



# Western Heights Uniting Church

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Loving God: Growing Together, Partnering Community, Sharing Faith

BUSINESS NAME

## MARCH 2024 NEWSLETTER

### SAFE CHURCH

Western Heights Uniting Church is committed to the safety, protection and well-being of all children and young people from all forms of abuse and neglect. We will make every effort to provide an environment of safety and support. All key leaders have completed a Working With Children Check. Western Heights UC has adopted the Synod "Keeping Children Safe" policy.

### March at a Glance

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Sunday 3rd	10.00am	Worship—Rev. Temukisa Amituana'i-Vaeluaga Pancake Morning Tea—donation Uniting Michele Hardy—St. Albans/St. Andrews
Friday 8th		Friday Fun Night
Sunday 10th	10.00am	Worship—Rev. Temukisa Amituana'i-Vaeluaga
Sunday 17th	10:00am	Worship—Rev. Temukisa Amituana'i-Vaeluaga
Tuesday 19th	12.00pm	Tuesday Friendship
Wednesday 20th	7.00pm	Church Council Meeting
Sunday 24th	10:00am	Worship—Rev. Temukisa Amituana'i-Vaeluaga Palm Sunday Congregational Annual Meeting
Thursday 28th	6.00pm	Maundy Thursday—Dinner & Worship
Friday 29th	9.30am	Good Friday Service
Sunday 31st	10.00am	Worship—Rev. Temukisa Amituana'i-Vaeluaga Easter Sunday Service

### Dates for your diary

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19th May 10.00am Pentecost

WHUC will join the Greater Geelong Uniting Churches at the 'Dome' library

### Staff on leave

Jan Grigg—20th March—10th April 2024

Temukisa Amituana'i-Vaeluaga—1st April—9th April

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## Tuesday Friendship

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Tuesday 19th March 2024

Lunch  
12.00pm

All Ladies welcome.

Joan Murphy Phone 0438 722 035

## 2024 Congregation Annual Meeting

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The 2024 Western Heights Congregational Annual General Meeting will be held after the service on **Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2024.**

Could all reports be given to Jan in the office no later than **Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March.**

Lynda Scott

Congregational Secretary

## From the ECO Group

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There is a new recycling box in the foyer for blister packs that are composed of plastic & foil or plastic & cardboard.

If your blister packs are all foil you can scrunch them up into a golf ball size and dispose of them in your own recycling bin.

## Safe Church Training

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We still have some people to complete their training if this is you—

1. This is a friendly reminder that, if you are required to have a Working With Children Check for the task that you perform at Western Heights UC, you are also required to do the new Safe Church Training. Please see Velma, Bianca, Heather or Nathan for more information.
2. Thanks to all who have completed the training. Please show Jan Grigg your certificate when you have received it.

Safe Church Group.

## Reflective Space

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A quiet, gentle space for personal reflection has been put in place under the balcony. You are invited to use this space for a moment of peace and stillness, and to light a candle if you wish.

Please respect the privacy of those who choose to use this space.

WESTERN HEIGHTS UNITING CHURCH

# Easter Services

**14th February 2:00pm**  
Ash Wednesday, Beginning of Lent  
Holy Communion and Afternoon Tea

**24th March 10:00am**  
Palm Sunday Service

**28th March 6:00pm**  
Maundy Thursday  
Dinner and Worship

**29th March 9:30am**  
Good Friday Service

**31st March 10:00am**  
Easter Sunday Service

*Everyone is welcome!*

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**GAV'S**  
& SIGNS  
gavsigs.com.au

**Clean Up Australia Day. Sunday March 3<sup>rd</sup>. 4pm  
Balyang Sanctuary**



**Meet up on the grass opposite the Balyang Par 3 Golf Course, on Marnock Rd, on the right side as you are going towards the Sanctuary.**

**All Ages – Come and have fun cleaning up our country.**

**Bring gloves and tongs. Bags and hi-viz provided**

**Bring some munchies and we'll picnic after.**

**Contact Bruce on 0491 663 514 for info**



**Join us at  
the Uniting  
book sale.**

**Nothing over \$1**

Join us at our monthly book sale.

Held the first Friday and Saturday of each month at Uniting Grovedale, the Uniting book sale raises much needed funds for local services.

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March  
and  
Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March  
10am - 2pm**

**272 Torquay Rd, Grovedale  
(Corner Reserve and Torquay Roads)**

**Uniting**

**4gr**

4gr is our main tenant, ... and over the coming months, we will be aiming to inform the church community some more about them, as we explore ways in which we can support one another.

4gr was started in August 2013 by our directors Gillian Baldwin and Beth Evans, who met working for a previous employer and realised they both shared a passion and a dream to ensure all members of our society experienced equality in employment.

