

BERRY UNITING CHURCH

FEBRUARY BULLETIN 2020



*Welcome to Berry Uniting Church.
We trust you feel at home as we worship together.
We invite everyone to stay for a cup of tea/coffee
in the church hall after the service.*

Church web site: <https://www.berryuniting.org>
77 Albert Street (PO Box 103)
Berry NSW 2535

Rev. Andrew Watts **Phone: 0400 059 191**

Email: andrewwatts@westnet.com.au



The Minister's Musings Rev. Serene Jones of Union Seminary, New York has said, "One of the things that I learned from life ... is that not just individuals, but whole communities undergo trauma, and that one of the characteristics of trauma is the deep human desire to repress it and to not deal with the story of the harms that have happened. But the truth of the matter is, with individual and collective trauma, is that the harm haunts you, haunts your dreams as an individual, haunts your collective unconscious as a society, until you tell the story, till you face the truth of the horrors that have happened." This reflection has been on my mind lately with the many experiences we are hearing from those impacted by the bushfires, but also with public discussion in recent weeks around 26 January. With the bushfires the work done by many so far and in the next month or two is vital for immediate practical needs. The many different communities impacted have some amazing stories of support happening. The medium and long term are also being considered because we know this is a long and hard journey of recovery. We hope and pray that good listening, encouragement, support, love and care can continue to help

address and work towards healing of the haunting trauma. The collective trauma of our nation on which we have reflected on Aboriginal Sunday (19 January) and at the Change the Heart service (23 January at Keiraview) is an even tougher task. Our past and present as a nation reflects the complexity of human nature in which we can, each one of us, be both saints and sinners.

Our only path forward is through God's grace which is bigger than our extraordinary capabilities and our faults. John 1 reminds us that the full glory of God is in Jesus and that glory is full of grace and truth. Rev Serene Jones sees the path to healing from trauma comes through both grace and truth. Having Teela Reid and Thomas Mayor bring the Uluru Statement from the Heart alive to us in December, I can see glimpses of grace and truth in that statement. It states the truth, and calls for more truth telling, but does so graciously, inviting us all to come together in a fuller and better expression of who we are in this land.
Andrew Watts.

February Preachers

2nd Andrew Watts
9th Meredith Yabsley
16th Andrew Watts
23rd David Millikan



February Birthdays

7th Warwick Leal
13th Dorothy Horsman
15th Margaret Bull
19th Fay Atkins

Coffee and Friends: Looking forward to the return of Coffee and Friends on the 26th February at 10am. We have a double bill to start us off for the year. Grant Davidson and Bob Ashford are going to regale us with rollicking tales of their overland journey some years ago from England to Australia. You may know Grant from his concerts with Ona at our Church last year. Everyone is welcome.

Church Duty Roster: Once again I'm asking for volunteers for the duty roster. If we have enough volunteers it means you would only be on the roster 2 or 3 times every 3 months. Let me know if you are able to help. Janet B.



**PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE
VOLUNTEER TO HELP
DO MORNING TEAS**

**GOLD COIN DONATION at Sunday Morning
Teas goes towards young people in
conjunction with the Men's Shed.**

**SECET/THREE16 The 2020 Scripture
Teachers Commissioning Service will
be on 23rd February. Venue: TBA**

LIBRARY OPENING HOURS & EVENTS 2020

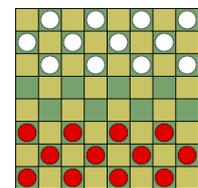
**Monday & Wednesday 1 – 4pm Tuesday, Thursday & Friday
10am – 1pm Friendship Room.**

Games at the Library

Our first Games @ the Library will be in on Friday 7th February and again on the 21st Feb. It was decided to meet fortnightly from 1pm to 3pm on Fridays with a light afternoon tea. Everyone is welcome to join in and the main aim is to have fun and relax with friends. Last year there were games of Scrabble, Canasta and 500 but if you have a favourite board or card game, bring along your suggestions. Please come and join in the fun.

Kids Books Bushfire Appeal.

We have a wonderful collection of children's books that have been donated toward this appeal. Matt Willis, a paramedic at the Berry Ambulance station will collect them at the end of this week and they will be going to places like Conjola, Ulladulla, Moruya and the nearby places that have been so affected by the fires. The idea is to distribute them to children who have lost everything or been directly affected in the fires with a message of hope and love.



Church Property Matters: please contact Stuart Horsman

CHURCH AND HALLS BOOKINGS: N.B. please contact Janet Brentnall.

