

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF ST MICHAEL'S

INTERSECTION

SEPTEMBER 2012

Editor: Dr Debra Campbell

A MAGNIFICENT MUSICAL CELEBRATION

SPECIAL ST MICHAEL'S MONTH ISSUE



IMAGES OF HIROSHIMA PEACE DAY



On August 5 St Michael's was honoured by a visit from Mr Hidenobu Sobashima the Consul-General of Japan in Melbourne, to mark Hiroshima Peace Day.

MELBOURNE OPEN HOUSE TRIUMPH

Melbourne Open House was, once again this year, a triumph for the organisers and for St Michael's with approximately 2000 people coming through the church to admire, learn and experience. Many of our visitors walked away carrying programs booklets and information about the church and the New Faith theology. The work of a large team of volunteers in raising St Michael's profile over Open House weekend was extraordinary and it was deeply appreciated by members and visitors alike.

Thanks to Graeme Adamson, Gordon Robert and all the volunteers who gave of their time and enthusiasm.



THE MAGNIFICENT MUSIC OF ST MICHAEL'S 2012



In August, St Michael's visitors and members enjoyed concerts from wonderful international artists, including the **Wiffenpoofs Choir** of Yale University USA and **The Sticks and Drones** pipe band of New Zealand. St Michael's profile as a stunning place for enjoying high quality musical performances continues to grow by the month under the management of Rhys Boak with local and international artists approaching us to perform in the church.

Karise Eden (pictured left) the 19 year-old winner of '*The Voice 2012*' will give her first live performances under the banner of the Heavenly Sounds tour at St Michael's from October 9. Karise will be supported at all shows by Lakyn Heperi.

Tickets are available through Ticketek.



This month, on Thursday September 27th at 1pm St Michael's is thrilled to host a free concert *The Dramatic and the Divine* featuring Soprano **Greta Bradman** (left) and our Organist and Manager of Music, **Rhys Boak**. All are warmly invited to be a part of this magnificent event.

St Michael's Week this year will commence on September 23rd with a musical luncheon charity event to support *Clear Path International*, helping thousands of survivors of landmine accidents. The artists performing are a cool young trio called **La Mauvaise Reputation** (pictured below), playing toe-tapping Gypsy Swing Music and retro Chanson Française. Tickets are limited and selling fast.



JUST SOME OF THE HIGHLIGHTS



The wonderful pianist **Elyanne Laussade** (above) is a much loved guest musician at St Michael's on Sundays and has also performed for Arts for Rights.

When acclaimed musician **Bruno Siketa** (above right) plays alongside Rhys Boak on Sundays there is always an extra special atmosphere in the Church.



Soprano **Siobhan Stagg** (left) has sung on Sundays and with the Choir of Trinity College at St Michael's. Siobhan was awarded the Jury's First Prize and the Audience Choice Award at the Mietta Song Competition recently.

The prize for Best Pianist was awarded to **Amir Farid**, who was Siobhan's associate artist during the Mietta Song Competition. Amir (pictured below) is also a much loved guest musician at St Michael's on Sundays.

Recent Finalist on TV's *Australia's Got Talent* **Noriko Tadano** (far left) is another favourite musician on Sundays at St Michael's and at special events.



FATHER'S DAY STALLS



EVERYONE APPRECIATES A LITTLE CARE

Over several weeks, we were asking “Does anyone know anything about?” Then by further investigation, we discovered she had died back in April. She was a person who valued greatly her belonging to St Michael’s. Sadly, we were not to know what had happened to her.

Our Pastoral Care Deans and their helpers do a very sensitive and caring job. Lyndell O’Brien and Joy Arnott have had a long and distinctive professional career in caring work. Within St Michael’s, they have spread a good network of caring across this scattered city. They rely on constant “insider” information. To be the caring church we want to be, we need people to feed us information - sometimes in the best confidence that we will be able to help in some way.

Over the last year, our Pastoral Care has been very substantially augmented by the presence of Dr Debra Campbell. I am astonished and delighted to see how many people are coming to see her on pastoral matters. She and Lyndell and Joy are ensuring that the Pastoral Care work of St Michael’s is the best it can be. We aim to make it a good model for similar churches in other places. A congregation such as ours has many specific features, and we try to take these into our awareness as we do this important service for our people. We do have to rely on everyone keeping us informed so rather than be reticent about letting us know, we encourage you to pick up the phone, write a letter tap us on the elbow. Let us know.

