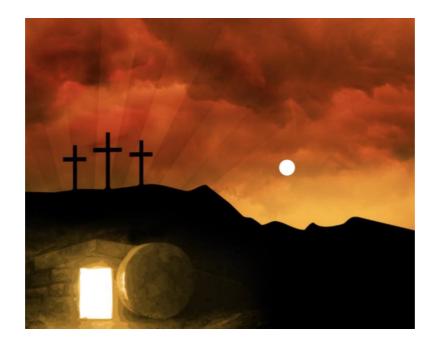
### **April 2024**

Connecting Younger Generations IN GOD'S LOVE
Embracing All People WITH CHRIST'S COMPASSION
Strengthening Community THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT



MINISTER: Rev Ross Pearce 0437 561 833

PASTORAL CARE / CHAPLAIN,

MONASH UNIVERSITY: Mandy Lake 0438 715 029

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CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: Tue-Fri 9:00 am-1:00pm

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**HIGH ST TIMES EDITOR:** 

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Scan the QR Code to access our website.



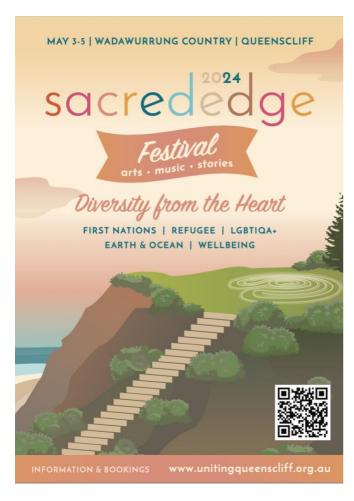
We acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which we gather: the Bunurong people and we pay respect to their past present and emerging elders and their ancestors.





j

ligh Street -



**Sacrededge** is a festival of arts, music and stories hosted by the Queenscliff Uniting community.

This annual three-day event provides an opportunity to nurture connection with people from diverse backgrounds.

Sacrededge brings together an array of musicians, poets, storytellers and artists from First Nations, refugee and LGBTIQA+ communities, together with carers for the earth & oceans and those who seek to nurture wholistic wellbeing.

Friday 3 May 2024 5:00 PM - Sunday 5 May 2024 4:00 PM

Queenscliff Uniting Church 83-89 Hesse Street, cnr Hesse & Stokes St, Queenscliff Victoria 3225

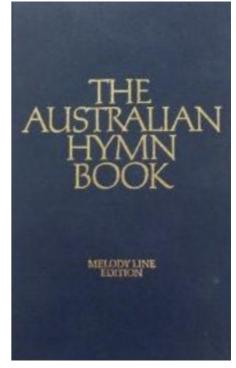
#### The Australian Hymn Association

The Launch of the Association will be held at St Paul's Cathedral Melbourne at 4pm on Sunday 19 May 2024.

Taking up the work of the Australian Hymn Book Pty Ltd, the AHA seeks to promote and develop congregational song in worship. Membership is open to all who are keen to further this mission.

Worship will be led by the Dean of Melbourne, the Very Revd. Dr Andreas Loewe, the President of the Association, Ms Megan McLaughlin, noted hymn composer the Revd. Dr Christopher Willcock and the musicians of the Cathedral.





# From the Minister...



#### **Rev Ross Writes**



The magazine, *National Geographic*, often has articles on the Bible and the history of Christianity. One issue recently had an article on the search for ancient fragments and examples of scripture. As I have a collection of Bible translations, this interested me. The origins of our scripture in fragile papyrus scrolls, or early sewn books that had to be carefully transcribed to make a copy is fascinating.

It is amazing to see some of the fragments of old texts that have been found and how small the changes are between handwritten texts from the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> century and our modern Bibles. The *National Geographic* article, however, was not so much an explanation of what ancient examples of scripture

have been found, but an exploration of the sometimes-shady world of dealers in antiquity. There is a lot of money to be made in selling antiquities to collectors and museums and so a lot of money can be made from forgeries and exaggerations. A lot of that money is coming from Christians seeking the earliest examples of texts to 'prove' the validity of scripture.

In a contested religious world, where sceptics are saying that 'the church' has corrupted the story and words of Jesus, earnest Christians, like the immensely well-funded *Museum of the Bible*, want the oldest texts to show that what we have is what was written.

So, the zeal of the evangelical searchers and the zeal of archaeologists wanting to claim a new find combine to pay big dollars and make big claims for the age of a papyrus fragment. Often, scholarly examination says no, it's a forgery.

