

Uniting



Presbytery of

Tasmania

<https://www.victas.uca.org.au/tasmania>

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<p>Refresh with Rev Bill Loader Lay Leadership Conference 10.00am—3.00pm Saturday 29 April Scotch Oakburn College</p>	<p>Uniting Church in Australia Presbytery of Tasmania</p> 

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Code of Ethics Sessions

February

Tues 28 10.00am Code of Ethics, Glenorchy Uniting Church

March

Sat 4 10.00am Code of Ethics, Longford Uniting Church

Code of Ethics is compulsory for Ministers, Ministry Workers and Lay Preachers. Lay Leaders are welcome, and others who may be interested in the Code that all Ministers (active, awaiting placement and retired) are required to work under. There is also a Lay Leaders Code of Conduct, a Lay Preachers Code and a Code of Ethics for Ministers (This includes Ministers of the Word, Deacons and Pastors). All are available through the Assembly website or the Presbytery office.

Refresh

You are invited to hear Bill Loader at this gathering:

Bill Loader is a minister of the Uniting Church in Australia and emeritus professor of New Testament at Murdoch University in Perth, Western Australia.

He engages world wide with communities as he encourages people to encounter Jesus through the New Testament gospels and letters. He has a passion

for young people, for learning and for open conversations around issues that matter in the life of the wider community and the church.

Bill contributes to the life of the church through his writing and research. His recent work around first century Judaistic and Christian attitudes to sexuality has assisted the discussions across the whole Uniting Church as we continue to grapple with difference around sexuality. He invites to dialogue with some of the difficult questions we may have, and to be respectful as we talk together with difficult issues. His approach to the New Testament, informs the way in which Bill encourages the church to continue to follow in the way of Jesus.

There will be a cost to cover lunch. Please let us know of any special dietary requirements.

RSVP 19 April, 2017 to tas.office@victas.uca.org.au or 6331 9784



Reflection

The Channel Christmas Choir, after 15 years of services and then a period of rest was reformed this year.

At Kettering on Monday the 19th December, local Anglicans arranged a wonderful Carol Service, with speaker Rev Adlem from Kingston who spoke to a packed church, to which the Channel Christmas Choir brought its music. On Christmas Eve at Woodbridge Uniting the whole Channel Christmas Choir lead worship with a full repertoire of lovely music and traditional and contemporary readings and prayers from the full gathered congregation.



A message came to the choir mistress, Christmas Day, 2017:- *"I still hear echoes in my mind of the lovely songs on Christmas Eve. Such an amazing happening - the unexpected presence of many new faces as well as the faithful old hands, and you wove their willingness into such harmonies. And all were caught in a spirit of worship and wonder. Thank you so much – to select, prepare, persist and perform with such high quality is a remarkable achievement with local talent in a country setting.*

Those busy younger women themselves were towers of strength in the 8 week preparation time from early October. How they enjoyed singing, and managed their home and work affairs in the 4-6 pm rehearsals over 8 weeks with dedication. Many want to continue singing!

There were Sopranos one and two, exquisite soaring descants, and creamy Altos woven into a varied fabric, Tenors melding and leading, and sensitive or brilliant accompaniments from Oliver Gathercole as the music required, and inspiring leadership by Penny King.

From the toe-tapping traditional *African Carol* arranged by Victor Jonson, to the thought provoking *Were you there on that Christmas Night* we were moved to a hush in *Breath of Heaven* (Mary's Song) as a young woman nears labour, with misgivings. What have I done?

John Rutter's *Christmas Lullaby*, with its spine tingling harmonies was sensitively offered followed by the hallelujahs of rejoicing at a new birth -

Christ is Born, Sing Glory to God. (Lloyd Larsson), A personal word “Saw you never in the Twilight?” quoting a 15th century French melody by Tom Porter brought us all to personal reflection. A contemporary *Christmas Sanctus* by Susan and Lee Dengler affirmed the holiness of this child’s birth, who “has come to change the world”.

Appropriately, through several requests, the choir closed with the traditional Hebrew text of *Ose Shalom* to music by John Leavitt, a prayer for peace in a troubled world. To this all will cry, Abba Father, so be it.