Dr Francis Macnab

Thanks to Trish and Barry Fox, Irene Curran and their team for producing a wonderful array of home-made goods, delicious foods, books and bric-a-brac for sale at two highly successful Father’s Day stalls.

Proceeds from the stalls have gone to the Big Tent Project for the prevention and treatment of childhood trauma. In all, \$2531.20 was raised and great contacts were made amongst the business people in surrounding buildings and the people of St Michael’s. Thanks to all who made donations, volunteered to help, or assisted by purchasing some of the items.

ENDANGERED SPECIES

We are proud to have ‘adopted’ into the St Michael’s family a number of endangered species cared for by Zoos Victoria as one of our many charitable concerns.



Pictured left is a Western Lowland Gorilla from the West coast of Africa. The Western Lowland Gorilla is critically endangered. Also ‘adopted’ is a snow leopard, Asian elephants, a giraffe, and an endangered owl species, all being bred in Melbourne.

MEMBERSHIP

We are very pleased to invite all people interested in becoming a member of St Michael’s Uniting Church to a series of meetings where you can find out all you need or want to know about the Church, its theology, programs and community.

At the meetings you will have the opportunity to meet with some of the Deans and members of the Church as well as Dr Macnab and Dr Campbell. We will enjoy morning tea whilst talking about the many aspects of the life of the Church and its initiatives and you will have the opportunity to ask all your questions.

The meetings will be held in the Waratah Room on the first floor of St Michael’s Building after service on the following Sundays:

September 16, October 7 and October 21.

A WORD FROM DR FRANCIS MACNAB

From time to time, I receive a letter from a stranger telling me they were at St Michael's "last Sunday."

"I could see that St Michael's is a very friendly place. I saw the long line of people very happily waiting to greet you after church. But there I was, a fairly easy going person, finding it difficult to edge my way into the various groups who were clearly enjoying their conversation."

When I receive a letter like this, I wonder – how can we help every stranger, every visitor, feel more comfortable amongst us? We were all once like the stranger, trying to find a good fit in an established community of people. We found a way. How can we help others find a way?

Every stranger, every visitor is important. They have chosen to come. Supposing we all accept the challenge to make sure the visitor carries a good memory of their experience of being amongst us?

That's a goal worth considering.

Dr Francis Macnab.

DVDS OF ADDRESSES



Sunday addresses by Dr Macnab and selected special events are recorded then copied to DVD by our duplication services volunteers led by Rupert Cassidy. CDs and DVDs are for sale or to order in the Hall on Sundays. Thanks Rupert! (Pictured above with Gabriele).

LETTERS AND SOME WEBSITE FEEDBACK

Thanks to Richard Siegersma for passing on this letter from a visitor to the Whiffenpoofs concert:

Jonas and I had such a fantastic evening. We said on the way home how we would have liked to have put the whole performance on pause, ring all the people we loved and tell them to race on over and join us, and then push the play button and start it up all over again with more people to share it with.

I have to admit it was my first visit to St Michael's. I can understand why you love it so much. What a beautiful church. I grabbed a number of the brochures, the program of services and the whole feel of what the community is doing looks great.

Margie Anderson

Great [wellbeing] initiative and great booklet of courses.
Renee

As a very proud parent of a wonderful gay son, it was refreshing to hear some common sense and around the topic of gay marriage. True faith/religion is about accepting and loving the diversity of humankind not excluding what is different from us.
Name withheld.

Thankyou so much for your advertisement in The Age on Saturday re the sermon by Dr Macnab on Conquer Your Ghosts. It was so wonderful to find this available online.

Annieta

*I was feeling "down" on Wed. then yesterday I realised that the bulb I'd received at Easter was just about to burst into bloom and I felt much better. Thankyou. Much better than an Easter egg! **Name withheld.***

Having sourced a suitable pot, my grandchildren & I planted the bulbs we received at St Michaels on Easter Sunday. We now have a glorious 'host of golden daffodils', a really uplifting symbol of spring to come, in the depths of this rather gloomy winter. It also serves as a daily reminder of the inspirational life-enhancing influence of St Michaels, Mingary, The Centre for Wellbeing & all their marvellous programs.
Thank you.

Trish

RECOGNISING PEOPLE OF POSITIVE PASSION

Each year for the past 19 years, we have awarded two medals to people who have shown notable passion in the causes of preventing and healing trauma. In 2012 our focus is on those who particularly assist children.

This year one medal will go to **Susie O'Neill**. The other will go to **Colin Emonson**.

