

Warragul Uniting Church

KEEPING IN TOUCH 8
Tuesday 30th June 2020

It's for REAL!

*We have a minister
in placement from November*



*Welcome to the
Rev Ian Brown*

*Prayer, hard work, listening to the spirit,
faith, action and response*

The vote was unanimous that a Call be issued to the Rev Ian Brown. The Call to 'The Presbytery of Gippsland Wattlebird Ministry team with particular responsibility for the congregation of Warragul' was made by the Presbytery and Ian responded immediately accepting the Call.

It's been a long journey for all of us without a minister in placement.

We have maintained and are maintaining our contact with each other, sometimes more successfully than others. We have found ways to meet together, shared phone calls, learned to 'Zoom', and plenty of emails. Some have been using written letters...remember these? The smiles and hello's while shopping. A visit from someone. It's all about part of being community.

Thank you to the members of the Joint Nominating Committee for their dedicated work over many months meeting together in the same room and sometimes using Zoom. Thank you to all of you who are reading this for you participation in the 'phone around' to get input from all members. There were very few people could not be contacted after trying many times



Ian has informed his Church Council, and Congregation that he has accepted this Call.

So the veil of confidentiality is lifted...we are free to talk about and share our good news. There have been many people in our congregation and many people not in our congregation who have brought a great deal of understanding, perception, wisdom and diligence in prayer support for the processes that we have been following. Thank you to all members of the congregation for your patience, prayers and other support in this process. We are grateful for the leadership of the Rev Jennie Gordon who was the chairperson of the JNC.

So we are entering into a new relationship as we move towards planning re Covid 19 restrictions and forecast changes, short term Supply ministry and having a Minister in Placement once more. We are experiencing different ways of worshipping and keeping in contact at present. I think that it's called being flexible? New challenges as we explore together how we respond to the call of God to be God's people.

It's about discerning the leading of the Spirit and following that leading wherever it might take us.

DID YOU NOTICE??? Last week's 'Keeping in Touch' stated that *'from today, for the next twelve months, there will be a little more daylight every day'*. I got it wrong! The actual quote said **'six'** NOT 'twelve' months! As a former teacher my response could have been 'this was just to test how many were reading "Keeping in Touch"'. I had one person who reported this mistake. The reality is that I didn't check the quote carefully enough!

USING THE CHURCH BUILDINGS. Some groups have asked about meeting again in the church buildings. Permission has been given to AA, NA and The Train Shed to recommence. There are requirements set by DHHS that must be met and these are basically to do with cleaning, hygiene, social distancing. The Church Council Executive has approved a Check List for all groups using the church buildings to follow. Enquiries about recommencing your group can be made by phoning the Church Office (Tues and Thurs mornings) or contacting Des Parker.

We remember Hilda Cadby and Jean Phillips who died recently. Jean was 107 years old. Both of these ladies were very active and dedicated members of the church. Keep members of the families in your prayers. Hilda's Funeral will be at Nielson's on Monday 7th July and is private. Jean's funeral is on Saturday 4th July and attendance is by invitation only.

Welcome home to the Morisons...I know that they have returned because David rescued us from bewilderment when we could not get Zoom to work properly at the Church Council Extended Executive last night. We have missed his expertise. We have also missed Mary and David's sense of humor and optimism. Maybe it was not a cyber-attack that was our problem...just needing more expertise and practice!

I know that many of you are meeting with each other for tea and coffee, in homes, and cafes. It's great to be able to do this again. Making contact, sharing stories, enjoying, sharing and building friendships.

Peace and blessing,
Des Parker

On behalf of the Extended Church Council Executive:

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