The issue I have with the zeal of the text seekers is the seeking of fact over the living out of faith. Reliance on the proof of written texts, rather than faith in the scribes of the early and medieval church, faith in the bishops of the early church and most importantly, faith in the God of Spirit and truth. When you consider how many people came to faith in the early centuries with no scripture other than the Hebrew texts, it makes you wonder why Christians now are demanding an inerrant, proven scripture as the basis for faith. If archaeologists discovered a fragment, or even a full scroll from the first century that had 95 or even 100% the same words as our Bible, would it change anything? Would it satisfy the scepticism? Would it answer the criticism of an atheist? Would it cause anyone to suddenly come to faith? We may be people of the book, but more importantly we are people of faith and hope and love and we are people who seek inspiration from scripture and not verification.

The article was interesting, and as usual accompanied by some wonderful illustrations and pictures, with a great chart of the Bible and the oldest texts of each book that have been found, but I still question those who seek proof when the scriptures they are trying to prove call us to faith.

#### Connecting to the wider church

Each month the Synod Communications Unit and the Assembly Communications Unit send out emails with news items, interest items, information, and messages from the Moderator and President. If you wish to receive such information – some items of which are passed on in High St Times – please contact Rev Ross who will organise for them to be forwarded to you. As well, for those who are on social media, both Synod and Assembly are represented on Facebook, Instagram and X, and you are invited to follow them for news, celebrations, shares and photos from the church all around Australia.

#### Victorian Council of Churches Marching with the times



On the weekend of February 14-16, 2003 more than 30 million people marched against the war on Iraq, in the largest coordinated demonstrations in human history. In Melbourne, an estimated 100,000 people (some said 150,00 and up to 200,000) joined the biggest peace march seen in Melbourne to protest against a war on Iraq. The rally started outside the State Library, made its way along Swanston Street and finished at Federation Square, clogging city streets for more than three hours.

While it did not dissuade the Australian Government at the time from engaging in the Iraq war, those who took part (including myself) believed that it was important to gather and to protest about things that really matter in our world. And always with a commitment to nonviolent protest.

That protest rally stands in a great tradition of protest to bring about social, economic and political change.

During the summer of 2020, the murder of George Floyd at the hands of the police set off one of the largest mass mobilizations in US history, as hundreds of thousands of people protested against systematic racism under the banner of BlackLivesMatter (BLM). This movement was overwhelmingly nonviolent.

The recent Gaza Peace Pilgrimage (Feb 14th) was one of 96+ walks in 15 countries around the world as part of the global Gaza Ceasefire Pilgrimage over Lent, walking the distance from Gaza City to Rafah (in this case, Merndah to Melbourne/Naarm CBD), stopping for prayer at a variety of churches along the way, as well as with Jewish and Muslim friends who are also calling for a lasting ceasefire. The walk culminated at St Paul's Cathedral at 6pm, where the pilgrims were welcomed as part of the Ash Wednesday service.

This coming Saturday, 16th of March, there will be a protest rally in Melbourne – "No AUKUS! No War! PEACE!" at 1 p.m. outside the State Library. It is part of a broad movement for peace and a nuclear-free Australia.

As we consider Palm Sunday (and the Palm Sunday Walk for Refugees on March 24th, starting at 10am in Parliament Gardens), it's worth thinking about that first Palm Sunday procession.

"In Jesus we are confronted with the One who uses power to lift up the marginalised, to challenge the rich and powerful, and to reject violence. Jesus is the disruptive, servant Lord." (Sally Douglas)

And so we march with the times... showing up to join with others in saying there is another way, and it's not the way of war and violence, nor oppression and domination, nor the might of the dollar over against the dignity and worth of human persons. We show up to give testimony to the truth that true peace is of God and requires everyone to pursue justice for all.

#### We pray...

- For those within our church family who find it difficult or are unable to attend worship, including: Sheila Knoop, Gwen Paxino, Audrey Smith, Audrey LaBrooy, Ruth Conn, Marie de Silva, Lola Coupe, Margaret Snyder, Beth McNamara and Barbara Yates.
- For the family and friends of Effie Tilley, who died recently.
- For the family and friends of Virgil Snyder, who died recently, and particularly for his wife Margaret.
- For Marj Mitchell who is unwell currently.
- For Jessie Williams in rehabilitation following a knee replacement.
- For Marilyn Downing, in hospital following shoulder surgery.
- For the Carolus family, with Eileen receiving care, including her sister Val.
- For all who are in poor health and having treatment, including Jen Johnson, and Michelle Clarkson.
- For Tom Sutherland who is back in Australia having some medical treatment before he is fit enough to continue his wonderful work in India.
- For the conflict in Israel and Palestine, and the innocent people who are caught up in it.
- For Ukraine, still under attack from Russia.
- For those around Frankston who experience homelessness.
- For all those living with mental health needs in our church family and our community.
- For those struggling with the ever-increasing cost of living.
- For our church community at Easter time and beyond, that we may continue living in light of the cross.