Susie O'Neill has done astonishing work to establish and sustain the 'KIDS' Foundation.

Colin Emonson has founded 'Horses for Hope' to help traumatised children get back in touch with good enhancing emotions after severe trauma.

The speaker at the breakfast this year will be **Dr Erin Pearson**.

The medals will be presented by **Dr Neil Roy** – himself a medal wearer for his distinguished work over many years saving premature babies at the Women's Hospital.

13 French horns will be joined by one of Australia's outstanding sopranos (also a psychologist) **Greta Bradman**.

What is all this about?

St Michael's Day – 30th September 2012

Breakfast 8am speaker Dr Erin Pearson.

Church service at 10am. Dr Neil Roy will present the medals.

Dr Francis Macnab's address will be on training people in compassion in a culture of violence and waste.

Tickets for the breakfast \$20.

IS THIS WORLD'S WORST ART RESTORATION!?

Recently 'The Age' reported what might be the world's worst ever do-it-yourself art restoration. Cecilia Gimenez (81) noticed that an oil painting of Jesus Christ on the wall of her local church in Spain, was deteriorating



and decided to take it upon herself to fix the 120-year-old fresco. But the pensioner's shocking DIY restoration job left Jesus, who was wearing a crown of thorns and gazing towards heaven, looking more like a pale monkey with a half beard. Some have labelled it the worst art restoration of all time, while the BBC described the end result as

looking like "a crayon sketch of a very hairy monkey in an ill-fitting tunic".

Ms Gimenez says she had permission from the priest to touch up the painting, entitled *Ecce Homo* (Behold The Man) by Elias Garcia Martinez. Spanish jokesters have renamed the fresco *Ecce Mono* (Behold the Monkey).

"I had nothing but good intentions and always believed I was doing the right thing. Besides, I hadn't finished the painting!" said Ms Gimenez.

Authorities at the Roman Catholic church in the village of Borja, suspected vandalism before Ms Gimenez claimed responsibility. Online, Ms Gimenez's work has found a cult-following with many people outraged that her lovingly created restoration might now be 'restored' by an expert. In a bizarre continuation of the story, more than 10,000 people have signed a petition to retain the monkey-like face in the church (above, right).

SPECIAL EVENTS AT ST MICHAEL'S

Sunday 9th September:

Interfaith event: Contemplative Practices of World Faiths

Sunday Service: Dr Macnab interviews author Amanda Stewart

23rd—30th September:

St Michael's Week (Many guests and events: Booklet out soon!)

Sunday 30th September

St Michael's Day Breakfast and Service 2012

Tuesday 25th September:

Looking Deeply at Art with Dr Francis Macnab: Edvard Munch, wine and cheese

Thursday 26th September:

Brasa Latin Rhythms Concert for Medecins Sans Frontieres 1pm

Thursday 27th September:

Greta Bradman and Rhys Boak—The Dramatic and the Divine 1pm

Tuesday 9th October:

New Faith Master Class 3 with Dr Francis Macnab and Dr Debra Campbell

9-11th October

Heavenly Sounds—Karise Eden Concerts

Thursday 18th October:

Music of the Heart Concert—Sri Chinmoy Global Organisation

Friday 19th October:

Inaugural Wellbeing for Clergy Seminar—All Faiths

Friday 2nd November:

Ani Choying Drolma Lecture (Visiting Tibetan singer and Buddhist Peace Activist).

For details www.stmichaels.org.au.

PROGRAMS

LIBRARY LOUNGE

Tues, Weds 10.30-2.30

MEDITATION

Sundays - immediately after service

POETRY GROUP

Every 3rd Sunday - after service

MENS GROUP

The last Sunday of the month

GLOBAL CONCERNS

Sundays - after service

ARTS FOR RIGHTS

Activities held monthly

WALKING GROUP

2nd Saturday of the month.

MAKING AND LOOKING AT ART

Tuesdays from Oct 16

LAUGHTER YOGA

Every Thursday 12-12.45

FRENCH CONVERSATION

The second Sunday of the month

IPAD ENTHUSIASTS GROUP

The second Sunday of the month

IPADS BEGINNERS COURSE

Tuesdays 6.30pm

GUITAR BEGINNERS GROUP

Tuesdays 7-8pm

SALSA DANCE

Tuesdays 7-8.30pm

WISDOM IN WINDOWS

Sunday Sept 2

LUNCHTIME YOGA CLASS

Tuesday Sept 11 12.15-12.45

SAGE

Thursday Sept 27th 11am

STORY TELLING/WRITERS GROUP

Sunday Sept 16

LAST TUESDAY BOOK GROUP

Last Tuesday of the month

NEW MEMBERS MEETINGS

Commence Sept 16

CHARTER FOR COMPASSION GROUP

Third Sunday of the Month

Visit www.centreforwellbeing.org.au
or the St Michael's website for details
Or

'Like' us on Facebook for regular updates

ST MICHAEL'S WEEK

September 23rd—September 30th

Events include: Sunday Sept 23rd

Musical Luncheon

(Charity event—tickets available)

