



The Uniting Church in Wyndham News

13 August
2023
Pentecost 11

We acknowledge the people of the Kulin alliance, the original custodians of the land which was never ceded and on which our buildings for worship stand and on which we gather.



OUR COMMUNITY NEWS FOR TODAY AND THE COMING WEEK

Questions re amalgamation meetings

Q: Is a secret ballot needed for the decision regarding amalgamation of the two congregations?

A: The answer is NO.

The official means of making decisions in the Uniting Church is the **consensus method** which was described in last week's notices. The Manual for Meetings says:

"When a council of the church makes decisions, it is aiming to discern the guidance of the Spirit in response to the word of God. The processes we use to create community and communicate in our meetings can themselves assist in the discernment process. ... Only those council members present at the meeting of the council may vote. There is no provision for voting by proxy or as an absentee, because of the Church's understanding that God's will is discerned as Christians gather to listen, discuss and pray together."

If you would like to submit a question at this stage, please email the secretaries of the church councils – Ashok Sherwal (secretary@hoppersuniting.church) or Margarat G, or leave in the church office in an envelope marked "Q&A".

Film review: *Coextinction* (SBS On Demand)

Firstly, I declare my interest in this documentary; the habitat of the orcas is Vancouver Island and the north-west coast of British Columbia (BC). I lived and worked in Alberta, Canada 1968–9, my late brother Alan lived in Vancouver for 50 years (1949–99) — our families continue to visit there. Secondly, I care about climate justice and the struggle to conserve earth's wonderful environment in the face of industrial-scale exploitation.



The magnificent orca (killer whale) is an apex predator, dying of starvation because its food the chinook wild salmon is disappearing from the seas

and rivers of the BC west coast. Oil tankers create overwhelming noise stress, drowning out the orcas' conversations. Formerly counted in hundreds, there are now about 20 orcas surviving. The film-makers introduce scientists from the Centre for Whale Research, who explain the decline of the salmon over 20 years and consequent starvation of the orcas. (NT)

The Opportunity Shop at Hoppers Crossing



The following year things really took off with our annual takings more than doubling from previous years. We ran '51 days' 'Super Saturday' sale days and 'Friday Night Frenzy's'. There were so many fun times of dressing up in crazy clothing (outside of opening hours of course) and spending hours trying to figure out what some unusual, curious or vintage item was. We were so blessed with great community donations (well most of the time) but we did occasionally get bad stuff - the worst being a life like stuffed and evil looking black crow that gave us all a very big fright. It was fake! We had the occasional thief and copped a couple of fake \$100 bills – all very annoying but getting to know customers was generally a real joy. We often felt like counsellors but many good friends were made along the way. The volunteers would often help to choose our donation recipients which helped them to feel an integral part of the ministry.

The Op Shop outreach was a ministry, with funds that we raised and donated. Over my term we raised over \$780,000, reaching out to more than 100 community charities and organisations locally, nationally and internationally, along with covering salaries and budgeted financial contributions to the life of our own church. In 2019, after almost 15 years of serving at HXUC Op Shop, I stepped down as manager. My time in this role was full of many great experiences, the most valued being the friendship I have for the volunteers who walked every step of the way with me. This time in my life was an absolute blessing. (Mandy S & Neil T— continued from last week)

OSLO: Sunday 27 August we are booked with the Phoenix Hotel at 22-30 Wallace Avenue Point Cook. Because of the General meetings it is booked for 12.30pm. Everybody welcome but please contact either Elaine or Lorna H for booking or cancellation before Thursday 24 August.

NEWS AND NOTES

Prayer group and Bible study

Meet again at Crossroads on **Tuesday 15 August from 11.30 am to 1 pm** for the Bible Study Group. Bring your Bible and share lunch together afterwards. Contact Neil T.

Boys Brigade

Monday night—7:00pm to 9:00pm at Dreambuilders Church, 37-43 Graham Court, Hoppers Crossing, contact Scott W or boysbrigadewyndham@gmail.com for details.

Wyndham Uniting Church Justice Task Group:

gives advance notice of a community film and discussion during the Wyndham Learning Festival, on **Saturday 2 September – “Regenerating Australia and the Pacific Islands.”** This will be an afternoon of community connection about climate solutions and sustainable change through transformative best practices to build a cleaner, fairer and more prosperous future, with live music and delicious snacks.

Everyone welcome at Wayaperri House, 106 Duncans Rd Werribee (opposite Werribee Secondary College), 3pm-4.30 pm, Saturday 2 September. Further details will be provided closer to the event date.

Shoebox

Operation Christmas Child is a project of Samaritan’s Purse. It is a hands-on way for you to bless children in need across the world by filling shoeboxes with toys, hygiene items, school supplies, and fun gifts. We collect the boxes and distribute them in the name of Jesus Christ to children living in vulnerable situations.

The mission of Operation Christmas Child is to provide God’s love in a tangible way to children in need around the world, and together with the local church worldwide, to share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

If you would like to pack a shoebox this year, I have plenty of empty shoeboxes of all shapes and sizes available. If you need some just let me know and I will drop them around to you, or you can collect some from the church office.

I would like to remind you that the cost of postage per shoebox has risen to **\$12.50**. All filled shoeboxes must be returned to the Church by **15 October**. I can collect them from you if that is easier.

After this season I will retire from leading the shoebox project at Crossroads. If you think you might like to take it on, please have a chat with me. (Rose G.)

TODAY AND NEXT WEEK

Worship services

13 August: Rev. Fa’amata’u Leota

20 August: Rev. Ian Pearse

What’s On This Week

Monday: 9.30am Playgroup

Tuesday: 11.30am Bible Discussion

Wednesday: 9.30am Crossroads Property C’tee; 7.30pm Crossroads Church Council (Zoom)

Thursday: 9.30am Gardening Group

Friday: 1pm Sew ‘n’ Sow

Bible Readings – 13 & 20 August

13 August: Genesis 37:1–4, 12–28; Romans 10:5–21; Matthew 14:22–33; Psalm 105:1–6, 16–22, 45b

20 August:

Rosters for 13 August & (20 August)

Greetings: Margaret B (Bev C)

AV: Noel S (Christian R-K)

Morning Tea: Elaine B & Julie R (Margaret F & Asanka P)

Flowers: Rose G (Elaine B)

Music: Gina L (Elliott S)

Prayers: Tupu L (Luciana A)

Reader: Emily M (Paul C)

Pastoral Care

Rev. Fa’amata’u Leota (0401 592 359)

Audrey Kateena (0435 064 088)

Crossroads and Hoppers Crossing online

CR Facebook page can be found at

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/621987747878234/> <https://crossroadsunitingchurch.org.au>. HX is secretary@hoppersuniting.church.

Church Office

Church office is open Monday to Friday, 9.30–12 noon. Phone 9741 1084. Email

office@crossroadsunitingchurch.org.au.

TUCIW News: For any inclusions, please contact the editors **by Tuesday** (ph. 0427 812 606) or email robert.renton@bigpond.com.

Bank Accounts: Crossroads BSB 083-909 A/c 516109795. Hoppers Crossing BSB 013-915 A/c 354439707 Reference: Your surname.

Boom gate Remember the code: 0459# **To book for an event at Crossroads**, please email bookings@crossroadsunitingchurch.org.au.