

The Westerly



PWV & PPW Newsletter No.44 – 3rd March 2023



Mental Health Matters

REV. FI BOTTCER (DEACON AT SUNSHINE MENTAL HEALTH)

“It’s **International Women’s Day** next week, what should we do?” I asked at the Women’s Shed. “Let’s celebrate,” said Mary, “because we’re amazing!” as she pumped her fist into the air. We all whooped in response.

There is plenty to celebrate at the Brimbank Women’s Shed. From the woman who was once a shy, nervous, and isolated carer of her elderly parents, who now finds herself being a conversation leader in the groups she attends; to the two women whose confidence and sense of self-worth have blossomed enough for them to follow their dream of joining a choir. These are women who have suffered much in a world where gender inequality and the oppression of women are rife.

In the first-century Roman world, Jesus confronted those who regarded women as second-class citizens. While his disciples begged him to send the “unclean” Canaanite woman away, (Matthew 15:23) Jesus not only listened to her but allowed her to change his mind. Outrageous!

Throughout the gospels, Jesus insists that women’s intrinsic value is equal to that of men. This International Women’s Day we recommit to God’s call on us to lose the chains of injustice and to set the oppressed free (Isaiah 58:6).



International Women’s Day 8th March

Church Council Conversations



We are also asking your Church Council or local leaders to have a conversation about the Act2 Project and the role it can play in helping local communities of faith flourish into the future.

Below you can download a Church Council Pack with six questions for you to discuss and share back. We invite your Church Council to discuss the questions and share your feedback in one of the following ways:

Using the online form [on the webpage](#)

Email the provided [Response Form](#) to the team uca.act2@nat.uca.org.au

Mail the provided [Response Form](#) to: Act2 Project Unit, c/o Uniting Church Assembly, PO Box A2266, Sydney South, NSW 1235

Responses to the Church Council questions are due 30 April 2023.

If you have any questions, please ring out Act2 Hotline on (02) 8026 9728.

Empowering Lay Preachers - National Conference of Lay Preachers 4th—7th August 2023

When: Starts: 4:30 pm Friday, **4 August** / Ends: 1:00 pm Monday, 7 August

Where: Alexandra Park Conference Centre, 13 Mari Street, Alexandra Headlands QLD 4572

For lay preachers, candidates and those interested in leading worship. Share in a wonderful few days and be encouraged, supported and challenged in your ministry.

Proudly Hosted by the Uniting Church in Australia Queensland Synod. For all details, [click here](#).

Save the Date!

You're invited to a season of prayer, simplicity and generosity to change the world. 22 February – 6 April 2023.

Lent Event is a unique fundraising activity to support the work of UnitingWorld. Over the 40-day season of Lent, give up something to help fight poverty and bring hope and healing to our world.

Lent Event is inspired by a simple but powerful idea: Every one of us has a role to play in building a world free from poverty and injustice. But with so much suffering and injustice demanding our attention, where do we begin? We believe that positive change can start with the everyday choices we make; what we spend our limited time, attention and money on. Lent Event gives an opportunity to follow in the footsteps of Jesus, choosing to focus our lives on compassion, generosity and love for our neighbours across the world.

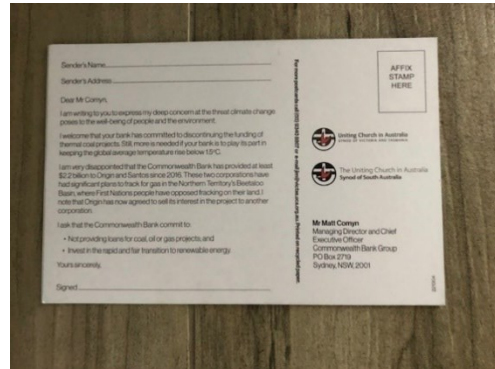


From the Editor: If you missed an edition of The Westerly back editions are available at [Newsletters – Presbytery of Port Phillip West \(ucappw.org.au\)](#). Next edition **13th March**. Any submission are due by the end of February. Always happy to receive your stories, poems, book reviews, photos, and theological reflections from across both our presbyteries. Rev Linley Liersch Linley.Liersch@ppw.victas.uca.org.au. Spot the Koala! Just to fill the spot.