Country churches like those in the Channel are very much left to their own devices in these days of reconstruction. But the riches of latent talent, harmony and the desire for a continuing ministry in an affluent and too busy world need encouragement from the mother churches. We were told 25 years ago, when cut off from parish ministry, to accept being a “faithful remnant” but what a loss to the major churches. How we welcome fellowship and support and visits from city people, so let’s see more circulation in coming times!

Reporter: Miriam Imms

Congratulations Jill



Jill Ruzbacky is pictured above receiving the paperwork for her Masters of International Community Development.

Jill works with the Justice and International Mission Unit at the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania, using her Tasmanian background to be the link relating that unit’s work to Tasmania. This award completes seven years of part time study with Deakin University

Coastal Awards

When long-time Burnie Uniting Church member **Mavis Rowlands** was informed she had been successfully nominated for an Order of Australia Medal (OAM) her first instinct was to not accept it.



Taking inspiration from her parents, Alec and Connie Scott, Mrs Rowlands said she grew up believing that people should always be willing to help others.

Mrs Rowlands was recognised on the Australia Day honours and was one of two North-West Tasmania church identities who had even more reasons to celebrate on January 26 this year.

Mrs Rowlands recognition was for her service to conservation, youth and to the community.

She, and her late husband Arthur, were ardent conservationists at a time when in Tasmania it was certainly not a “trendy” pursuit. “It is far more accepted now whereas once it was seen as anti-government and anti-jobs,” she recalled. Mrs Rowlands said she was driven by a strong belief of the need for good stewardship of our natural environment.

She has also been the treasurer of the Burnie Uniting Church for almost three decades, an elder, Sunday School teacher, roster co-ordinator for Meals on Wheels and a member of the Presbytery of Tasmania.

But, Mrs Rowlands said that in the community service work which she enjoyed the most satisfaction was assisting people on low incomes with their tax returns. “That gave me a lot of satisfaction,” she said.

Pam Ingram was named as the Cradle Coast’s Citizen-of-the-Year after donating much of her life to serving the small rural community of South Riana, near Penguin.



An elder and leader of the South Riana Uniting Church for more than 30 years before it closed, Mrs

Ingram was described as a community icon by the Central Coast Mayor, Jan Bonde, in a life of service which has covered community, the church and business.

She was a school bus driver for more than 50 years, a life member of the Riana Primary School Mothers' Club and Penguin High School Association, a life member of the Penguin Child Health Association and also the South Riana War Memorial Hall Committee.

Getting ready for

Last year through Lent Event, Uniting Church communities across Australia helped send almost \$300,000 to our church partners in Asia, Africa and the Pacific – providing much needed medicine in West Papua, support for women in the Pacific, livelihoods for families in Zimbabwe and training for midwives in South Sudan. Thank you! We hope you'll stand with us again from **March 1- April 15** - key points for Lent Event 2017 include:



- [Bread for the Road](#), a series of daily reflections emailed straight to your inbox. This daily spiritual nourishment replaces the Bible Study. Sign up [here](#).
- Six inspiring videos about the vibrant communities that Lent Event supports - *South Sudan, Papua New Guinea, India and China*. The videos and prayer PowerPoint will form the basis of the worship resource this year.
- We've 'gone green' and instead of money boxes we're providing stickers to attach to a recycled jar to collect savings. The stickers will accompany the usual brochures and poster that we send participating churches.
- Instructions how to host a *South Sudanese Feast* or *Water Walk* will be available on the website as inspiration for congregations to work together.
- We're updating the Lent Event website! All the above will be available early February at <http://www.lentevent.com>.



Please call Fiona at UnitingWorld with any queries on 02 8267 4267.



The healing power of home

When 89-year-old Reginald Rigby suffered a serious fall at home earlier this year and broke his left shoulder, hospital staff offered him the choice of recovering in respite care or at an aged care home.

Neither sounded appealing for Mr Rigby who wanted to remain in his Penguin home and keep an eye on the small garden he had developed and tended diligently for many years.