Wednesday Sept 26th

Latin Music Lunchtime Concert

(Charity event—tickets available)

Thursday Sept 27th

Greta Bradman and Rhys Boak

Free Lunchtime Concert

**Culminating with St Michael's Day
September 30th**

Japanese Children's Art Exhibition

St Michael's Day Breakfast

(Charity event—tickets available)

The Rocks Ceremony

St Michael's Medallions

AND SO MUCH MORE

See our Full Program Booklet

REVEREND ALEX SANGSTER

Reverend Alex Sangster, one of our valued Marriage Ministers has taken up a new appointment as Minister of the Fairfield congregation of The Uniting Church. This means Alex will soon leave St Michael's.

Her time and work with us has been greatly appreciated and we wish her every blessing in her continued service at Fairfield.

SAGE

September SAGE is a very special event with some art from some of St Michael's artists on display. Note the day in your diary:

THURSDAY SEPT 27th 2012
11am (\$18 incl. lunch)

THE 2012 MELBOURNE AWARDS

The winners of the Melbourne Awards 2012 and Melburnian of the Year were announced on August 18 at a glittering Town Hall gala ceremony. The event marked the 10th anniversary of the Melbourne Awards which “highlight the inspirational stories and achievements of Melburnians from all walks of life”.

Out of approximately 100 worthy (and many well-known) Melbourne organisations, Mingary & The Centre for Wellbeing at St Michael’s were chosen as one of only four Community Organisation Finalists.

Our category was won this year by The Women in Super Mother’s Day Classic Fun Run which has raised \$15 million over 15 years since its inception, meaning we were in exceptional company in becoming Finalists.

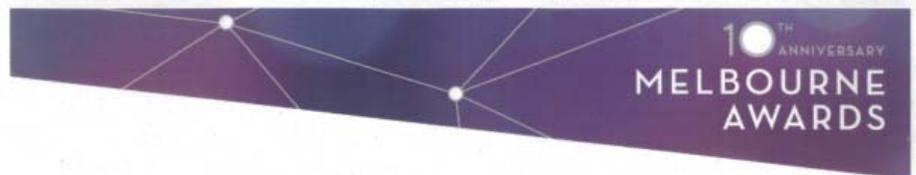
We have been highly encouraged and commended by the judges of the Awards and bestowed with the honour of using the Melbourne Awards Finalist logo going forward.

Thank you to our volunteers and participants who make our initiatives happen. I want to share with you the letter I have received this week from Lord Mayor Robert Doyle and some photos from the gala event.

Dr Debra Campbell.

At top: Dr Debra Campbell and Dr Lynette Kramer on the big screen at Melbourne Town Hall, describing our initiatives.

Right: (from left of photo):
 Director of Mingary Dr Lynette Kramer;
 Michelle Doolan (Mingary);
 General Manager St Michael’s Sylvia Kosior;
 Robyn Habner (Mingary);
 Glen Tonkes Financial Manager St Michael’s;
 Director of The Centre for Wellbeing Dr Debra Campbell;
 Renee Banjanin, Receptionist;
 Dr John Abbate, Research Assistant to Dr Macnab.



20 August 2012

Dr Debra Campbell
 Mingary and The Centre for Wellbeing at St Michael's
 120 Collins Street
 MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Dear Dr Campbell

THE MELBOURNE AWARDS 2012

I would like to congratulate Mingary and The Centre for Wellbeing at St Michael's on being selected as a 2012 Melbourne Awards finalist in the category of Contribution to Community by a Community Organisation.

Now in its 10th year, the Melbourne Awards continue to honour the inspirational individuals and organisations who continue to dedicate their time and energy to make Melbourne a more sustainable, inclusive and prosperous city.

It is the passion and dedication of organisations like Mingary and The Centre for Wellbeing that continue to inspire and challenge us all to help create a better Melbourne.

Your contribution to our city is greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely

Robert Doyle
 Lord Mayor



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ST MICHAEL'S

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