undergoing treatments, or waiting for results. We pray for our world, where too many old wounds continue to hurt the lives of people today. We pray for those working towards peace and harmony. May all those with helping, forgiving hands reach out with love to heal the pain so many suffer from.

Amen

## Lest we Forget 11 November



Remember the Coffee Challenge..  
Keep those donations coming



Deadline for items for our newsletter to be sent to [newslettersurfcoastuc@gmail.com](mailto:newslettersurfcoastuc@gmail.com) by 4pm on Thursday of each week

### Sunday 12th November

Torquay 9.30am Rev Bob/ H.C  
Bellbrae 11am - Rev Bob/ HC  
Aireys 9.30am—Rev Bob Viideo



Check out our web page for all the  
sermons and diary updates.

[www.surfcoastunitingchurch.org.au](http://www.surfcoastunitingchurch.org.au)

### Sunday 19th November

Torquay 9.30am Rev Bob Video  
Bellbrae 11am - Rev Bob Video  
Aireys Inlet 9.30am—Rev Bob



## What's Happening where we live?

### Our Community Dates and Events:

- At Bellbrae Roofing Repairs are being started in November on the Op Shop Roof and early 2024 for the Church Roof. Look out for workers and equipment if you are on site.
- Bellbrae Working Bee.** Sat Nov 11th at 12 noon onwards.  
Bellbrae welcomes all hands from our three congregations ; so come along and help tidy the church property.

### December Dates:

- Saturday 2nd December:** Amahl & The Night Visitors—a Christmas opera to enjoy as a fundraiser for World Vision Ukraine Appeal. St Lukes Uniting, Highton. See box for further details re tickets...
- Thursday 7th December:** Fundraiser at Bunnings Community Event 6pm at Torquay Bunnings. See notice .
- Sunday 10th December:** Aireys Inlet Carols Concert 7pm
- Opshop** closes from Saturday 16th December, reopening on Fri 5th Jan.
- AND order your UNITING Christmas Cards ASAP

In our Uniting neighbourhood:  
**Regular Weekly activities include:**

**Coffee on Thursdays at 10.30am**

BOMBORAS on the Torquay Esplanade.

**Beaut Beanies**—10:30am Tuesdays in Torquay church

**Coffee & Kids**—9.30am every Friday during Term.

**Bellbrae Opshop & Bookroom** open every Friday & Saturday from 10 to 4pm.

**Regular Monthly activities include:**

Pub Lunch at Aireys—Noon, first Friday of the month

Aged Care Service 2pm at Elouera, - First Thursday

**ALL activities are for Everyone. Turn up and Enjoy!**

### Thursday 7th December - our next fundraising Trading

**Table at Bunnings Torquay.** We will sell home made goods - baked, sewn, knitted. Christmas themed goods welcome. Please deliver to Oak Tree Place that afternoon from 2pm or to the Bunnings site from 6.30pm.

Many thanks , Tricia

### Call to Action

...  
strong words from Last week's Service

When bad laws are not questioned, good policies not tried,  
Then God is kept in heaven, and God within denied.  
For when we sit in silence much wrong can go unchecked;  
We need to speak out loudly, make governments reflect.  
We may voice opinions although with censored voice;  
Let shouts be strong against all wrong; we really have no choice.

The Jesus we have heard of was always strong to state  
that he was for the weak ones, the poor and not the great.  
He challenged all the leaders; would not be overawed;  
He saw injustice rampant, and equity ignored.  
We should voice opinions to gain a listening ear;  
Let shouts be strong against all wrong; we need to interfere.

If we are Christ's disciples, we cannot turn our backs  
When called into the battle to follow in his tracks.  
For Jesus it was costly; the enemy was strong.  
When power is corrupted we're charged to combat wrong.  
We shall voice opinions; we too shall not succumb.  
Let shouts be strong against all wrong; and we shall overcome.



A BIG Thank You to everyone who enjoyed our  
Garden Party last Sunday.

We were lucky with the weather and the guests!  
Also for all the birthday cards and good wishes. Tricia  
& Geoff

### Combined Geelong UCA Choir for Carols at Wesley

Wesley is holding a Carols by Candlelight service on  
Sunday 17th December at 7.30pm. We warmly  
invite you all to join with us to make this a memorable  
evening. In particular we are looking for singers of all  
abilities to form a combined choir to lead the carol sing-  
ing, and sing one or two items on our own.

Rehearsals will be held 7.30 to on Wednesday  
nights November 22nd, and 29th, and December  
6th and 13th.

Please contact Heather Cooney on 0477 805 234  
or [handpcooney@gmail.com](mailto:handpcooney@gmail.com)

and indicate your voice part.

### LET'S SING" Group singing for fun.

**Sunday Afternoon once a month 3pm -5pm**

**At Grovedale Uniting Church,**

**Corner Torquay and Reserve Roads, Grovedale**

**Next gathering: December 3 \$2.00 donation**

**CONTACT: Rhonda 5243 6496**

**Airey's Inlet** St Aidan's Church, 29 Great Ocean Rd, Airey's *Sunday Service at 9.30am*  
**Bellbrae:** Uniting Church. School & Anglesea Roads, Bellbrae *Sunday Service at 11.00am*  
**Torquay:** Torquay Uniting Church, 27 Anderson Street, Torquay *Sunday Service at 9.30am*

**BELLBRAE BRIC-A-BRAC OP SHOP & BOOK ROOM :** Uniting Church Hall, School Road. Bellbrae  
Open Fridays and Saturdays 10am to 4pm.

Your Offering for our churches,  
programs and outreach is very  
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