The prayer chain regularly and continuously keeps particular needs in prayer. You can ask for prayers through the prayer chain by contacting Marlene, phone **5971 2840** or emailing directly to <a href="https://docs.ncbi.nlm.nih.googlegroups.com">hsuca-prayer@googlegroups.com</a>. The prayer chain is a small group of church members who are dedicated to prayer, and consider all communication and prayer needs strictly private and confidential unless specified otherwise..

We thank Mandy Lake for her continuing work in collating this list each month.

For those who missed our AGM last week Ross Huggard has kindly supplied the notes from his address summing up the previous year. During his speech Ross thanked many people. I feel however that a huge vote of thanks goes to Ross himself for his many years of service as chair of our Church Council.

## AGM 17 March 2024 Reflections and observations

It is, again, my privilege and pleasure to revisit some of the many significant aspects of our diverse, active and caring congregation over the last 12 months, specifically from my vantage point as your Church Council Chair. Please forgive any unintended omissions on my part!



In revisiting my notes from last year, I referred to our coming out of the pandemic and moving forward. However, the ongoing financial and societal fallout from the COVID years continued in 2023, as our own finances, alike all our personal finances were hit hard in so many ways. The spectre of widespread homelessness and increasing dependency on food handouts became a new and inescapable part of the Australian landscape. Our ongoing support for those who are homeless or impoverished through the Wednesday BBQ, Operation Larder, Brekky Club and other initiatives reflects our community outreach. Climate change events, oft described as 'unprecedented', continued to occur. Hence, the planned climate change banner, overseen by our Social Justice Group would prove to be very timely.

The Ukraine conflict deepened and became entrenched. Meanwhile, the gap between the affluent developed world and the struggling developing world grew even larger. There can be little doubt that the old mantra that "the only thing in life that is constant is change" was absolutely true in 2023.

It is also important that I acknowledge and thank so many of you who contribute so constantly and willingly to various aspects of our congregational life, and in 2023 once more this was so obvious. I wish to explicitly acknowledge those of you who are so instrumental in decision-making, spiritual and pastoral leadership in so many facets, especially pertinent as we again conduct elections today for Church Council and Elders. Without their selfless commitment and service we simply could not function as a viable church. It would be remiss of me not to explicitly acknowledge the ever-reliable and indefatigable efforts of our Treasurer, Keith Holmes and his very capable assistant, Emma Lindenburg, especially given the complexities of our finances. May I also once more publicly acknowledge the very considerable workload undertaken on your behalf by Kerry Pederick, who cannot be here today, Church Council Secretary, and her proxy, Karin Jooste, who is once more acting as minute-taker today. Thank you, Karin. I also wish to thank and acknowledge the service of several people no longer able to fulfil roles as in the past.

Some key elements of our 2023 congregational life together to reflect upon include:

- The caring, supportive pastoral care offered by our appointed Pastoral Care associate, Mandy Lake, Elders and pastoral care visitors.
- Our outreach to the students of Monash University Peninsula Campus by our Chaplain, Mandy Lake, supported by Alan and Gill Jenkins and others at the pancake breakfasts
- Continued oversight of Safe Church Practices by Mandy Lake.

