



Victorian
Council of Churches

Victorian Council of Churches
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Melbourne VIC 3000
Ph: 03 9650 4511

Council News

September 2017



A Message from our Executive Officer



A Reflection

The changing of seasons are significant - they stand as signs pointing to new tasks, new moments in the rhythm of life and this current change of season is particularly so. The movement from Winter to Spring is one that has entertained the human thought since words were added to paper.

It's a time of newness; everywhere we see buds bursting into colour, plants unfolding new growth, the animal world reproducing, the sun becoming warmer.

As we gather as congregations of believers do we have this sense of the changing of seasons?

It's my prayer that as we experience this new season of spring with all of its hopes and promises that something of the season of hope and promises ushered in by our Lord will enrich the lives of our congregations and ourselves.

- Ian

I am currently establishing my diary for later part of 2017 and 2018 and would welcome opportunities to come and share stories of the Council activities with your Church or organization – you can contact me on 03 9650 4511 or email at ian.smith@vcc.org.au

News from the Council

- Council has been busy working amongst the Member Churches on a number of issues that are facing society : End of Life, Domestic Violence, Child Safe Standards - in each area the Council honours the independence of each member church whilst trying to hold a common witness.
- Council is preparing to share in the celebrations with our Copt brothers and sisters as their Pope Tawadros II arrives in Melbourne during September
- Council is exploring ways of gathering for a mid year event—details will be forthcoming
- Council acknowledges the contribution of Bishop Kay Goldsworthy in leadership within the Anglican Church, particularly in Gippsland and the wider community and extends every blessing as she accepts her new post as Archbishop of Perth and Metropolitan of W.A.

President's Reflection

We are living in a very difficult time in the life of the Church and the wider community.

The church, quite rightly, is under scrutiny as the report of the Royal Commission is delivered and recommendations and directives are made. This has been a long and very difficult process and we now need to respond and seek ways of implementing the report.

We are also being challenged by two major issues that the wider community and Christian community are faced with.

Same sex marriage and Euthanasia are very much in our minds and discussions.

Within the Church and among members of the VCC there are many different views and opinions.

We strongly support the need for us to be multi faith and multi-cultural in our discussions.

I believe that we must respectfully listen to one another and the wider community. These are profound matters and it is my hope that respect and care are very much part of our life in Christ.

We pray for one another and for “the peace that passes all understanding” as we deal with these issues.

+Peter

Palestine Israel Ecumenical Network

Become a member!

Now is the time to stand with those in Palestine and Israel who are seeking a just, sustainable peace. This is also the time to join with others in becoming a financial member and supporter of PIEN.

For a joining fee of \$20, as well as any other amount you wish to contribute, you will be standing with others committed to peace and justice in Palestine and Israel. Will you join us?

[Follow this simple link to complete your membership application. We look forward to you joining us.](#)

Note - at the time of writing, we are not able to process credit card payments, but will be able to do so soon. In the meantime, please join using bank transfer or via cheque. Details are on the PIEN website.

Celebrating Dialogue

Anglican and Uniting Churches Launch book “Weaving a New Cloth” following 40 years of dialogue



Recently at St Paul's Cathedral in Melbourne the Primate of Australia and Archbishop of Melbourne Philip Freier along with the Moderator of the Uniting Church of Australia, VicTas Synod Rev Sharon Hollis launched the book *Weaving a New Cloth*—a book designed to help local congregations establish and strengthen links with fellow local congregations. Contact VCC offices 9650 4511 for more details



COMMISSION FOR CHILDREN
AND YOUNG PEOPLE



Reportable Conduct Scheme Workplace Investigations Seminar

The Commission for Children and Young People is pleased to work in collaboration with the Office of the New South Wales (NSW) Ombudsman to offer a series of one day workplace investigations seminars to Victorian religious and faith-based organisations.

The NSW Ombudsman has over 18 years of experience in overseeing the NSW reportable conduct scheme, and delivering workshops to those responsible for undertaking and reviewing investigations of reportable conduct allegations involving employees and volunteers.

Who should attend?

These seminars are designed for heads of organisations, managers who oversee investigations and investigators.

What will be covered?

- an overview of the requirements of the Victorian Reportable Conduct Scheme
- steps in the investigation process
- risk assessment and risk management strategies
- investigation techniques and strategies for investigating particular types of conduct including grooming, neglect, emotional / psychological harm
- investigating conduct outside of work
- reaching and responding to findings based on available evidence
- documentation and recording keeping practices
- reaching and responding to findings based on available evidence.

Registration is essential and limited to two people per organisation.

