

# The Link



October 2009

Thornleigh Hillcrest  
Uniting Church Newsletter

# Some Thoughts on Mission

from *AUSTRALIAN LEADERSHIP*

Each issue of the journal *Australian Leadership*, published by MediaCom, a South Australian UCA Synod agency focuses on a particular theme. Several issues in the last year have discussed various aspects of mission.

Later this year, and early next year, our congregation will be undertaking mission planning, commencing with a Mission Workshop on November 21, led by Glen Powell from the Board of Mission. It is perhaps tempting to say, 'What, again? Didn't we do this in 2006 and what happened? Was there any obvious result?'

Although some may feel disappointed and possibly frustrated that worthwhile suggestions were not implemented, I believe we need to endeavour to formulate a realistic plan for our congregation at the present time. Rev Dr Ian Price, editor of *Australian Leadership*, wrote, "A church which is used to prayer, trust its leadership and looks forward to new opportunities, always moves forward. As we reflect on the values and ways of Jesus, strategic planning is natural as our next breath".

Another writer, Paul Nixon, says, "Prayer is at the heart of the process and not just a perfunctory act to open a meeting". As a congregation, we need to spend time in prayer seeking God's guidance for all we attempt in His name. Nixon also says there is a need to "think big" but to "think big within our reach".

We should set some specific goals which can be achievable in the foreseeable future.

Some churches hold 'outrageous acts of love', such as free banquets, drinks, biscuits, car washes or the provision of services (eg lawnmowing) to needy people. However, these 'bridge events', aimed at connecting unchurched people to the church and moving them into a relationship with Jesus Christ, are often not successful because they are attractional not missional. Questions which might help such events have this focus are, 'What is the next step we want people to take? Can this event be paired with other existing programs? How will we follow up guests who attend our events?' These are important issues in considering outreach events to our community.

In summary, these articles emphasise the need to:

- Pray (Ephesians 6:18 "Do all this in prayer, asking for God's help.")
- Think big but within our reach
- Ensure planned activities are missional.

Issues of this publication *Australian Leadership* are worth reading. Interested people in the congregation are invited to borrow copies from Jim Mein and return them within a fortnight.

David Richardson

# Church Family News

## Remember in your prayers:

\* Dick Craymer, Mavis & Gordon Price; our missionaries – Richard and Lindsey Parker in South Africa, and the Wakefield family in PNG.

\* Pastor Will & Mrs Betty Pearson and the congregation in Broken Hill.

Congratulations to Neroli & Simon Greig on the birth last Wednesday in Canberra of their second son – another grandson for Robyn & Fred King.

Rev Glen and Merran Renton will be on leave from October 4 to 19. Anyone requiring ministerial services during Glen's absence should contact Gill Mein 9980 8670 or David Richardson 9980 8353.

## For the Diary

**Prayer time** in the heritage chapel on Saturday October 3 from 9 to 10am

**Mission team** – Wednesday October 21 at 7pm at the Richardsons' home

**8.45am worship committee** – Monday October 26 at 7.45pm at the Richardsons' home.

**10.15am worship committee** – Wednesday October 28 at 7.30pm at the Tregenzas' home.

**Saturday November 21 at 7.30pm:** Northern Sydney Youth Orchestra. Tickets available soon: \$20 adult, \$15 concession, \$5 school student.

Geoffrey Peterson's recently published book; '**Tormenting yet Transforming Shame**' – **Biblical, psychological & sociological dimensions of shame**, will be launched at Pitt St Uniting Church on Sunday October 11 at 2:30pm by Rev Dr Dean Drayton. You are invited to attend this important occasion. Afternoon tea will be served.

## Great Effort for World Poverty

Our congregation largely contributed to Barb and myself handing in \$1080 in the World Vision Famine this year. Thanks very much !

