

fellow workers

NEWS FROM AROUND THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA

A PUBLICATION OF THE PCV STATE NEWS COMMITTEE

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contribute

Your contributions to *fellow workers* are welcome! *fellow workers* is now published every quarter (March, June, September & December). All copy and enquiries should be sent to the editor (contact details above). The deadline for contributions to the next issue is **9th November**. Photographs should be digital and sent by email if possible.

milestone at melton

For all of you who've had the Melton church plant on your prayer list over the years – thank you – and keep praying. God has blessed us and is answering your prayers. The parish was recently declared to be a “sanctioned charge” by the Presbytery of Melbourne West. All thanks and praise to God! The Presbytery recommended that this occur in 2004, but unfortunately we were all too busy to get around to actioning it. After the change of status, the congregation then quickly moved to call its own minister. The Rev Peter Owen was unanimously called and accepted the call. On Friday 4th August Peter was inducted as the minister of Melton having already served as the appointed minister for the previous 11 years.

As we've reached this milestone in the life of the church we need to pause and thank God for the many people who've been involved in the life and work of the church over the years; especially Rev Roy & Ruth Taylor who commenced the work in the late 80's with Bruce & Marsha Ellis & family and others who were founding members. The Ellis family are still there to this day. Bob and Coral Carner worked tirelessly in leading the church from its birth to infancy from late 1989 until January 1994 at which time Peter Owen commenced. We thank God for the great elders, other office bearers and the congregation of Melton for their faithful labours over the years in working for King Jesus and his kingdom. We wish to especially thank Elder Colin Phillips who has been an assessor elder and on 'permanent loan' from Sunshine since the beginning of the church. This year marks a milestone for Colin as he reaches his



Melton receives 11 new members

50th year of service as an elder, praise God!

We continue to be blessed by the labours of a full time ministry trainee, Mr Matt Tegart. Matt commenced his two year appointment with us in Feb 2006. We believe that Matt is hoping to apply as a candidate for the ministry at the end of that time. Seeing what real parish ministry is like from day to day before a candidate goes to college, is invaluable experience.

The Melton congregation has continued to grow with one recent highlight being 11 people coming into membership, three of them being baptised. We're currently dividing our very important small group ministry and God willing we'll have 80 people involved in 8 groups for the coming 18 months.

Melton faced some major difficulties earlier this year with our church plant at Brimbank, but God is continuing to bless the work. We have a brilliant new venue with a number of new families coming along. All of these factors are infusing new life into the congregation, all the while providing fresh hope for the future. Pray earnestly that God will provide a new minister to lead the work.

Dennis Wright

yesterday, today, forever

Some years ago I noticed a rather large banner outside a church building in the Melbourne CBD which boldly proclaimed, 'Preaching the never-changing Gospel to an ever-changing world.' This was a message of hope for any one who read it as they passed by and a statement of what that particular congregation believed. It was heartening to see it at the time, and years later I still think about it. It is an ever-changing world, but the Gospel will always be the unchanging good news, even if there is very little good news anywhere else.

In my final year at Bible College in Glasgow back in 1970, the Principal of the College, Rev Andrew MacBeath made the statement to some of the students: 'Things were now very bad as far as faith and values were concerned' and, 'If we did not see genuine revival from the Lord in the next two years, we were finished.' Of course he did not mean the Christian Church was finished, but rather that the

acceptance of Christian beliefs and values as a nation would simply disappear. He was a saintly man. He had been a missionary in central Africa in the 1930's. He had personally seen God move by his Spirit in a great way and seen many become believers in the Lord. Like many others of his generation, he was shocked at the rise of the 'New Morality' as it was then called. His remarks were really a longing to see the Lord intervene in a new way and do a great work of renewal.

How is it going with us at this present time? Who among us is not feeling the pressures of these days? Do we feel perhaps that our Church is a bit 'Like a candle in the wind?' Let us continue to be about the business of making known the love and mercies of God in Jesus Christ.

I often consider the amazing account in the Gospels of how our Lord liberated the man named 'Legion'. This demonstration of the power of Jesus, like all the others in the Gospels, stands as a permanent encouragement to us all. It shows us how

the Lord can really change people and how even people with the worst sorts of habits, afflictions, distresses and problems are never beyond his life changing power. To read of the condition of this man when Jesus first encountered him, and then to read of him: 'Sitting at Jesus' feet, clothed and in his right mind' (Luke 8.35) is something to think about for our own encouragement.

The impact of the Gospel on lives will be that they will be changed forever. As blood bought, Spirit renewed people they will grow to love and serve Jesus, and be with him in heaven. That is why Paul could write, 'For as much as you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain.' Whatever difficulties we face at this time, let us not be discouraged. Our life and work for the Lord Jesus and his Gospel can never be in vain, for the Lord will honour his Word.

*Robert Boan
Morwell Presbyterian Church*

padres on patrol

PIM Padres are pleased and feel privileged to be part of the wider work of the kingdom. Please continue to pray for our padres: for opportunities to share the gospel and, above all, for safety as they drive the vast differences in this great land of ours. The two reports below are from Bert and Penny Pierce as they travelled throughout WA. God is good and these events illustrate that wondrous and often understated truth.

