

August 2023

High Street Times

Connecting Younger Generations IN GOD'S LOVE

Embracing All People WITH CHRIST'S COMPASSION

Strengthening Community THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT



HIGH STREET UNITING CHURCH,
16-18 HIGH STREET, FRANKSTON



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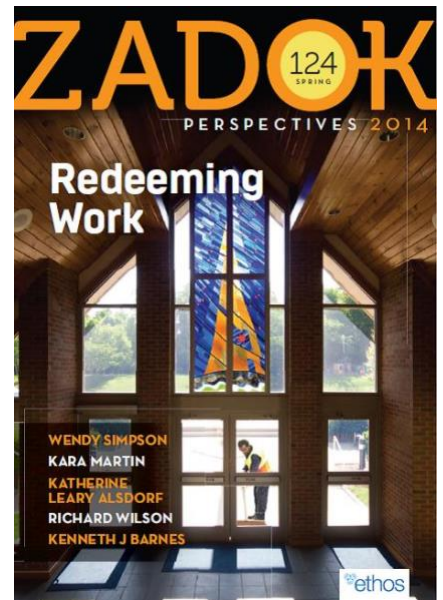
We acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which we gather: the Bunarong people and we pay respect to their past present and emerging elders and their ancestors.



ZADOK Magazine A publication of Ethos – the Evangelical Alliance Centre for Public Theology – the magazine has a wide range of authors and contributors on topics of ethics and living faithfully. Each edition has an overarching topic, refugees, work, politics, democracy, that speaks about living biblically in people's personal, professional, community and political relationships, modelling civil engagement. The latest edition discusses the relationship between people and animals, particularly our pets.

I have a subscription to Zadok and sister publication Equip, and would be happy for anyone to borrow, read and share these important and thought provoking publications. Despite the name Evangelical Alliance, the contributors come from a wide array of denominations and theological perspectives, and the two magazines often invite conversations between contributors of differing opinions.

Ross Pearce



The Angie Mathews Memorial Bursary

Angie's passion for archaeology and history saw her travel to England to participate in a dig school at Sudeley Castle in October 2022. Shortly after returning to Australia, Angie tragically passed away in a car collision.

This bursary has been set up in her honour so a future student, who may otherwise struggle financially to achieve their goal, may attend a dig school either here in Australia, or overseas. With donors like you, we can ensure that Angie's dream lives on in others. The goal is to raise \$21,000 to allow the bursary to fund itself and run in perpetuity.

The web page link is



<https://www.latrobe.edu.au/giving/rememberingangie>

Please note that donations over \$2 are tax deductible in Australia with 100% of your donation going directly to the bursary.

ZOOM/PHONE DETAILS

For all services:

On a tablet or laptop computer: Go to <https://zoom.us/j/95468493260> and use the password 3199.

(or go to <https://zoom.us/join> and use the meeting number below)

On a phone without video: call (03) 7018 2005

Meeting ID: 954 6849 3260 #

Participant ID: #

Password: 3199 #

From the Minister...



Rev Ross Writes

Recently we received a phone call from someone, who had seen the poster out the front of the church, complaining that the church should keep out of politics. This attitude comes, I think, from a misunderstanding of both the Gospel and the concept of separation of church and state.

I believe that the church has a call to be political, but it must refrain from being partisan. Jesus was intensely political – feed the poor, welcome the stranger, treat people justly, visit the prisoners, and so on; but he said those things to everyone, to the Jewish leaders as well as to the Romans, to the Pharisees as well as the Zealots. And, as we proclaim every time we recite the creed, he was killed by Pontius Pilate. He was political but not partisan. And the Apostle Paul was imprisoned for in Ephesus for challenging the trade in idols and then imprisoned and sent to Rome by the governor for preaching Christ. He was political.

The problems for the church being political came in the Middle Ages and later, when the church became a powerful player in the politics of Europe. The Reformation was as much about politics and power as it was about theology and church practice. It was necessary for good order that newly emerging democratic nations in the 18th Century insisted on a separation of church of state. The church should not be involved in running nations, but also the politicians should not be involved in running the church. What developed from that was an unfortunate ideology that said separation of church and state meant separation of politics and religion – politics was public, and religion was private. The only voices allowed in politics became partisan.