They had to start with a name, so looking at those who inspired this “leap of faith” (their children), they decided on 4gr, which stands for “Four Good Reasons”. Gill and Beth wanted to show their beautiful children that if you have a dream don't be afraid to go after it.

We support individuals from the ages of 15 to 60 who have a disability. The business has a dual focus, to train and coach individuals in the art of Job Seeking, and to work with business to ensure they have a healthy work environment where each individual is supported, where teams thrive, and each employee is valued.

4gr have been using space at the WHUC since 2015. At this time the business had to very quickly relocate due to flash flooding in Geelong. Gill approached Graeme to ask for a room to deliver the program. We started in the Minya room which we quickly outgrew and moved into the Horizon space, then the pandemic hit and we were afforded the opportunity to use the larger Badminton Hall so we could deliver the services while working in the government restrictions. Even though this space was appreciated, it was quite cold in the winter, so again the church committee allowed us to relocate back into the Horizon room, which the team were very pleased with. Without the ongoing support of the parishioners and church council we would be unable to offer our unique and vital services to those members of our community who are vulnerable and in need of specialised support to find and maintain employment.

4gr started with just Gill and Beth and in the past 10 years has grown to 22 staff which covers Barwon, Melbourne and South Australia and at the moment we have roughly 162 participants across the whole business who are being supported to find employment, have employment, or looking into courses.

We always welcome your questions and interest in what we do and would like to extend our sincere thanks for the support the entire community has shown us over the 8 years we have now been associated with WHUC.

It takes a village to raise a child, and it certainly takes a community to find that child employment.



## Combined Refugee Action Group Geelong

**BIG WALK**  
**4 REFUGEES**

SCAN HERE  
to get started

### Geelong, Bellarine Surfcoast -

Calling friends, family, supporters, colleagues, people with lived experience of seeking asylum, walkers, runners, swimmers, cyclists - join us in **Team Geelong** (there is a Team Queenscliff and other teams too!) - and walk, run, swim, cycle with refugees virtually, individually, in groups, in your daily life and in an event in Geelong proposed for March 17th 2024.

Register as above and join with Team Geelong, add your steps (you can convert other activities such as cycling into steps) so your steps sync and get counted.

*Let's take this simple action in solidarity with people who just want to live in our communities in safety.*

**The Big Walk action runs from 14th Feb to 26th March 2024 to end just before Palm Sunday 24th March then a delegation will be in Canberra on 26th March.**

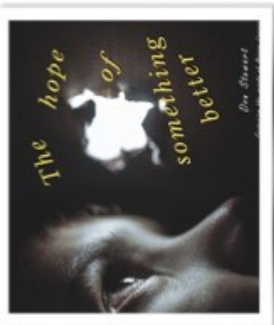
It is free, though you may also donate to the costs of administering the website and communications.

# THE REFORMERS

'THE HOPE OF SOMETHING BETTER'



**CONCERT**  
**4PM**  
**SUNDAY MARCH 24**  
QUEENSCLIFF UNITING CHURCH  
TICKETS INCL REFRESHMENTS  
BAR OPEN AT 3.30



SPOKEN WORD, VIDEO, SONGS, ORIGINAL AUSTRALIAN CELTIC TUNES.  
'THE HOPE OF SOMETHING BETTER' .. A MUSIC JOURNEY INTO THE MIND AND HEART OF HENRY LAWSON

Concert tickets <https://www.trybooking.com/COU7K>  
online or scan QR code



[www.unitingqueenscliff.org.au](http://www.unitingqueenscliff.org.au)  
contemplation creativity compassion



## **Climate Action** **Banner Caption Competition**

Dear Friend,

The Port Phillip West Presbytery Climate Action Group warmly invites you to a workshop with afternoon tea. The focus will be creative planning for the coming week-long International Campaign of Faith Groups, organised by Faiths 4 Climate Justice, for early May.

Please invite any interested people from UCA congregations, agencies and schools in the Presbytery.

There are two events: choose which one suits you better.

**SATURDAY MARCH 23**, 2pm to 4pm.

**BRUNSWICK UNITING CHURCH (212 Sydney Road Brunswick)**

Please RSVP to Richard at email [richarn50@gmail.com](mailto:richarn50@gmail.com) or mobile 0407796429, by Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> of March but preferably ASAP so we can cater and plan accordingly! Please indicate any dietary needs.

**SATURDAY APRIL 20<sup>th</sup>**, 2 pm to 4 pm

**WESLEY UNITING CHURCH (100 Yarra street, Geelong)**

Please RSVP to Sue at email [susanannestrong@hotmail.com](mailto:susanannestrong@hotmail.com) or mobile 0437 741077, by April 19<sup>th</sup> and indicate any dietary needs.



We look forward to spending time with you developing meaningful and attention-grabbing actions in solidarity with many peoples of faith across the world.

