



Werrabee Uniting Church

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 we gather.

11 February 2024: Epiphany 6

Musings from Rev. Mark Dunn

Hunt for the Wilderpeople is a Kiwi adventure with heart by New Zealand writer/director Taika Waititi. I'm really glad I saw this movie. It's the story of an unlikely partnership between a young boy in foster care and a gruff old farmer. By virtue of having been taken in by a hearty, no-nonsense, loving woman, the two find themselves with only one another to lean on and embark on an adventure. It quickly turns into a caper story in the New Zealand bush and it is quite funny. Some salty language, but otherwise a terrific family-oriented comedy with a big, big heart and some good lessons.

Ricky Baker (Julian Dennison) is a disgruntled teen with a long list of minor misdemeanours. His crimes point to a likely stay in juvenile detention, barring his final shot at foster care. As the film opens, Ricky is delivered to a rundown farm in New Zealand's beautiful hill country. Here Ricky meets eccentric foster 'aunt' Bella (Rema Te Wiata) and surly 'uncle' Hector Faulkner (Sam Neill).

Fish-out-of-water Ricky quickly assesses the enthusiastic Bella and Hector (Hec) as gullible bumpkins and makes an escape bid. Following Ricky's initial bid for freedom, we see a begrudging (Ricky) yet tender (Bella, less-so Hec) family bond developing. Having grown accustomed to the freedom of rural life, Ricky stages a dramatic escape and flees into the forest. *Wilderpeople* focuses on the evolution of Ricky and Hec's relationship as they evade man, beast and nature itself.

Their warm-hearted camaraderie evolves as adversity begets **forgiveness, acceptance** and finally **trust**. Eventually, it becomes apparent that Ricky and Hector are our 'Wilderpeople' and the hunt of the title is not the authorities, but actually the duo's journey towards **accepting one another as adopted kin**.

This story has parallels and lessons for us in the church as we navigate the adventure and pursue the journey towards **accepting one another as adopted kin** in this new chapter of church life together. **Let us work on being adopted kin to one another.**

Have a blessed week, Mark

An invitation from Belmont Uniting Church

We would like to extend to the congregation at Werrabee our invitation to attend the induction of the Rev. Annetia Goldsmith on Sunday 18 February at 2pm at the church at 42 Thomson Street, Belmont. We have been holding your congregation in our prayers and hope the process of calling a new minister will begin smoothly soon. Please RSVP for catering purposes to buc@bigpond.com or 0408 175 984.

Ash Wednesday service this week

The Rev. Mark Dunn will conduct this service on Wednesday at 7pm.

TODAY AND NEXT WEEK

Worship services

11 February: Celebration of W.U.C.

14 February: Ash Wednesday, 7pm.

18 February (Lent 1): Audrey Kateena

Bible readings

Today: 2 Kings 2:1–12; 2 Corinthians 4:3–6; Mark 9:2–9; Psalm 50

Next Week: Genesis 9:8–17; Psalm 25:1–10; 1 Peter 3:18–22; Mark 1:9–15

What's on this week

Monday: 9.30am Playgroup; 7pm Boys & Girls Brigade at Dreambuilders Church

Tuesday: 11.30am Bible Discussion & Lunch

Wednesday: 10am Property Committee

Thursday: 9.30am Gardening Group

Friday: 1pm Sew 'n Sow

Rosters 11 February (& 18 Feb)

Greetings: Margaret B (Margaret D)

Audiovisual: Paul C (Noel S)

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

Flowers: Jennie K (Elaine B)

Music: Gina L (Tracey S)

Prayers: Margaret B (TBA)

Reader: Lauina L & Noel S (Elaine B)

Werrabee UC on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/621987747878234/>

Church office

Open Monday to Friday 9.30am–12noon.

Phone 97411084 Email

office@crossroadsunitingchurch.org.au

WUC Newsletter

Send information for inclusion to the Editor at robert.renton@bigpond.com or Neil T.

Bank Account & Boom Gate

BSB 083-909 A/c 516109795

Boom gate code: 0459#

To book facilities at WUC:

Email: (Elizabeth B)

bookings@crossroadsunitingchurch.org.au

Samoan service The Samoan language service is held every 3rd Sunday at 4pm in the church. All welcome.

OSLO 25th February—book now

We're starting the year at the Phoenix Hotel 40 Wallace Avenue Point Cook—no seniors meals but reasonable prices. Book with Elaine or Lorna before Thursday 22 February, please. All are very welcome!

Wyndham Interfaith Network



Wyndham Interfaith Network resumed its activities for the new year, with a brunch at Wyndham Cache, K Road. Chairperson for 2024 is Monica Raizada from the Hindu community. We thanked the retiring co-ordinator Laurence G, who has moved to a new position at Wyndham Council. Laurence has given leadership and admin support to the Network for seven years, organizing visits to places of worship and the Annual Multi-faith dinner at the Encore Centre. We will miss Laurence greatly.

Members' meetings will continue monthly at Wayaperri House, 106 Duncans Road on the evening of the second Tuesday in the month. All are welcome. It would be good to see some members of Werribee Uniting Church participate in the WIFN this year! (More information from Neil T)

Beach Patrol today at 11.30am



We hope you can join us today to clean K Road Cliffs. We will meet in the cliffs carpark K Road Werribee South at 11:30am and the clean will last for 1 hour. Remember to bring your own gloves & water bottle. It will be great to catch up again and if you haven't been for a while

we would love to see you again. New members are always welcome.

Armando A: Church Councillor



I asked Armando (pictured) about his hopes for the future of our combined congregation and its council.

Firstly, he says: "I feel blessed to have the opportunity to serve Christ in this way; to use my knowledge and skills for the work of the team. I'm grateful for the work of those who have gone

before us as leaders in the life and mission of the church here in Werribee."

He says: "The amalgamation process for me was positive as I met new and interesting people that I would not otherwise have known. The ex-Hoppers Crossing members' point of view is enriching the whole church."

"Concerning my hope for the future: I would like to see first of all that we are unified as One in Christ. Not two different congregations under the same roof, but one. For the future I hope the church not only will develop the spiritual life of members but also that the church will show leadership to the whole community of Wyndham. I hope we can see this not as a challenge but as an the opportunity," says Armando.

He continues: "I hope the church will receive insight from people of multiple different backgrounds. That opportunity is a blessing, which will nurture our church and enrich each member's life."

"I feel energised," says Armando, "when I go to church and I see so many young people who come to hear and receive God's word. These youngsters represent the future of our church community."

"I feel that in the City of Wyndham, we can lead by example, if we show the community that we can be together as friends regardless of background, colour of skin, different languages. What we are doing is an example to the whole society of Wyndham of multicultural community life, that is beneficial to all of us," he says.

"As a new citizen of this country the Uniting Church has helped me to understand that to be saved in Christ must be demonstrated through action. The church helps me to contribute to a more just world; for example how we can fight for a world without the impact of climate change," says Armando. (NT)

Early notice of Easter events

Maundy Thursday (28 March) 7pm service
Good Friday (29 March) 9.30am service