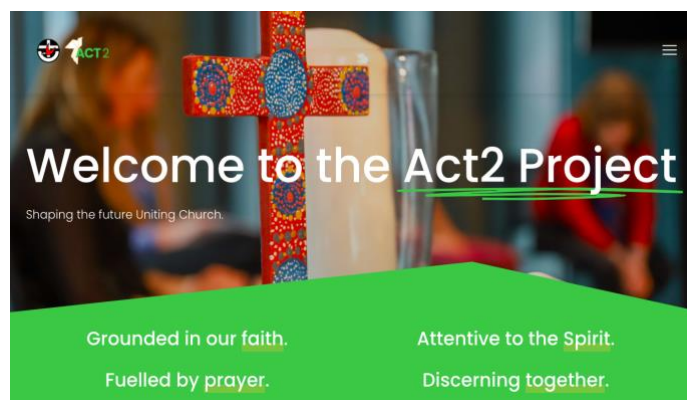
The dominant form of statements on social media is the *meme*, a funny, pointed statement written over a well-known picture. There are hundreds of Christian memes around, a lot of them using old Christian artwork with Jesus' teaching. One recent one has Jesus saying, "Love your enemies" and the crowd responds, "What if they're Muslims?". And Jesus says, "I'll start at the beginning again, let me know when I lose you." Political, but not partisan. Another has the crowd answering Jesus in the parable of the sheep and the goats, "Lord, when did we see you naked, or in prison, or hungry and did not help you?" And Jesus answers, "I'm sorry, I don't talk politics". A satirical meme to make a similar point, the call of the Gospel is to love God and love your neighbour as yourself and, unfortunately, many in the world consider that political. I believe we have a God given call to advocate for those in need, even if it is called political, but we do not have a roll to be partisan, that is an individual choice.

ACT2 Report

The final report from the Exploration Phase of the ACT2 Process has been issued and a small number of copies will be in the foyer for any who are interested. If you wish to read the report online, you will find it on the assembly website

<https://www.act2uca.com/> ACT2 process

has been an opportunity for the whole church to dream and imagine ways of being church. An opportunity for both new forms of local communities and some possibilities for reorganising the whole church from the local to the national. Our state structures can be an unfortunate burden on the 'pure' Local – Regional – National image of the church in the Basis of Union, and this report has some bold ideas to reform our structure, both internally and legally.



And there are some interesting 'Imagine' scenarios in the report about how we can be people of faith in our local area. All of this requires people to be open to new ways and interested in being serious about the best ways to be faithful followers of Christ in this culture and time.

Imagine...

Imagine throughout the season of Lent and Easter each year communities of faith across the Uniting Church engaging in periods of discernment through intentional shared prayer, bible study, mission in their communities and engagement with issues of justice for our world. Where communities of faith where baptisms – of children and adults – are a point of community celebration on Easter morning. Where people new to communities learn about the life and way of Jesus. Where people who have worshiped all their life discover new things about the faith. Where integrational conversations are fostered. Where people of all ages and abilities find ways to witness and serve in their communities. Where the love of God is so visibly present in a community of faith that it overflows into the wider world.

Imagine...

Imagine a shared ministry and mission location in a vibrant hub at the centre of a local community. There is a worshipping community and a community service run out of the same location. The upstairs space is used for worship, training and shared community events. Downstairs is a community services hub with offices and meeting rooms used to run services during the day and for Local Council meetings, bible studies and discipleship courses in the evening. The local leaders of the Church and the community service meet together quarterly along with the Principal and Chaplain of the local school to discuss and plan shared ministry and mission priorities.

Church Database

Over the next month we will be sending out to all members a sheet that contains what we have on our database as your information. Contact details, family and family contacts, membership status etc. All this information is important for maintaining contact, both for communication and pastoral care reasons, and some of it helps us to fill out various statistical reports to Synod – membership numbers and categories, age profile etc. This is also part of renewing the database after it crashed earlier in the year.

Firstly, we would like to know if what we have on our database is correct, as some of the information is 3 to 5 years old, but also this is an opportunity for you to add information or to choose to not be included for reasons of privacy.

GOD Can Use You

The next time you feel like GOD can't use you, just remember...

Noah was a drunk, Abraham was too old, Isaac was a daydreamer, Jacob was a liar, Leah was ugly, Joseph was abused, Moses had a stuttering problem, Gideon was afraid, Samson had long hair and was a womanizer, Rahab was a prostitute, Jeremiah and Timothy were too young, Isaiah preached naked, David had an affair and was a murderer, Elijah was suicidal, Jonah ran from God, Naomi was a widow, Job went bankrupt, Peter denied Christ, The Disciples fell asleep while praying, Martha worried about everything, The Samaritan woman was divorced, more than once, Zacchaeus was too small, Paul was too religious, Tim had an ulcer. AND.....Lazarus was dead!