Pakenham

Monday 9 October 2017

9.30am - 4pm

[Register now](#)

Melbourne

Tuesday 10 October 2017

9.30am - 4pm

[Register now](#)

Ballarat

Friday 13 October 2017

9.30am - 4pm

[Register now](#)

From the NCCA Newsletter

Anti Poverty Week 2017

15 - 21 October 2017

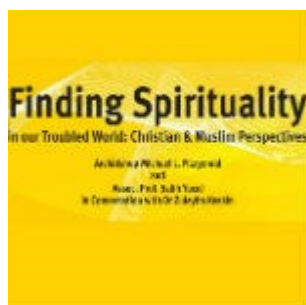


Reduce poverty and hardship by taking part in an activity organised by others or organize an activity yourself.

Activities such as conferences, seminars, forums, performances, media events etc are always great. [Read more »](#)

Finding Spirituality in our Troubled World:

Christian and Muslim Perspectives



You are invited to this event at the Cardinal Knox Centre 383 Albert Street, East Melbourne, Victoria.

Tuesday 22 September 2017, 6:30pm for a 7:30 start.

Archbishop Michael L. Fitzgerald and Assoc. Prof. Salih Yucel in conversation with Dr Zuleyha Keskin. [Read more »](#)



The Fourth International Conference on Receptive Ecumenism

Leaning into the Spirit

Monday 6 – Thursday 9 November 2017.

University House, Australian National University, Canberra

For Registrations visit the [Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture website](#). [Read more »](#)



GriefLine invites you to

"Born in One Country Dying in Another" – Power of Story Wednesday 13th September 2017

"We want Victoria to be a place where diversity is not just tolerated, but a community where we celebrate the common humanity of all cultures" – Hon Robin Scott MP

Building tolerance & awareness about the struggles & cultural specific issues experienced by the Chinese & Indian Communities who call Australia home.

5.15pm **Registration**

5.30pm **Seminar Opening**

5.45pm **Dorothy Yiu OAM JP** (Counsellor, Founder-Chinese Cancer Society of Victoria)

6.05pm **May Hu OAM JP** (President & Founder of National Australian Chinese Women Association, Chair of Chinese International Arts Festival & Chinese Writers Festival)

6.20pm **Break & opportunity to network**

6.45 pm **Dr. Manjula O'Connor** (Consultant Psychiatrist, Chair Family Violence Working Group, Executive Director Australasian Centre for Human Rights & Health)

7.15 pm **Panel discussion** – Moderated by **Kristina Kukolja** a multi award-winning journalist with SBS World News.

Panelists

Manpreet Kaur – a multi award-winning Journalist & Executive Producer for SBS Radio Punjabi & Member of the Media Advisory Group for Our Watch

Hao Wu – Social Worker with Australian Red Cross working in the Migration Support Program

Dolly Huang – Board Member for the Centre for Holistic Health & Social Worker specialising in care of older Chinese speaking immigrants.

Cr. George Hua – Councillor - City Of Kingston

Date & Time: September 13th, 2017 – 5.15pm – 8.15pm

Venue: GriefLine Community & Family Services Inc.
Level 1, 479 Warrigal Road, Moorabbin, 3189

Cost: \$25 for General Public & Free for GriefLine Volunteers

Registration: By Friday 8th September – Phone (03) 9935 7444

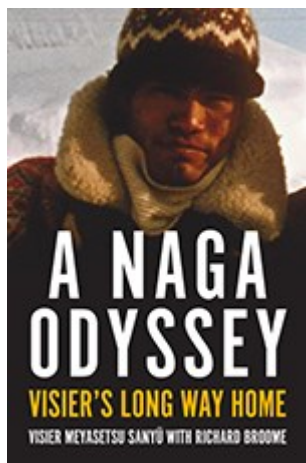
Or Email susanm@griefline.org.au

Please forward this invitation to others who may be interested

BOOK LAUNCH INVITATION

Initiatives of Change and Monash University Publishing are delighted to invite you to the launch of

A Naga Odyssey



Visier's Long Way Home

By Visier Meyasetsu Sanyü with Richard Broome

To be launched by The Rev Tim Costello AO, Chief Advocate, World Vision Australia

With a special performance by Kavisha Mazzella

When: Saturday 23 September 2017
3.00 for 3.30pm

Where: Armagh, Initiatives of Change
226 Kooyong Road Toorak Victoria

ANGLICAN CHURCH ELECTS AUSTRALIA'S FIRST FEMALE ARCHBISHOP



The Anglican Church has elected its first female Archbishop, the Right Reverend Kay Goldsworthy AO, who has been appointed as Archbishop of Perth and Metropolitan of Western Australia

[+ READ MORE](#)

Grad. Cert. in Children & Families Ministry – enrol now!

Offered through the University of Divinity, this [Graduate Certificate](#) presents an opportunity to enhance your ministry gifts, to increase your capacity for engaging ministry and to learn in a caring, interactive and stimulating environment – as well as providing formal recognition of your skills in ministry. For ministers/pastors engaged in general ministry, those employed in specific Children & Families ministry roles and anyone with a passion for ministry with children and their families, the course requires completion of two compulsory subjects (see below) and one subject of your choice.

