



Western Heights Uniting Church

31 Douglass Street, Herne Hill, 3218.

(03) 5229 2681

Email: office@whuc.com.au



Loving God: Growing Together, Partnering Community, Sharing Faith

WESTERN HEIGHTS UNITING CHURCH

May 2025 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.

May at a Glance

Saturday 3rd	9.30am	Shared Community Garden Working Bee
Sunday 4th	10.00am	Worship—Rev. Temukisa Amituana'i-Vaeluaga Uniting Winter Appeal Rev Robert Van Zetten—East Geelong Michele Hardy—St. Albans/St. Andrews
Friday 9th	6.00pm	Friday Fun Night—Chris Howard
Sunday 11th	10.00am	Worship—Eco Group
Wednesday 14th	7.15pm	The Climate Action Group—Professor Michael Clarke
Sunday 18th	10:00am	Worship—Rev. Bruce Waldron Communion Michele Hardy—East Geelong
Wednesday 21st		Church Council Meeting
Sunday 25th	10.00am	Worship—Rev. Robert Van Zetten & Musicians Hymn Fest

Staff on Leave

Temukisa will be on leave from **Monday 5th May—Tuesday 17th June.**

Shared Community Garden News

The community garden provides an opportunity to engage with others in a relaxed atmosphere. Our vision is that the wider community will find a place of safety and support as we grow vegetables and relationships together.

NEXT WORKING BEE

SATURDAY 3rd May 9.30 – 11AM

Come when you can, leave when you have to.

Refreshments provided

The **Community Garden Task group** meets regularly to develop further ideas for engaging the community, discuss tasks in the garden and plan future planting and harvesting.

Friday Fun Night

9th May 2025 - 6.00pm

Horizons Room WHUC

Speaker: Chris Howard

**Topic: The What, Where, Who and
Why of the Camino.**

**A personal experience of walking the French
Camino (800km in 40 days)**

Bring food to share.

‘Spread the Warmth this Winter’

As winter approaches Uniting is experiencing an increasing need for help and support.

We will be having a special Winter Woollies Donation on **Sunday 4th May**.

Items such as: Blankets, Swags, Sleeping bags, Beanies/Scarves, Non perishable food.