Now! No more excuses! God can use you to your full potential.

Besides you aren't the message, you are just the messenger.

In the Circle of God's love, God's waiting to use your full potential.

A day without the presence of God, is a wasteful day.

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, Molly Maughan, Pat Johnson, Margaret Snyder, Beth McNamara, Effie Tilley, and Barbara Yates.
- For all who are in poor health and having treatment, including Jen Johnson, Michelle Clarkson, Barb Conner, and Howard Kerr.
- For Ken Gilbert, at home after hospital and rehabilitation.
- For Robert Latimer, having tests after a fall.
- For Rona Russell, on the loss of her sister.
- For Jenni Forbes as she moves into independent living, and for Ann Forbes also during the transition.
- For the Mathews and Jenkins families, as they continue to live with their loss.
- For all who mourn the loss of loved ones.
- For the children and teenagers who attended Somers Camp in early July, and all the leaders including Meg Ryan who worked so hard, in the aftermath of the camp.
- For the students of Cornish College following their trip to East Timor with Tim & Mandy Lake, and Chaplain, Rev. Claire Dawe, for continued reflection and learning from their experiences.
- For wisdom and discernment around the Voice Referendum discussions.
- For those around Frankston who experience homelessness, particularly at the moment with the cold winter months.
- For all those struggling with mental health needs in our church family and our community.
- For Ukraine, still under attack from Russia.

*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 hsuca-prayer@googlegroups.com. 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.*



STOP PRESS...

Thanks to Alan Mathews for these wonderful pictures of last week's Christmas in July Luncheon.
Full Report Next Month

“Voices” Concert

Tuesday June 20th was a very chilly evening but despite that the Church was filled with an eager crowd ready to enjoy the “Voices of Frankston” in concert with members of the Frankston High School Clarinet ensemble and senior choir.

The audience were certainly not disappointed as the “Voices” thrilled us with harmony and ensemble singing under the excellent guidance of Kerry Gerraty. Added to this the young people of Frankston High acquitted themselves excellently with a fine performance.

Although the concert was advertised as a free event there was a retiring offering, and this raised around \$1100. A fantastic result.



Why is Australia having a referendum?



A personal perspective

Australian athletes are held in high regard. They are idolised and seen as role models. It is also common that they are recipients of the Australian of the Year Award. In 1993, the Commonwealth Games in Canada unveiled a future Olympic gold medallist, Cathy Freeman, an Indigenous Australian. Cathy won gold in Canada and celebrated her win draped in the Australian and Aboriginal Flag.

An angered Australia's Chef de Mission for the Commonwealth Games at the time, Arthur Tunstall wanted to send Cathy back home for draping herself in the Aboriginal flag. This act by Arthur Tunstall is symbolic of the attitudes of some white-Australians towards First Nations Peoples since colonisation.

On one hand, we are embracing a talent and on the other, diminishing Cathy's Aboriginality – her identity. In 1998, Cathy Freeman became the only person to have received in the same year Australian of the Year and Australian Young Person of the Year.

Fast forward to 2022, the NSW government announced that the Aboriginal Flag would be displayed permanently at the top of Sydney Harbour Bridge. "Our Indigenous history should be celebrated and acknowledged so young Australians understand the rich and enduring culture that we have here with our past," said NSW Premier Dominic Perrottet in a statement (Source: <https://concreteplayground.com/>).

The commentary on some social media platforms focusses on the cost of a referendum, rather than seeing it as a positive step to acknowledging Australia's rich Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural history.

As a nation, we have recognised and acknowledged the unjust treatment of Indigenous Australians. As we are working towards reconciliation and unity, we will have an opportunity to cast a vote in this year's referendum - **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice**. This will hopefully take another important step towards a united Australia.

A gentle reminder, The Voice referendum is to change the constitution to recognise the First People of Australia by establishing an **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice**. The Voice purpose is to provide independent advice to the Parliament and Government on matters that would directly impact Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

The No Campaign - A core argument of the 'No' campaign is that a 'Yes' vote would further create a *division* and that the real purpose of this referendum is to change our system of government by introducing a permanent element of racial privilege into Constitution. The **truth** is, from the moment of European settlement, Government policies have created a division between Indigenous and non – Indigenous Australians. These policies were based on race privilege to oppress the original inhabitants of this Nation.