CHURCH BULLETIN: Please let Ona Frazier know of any items that need to be in the Church Bulletin. Either send them to her by email Ona.Frazier@gmail.com or by phone: 4423 2802 or 0400 890 839 or write a note and give it to her by the last Thursday in the month.

FRIDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY will resume on Friday, 14th February. We will be continuing our studies in Luke's Gospel. Luke 6:36-49 Study 11, which is the final section of "The Saviour's Manifesto", based around "Read, Mark, Learn LUKE Vol.1 A Small Group Bible Study" by William Taylor. We would love as many as possible to join us in this time of learning and fellowship. Please see Ona or Roy, or call on 0400890839, if you are interested.

Christian Churches of Berry



Artist: Nonhlanhla Mathe

ZIMBABWE. WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2020.

Friday, 6th March 2020

"Rise! Take Your Mat and Walk".

It is our joy and responsibility to lead the World Day of Prayer for 2020. We will need to organize the catering, music, service and so on. Each of the churches is involved in all aspects of the evening.

Please let Andrew, Roy or Ona know if you can help in any way.

NOWRA PLAYERS

The next production of the Nowra Players is the musical, "Mamma Mia ". Set on a Greek island paradise this heart warming tale centres on the young bride to be. On the eve of her wedding, Sophie's quest to discover the identity of her father brings three men from her mother's past back to the island they last visited 20 years ago.

Heather has booked seats for the Sunday matinee 15 March at 2 pm, cost \$28 each. The seats need to be paid for by 17 February. If you are interested, see Heather.

Masonic Village Service: The first Church Service for the year at the Berry Masonic Village is at 11:00am on Thursday, 13th February. The service usually lasts for about 30 minutes. If you would like to be involved please let Ona know (0400890839). It would be wonderful even if you just came along. It would be a great encouragement to those from the nursing home, who come each time.

THREE16 Part 2

Loosely Woven Musical Group

8th March Nowra Uniting Church

1pm. \$10 per ticket. Children free.

Flyer coming soon.

Prayer Breakfast

21st March

Berry Uniting 7:30am - 9am.

God is Almighty "O great and powerful God, whose name is the Lord Almighty, great are Your purposes and mighty are Your deeds."

Jeremiah 32: 18-19

Almighty means: He who controls or holds onto everything. The word omnipotent is also used when talking about God's power. Omni means: all or completely; potent means: powerful or able. So omnipotent means: God is all powerful or God is completely able.

Rosters for February:**Mowing: Speak to Ross or John B.**

| Date | Greeters | Bible Reader | Prayer | Duty Leader | Morning Tea | Communion | Cleaning |
|------------------|------------------|--------------|--------|-------------|------------------|-----------|-------------------|
| 2nd | Virginia & Pam | Lawrie | John B | Erica | Barbara & Lawrie | Stuart | |
| 9th | Dorothy & Stuart | Stuart | Julie | John B | Janet | | Gordon & Virginia |
| 16 th | Virginia & Pam | Hedley | Peter | Barbara | Heather | | |
| 23 rd | Erica & Sandra | Peter W | Ona | Julie | Ona | | Marion |

REGULAR CHURCH ACTIVITIES

- **CHURCH PRAYER GROUP:** MEETS EACH SATURDAY AT 8 AM. CONTACT : FAY ATKINS 4464 1426
- **SOCIAL CRAFT GROUP:** MEETS ON THE 1ST & 3RD MONDAYS OF THE MONTH AT 9.30 AM. CONTACT: CHRISTA LEAHMANN 0418441105
- **BERRY MEN'S SHED:** IS OPEN EACH WEEK ON TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS FROM 9.30 AM. CONTACT: SANDRA ESCOTT 4464 1495
- **BERRY COMPUTERS FOR SENIORS:** MEETS 1ST & 3RD WEDNESDAY. CONTACT: MAREE WATSON ON 0407 803 819.
- **THE BERRY APPLE USERS GROUP:** MEETS 2ND TUESDAY AT 7:00PM CONTACT JOHN BRETNALL
- **CHURCH COUNCIL:** MEETS MONTHLY ON THE 3RD TUESDAY AT 1:30 PM IN THE FRIENDSHIP ROOM. CONTACT: JOHN BRETNALL 0466 717 254
- **FRIDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY:** 10:00AM 2ND & 4TH FRIDAYS) CONTACTS: ROY AND ONA FRAZIER 0400890839 RESUMES 14TH FEBRUARY
- **COFFEE AND FRIENDS:** 4TH WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 10:00AM. CONTACTS: JANET BRETNALL, SHONA GIBSON AND JULIE WATTS.
- **BERRY COMMUNITY GARDEN** LAURIE WATSON, 0423 267 957

“Lord, forgive our persecutors” say Rohingya Christians brutally attacked in Muslim Rohingya backlash.