- The ongoing 41-year support for those in need of food essentials in our community provided by Operation Larder, which continues to flourish, well-exemplified by the annual Christmas Hamper collation, taking over our suite of buildings overseen by Dawn Peacock OAM. Dawn so ably supported by Graham Peacock, Graeme Horsburgh, Nylma Carruthers *et al* have continued so ensure its vibrancy.
- Similarly, our members supporting the wonderful outreach to the vulnerable in our local community through their practical support of the Brekky Club.
- Regular meetings of LEGS financially support diverse local and overseas initiatives, as well as underpinning other activities, continuing to be so ably led by Marg Scarlett
- The seemingly endless demands our suite of buildings, and manse, impose on the Management Committee members of Mike Guest, Alan Jenkins and Robert Downing, to which they respond so willingly and positively- thank you.
- New groups which began in 2022, the already mentioned Social Justice Group, led by Paolo Quintanilla and Gardening Group, led by Anita Setterfield continued their significant work, for which we are truly grateful.
- Our talented and diverse tech team who work away determinedly and discreetly at the sound and data projector desk for each service, ensuring that the slides, sound, visual images and Zoom all operate seamlessly on most occasions. Thank you especially to Alan Jenkins, Karin Jooste, Tim Lake, Russell Pederick, Matthew Kim, Meg Ryan and Robert Downing for all your efforts...and any I have overlooked.
- The COG team, led by Tim Lake, ensured that the contemporary services were lively, relevant, inclusive and vibrant. The band has continued to add a key dimension to this worship, including Kerry and Russell Pederick, Mike Guest, Tim Lake, John Annable, Bruce and Fiona Ryan, Dave Sherry, Valmai Scully, Bronwen and Alan Mathews, and others have all continued to utilise their musical gifts to enhance worship.
- Meg Ryan and others have continued to support and nurture children and young families in the contemporary service, whilst Emma Lindenburg has continued to lead the Friday playgroup sessions.
- The 9am choir has continued to nurture and uplift traditional worship, led so ably by Bronwen Mathews and supported by the musical gifts of our organists/ pianists, Nylma Carruthers and Elaine Keynon.
- > Jill Cayzer: thank you for your ongoing commitment to our congregation in so many ways, including the key role of funeral verger.
- I must sincerely thank one person who ensures that everything runs smoothly on a daily basis, namely Esther Galvin, whose energy, insight, organisational skills, hard work and good humour have ensured that all aspects of our church operations are overseen with competence, initiative and capacity. Esther deserves all our thanks and gratitude.
- Last- but by no means least- thank you to the other Ross, Rev Ross Pearce. You have been a source of energy, inspiration, vision and joy; well-typified by your trademark smile. Who could have thought that the Christmas story could be so whimsical and humorous, as you demonstrated in *Judea Tonight*? You have continually refocused our hearts and minds on the lessons Christ offers us all in such a challenging world. Thank you!

Shalom

For lovers of the English language\_

#### \*The Mysteries of Anatomy\*

Where can a man buy a cap for his knee, Or the key to a lock of his hair? Can his eyes be called an academy? Because there are pupils there?

In the crown of your head can jewels be found? Who crosses the bridge of your nose? If you wanted to shingle the roof of your mouth, Would you use the nails on your toes?

Can you sit in the shade of the palm of your hand, Or beat on the drum of your ear? Can the calf in your leg eat the corn off your toe? Then why not grow corn on the ear?

Can the crook in your elbow be sent to jail? If so, just what did he do? How can you sharpen your shoulder blades? I'll be darned if I know. Do you?

#### **Provided by Marlene Thresher**



Any of you who know me well will understand that although this walk is only 4km in length it will challenge me. I am however determined to do it to support the RSPCA and as a personal goal.

If you would care to help me either with encouragement or with my fundraising, I would be grateful. Scruffy will be joining me on the walk in his pram as he is getting a bit old for a 4km walk. Milly will hopefully be fit enough to walk but she will shortly be having cruciate ligament and knee surgery so she might be joining Scruffy in the pram.

Either way, I'm sure we will manage to make a difference to animals in

need.



#### Jackie Annable

If you would like to help, please go to facebook.com/jackie.annable.54



#### Greetings all

It is with joy that I announce the outcome of the elections at the Annual General Meeting on Sunday. All the nominated people were elected, with strong results beyond the required minimum.

I congratulate all those returning to their positions in our leadership groups and congratulate and welcome Neville Parker as a new Elder.

Rev. Ross Pearce



#### World Day of Prayer 2024

The service this year was held at St. Paul's Anglican Church with 59 people attending representing High Street Uniting, Seaford Uniting, Mt. Eliza Uniting, St. Paul's Anglican, St. Luke's Anglican, St. Francis Catholic and Frankton Community Baptist Churches.

The service followed the Order prepared by the Palestinian Christian Women some 4 years before the present situation. Hymns were chosen by the Frankston committee. The guest speaker was Mr. David Lepore who is the Church and Community Relations Team Leader for the Bible Society. He spoke about the Bible Society project 'Living Stone' in Palestine together with updates on other

projects supported in the past. An offering of \$871.50 was given to this

year's project Living Stone.



A 30-year Certificate was present to Marlene Thresher to congratulate and recognise her work as a representative for High Street Uniting with World Day of Prayer.