“I had been in a nursing home before and took myself out. I didn’t like it... it was too regimented,” Mr Rigby explained.

Fortunately Mr Rigby was then able to go home using a Transition Care Community Package (TCP) offered by Uniting Age Well’s Latrobe Community.

The packages offer short-term goal-focused therapy and case management for older people recovering from a hospital stay.

TCP clients are actively involved in their case management, care and therapy and help to set goals for their recovery.

Mr Rigby is a big fan of the program.

“Since I have been involved I have had someone here every day and have been spoilt rotten,” he laughed.

“When you wake up in the morning there is someone here to get you to the shower and then help you dress or I can go back to bed if I want to.

“They help with my meals, housework and if I smile nicely I even get a cup of tea!”

Mr Rigby said maintaining a sense of independence and being able to stay at home were the biggest advantages offered by the TCPs.

The TCPs are available for a three-month period but can be extended by up to a further six weeks.

Up to 76 North-West clients will be supported by the TCPs in 2017.

The Uniting AgeWell Latrobe Community also offers independent living units, home care packages, social support, residential care and Meals on Wheels for the region.

Anyone seeking more information about the TCPs in North-West Tasmania can contact the program on (03) 6426 2844.



UCA Presbytery of Tasmania Christmas cards (\$6 per pack of 10) and, calendars (\$5 each) are for sale through the UCA Tasmanian Office.

You may think that it is a bit early for us to be starting to advertise Christmas Cards. You would be right. We aren't.

We sold Christmas Cards through the Combined Charities Christmas Card Shop in Hobart.

We have raised an amount of between \$350 and \$400 which will be directed towards the work of Frontier Services in Tasmania.

We wish to thank Janet Laing who coordinated this effort; Barbara Wood, Lorraine Brinkman, Alison Claridge, Margaret Brocklehurst and Liz who volunteered their time in the shop; and congregations and individuals who supported by purchasing.



In 2016, we shared with you about our programs by region. This year, we intend to tell you about our programs from the perspective of our clients, through a range of client stories. We often find that its easy to 'know' our programs and what the activities are, and what our client statistics are. We know what regions we operate in, how many people access the service, and what we can do within the program. But then we hear an individual client story – of hope, of transformation, sometimes heartbreakingly, as story of failure, where the services provided (by us and others,) just wasn't enough. It is these individual stories, that really give us the anecdotal evidence that our programs work. That our workers are effective. And that people sometimes, just need to feel the heart behind the service.

We hope that the stories we share with you throughout the year will be uplifting, and help you to understand why we do what we do, and inspire you to seek ways to participate. There are often opportunities for you to visit our service, have a speaker from our service to your congregation or group, volunteer with UnitingCare Tasmania, or perhaps make a donation. For further information please contact us on admin.northtas@tas.unitingcare.org.au

Emergency Relief:

Helen attended our service shortly after ending a relationship where she had experienced domestic violence. Her ex-partner had been constantly abusive towards her, including repeated damage to her car and property. He had created so much disturbance on so many occasions that a neighbour from the top of the street had overheard and informed Helen that she was going to report him. He continued to make threats of death to Helen, and completely diminished her self-worth.*

Helen quit her study placement due to the trauma of her relationship, and felt that it was just her pet dog who kept her going. She identified that she didn't have a network of family or friends around her, and how alone she felt. Helen talked about how terrifying and emotionally draining it was to attend court, and that she had experienced greater poverty than ever before.

Towards the end of her interview with the ER Support Worker, Helen was offered one of the domestic violence backpacks that UnitingCare Tasmania can provide. Her own backpack that she had with her was falling a part. Attached to the new back pack was a tag that said; ‘You matter. You are good enough. You are loved.’ Helen became quite tearful when she read the message and said that it was exactly what she needed to hear. Helen removed the tag from her backpack and put it straight into her purse, ‘to remind me on the bad days that there is still kindness in the world.’

Helen shared that she was feeling better already, and that the ER Support Worker obviously loved her job, having demonstrated such genuine care, a listening ear, and a passion for her work. She further commented about how welcome to the service she had been made to feel in the reception.