'on Christ the solid rock I stand, while all around is sinking sand'

We drove in low range into the sand and about half way across the creek bed became severely bogged to the axles. I dug sand away from the wheels several times and tried driving forward, but to no avail. We needed the assistance of the winch installed on the front of the vehicle,

but there were no trees on which to attach it.

I walked around the immediate area and then I saw two large, heavy boulders with a thick solid square rock sticking firmly and vertically out of the middle of them. The rock even sloped slightly backward, thus allowing the strap to be easily and firmly placed around it. With the assistance of the winch, we managed to chug our way out of the creek bed and proceed to the station. We would have been in a very difficult situation if that perfect rock formation had not have been placed there by God's hand.

'do not let your hearts be troubled. trust in God; trust also in me.' (John 14:1)

Our caravan has been used by us for over 12 months and has followed us many thousands of kilometres over rough tracks, waterways, thick mud, deep sand

and corrugations. It had never caused us a mechanical problem.

As we drove towards the inland town of Tom Price, I heard a slight hissing sound. When we arrived at a service station, I checked the caravan to find that one of the wheel bearings had thrown grease out around the hub. They suggested that a mechanic who had a business in town might be able to assist us. We drove to his workshop but there was no place to park on that side of the road. I said to Penny, 'I'll do a U turn and park on the opposite verge.' Having parked, I alighted and before crossing, glanced up the road. I noticed a complete wheel with tyre lying on its side in the centre of the road. To my astonishment, when I looked back at the caravan, I found that it lacked a wheel. By the grace of God, the wheel fell off directly in front of the place that would fix the problem.

*Mark Smith
Secretary, Presbyterian Inland Mission*



Dr Welch, tell us something about your family and background.

I have been married for 26 years to Sherry and we have two daughters. Our daughters are 23 and 21 years old, and they have

both been married in the last year. In the United States we call that empty nester or empty wallet. We belong to the Presbyterian Church in America, and go to New Life Presbyterian Church in a suburb of Philadelphia, where we are both very involved. When we go back to the States we will be involved in a church plant that our church is sending out. I am looking forward to that.

Were you raised in a Christian home?

I was raised in a Christian home, a Baptist home with two parents who truly loved the Lord. When I was younger I respected my parents, but I wasn't a Christian. That was until I got to college, or university. At the very end of my stay at university I was converted. The means was simply the Scriptures. I didn't know any Christians at the university; there were many there, but I didn't know any. My mother used to put a Bible in my suitcase every time I went to the university. The first year, I was just mad that she did it. I felt she was proselytizing and being maternal. The second year I was indifferent. The third year I thought it was cute. In my fourth year, through a number of circumstances I began to read it. It was through reading Scripture that the Spirit began to work in my life. The first evidence of it was the knowledge of sin, the wrongness of my life, and that naturally drew me to Christ. So I was converted in my last semester at the university. At that time I had already been accepted to some graduate schools, post-university education in philosophy, but I decided at that point that whatever I was going to do, I wanted to know the Bible—after all it had just changed my life. I decided to go to seminary. I didn't have any particular aspirations to anything except know the Bible well, because whatever I was going to do I knew that that had to be foundational to it.

Which seminary did you attend?

I went to the Biblical Theological Seminary. I loved everything, Greek, Hebrew, Old Testament, New Testament, theology, apologetics; it was all invigorating. It was a three year MDiv. In the middle year they had one counselling course and I had an interest in psychology as an unbeliever. I took that course and the only counselling book they had in that year – this was in 1976 – was something by Jay Adams which in those days was absolutely revolutionary. To suggest that the Bible was relevant to modern problems was intoxicating to me. I had an opportunity to actually see it work in the Counselling Centre where I presently work, to see the Bible unfolded meaningfully to another person, to observe them change. At that point I didn't know what the Lord was going to do, but I was attracted to do those sorts of things. I knew that I wanted to be a person who applied Scripture and I hoped to be able to do this in those personal contexts, which is essentially what the Lord allowed me to do. I went on to do a PhD in secular psychology after Seminary. Then I began teaching at Westminster Seminary and have worked at the Christian Counselling and Educational Foundation (CCEF) ever since.

Broadly speaking what do you see as the state of pastoral counselling today?

Throughout the 80's and 90's there was a distinction between two groups: someone called themselves Integrationists and we were called Nouthetic Counsellors, even though we never used that particular name for ourselves. The integrationists used psychology and they assumed that we were against psychology. At this point things are a bit more of a stew without clear distinctions and within that stew are

people groping to be more biblical in what they do. Integrationists have recognized that some of their use of secular psychology has not squared with biblical assumptions. What I find in the broader field of Christian counselling today is that there is desire to be more biblical, so that is very encouraging. What we do find, however, is sometimes there is that desire, but when you encounter a complex problem, and it is not immediately obvious what the Scripture says about the problem, there is still the temptation to go elsewhere to find an answer. Our present task is to find out how to use Scripture to speak to these modern problems.