A Visit to A Bank—Which Bank?

Susan Strong (Convenor PPPW Climate Action Group)

A great many members of the Presbytery of PPW took the trouble to sign a postcard about their displeasure with the Commonwealth Bank's funding of fossil fuel companies, addressed to the CBA CEO, Mr Comyn.



The text read as follows:

Sender's name: *Jane Doe*

Sender's address: *25 Smith Street, Corio, 3214*

Dear Mr Comyn,

I am writing to you to express my deep concern at the threat climate change poses to the well-being of people and the environment. I welcome that your bank has committed to discontinuing the funding of thermal coal projects. Still more is needed if your bank is to play its part in keeping the global average temperature rise below 1.5°C. I am very disappointed that the Commonwealth Bank had provided at least \$2.2 billion to Origin and Santos since 2016. These two corporations have had significant plans to frack for gas in the northern Territory's Beetaloo Basin, where First Nations people have opposed fracking on their land. I note that Origin has not agreed to sell its interest in the project to another corporation. I ask that the Commonwealth Bank commit to

*Not providing loans for coal, oil or gas projects, and
Invest in the rapid and fair transition to renewable energy.*

Yours sincerely...

Two of us (thankyou Bruce from Western Heights UC) took these postcards to the manager of a local **Commonwealth Bank** in Geelong. The manager heard what we had to say and promised us two things:

She would do her best to make sure that the postcards would get to the desk of the CEO

She would personally take the time to inform herself of what her bank was doing with respect to these concerns, as she was currently unaware.

We went into this action feeling a little nervous, but in the end, we felt we had really achieved something positive for the environment.

I would like to encourage everyone to 'have a go' and make a difference.



Pancake Day 2023

21
Feb 2023



Williamstown



Airey's Inlet



Happy Pancake Day!

Flippin' great day to turn out in support of some of the most vulnerable and marginalised people in our communities. These photos were found on FaceBook.



Coburg



East Geelong ran Pancakes for morning tea after Worship last week. We raised around \$160 which included a donation from our UCAF folk. The 'Pancake' Team included some youth from the Congregation.

February Education Events

- 7th March **eLM Staff Induction**
4.30pm @ Centre of Theology and Ministry 29 College Cres, Parkville 3052
- 8th March **International Women's Day VCC Ecumenical Breakfast**
7.30—8:45 @ The Manse Café upstairs Wesley Place, 148 Lonsdale st, Melbourne
RSVP Sandy [Boyce](#) 0499 726 213
- 9th March **Northey Lecture. "Death and Beyond: Talking Eschatology"**
Professor Greg Carey <https://events.humanitix.com/northey-lecture-death-and-beyond>
- 10th—13th March **'God's Messy Garden' Church [Camp](#)**
Norval Hall's Gap Info and Registration forms
- 19th March **Rev Brian Howe AO "My life after politics"** Free [Event](#)
2pm @ Centre of Theology and Ministry 29 College Cres Parkville. VicTas UC Historical Society
- 20th March **[EXPONENTIAL](#) Australia—Evangelism Conference**
@ Nunawading. UCA Group Attending.
- 19th March **Induction Rev. Cath James**
2pm @ Brunswick UCA



Rev Brian Howe AO – My life after politics

At this third talk in a three-part series, Brian will talk about life since leaving the Australian Parliament in 1996, having served in the Hawke and Keating Governments.

Sunday 19 March 2023 at 2.00pm Free event

Centre for Theology & Ministry 29 College Crescent Parkville

You are invited to attend live or register for an online link by email:

ken.barelli@bigpond.com | Enquiries: Mobile 0418 317 942

VicTas Uniting Church Historical Society