The 2025 Service has been put together by the folk from the Cook Islands and we look forward to that service at a venue yet to be decided.

The altar has the Palestinian flag and an olive branch. All present were handed a small cutting from an olive tree.





Effie Tilley, who passed away recently, was a much-loved member of our church for many years. While in palliative care, she told this story to a volunteer carer, who recorded it and typed it up for her. She wanted to share this special story with others, and we are very grateful for her daughter's permission to share it here.

When I was 12 ears old, my sister who was twelve years older than I, decided to take me to church for the first time. It was a Sunday evening and she wanted to meet up with a group that she had met while on holiday, and to introduce me to church. I was very intrigued because I had lived on the farm all my life, and we had always said our prayers together.

My sister drove in a tiny motor car which was one of the early Fords. I was standing in the foyer of the church, and although we said our prayers every night I had never been to church so I was keen to go inside and see what is was all about.

I slipped in without anybody seeing me disappear, my sister was busy chatting with all her friends. The church was ablaze with colour. It had been built of grey stone granite by the gold miners of the town. The windows all down the side were made of coloured glass: stained glass windows so with the setting sun the church was just alight with colour, and the colours especially the magnificent red of the setting sun.

I was enthralled by the colour and went up to the altar almost in a trance, I was entranced by all this beautiful, beautiful colour. Even the altar itself was alive with colour!

I stood there looking back down the aisle that I had just walked up, and I was enthralled by a spirit! I don't know what it was, but I felt as though somebody had come and stood next to me, and that spirit has never left me. It's been there for all my life, and that spirit has walked with me all through my life.I don't know how else to express this, but it's something that has always been there, so I'm sure that this is the right path that I'm travelling now.

I've asked people if anyone knows the meaning of this experience. I think this is the path the good Lord wants me to take, and I can't think how else to express this. So I think that is my story and I hope it leads others to the paths of glory. I think that's all I have to say.

I wish that the Anglicans and the Uniting Church would come together and be one church, because that is how I feel the Lord wants us to go. We're all one people and I would like to see the two churches

unite and join services on a Sunday.

Thankyou Effice

At this year's AGM a request was made for the assets of the church to be presented at the same time as the budget. The ever-diligent Keith Holmes has provided those below for those interested.

## THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA HIGH STREET CONGREGATION FRANKSTON

#### ASSETS STATEMENT AS AT 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2023:

#### **Operating Bank Accounts Balances:**

Commonwealth Bank: **117268.57**Westpac Bank: **15571.96**U Ethical Account: **7882.73 Total: \$140723.26** 

The total consists of a cash balance of \$49082.52, and \$91640.74 in supplementary accounts where the balances are tied to a particular purpose.

The balances for the Supplementary Accounts were as follows:

Bequest: 15600.00 **LEGS** 2243.64 Youth 486.64 Catering 859.46 **Appeals** 3279.47 Maintenance Reserve 7145.84 Employment Reserve 26355.57 **Bonds** 4215.00 Wesley Lease 29736.17 Camp 949.90 Play Group 769.05

We also have some other U Ethical Accounts which are mainly bequests. The **income** from these is directed to the purpose as outlined in the bequest.

The balances for these were as follows:

Fred Renouf Bequest: 34775.70

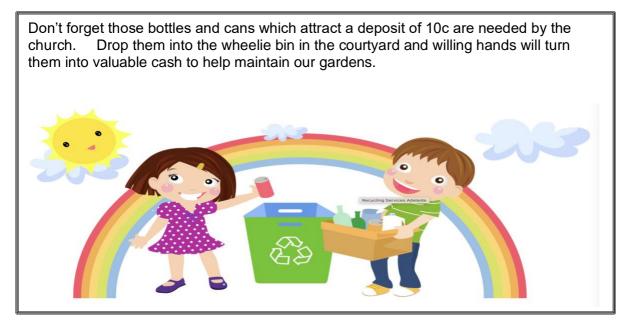
Marjorie and George Atkinson Foundation: 91353.71

Joy and Colin Guest Foundation: 121254.18

Frankston Regional Parish – Carrum Downs: 4088.79

#### Keith Holmes Emma Lindenburg





#### CHAOTIC FEAST FOR FREEDOM

Well not really! *Chaos,* a number of families (who used to be young) from the contemporary congregation, meet for dinner each month. This month, Mandy & Tim Lake hosted a "FEAST FOR FREEDOM" dinner to raise money for the Asylum



Seeker Resource Centre, ASRC. The ASRC is an amazing organisation – here is a little bit from their website ...