# Birthdays

## October

- 4 Jessica Elliot
- 5 Aiden Elliot
- 7 Jim Mein
- 11 Caitlyn Mulcahey
- 14 Bob Parker
- 15 Barry Clark
- 19 Iain Thompson
- 23 Miriam Mulcahey
- 25 Thomas Mulcahey



## Market Day

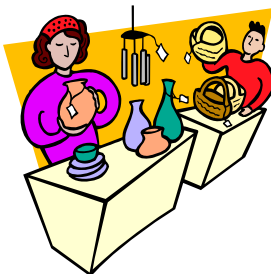
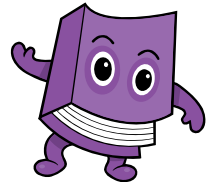
**Saturday November 7**

Pre-loved goods, craft items and books can be dropped off at the church office from the beginning of October on Sunday mornings, Mondays 4-6pm or Thursdays 9-11am. (Please see page 7 for drop-off time for the Trading Post.)

### BOOKS WANTED

Books are needed for our Market Day. If you have any you no longer want, would you please deliver them to the church after 2pm Saturday on October 31 at the latest (for sorting and pricing). If you can't deliver them to church, please contact Bob to arrange pickup (9484 5476).

Many thanks, Bob Parker



Please bring donations of cake ingredients (or cash for them) on November 1. Thanks, Margaret Ficker

Please deliver all craft items to the church on or before November 1 for pricing. Thanks, Liz Newton

In the final few weeks, keep pampering plants, crafting creations, cooking conserves and so on.

At set-up time on the day or the evening before, we need people to bring extra small and large folding tables, as well as some quilts sets and shade structures please.

# Cluster Group News

Saturday September 19 proved to be a warm spring day and the small group who set off by train to distant Bundeena, via ferry from Cronulla, enjoyed the outing and the fellowship together.

On Saturday October 17, another train excursion is planned but this time the destination is Springwood where we will treat ourselves to a hearty lunch at the local sports club, an easy walk from the station.

We plan to catch the 9am train from Thornleigh to Central, travelling on the Epping to Chatswood line. (This will be the first Saturday of the new timetable arrangement). We will return home from Springwood, leaving the train at Strathfield for the Northern line. Would you please advise the Sharpams or the Richardsons by October 11, if you plan to come. All are welcome to share in this day of easy travel and opportunities for fellowship together.

Cluster Group members are reminded that the November activity on Saturday November 21 is to support and assist at the concert by the Northern Sydney Youth Orchestra (details in separate notice).

## Mingles

Windy weather caused the cancellation of the September bushwalk but the group commiserated with an indoor BBQ at the Newtons.

The planned activity for October 24 is a visit to Mt Tomah gardens organised by the Wilcocksons.



## Second Sunday Club

**Sunday October 11 at 4pm**



## JAAL COMING EVENTS

**Thursday, October 1 from 5.30 – 8pm**

JAAL promotion table at Thornleigh Market Place  
(Allan West Convenor)

**Thursday, October 8 from 6.30 – 9am**

Commuter sausage sizzle at Thornleigh Railway Station  
(David Firth Convenor)

**Wednesday, October 14 from 6.30 – 9am**

Commuter Sausage Sizzle at Thornleigh Railway Station  
(David Firth Convenor)

If you can help at any of these events please talk to Allan or David.

If you can't help physically, please pray for these events while they're on. It's important to have each event covered by prayer for the duration of the activity so that God can use us and people will be open to receiving information about Jesus.

Please register your commitment to pray on the Calendar and Prayer Sheets on the JAAL table in the foyer of the church.

If you'd like to make a donation to help cover the costs of the sausage sizzle please see Steve Williamson.

We will have copies of the response books for sale at \$2.95. These are the new version with Mark's Gospel and replace the books with Luke's Gospel, which have run out. Please consider buying a response book or 8-page brochure to give to someone during the Jesus. All About Life Campaign.

# TRADING POST at our Market Day

We are again going to have a TRADING POST so please tell your family and friends.

To remind you how it works:

We can sell:

- Electrical appliances/ gadgets – in good working order
- Sporting equipment such as exercise bikes, surfboards, bikes, scooters, boogie boards etc
- Homewares – fine china, collectables, unwanted gifts
- Photos of large items of furniture can be displayed with a contact phone number.



We cannot sell:

- Used clothes
- Computers, monitors, printers
- Baby cots, child restraints, car seats due to safety regulations



We sell for you at 25% commission.

Maximum number of items per person is 20.

Nothing under \$5 in value.

You need to:

- Bring your items to the church already priced on Friday, November 6 between 5pm & 7pm
- Fill in the required form
- Return on Saturday by 2pm to collect your money or unsold goods.