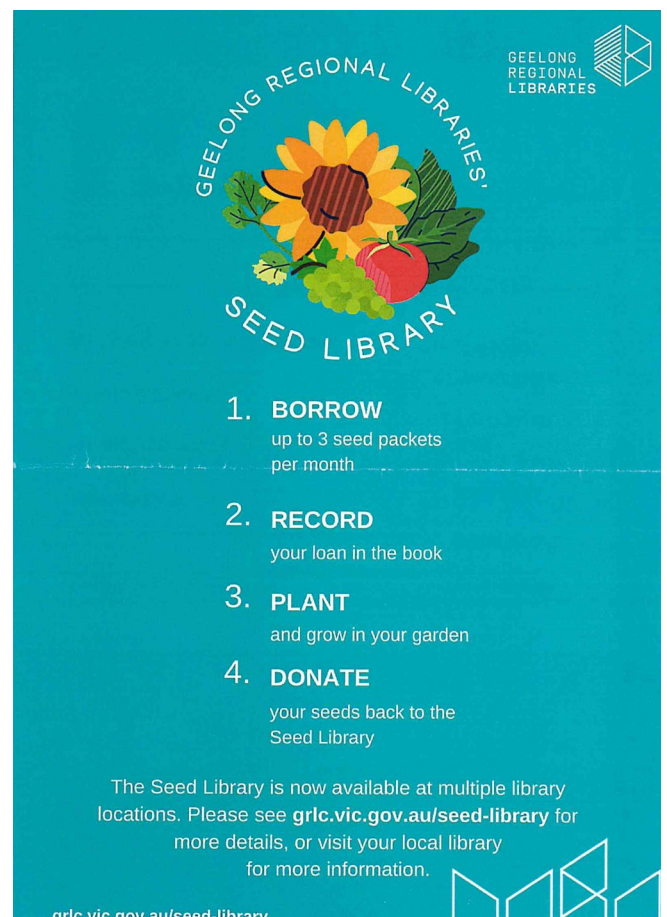
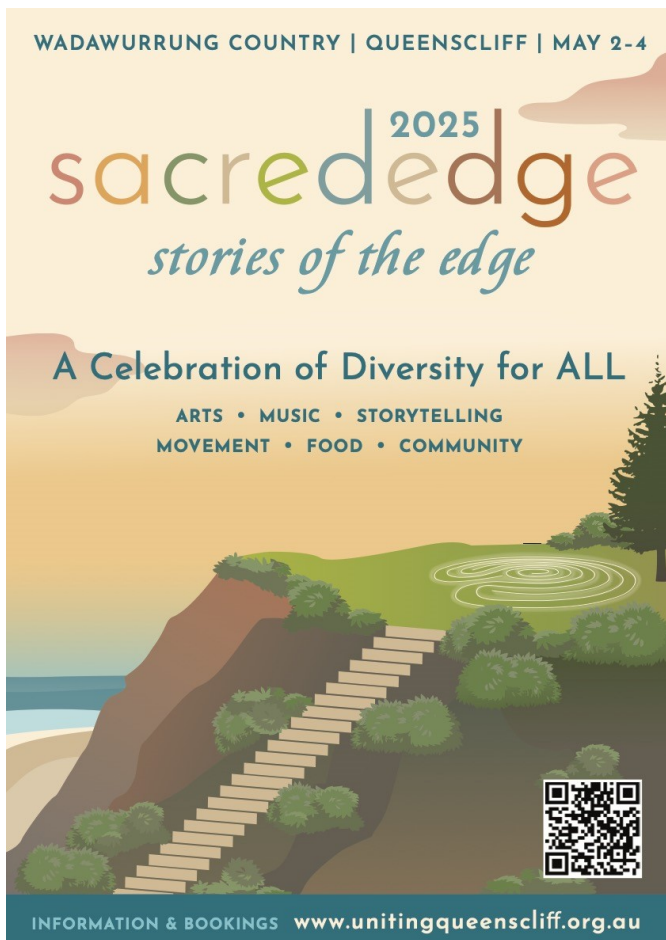
Hymn Fest

On **Sunday 25th May** we're planning a very special "Hymn Fest" church service!

Do you have a favourite hymn or Christian song? Write it down on the list near the sound desk. If your song is already on the list put a tick in the box beside it. The most popular ones will be selected for the Hymn Fest Service.

Church Roster June, July & August

The next church and music rosters for June, July and August will be compiled at the start of May. If there are any dates you are unavailable please record them in the book.



Summary of Church Council Meeting of 16th April 2025 .

- * Devotions by Geoff Coots - poem about Easter.
- * We are seeking a second informal meeting with the St Lukes Church Council.
- * Discussions resulting from our church review have started with the suggestions receiving the most numbers.
 - (3) Possibility of merger -We have had one discussion with St Lukes and have requested another very soon.
 - (2) Reshaping the layout of the church- We will need some more information on what the congregations ideas are. Can you draw a sketch for us? Do let us know please.
 - (2) More progressive theology- More information needed as this is a very large subject!
 - (2) No more Old Testament readings- 'The Basis of Union of the Uniting Church' does instruct us that the Old Testament is a valuable and necessary part of the understanding of our religion.

The Charge at Ordination:

N, in the name of Jesus Christ, the only Head of the Church, we are here to ordain you as a minister of the Word by prayer and the laying on of hands. As a minister of the Word, you are called to receive the witness to Christ in the holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, and to proclaim from them the gospel of Jesus Christ in word and deed. You are entrusted to preside at the sacraments of baptism and the eucharist, instituted by our Lord as signs and seals of the gospel and his gift to the Church; you will celebrate these sacraments with the people of God. Taking Christ the Good Shepherd as your example, you are called to lead God's people in worship, witness and service; to equip them for their ministry and mission; and to work with them in building up the body of Christ....