Founded in 2001, the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre (ASRC) is Australia's largest human rights organisation providing support to people seeking asylum.

We are an independent not-for-profit organisation whose programs support and empower people seeking asylum to maximise their own physical, mental and social wellbeing.

We champion the rights of people seeking asylum and mobilise a community of compassion to create lasting social and policy change.

We deliver more services on the ground than any other independent asylum seeker organisation in the country. Our work on the frontline with people seeking asylum informs our practice and enables us to effectively advocate for, and alongside people with lived experience.

We offer holistic programs that protect people seeking asylum from persecution and destitution, support well-being and dignity, and empower people to advance their own future.

We are proudly owned and run by our community and supported by a network of dedicated staff and more than 600 active volunteers in assisting around 7,000 people seeking asylum each year. To stay independent, we don't accept funding from the Federal Government.

"Feast for Freedom 2024" called for people to gather in their homes, workplaces or communities to host their own feast to raise funds in support of people seeking asylum, while cooking recipes gifted by refugees. Our goal was to raise \$650, and according to the Feast for Freedom website, this amount can help provide over 300 community meals so people seeking asylum can share a meal in a welcoming environment. On Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 9 members of the Chaos group met to share a meal

prepared by the group sourced from the recipe book provided for the event. Unfortunately, many of our regular group were unavailable to join us, but we still managed to exceed our target raising \$702 from those who attended, and also from many who couldn't make it. We had a lovely dinner together and enjoyed the delicious food. The 'spread' looked pretty good too.

If you want to know more about the ASRC, please go to their website – <a href="https://asrc.org.au/">https://asrc.org.au/</a> There is lots of useful information which will help you understand the issues involved, what the



ASRC does to support refugees and asylum seekers, and ways in which you can help out. Supporting Refugees is one of the 4 priorities of the Social Justice Group of our congregation.

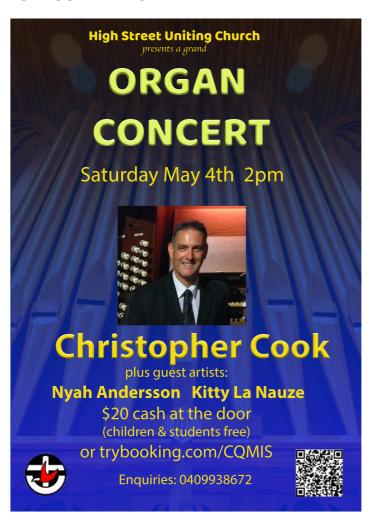
If you'd like to contribute to the funds raised, it's not too late. Please go to this website to make your donation - <a href="https://www.feastforfreedom.org.au/fundraisers/tmlake">https://www.feastforfreedom.org.au/fundraisers/tmlake</a>

Other information may be gained from.

https://www.asrc.org.au/pdf/myths-facts-solutions-info .pdf

https://jss.org.au/wpcontent/uploads/2015/12/Asylum Seeker Position Paper - December 2015.pdf

https://asrc.org.au/2010/08/09/the-myth-of-the-good-life-for-asylum-seekers-in-australia/https://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/rcoa-refugee-myths-facts/





#### **Swish??!!**

Swish is an adaptation of mainstream Table Tennis, designed for people with low or no vision. It is a lot of fun and can be enjoyed by people of all vision levels, all ages, and all fitness levels.

It can be played for fun or there are regular tournaments.

It started in Sydney in the late 1950's but is now predominantly played in Victoria and Queensland.

If you would like more information, please email Jenni on jenni.forbes@vvitta.org.au





# Come and try SWISH!!!

**Date: 13th April 2024** 

When: 1.30-3.30pm

Where: High Street

**Uniting Church** 

16-18 High St, Frankston

Enquiries:

Jenni Forbes

jenni.forbes@vvitta.org.au or 0418 341 003



WANT TO KNOW MORE?



Scan the QR code to head to our website.



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3 meals + 3 snacks a day 24/7 Registered Nurse on site Specially trained, dedicated staff





MONDAY 1ST JULY to FRIDAY 5TH JULY 2024 We are fortunate in having our wonderful suite of buildings in which to conduct the work of our church. Many may not realise the use being made by the community during the week. This is not only a valuable part of our mission but adds greatly to the church finances.

The plan below shows the number of hours that each area is used. Our administrator Esther issues a word of warning. If you are planning an event, give plenty of notice to ensure a venue.