If you have any questions please contact Gill Mein (9980 8670).

# Presbytery Prattle

Glen, Gill, Norma, Isobel, David F, Barry and I all rejoiced in having the September 2 meeting at Pennant Hills UC. We were given a fish and chicken casserole and fruit salad.

Rev. Dr. John Hoskin led devotions, reading from Matt. 15:21-28 about the Canaanite woman, with the sick daughter, seeking cure by Jesus. He also read *The Troubled Village* by Simon Henwood. John outlined the excellent bridges with the community developing at Pennant Hills:

Leisure and Learning on Fridays, bi-monthly Market Days, increasing church attendance, pastoral care, monthly communion and lunch, Songs of Praise twice a year, SRE in schools and small groups.

Barry was one of several new members warmly welcomed. \$6,844 was raised by congregations (\$4,900 from Cherrybrook) for a machine for Luke Reid; Rev.

Dr. Stephen Reid, our Presbytery Pastor, was welcomed back after leave to assist Luke at home; the news is only slight physical improvement, unfortunately. Barry said Presbytery can now approve building alterations to \$1M. Rev. Ken Day was acknowledged for his 17 years in the Presbytery; he is moving to support congregations without a minister in the Far North Coast.

Rev Arthur Pearce is retiring from St. Johns Wahroonga at the end of the year. Brenda Ohye's position will be divided into an Executive Officer (15 hours) and Assistant Secretary (10 hours).

Joanna Drayton, Youth and Children's Worker, gave notice of an Advent Workshop, Child Protection Training and a Challenge Camp.

Robert Hendy (Roseville) and Geoff Hand's mothers passed away recently. Steve Parker (Belrose) and Keith Robinson (St. David's Lindfield) are now pastors. Liz Dabbs (Normanhurst) has been appointed to chair the Northern Sydney Regional Health Board. Norma announced plans for the UCAF Celebration 21-25/4/10. Glen spoke about the Synod and Presbytery Disaster Plans, introducing Brenda and Rev. Mark Watt as contacts.

Rev. Greg Woolnough (Gosford) reported on the 12th Assembly at UNSW in July; Rev. Alistair MacRae was installed as President and Rev. Andrew Dutney was elected President-elect; the preamble to the

Constitution was amended to include our Indigenous People; it was all a positive experience. Rev. Julie Telfer, RNSH Chaplain, was introduced and spoke of her work. It had been a good time of fellowship, serving the wider Church.

Allan West



# 2010 Church Council and Congregational Meeting Dates

The Church Council Executive have set the following meeting dates for 2010:

<b>Church Council</b> <i>(Wednesdays at 7.30 pm)</i>		<b>Congregation</b>
<b>Meeting Date</b>	<b>Reports Due</b>	<b>Meeting Date</b>
February 17	February 7	March 17, 7.30pm
May 19	May 9	June 20, 2pm
August 18	August 8	September 15, 7.30pm
November 17	November 7	December 15, 7.30pm – AGM <i>(Reports due November 28)</i>

The Executive have agreed that the due date for Church Council reports will be two Sundays before the Church Council meeting. The Church Council Secretary will email reports to members the week before the meeting and provide a hard copy for those members who don't have email.

***Please note the following changes to due dates for reports:***

Church Council meeting reports due November 8, 2009

Annual General Meeting reports due November 15, 2009

## West Epping Uniting Church

invites all local churches to attend the talk by **Jim Wallace AM**, the Managing Director of Australian Christian Lobby (ACL) and formerly the commander of the SAS regiment. His topic is ***Christians and Politics***.

ACL aims to see Christian values better acknowledged in the way we are governed. Everyone is welcome to attend. Donations on the night will go to the work of ACL. Enquiries to church office 9868 3574 Mon-Fri 9am-3pm

Wes Gibbons  
(Speaker Organiser WEUC Men's Fellowship)  
Ph: 9876 5842

# From the Parkers

After spending August in Durban doing the WEC Candidates' Training Course, Lindsey and I have had the pleasure of spending September, our month of practical work for the course, here at our home in Brakpan.