- * The Horizons Room is being made available for a PALM workshop (helping Samoan workers transition to living in Australia) during the ANZAC weekend .
- * The playgroups request for funding has been approved by Church Council. .
- * Church Council will change its meeting time from 7pm to 3.30pm



Spread the warmth this winter.

With the colder months upon us, we need your help to bring some comfort to those who suffer most in the cold weather.

Your generosity will directly impact people in your local community seeking shelter and warmth.

Donate online: unitingvictas.org.au/local-winter



Scan me to
donate online.

Donate winter items:

Blankets, warm clothing, swags, sleeping bags, toiletries and non-perishable food

Drop off location:

Grovedale: 272 Torquay Rd (Cnr Reserve Rd and Torquay Rd), Monday-Friday, 9am - 12pm

Norlane: 10 Wendover Avenue, Tuesday-Thursday, 9am-12pm



Uniting is the community services organisation
of the Uniting Church in Victoria and Tasmania.



Uniting

Support our
Winter Local
Appeal.

The Effects of Climate Change on Wildlife and Landscapes- how do we respond faithfully to the challenge?

The Climate Action Group of the Geelong Climate Action Group of Uniting Churches is hosting a presentation and discussion led by a senior scientist who has devoted his career to conserving Nature.

Emeritus Prof Michael Clarke (see below) will share his understanding of some of the current challenges to the natural world posed by climate change and how he, as a Christian, sees this connecting with his faith and his responsibility to care for the planet.



The presentation will be followed by time for questions and discussion.

Date and Time: Wednesday 14th May, 7:15-9pm. Music and supper also provided.

Venue: Western Heights Uniting Church, 31 Douglass Street Herne Hill, 3218



Professor Michael Clarke



Emeritus Professor Mike Clarke is a zoologist who has studied the ecology and conservation biology of birds, reptiles, mammals, fish and plants. He leads research at La Trobe University, along with his colleagues Profs Andrew Bennett and Jim Radford into the impact of fire on fauna. He also maintains an ongoing research interest in threatened species and threatening processes. He was the Convener of the Scientific Advisory Committee on the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act* to the Victorian Minister for the Environment for five years. In 2007 he was awarded the DL Serventy Medal by the Royal Australasian

Ornithologists Union for his outstanding contribution to the scientific literature in ornithology. In 2010 he was an expert witness in fire ecology at the Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission. He was the Head of the School of Life Sciences from 2011-2019. In 2014 his research on fire ecology with Prof Bennett was one of three finalists for a Eureka Prize in Environmental Research. In 2023 he was elected as a Fellow of Birdlife Australia, the highest award available in the discipline, for distinguished service to ornithology. He remains actively involved in research and ensuring conservation policy is based on the best available evidence. He recently served as a member of the Board of Directors of Parks Victoria for three and half years. He is a Fellow of ISCAST (Christianity and Science in Conversation).
<https://scholars.latrobe.edu.au/mfclarke>



UCA ANNIVERSARY



WHEN

22 JUNE 2025

10AM

LET OUR VOICE REJOICE

GUEST SPEAKER: Rev David Kim

[VICTAS Multicultural Ministries Coordinator]

Let's celebrate the diversity within the UCA!

VENUE: Western Heights Uniting Church

31 Douglass Street, Heme Hill

Shared lunch to follow – all are welcome!

Contact Details

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: Lynda Scott
lynda.r.scott@gmail.com 0435 050 958

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

Parental/Guardian Permission

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.

Eco Group

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

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

Pew Sheet

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.

Light Globes & Batteries

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

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.

Milk Bottle Tops

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

To be included in the Monthly Newsletter, please ensure your notices are at the church office by the **20th 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

Uniting Church Safe Church Policies

Access to key Safe Church policies is available on: safechurch.ucavictas.org.au