Our worker commented: It was wonderful to see that we have been able to make a difference; it is days like today which remind me why I am so passionate about working in the field, and why I decided to enter it in the first place.

(Names have been changed.)

Worship Leader News

The Synod of Victoria and Tasmania Lay Preachers Association will be holding the 2017 Lay Preachers’ Conference on Friday, 24 March and Saturday, 26 March at the Centre for Theology and Ministry — 29 College Crescent Parkville. Speakers include Chris Barnet on Multi-generational worship and Rev Dr Jenny Byrnes on The changing role of Lay Preachers in the strategic direction of the Synod. Registration information will be sent to lay preachers, but if you would also like to attend please contact the Tasmanian office for more information.

Watch for further information on the above in future Uniting Tasmania Editions.

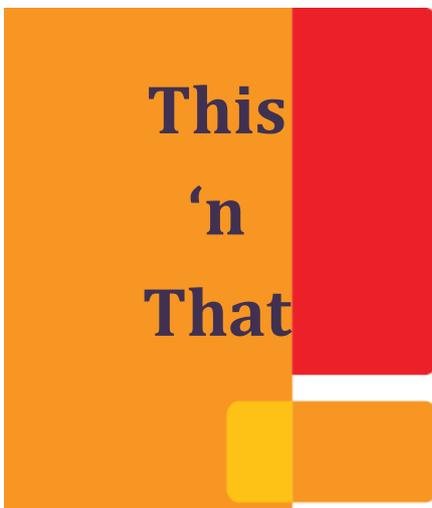


*For Heather Cowled
Tasmanian Rep on the Synod LP Committee of
Management*

Praying for the Presbytery

This month please remember in your prayers:

- For Revs Jeff Gray, Carol Bennett and Colin Gurteen as they approach and move into retirement.
- For David Reeve who has relinquished the role of Chairperson of Presbytery and for the continued search for a new chairperson.



✿ The next **UCA young adults (18-35ish) Transform Conference** will be March 17-19 2017, featuring Robyn Whitaker speaking on the theme "Empires, Evil, and Evangelism: thinking about discipleship and mission with the book of Revelation." For more info, www.transformgatherings.com

✿ **Uniting World's LENT EVENT** resources will be sent to congregations and other materials will be available from www.lentevent.com from early February. Instead of a Bible Study there will be an opportunity to receive daily email reflections. Last year \$300,000 was sent to church partners in the Pacific, Asia and Africa.

✿ **Lenten Bible Studies from Mediacom** based on Matthew with an introduction and six 90 minute sessions. Order from Mediacom, 1800 811 311, admin@mediacom.org.au or PO Box 610, Unley 5061, SA.

✿ **Connect Children and Families Ministry Conference** hosted by Tasmanian Children's Ministry Network will be held at Scotch Oakburn College on Saturday March 18. For more information and registration see <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/connect-2017-registration-28028109831>

✿ **Children and Families Ministry: Core Issues** is an intensive course in Melbourne over a period of six days between February 8 and Feb 15. More information from <http://stirling.edu.au/courses/subjects/children-families-ministry-core-issues-diverse-contexts/>

what's on

March

Sat 4	10.00am	Code of Ethics, Longford Uniting Church
Sat 4	1.00pm	Safe Church, Longford Uniting Church
Tues 7	9.30am	Pastoral Relations Committee, L'ton
Thur 16	10.00am	Presbytery Standing Committee, Launceston
Mon 27	10.30am	Resource & Development Committee, L'ton

April

Sat 22	(TBC)	Farewell for Rev Carol Bennett at Pilrim, L'ton
Sun 23	200pm	Farewell for Rev Colin Gurteen at Kingston
Sat 29		Lay Leadership Conference Scotch Oakburn College, :Launceston -REFRESH

May

Mon 1 to Wed 3 School of Ministry at Bothwell- RENEW
Please check our Presbytery Calendar of events on the [Presbytery website](#)



The Tasmanian Office will close for an Easter break at 4.30pm on Thursday 13th April and reopen at 9.00am on Tuesday 18th April

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