One Rohingya Christian is missing and twelve were seriously injured, including several children, in multiple attacks by Rohingya Muslim mobs on the isolated Rohingya Christian community in Cox's Bazar refugee camp, Bangladesh.

The attacks are thought to be a backlash in the wake of UN Special Rapporteur Yanghee Lee's statement, on 23 January, raising specific concerns over anti-Christian persecution in the camp. "I also met with a group of Rohingya Christians who are in a most difficult position. They told me they were persecuted due to their religion by the Myanmar Government while they lived in Rakhine [Myanmar], and now they face hostility and violence from a small number of other camp residents. This worries me," Yanghee Lee stated after a fact-finding visit to the camp as part of her investigation of human right violations in Myanmar (Burma).

An extremist mob, in gangs of at least 100, swarmed into the vulnerable Christian community on 27 January, four days after the expert's report was released. One individual went missing in the onslaught

and is presumed dead at the time of writing. A man suffered a head injury as the extremists pelted stones at a church roof. Knife attacks, the use of acid and attempted arson were also reported. The Muslim mobs ransacked the community's church, removing the Bibles, and looted and destroyed the Christians' houses, making at least 20 families homeless.

Camp security forces reportedly turned on the Christians, rather than protecting them, beating several and leaving one man unconscious. They also confiscated mobile phones containing evidence of the attacks. In the immediate aftermath of the assaults, a Rohingya Christian leader posted a prayer for the attackers on Facebook. "O Lord please forgive our persecutors," he said and recalled the stoning of Stephen: "While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' Then he fell on his knees and cried out, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them.'" (Acts 7:59-60).

Barnabas' contact said that violence against the group has "tripled" in the past week, as he pleaded for help from the international community. He called for a protected, separate enclave to be provided for Rohingya Christians in the camp. Rohingya Hindu refugees in Bangladesh already have such protection. The Christian Rohingyas do not want to come to the West, they just want the same protection in the camp that Hindus have. This isolated, now doubly-persecuted, group of a few hundred Rohingya Christians live amongst 750,000 mainly-Muslim ethnic Rohingya who fled their homeland to escape genocide at the hands of the Myanmar Army. The tiny community contacted Barnabas for help in September 2019 when the formerly persecuted Rohingya Muslim refugees turned persecutors, violently attacking the Rohingya Christians living alongside them in the camp. Extremist Islamist group the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA, formerly called Harakah al-Yaqin), which is active in the camps, have been implicated in a surge of anti-Christian violence in the camp.

From Barnabas Fund contacts



"Tim Costello comes to Berry"

Has Australia lost its soul?

When and how did it happen?

Rev Tim Costello OA, is a National Living Treasure and a former CEO of World Vision. He is one of Australia's leading voices on important national and international social justice issues.

Friday 28th February 2020

Refreshments from 4.30pm, Forum at 5.30pm

Berry Uniting Church, 77 Albert Street

Cost: \$25 per ticket, includes afternoon tea

Tickets: <https://www.trybooking.com/BHXDE>

or Berry Community Library



Berry Uniting Church

"This is earth in its poverty and its pain. If God hasn't given up on this place, then as a Christian, I can't give up."
Rev. Tim Costello.

Tim was born on March 4, 1955 in Melbourne, Victoria, as Timothy Ewen Costello and was educated at Carey Baptist Grammar School. Costello studied at Monash University, graduating with a Bachelor of Jurisprudence degree in 1976, a Bachelor of Laws in 1978 and a Diploma of Education in 1979. He practised as a solicitor in family and criminal law.

Ministry

In 1981, Costello travelled to Switzerland with his wife, Merridie, where they both studied theology at the International Baptist Seminary Rueschlikon near Zurich, before graduating with a Bachelor of Divinity and returning to Australia to become the minister of St Kilda Baptist Church. He also received a Master of Theology

from Whitley College, a theological college of the Melbourne College of Divinity.

Ordained as a Baptist minister in 1987, Costello, along with his wife Merridie and a team of others, rebuilt the congregation at the St Kilda Baptist Church and opened a drop-in centre. As part of the church's outreach program, he started a legal office at the church where he practised as a part-time solicitor. He also taught urban ministry at Whitley College, a college of the University of Melbourne.