These policies have also caused intergenerational trauma, negatively impacted programs and service delivery to Indigenous Australians. The 'no' campaign is deliberately injecting intolerance, misinformation to create a misguided fear and trust. The 'No' campaign would like us to believe a Voice to Parliament will have the power and authority to have an influence and direct impact on all policy. This is factually untrue.

The Yes Campaign - A 'yes' vote would formally recognise Indigenous Peoples in the constitution. It would also formally acknowledge a nation that has 60,000 years of continuous civilisation, culture and language. An Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to parliament would provide practical culturally appropriate assistance to ensure that funding for programs and services in Indigenous communities is spent effectively and efficiently to improve or save Indigenous lives. A 'yes' vote does not divide Australia, it unites Australia.

For further The Voice referendum information please refer to <https://voice.gov.au/>

Paolo Quintanilla - Social Justice Group



Armchair Travel 20th August

An Armchair Travel Fundraiser: on Sunday, 20th August from 4.30 to 6.00pm: followed by a 'Bring a Plate Shared Supper' at HSUC.

Illustrated by Alan Mathews' photography, we will travel through Central and Western Australia: enjoying the highlights of Bronwen and Alan's 2022 holiday.

Your admission gift of \$10 (or more) will provide funds for worthy young people in Timor-Leste – who are friends of Tim and Mandy Lake - to support them in their endeavours to become independent and self-sufficient citizens of their country.

A framed photo from Alan's collection will be raffled. Come and enjoy this visual celebration of creation!



Support for friends in Timor-Leste

As a congregation, we have supported a number of young individuals as they negotiate the struggles of life in our closest neighbour, Timor-Leste. The main goal is to support young people in their studies so that they can become independent. This has included Rocky – now a police officer, Minda – currently training to be a doctor, Zely – a single mother trying to support her 3 young children, Ancha – training to be a nurse, and Elvie – studying to become a qualified English Teacher. Each of these people Mandy and Tim Lake have met in their travels to Timor. 100% of the money raised goes directly to them based on their needs at the time.



The following article was spotted in council publication 'Frankston City News' by Alan Mathews and is printed here as a follow up to last month's concert report.

Recognising Those Making a Difference.

At the end of April, I was delighted to be able to attend a fund raising concert held at High Street United Church. For many in the audience and for the performers themselves this was the first time gathering for live entertainment since 2019. The six piece vocal and instrumental ensemble known as Cadence who have been performing together for decades paid tribute to Judy Durham from the Seekers. The talented local, Peter Jenkins also sang and played piano. All up more than \$2000 was raised for operation Larder which has been providing food and other provisions for distribution to those in need through Community Support Frankston for over 3 decades.

This is just one small snapshot of the power of community and collaboration in meeting the needs of our city's most vulnerable. I was reminded again of the strength and impact of our tireless volunteers when I attended the celebration event for those who assist Council's family health services during National Volunteer Week. This includes 29 volunteers who cook and drive in support of council "Meals on Wheels" program and another 11 volunteers who take clients on outings and excursions. In total is estimated that Frankston is home to 16,800 give back to the community through volunteering. If you are one of these people thank you.

According to a 2020 report by 'Volunteering Victoria' more than 42% of Victorians over the age of 15 volunteer in some way. This includes involvement through sporting teams, local charities and faith communities as well as through private sector organisations and government. It's estimated that these volunteers contribute close to \$60 billion worth of value in 2019 which is huge! That said volunteer numbers have not returned to their pre-COVID levels and sector experts are concerned by a general trend that sees volunteerism in decline. Volunteering can bring significant life and career benefits, including having a more interesting new resumé, building new skills and connections and opening new doors across diverse networks. If you're open to the idea but have been putting it off why not step up today and offer your time, friendship, passion?