It has been really lovely to be back with the team and to be back in our own house. We have been very busy and we continue to learn much. It has been great to learn more about ourselves and also about working in team.

Our time has been spent doing a variety of things. We have attended a Food Garden Training Course where Lindsey and I actually cleared the ground, dug the furrows and planted 50 square metres of cauliflower seedlings.

We have shared God's word at churches, Lindsey has continued her work in the crèches and we have attended to a few practical jobs on site. The highlight of our month has been the Drama Workshop that we held on September 19. Lindsey and I were both involved in teaching about 50 youth and adults the best ways to use drama effectively in their churches. It was such a fun day and we really felt everyone went away confident enough to use the tools that they had gained.

On September 28 we return to Durban for our last month of training and look forward to being finished on October 28. Please pray for us as we still have our assignments, reading and power point presentations to complete.

Thank you for all your prayer and support, we really love you all and miss you lots!

God bless,

Richard and Lindsey

## Operation CHRISTMAS Child

It is pleasing to have had the Korean Presbyterian folk also assisting with the project this year.

It is gratifying to see a number of filled boxes have already been returned to the church. The final date is fast approaching now and it is planned to dedicate the boxes during both services on Sunday, October 25, prior to them being collected by our local coordinator, Colin Morley, and delivered to Samaritans' Purse.

There will be a retiring offering following the dedication services to assist with the ongoing costs associated with the work of Samaritans' Purse.

# Are YOU an Office Bearer for 2010?

We are appealing for members of God's congregation at Thornleigh Uniting Church:

TO STEP FORWARD IN FAITH

AND BE CHALLENGED TO BE AN OFFICE BEARER  
in our congregation and the Church Council.

Annually, we appoint a Chairperson, a Deputy Chairperson, Secretary and a Treasurer. Fortunately Steve Williamson has accepted the role of Treasurer so we are looking for a Chair, Deputy Chair and a Secretary.

Cathy Thompson has submitted her resignation as Secretary at the Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, December 2, 2009 due to the pressure of studies and desiring to spend more time with her family. She has done a fabulous job and set up systems to make it easier for a successor including a Minute Secretary, a task which Jan Williamson has done so well.

The role of Secretary is mainly organising meeting notices, agenda and supporting papers, the receipt and sending out of correspondence on behalf of our congregation, organising elections and like administrative tasks.

I do not like people 'dobbing in mates' but surely it is not doing that if you know someone who could accept this vital role. Surely it is not 'dobbing', but rather recognising their gift or potential to do administration in our church. Just like the leadership strengths course many of us did in February with Sue Kaldor and Ben Weir, or being a leader as exhorted by the *Australian Leadership* reports of the Richardsons which appear in this *Link*.

Please tell me who you think is gifted to be the Chair, the Deputy and/or Secretary.

IT COULD EVEN BE YOU!

Jim Mein, current Chairperson



# Hospitality Venture Tour of Broken Hill

As a result of the twinning of our congregation with the Broken Hill Uniting Church, and exchange of Weekly News Sheets, we learnt of the Hospitality Venture Tours organised each year by the people of Broken Hill. Having recently returned from one such tour, we would certainly urge other members of our church to avail themselves of this great opportunity to meet up with the members of the Broken Hill congregation, and to share the experience with other folk from around the state.

This was a great opportunity for us to, not only see some of the wonderful sites in the far western city of our State, but to also experience the great hospitality provided by the members of that congregation.

We travelled to Broken Hill by the Indian Pacific train departing Central mid-afternoon on September 2, to be greeted very early next morning by Valerie White (who previously visited us here at Thornleigh Hillcrest) and a number of the local folk, who transported us to our accommodation in the former convent, now owned and managed by the local Churches of Christ, as a conference centre. Here, during breakfast, we met up with the other tour guests with whom we were to spend the next six days.

Broken Hill's mini bus returned mid-morning to transport us firstly to Wesley Church to view an introductory DVD about the area before Pastor Will Pearson welcomed us all over lunch in the church hall. Here we also met many of the local people, including Rev John Blair, the Flying Padre. During the afternoon we were transported around a number of nearby places of interest. In the evening, together with a number of the congregation, we dined at a local motel restaurant, followed by a City Lights Tour before 18 weary travellers were returned to the old convent for a much needed rest.