[DA/DS2/3/9010S The Nurture and Spiritual Guidance of Children](#) next offered as intensive Nov 29,30, Dec 1; Dec 4-6

[DA8015S Children and Families Ministry: Core Issues in Diverse Contexts](#) next offered as intensive in Feb 2018

For more information about these great opportunities e-mail chris.barnett@ctm.uca.edu.au

From the World Council of Churches

World Week of Peace in Palestine and Israel

17 - 24 September 2017

Worldwide

During this week which includes the International Day of Prayer for Peace on 21st September, church organizations, congregations, and people of faith are encouraged to make a common witness by participating in worship services, educational events, and acts of supports to support peace and justice for Israelis and Palestinians.

For more and for resources, please [follow the link](#)

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

18 - 25 January 2018

Worldwide

The theme for the week of prayer in 2018, "Your right hand, O Lord, glorious in power" is inspired by Exodus 15:6. The resources for the week have been prepared by members of different churches in the Caribbean.

Resources can be found [here](#).

From the UCA JIM Unit

International Day of Peace



Each year the International Day of Peace is observed around the world on 21 September.

The United Nations General Assembly (UN) has declared this as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, both within and among all nations and peoples.

[Read more »](#)

Changes to Working with Children Checks

The Victorian State Government has gazetted changes to the Working with Children's Checks. These changes come into effect on the 1st August 2017. Essentially, the change tightens the requirements for WWC checks so that all adults who come in contact with children within Faith communities require a WCC check.

See <http://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au> or 1300 652 879

Finding Spirituality

in our Troubled World: Christian & Muslim Perspectives

Archbishop Michael L. Fitzgerald
and
Assoc. Prof. Salih Yucel
in Conversation with Dr Zuleyha Keskin



Archbishop Michael L. Fitzgerald M.Afr.

*Emeritus President
of the Pontifical Council
for Interreligious Dialogue*

- Joined Missionaries of Africa (White Fathers) in Tunisia (1956)
- BA in Arabic University of London (1968)
- Pontifical Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies (PISAI)
- Ministry in Uganda and Sudan
- Secretary for the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue (1987 to 2002)
- President of the PCID (2002-2006)
- Apostolic Nuncio to Egypt (2007-2012)



Associate Professor Salih Yucel

*Fethullah Gulen Chair
in the Study of Islam
and Muslim-Catholic Relations,
Australian Catholic University*

- Bachelor of Islamic Divinity at University of Ankara (1982)
- MTh at the University of Sydney (1996)
- Muslim chaplain at Harvard Medical Schools' hospitals
- Doctorate at Boston University (2007)
- Lecturer in Islamic Studies at Monash University between (2008-2014)
- Centre for Islamic Studies and Civilisation/ Charles Sturt University (since 2015)



Dr Zuleyha Keskin

*Centre for
Islamic Studies
and Civilisation,
Charles Sturt University*

- Senior lecturer in Islamic Studies at CSU
- Course Coordinator at the Centre for Islamic Studies and Civilisation
- Director at ISRA Australia

Date and Time

Tuesday 12 September
6:30pm for a 7pm start

Venue

Knox Lecture Theatre
Cardinal Knox Centre
383 Albert Street East Melbourne
(Entry through the carpark
on Lansdowne Street)

Light refreshments with coffee and tea will be offered. If you have any special dietary needs, please let us know when you register for the event.

Free Entry

Please register at:
<https://findingspirituality.eventbrite.com.au>

Jointly Hosted By

Ecumenical and Interfaith Commission
Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne
03 9926 5708
eic@cam.org.au
and
Australian Intercultural Society
03 9867 2248
info@intercultural.org.au



Building bridges through information, interaction and cooperation



Victorian Council of Churches

Council News is the official newsletter of the Victorian Council of Churches

Editor Rev. Ian Smith Executive Officer

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Website: <http://www.vcc.org.au/>

We're on the web!
www.vcc.org.au



Victorian
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The Victorian Council of Churches is a fellowship of churches which confess the Lord Jesus Christ as God and Saviour according to the Scriptures and seek to fulfil together their common calling to the glory of the one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

***** If you have an event that you want others to know about then contact at vcc@vcc.org.au excluding January we plan to publish a Council News each month *****

Child Safe Standards

A Reminder

As of January 1st 2017 the Victorian Child Safe Standards become mandatory for all Churches and Faith organisations. For more details visit:

www.childsafestandards.org.au

How to implement the Victorian Child Safe Standards in your faith community that come into place on 1 January 2017.

The Victorian Council of Churches in partnership with the National Council of Churches in Australia – Safe Church Program has collaborated together to provide a toolkit and Training Portal to ensure

that all Faith Communities in Victoria have the opportunity to ensure that they are prepared to implement the Child Safe Standards in their faith community.

We are pleased to partner with the Commission for Children and Young People

(www.ccyp.vic.gov.au) in assisting faith based organisations to meet the Child Safe Standards by providing a range of faith-generic resources, tools and supports.