Cr Claire Harvey

Phone 0438 267 778

Email: crharvey@frankston.vic.gov.au



Rosters

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP							
Date	Colour	Preaching	Bible Reader	Prayers of the People	Day	Bible reading	STB
06-Aug-23	G	Ross Pearce	Elaine Kenyon	Dawn Peacock	Pentecost 10	Matthew 14: 13-24	Issue 12, pp. 62-69
13-Aug-23	G	Ross Pearce	Erica Hutchinson	Keith Holmes	Pentecost 11	Matthew 14: 22-33	Issue 12, pp. 70-77
20-Aug-23	G	Ross Pearce	Dawn Peacock	Erica Hutchinson	Pentecost 12	Matthew 15: 21-28	Issue 12, pp. 78-85
27-Aug-23	G	Ross Pearce	Aubrey Mair	Marlene Thresher	Pentecost 13	Matthew 16: 13-20	Issue 12, pp. 86-94

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP				
Date	Notes	Stewards	Morning Tea Helpers	Flowers
06-Aug-23		Jill Cayzer, Heather Rawson	Graeme & Jenny Horsburgh, Bev Fowler	Beryl and Marg
13-Aug-23		Rona Russell, Neville Parker	Karin Jooste, Harriet Holton, John Upton	Beryl and Marg
20-Aug-23		Mick Johnson, Jill Cayzer	Rona Russell, Stanley & Viola Zhungu	Beryl and Marg
27-Aug-23		Rona Russell, Heather Rawson	Dorothy Bucher, Fay Loader, Vilma LaBrooy	Beryl and Marg

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP (Elders and Communion)

Date	Holy Communion	Duty Elder	Communion Setup	Communion Helpers
06-Aug-23	RP	Marlene Thresher and Mac Cleland	Rona Russell and Jill Cayzer	Dawn Peacock and Daryl Groves
13-Aug-23				
20-Aug-23				
27-Aug-23				

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

Date	Preparing and Leading Worship		Preaching	Day	Bible reading	Title	STB
06-Aug-23	Ross		Ross Pearce	Pentecost 10	Matthew 14: 13-24	God meets hunger	Issue 12, pp. 62-69
13-Aug-23	Gill	Alan	Ross Pearce	Pentecost 11	Matthew 14: 22-33	Walk on the storms	Issue 12, pp. 70-77
20-Aug-23	Jackie	John	Ross Pearce	Pentecost 12	Matthew 15: 21-28	Broken borders	Issue 12, pp. 78-85
27-Aug-23	Kerry	Mandy	Ross Pearce	Pentecost 13	Matthew 16: 13-20	All in a name?	Issue 12, pp. 86-94

Date	Holy Communion	Notes	Children's Time	Band Leaders	Singers	Zoom	Sound
06-Aug-23	RP		Rowena	Russell	John & Yvonne	Matthew	Alan
13-Aug-23			Irene	John	Alan & Bronwen	Meg	Tim
20-Aug-23			Meg	Mike	Kerry & Mandy	Karin	Alan
27-Aug-23			Yvonne	Russell	Tim & Valmai	Karin	Alan

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

Date	Welcome and Offering	Hospitality
06-Aug-23	Mandy & Valmai	Gill
13-Aug-23	Ley & Patti	Valmai
20-Aug-23	Marg & Beryl	Gill
27-Aug-23	Santhira & Kate	Joy

Not being able to do everything is no excuse for not doing everything you can

Ashleigh Brilliant

Summarised Statement of Income/Expenditure for 6 Months to 30th June 2023

INCOME	Budget		Actual	
Planned Giving/Open Plate		50000		57939
Rental Income		15000		15854
Donations		750		1150
Donations: Children's Outreach		250		280
Reimbursements/Miscellaneous		2500		11031
Goods and Services Tax				433
Fete		5000		5414
Interest - Cash Management Account		100		62
GST Reimbursement MBA		1000		0
Atkinson Foundation Income		1500		1489
Guest Foundation Income		1750		1770
Bomar Grant		0		0
Transfer from Wesley Lease		21500		20366
Transfer from Bequest		1500		0
Transfer from Employment Reserve		11000		0
Money for Mission Fund		20000		18416
Unit Price Adjustment				78
TOTAL INCOME		131850		134282
EXPENDITURE				
Ministerial Costs		60000		57386
Administration Costs		23400		21875
Planned Giving Expenses		500		520
Property Costs:				
Fire Brigade Levy	250		138	
Cleaning/Maintenance	21500		20367	
Rates: Council/Water	2250		2448	
Gas/Electricity	4500	28500	3030	25983
Insurance		10000		11120
Sunday School/Children's Outreach		500		81
Organ/Choir/Copyright		1250		846
Goods and Services Tax				4237
Miscellaneous		5000		5583
OPERATING EXPENDITURE		129150		127631
Outreach:				
Mission and Service Fund	6000		6000	
Tom Sutherland	250		0	
Community Support	750	7000	500	6500
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		136150		134131

Note: Operating surplus for 6 months is \$151
There was a \$1886 deficit for the quarter