Each day as we explored the countryside, the hospitality afforded us, at the church premises, in private homes and various other locations, was superb. We visited many places of interest – the Miner's Memorial, ornate Trades Hall, City Churches, Sculpture site, White's Gallery & Mining Museum, Royal Flying Doctor Service and meeting John Blair in the Uniting Church Hangar at the airport where he spoke of his work in the area. A trip to Silverton was another highlight, surrounded by history and locations for filming of several large movies.

On our final day we firstly had an early visit to the School of the Air to learn how the children on properties receive their education, before visiting the



Geo Centre, Silver City Mint and The Big Picture. Then to the church hall for a farewell lunch, once again hosted by members of the congregation. Some of the group who had travelled by road headed off after lunch while us train travellers had a free afternoon to see more of the CBD area.

During the visit we took the opportunity to enquire how we, here at Thornleigh Hillcrest, may be able to assist the Broken Hill congregation, over and above previous offers of accommodation for holidays or for medical appointment visits to Sydney. Will Pearson undertook to discuss this with the local people and advise us of any way we can assist with our twinning of the two congregations. We observed that the banners currently hanging in the church have obviously been in use for some time and consider this might be a way in which we may be able to help the congregation at Broken Hill.

As we boarded the Indian Pacific for the return journey, we reflected on the fellowship we had shared with other members of the Uniting Church in various parts of the State and ACT and with the people of Broken Hill who had given a lot of time and hard work associated with the smooth running of the Venture Tour. We were once again farewelled by a number of the local congregation, who we are sure, would have been satisfied with their efforts and able to enjoy a relaxed and restful evening, as they too reflected on the past week shared with us.

Brenda and Peter Geary

## Friends of Mawarra

**F. of M. met Wednesday  
2/9. Fred King advised  
that all three founding  
congregations had  
endorsed our proposed**

# Important Dates for 2009

## Elders' meeting

November 9

## Church council

Wednesday 18 November

## Congregational meeting

Wednesday December 2, 7.30pm

## Working bee

October 31

# Worship Services Review Group

Last year, the congregation established a Worship Services Review Group to look at whether the current arrangement of holding two morning services or one combined service would cater for the needs of our congregation.

Following a survey, it was obvious that a significant number of people preferred the current arrangements of two services. There were also many suggestions for changes in the format of both services.

The Group plans to meet again on **Tuesday October 27 at 7.30pm** in the crèche room to monitor progress in implementing changes suggested and to consider whether the two services should continue, with combined services each quarter and during the January period.

Comments, preferably in writing, from members of our congregation on any aspect of our services are welcome and can be made to one of the following Review Group members:

Margaret Ficker, Brenda Geary, Elaine Gow, Fred King, Elizabeth Newton, Rosalie Tregenza, Jeni Tresize, Jan Williamson with David Richardson as convenor, and Rev Glen Renton (ex-officio)

# Diary Dates

- **KYB** (Know Your Bible) meets at 10.30am each Monday.
- **Ashleigh Lodge Service** is on the third Sunday of the month at 10.45am.
- **Kids' Time** meets at 4-6pm on Mondays in school terms.
- **THE PIT** is in recess.
- **Indoor Bowls** meets on the first and third Mondays of each month at 1pm.
- **Day Fellowship** meets on the fourth Monday of the month at 1pm, and at other times for outings.
- **Friendship Group** meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 8pm.
- **Second Sunday Club** meets on the second Sunday of the month at 4pm.

## October

- Sun 4      8.45am Worship (HC) – Rev Peter McIntyre  
              10.15am Worship – Rev Peter McIntyre
- Sun 11      8.45am Worship – J Mein  
              10.15am Worship – J Mein
- Sun 18      8.45am Worship – Allan West  
              10.15am Worship – Allan West
- Wed 21     **12pm LINK DEADLINE**
- Sun 25      8.45am Worship – RevG Renton  
              10.15am Worship (HC) – Rev G Renton

## November

- Sun 1      8.45am Worship – tba  
              10.15am Worship – tba
- Sun 8      8.45am Worship – tba  
              10.15am Worship – tba

## Grounds & Gardening

### October

- 10 & 17     J Stowe, B Sharpham  
24 & 31     D Firth, Di Thom