From 1995 to 2003, Costello was a minister of the Collins Street Baptist Church and the executive director of Urban Seed, a Christian not-for-profit organisation created in response to concern about homelessness, drug abuse and the marginalisation of the city's street people.

Costello served as the president of the Baptist Union of Australia from 1999 to 2002. He has also been patron of Baptist World Aid Australia, a member of the Australian Earth Charter Committee, a council member of the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture, a spokesperson for the Interchurch Gambling Taskforce, a member of the National Advisory Body on Gambling and a member of the Alcohol Education and Rehabilitation Foundation.

Tim is one of Australia's leading voices on social justice and global poverty and has been instrumental in ensuring these issues are placed on the national and international agenda. He travelled the world for work in poverty alleviation and emergency relief as the CEO of World Vision in Australia for thirteen years. He is a former Chief Advocate of World Vision Australia.

Political Career

Costello was elected Mayor of St Kilda Council in 1993 and became well known for championing the cause of local democracy and for his clashes with the Premier of Victoria, Jeff Kennett. Kennett attacked Costello as being un-Victorian for speaking out against the gaming-led recovery of the state and often referred to him as "that leftist cleric". Costello's political career ended when his mayoral position was abolished with the whole St Kilda Council in Kennett's reform and consolidation of local government in 1994. Towards the end of that time, he was approached by the Australian Democrats political party to fill a casual vacancy in the Senate, but decided against it, partly due to the likelihood that this could place him in direct conflict with his brother if Peter became Treasurer.

Throughout the late 1990s and early 2000s, Costello was frequently seen in the Australian national media commenting on gambling and other social problems. He has spoken out in favour of stronger gun control in Australia, acting at times as the co-chairman or spokesman of the National Coalition for Gun Control. Costello was also an elected delegate at the Australian Constitutional Convention in Canberra in February 1998.

Honours

He received the Victorian of the Year award in July 2004 in recognition of his public and community service. He was made an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) in the 2005 Queen's Birthday Honours List for his services to the community through contributions to social justice, health and welfare issues, international development assistance, and to the Baptist Church. Tim was the Victorian nominee for the Australian of the Year award in 2006. He was the 2008 winner of the Australian Peace Prize awarded by the Peace Organisation of Australia. He is also listed by the National Trust as a "National Living Treasure".

In 2008, he received an honorary doctorate from the Australian Catholic University in recognition of "his contributions to religious life and social justice".

His bestselling books include *Hope, Faith, Streets of Hope*, *Tips from a Travelling Soul Searcher* and, most recently, his memoir *A Lot With a Little*. Tim



and Merridie are parents to Claire, Elliot and Martin and Tim is the brother of former Treasurer of Australia and Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party of Australia, Peter Costello.

Sources: <https://peoplepill.com/people/tim-costello-1/>

<https://businessblueprint.com.au/profiles/tim-costello/>

<https://www.hardiegrant.com/au/publishing/bookfinder/author/tim-costello>

<https://www.worldvision.com.au/about-us>

What's happening to our Soul? Rev Dr David Millikan

All nations live with fear. The Samoans, Tongans, Fijians fear the rising sea, the Burmese fear the Rohingas, the Communist Chinese fear the Uighurs. We Australians fear the poor wretches who arrive here looking for refuge. At least we fear the ones who arrive by boat. There are 70,000 who have arrived by plane, they are allowed to stay. Those we have imprisoned on Nauru and New Guinea, we are prepared to drive to suicide.

Am I right in thinking that Australian politics is more petty, more morally ambiguous and blind than it was in my youth? Great matters of moral and political affairs are reduced to slogans or straight out denials. Even with the smoke of the fires still with us, Morrison, Dutton and the rest and paralysed by the idea of climate change. How does our charismatic Christian PM, systematically torment the poor people on Manus and Nauru and insist he is doing God's will?

I need to declare my interest. I am part of a group who have been demonstrating outside the federal member's office in Berry Street, Nowra since October 2016. We cannot understand how we Australians have learnt to be so cruel. And to what end? It is not driven by high moral purpose. It is Dutton and his parrot Morrison, who fear they will lose North Queensland. They say they are saving children drowning at sea. But this is not true. Boats are still coming, and no one is drowning. They are being turned back!

I have met the men in Port Moresby, and we are tormenting them. When you rob people of hope you break them down and in the end destroy them. We also do damage to ourselves.

This is where Tim Costello comes into the picture. No one in Australian life is better suited to talk about this: "What is happening to the Australian soul"?

"If you believe what you like in the gospels, and reject what you don't like, it is not the gospel you believe, but yourself."

— St Augustine.