Sue Strong, Richard Arnold, Kate Scull, Richard Allen  
(Presbytery of Port Phillip West Climate Action Group)

All Congregations, Schools and Agencies are invited to participate in the Climate Action Banner Caption Competition

The aim is to see who can come up with the catchiest caption.

The prize will be a free banner measuring 4000 mm x 1000 mm, valued at \$150 which can be displayed at the winning Congregation, Agency, or School.

To register for this competition please email Richard Arnold from the Port Phillip West Climate Action Taskgroup: [richarn50@gmail.com](mailto:richarn50@gmail.com)

Captions need to be a maximum of eight words.

**Entries will be received until Friday 22 March and the winner will be announced on Friday 12 April.**

**The winning banner will be presented in time for the Green Faith International "Global Week of Action" from 3 May and 12 May which we are all being asked to support.**

*Whilst there will only be one winner of this competition, we encourage everyone to make or purchase your own banners. There are several local manufacturers providing online services at reasonable rates.*

## **Summary Of Church Council Meeting of 21 February 2024**

- Devotions by Velma O: The heart that God desires of us. Matthew 5 to 7.
- Presbytery Minister Linley Liersch informed CC of the 'imagined' Greater Geelong Plan.
- Bruce W., Jacqui Payne and Andrew Ryan informed CC of the Tennis Club's Missional Strategy and their desire to work more closely with the church.
- Election of Office Bearers by secret ballot: Chairperson: Velma Oliver; Vice-Chair: Lynda Scott; Secretary: Sandra Neville; Ass. Secretary: Vacant Treasurer: Geoff Coots; Assistant Treasurer: Glenn Chidzey
- The proposed 3-year budget was accepted and will be presented to the congregation at the AGM, on 24 March, 2024.
- The crying room has been made available to 4GR as an office.
- Chris Rookes has offered to organise a fete at a date to be decided.
- Rev. Craig Collas has transferred to St Albans-St Andrews Geelong.
- WHUC will join the Greater Geelong Uniting Churches at the 'Dome' library for Pentecost at 10:00 a.m. on 19 May, 2024.
- CC signed its Statement of Commitment to Keeping Children Safe.
- The meeting closed with prayer by Temukisa at 9:30 p.m.
- Next meeting on Wednesday, 20 March, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

Velma Oliver.

# Contact Details

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**Minister:** Rev. Temukisa Amituana'i – Vaeluaga  
0400 664 991

Temukisa's day off is **Monday** so please refrain from contacting her on this day.

**Church Council Chair:** Velma Oliver  
**lv.oliver@iinet.net.au** 0421 271 946

**Property Co-ordinator:** Graeme Hardy  
**graeme.c.hardy@gmail.com** 0408 630 391

## Communications

**Administrator:** Jan Grigg 5229 5889

## Pastoral Care:

Rev. Temukisa Amituana'i – Vaeluaga  
0400 664 991

## WHUC Office:

Phone: 5229 2681  
Office hours: Wed: 1.30pm - 3.30pm  
Fri : 9am – 1:00pm  
Office email: **office@whuc.com.au**  
Website: **www.whuc.com.au**  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/pages/Western-Heights-Uniting-Church/167518399975533](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Western-Heights-Uniting-Church/167518399975533)

## Parental/Guardian Permission

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In order for Western Heights to be a Safe Church, we are seeking the permission of parents or guardians to photograph or video their children during church services and other church-related activities. Permission forms are available at the back of the church. Please hand completed forms to the duty steward of the day.

## Light Globes & Batteries

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Did you know that light globes and batteries of any sort can be recycled? There is a box in the foyer near the stamps where you can leave them.

## Postage stamps

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Sammy Stamp is a part of the UCAF (Uniting Church Adult Fellowship) that collects postage stamps, sells them and then provides grants for small projects not covered in the Synod Budget. There is a box in the foyer for you to put your used stamps. If you could cut around your stamp leaving 5mm of paper that would be helpful.

## Eco Group

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The Eco Group has started an Eco Books library, in the entry foyer. Please borrow books and if you have good books on the subject, you would be willing to share, see Bruce W.

## With Love To The World

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Used With Love to the World booklets can be left in the marked drawer in the recycling material box in the foyer.

## Pew Sheet

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If anyone wishes to receive the Pew Sheet information by email each week, please give your name and email address to Jan in the office.

## Milk Bottle Tops

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We are collecting plastic **milk** bottle tops with St. Joseph's College. You can leave your milk bottle tops in the foyer for recycling.

## Future Monthly Newsletters

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To be included in the Monthly Newsletter, please ensure your notices are at the church office by the **20<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month**. They can be dropped in to the office in a clearly marked envelope, or emailed to the office, at **office@whuc.com.au**