Reformed Theology is interested in world domination – it is a worldview and sees everything through the lens of Scripture. What we are doing in counselling is taking a biblical worldview seriously.

Are you convinced that Scripture speaks to all of life's problems: spiritual, physical, psychological, and psychiatric?

I wouldn't be Reformed if I said anything different. Reformed Theology is a theology of joy; it takes the glory of God seriously. Reformed Theology takes sin seriously, which makes it a theology of joy because we recognize that salvation is all of grace. Reformed Theology is interested in world domination—it is a worldview

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PTC OPEN NIGHT Friday, 20 October 2006

**2007 Course Information • Meet Staff and Students
6.30 PM – BBQ DINNER** RSVP for catering purposes

**7.30 PM - SPEAKER Dr Greg Goswell - Lecturer in Biblical Studies at PTC
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ed welch continued...

and sees everything through the lens of Scripture. What we are doing in counselling is taking a biblical world view seriously. To use Calvin's analogy, we are putting on biblical spectacles to view modern problems in living.

In Australia, generally speaking, those who go to theological college do 2 or 3 subjects in counselling. How can ministers marry pastoral work and counselling?

The vector of Christian ministry when we see someone struggling or suffering – no matter how complex it may seem – is to move toward them.

The ministry of the Word is public and private. It is public proclamation but it is also one-to-one ministry. It is a combination of the two that comprises parish work. In the Reformed community we seem to emphasize the primacy of preaching, but as we look at the Reformed pastor throughout history he has had a twofold task.

Puritan writings are clearly interested in personal ministry. One of the goals must be to join, almost seamlessly, our public ministry and private ministry. As a biblical counsellor, I should be saying things that have a sound familiar to those who hear preaching on Sunday. Nothing I am doing should be contrary to the good exegesis of the Word of God. There has to be a unity between counselling and pulpit ministry. One way to view what I am doing is to see it as unpacking the riches of the public proclamation in the details of someone's life. The pastor is a counsellor and the counsellor is a pastor.

Do you believe that each parishioner is

a counsellor, in the broadest sense of the word, providing mutual encouragement and admonishment?

There are different perspectives in the Reformed community where there is a segment that sees counselling as a distinctively ordained office that is not relevant to the rest of the church. The way I understand Scripture is contrary to that. The giving of the Spirit distributes different gifts. All the 'one another' passages in Scripture would be the way we are to think about counselling. A mother is doing counselling with her children every single day. She is applying the Word to the struggles of life. On a practical level, even though I am considered to be an expert in counselling, when I observe people changing, my counselling may be a part of it; nevertheless it is inevitably the result of that person being in a community. The means of grace to them is all kinds of counselling: people praying for them, hearing sermons, hearing teaching, hearing a particular comment, having someone say we missed you and we love you. The process of change is never the result of my specific work with the person exclusively. It is always me as a partner with pastors and with many different lay people who are doing extraordinary ministry, whether they realize it or not. Biblical counselling is not an ideology associated with one particular person, it is the Church working together, investigating Scripture and discovering what Scripture has to say about problems.

If I was to buy one or two of the books you have written, which would you recommend?

Buy the most expensive ones! No seriously, I would say two things, firstly, the book that seems to be most popular, that has sold the most, would be *When People are Big and God is Small*. Secondly, I would recommend my most recent book, *Depression*. Hopefully, I am growing and

the last book written is a bit better than the ones before.

What advice do you give to the pastor who feels overwhelmed when he sees people coming into the congregation or vestry with complex psychiatric problems?

Many times pastors call me and ask me questions. Often when I hear of what they have already done I say, 'That's great; that's exactly what you should be doing.' The fact a person has not dramatically changed does not mean that your ministry hasn't been highly effective. Our goal as pastors and counsellors is for people to turn to Christ in the midst of their problems and that is success. One of my aims is to encourage pastors to be confident that they have everything they need in Scripture and then to move toward people—move toward people and listen and learn. If you don't understand what is happening with a person don't say anything, just study the person and ask for help from other people. The vector of Christian ministry when we see someone struggling or suffering—no matter how complex it may seem—is to move toward them. Typically what we will find, even with something as difficult as schizophrenia, is that people are just like everybody else: they are fearful, they are guilty, they are angry, they are suffering. These are the common issues of life, and on those things the Scripture speaks very clearly.

Editor's note: Dr Ed Welch gave 26 hours of lectures at the Presbyterian Theological College on the subject of Biblical Counselling.

They are available for purchase on 2 CDs (MP3 format). They can be obtained from PTC Media for \$40.00. As one who sat through the lectures, I highly recommend them to all pastors and Christians. The full text of the interview can be read at the PTC website: www.presbyteriancollege.org

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embers conference sparks enthusiasm

faith fanned into flame

The Embers to a Flame conference held recently at the Gold Coast and Melbourne provided our church leaders with the opportunity to 'fan into flame the gift of God, which is in [them] ...' 2 Timothy 1:6. Almost 450 men and women attended in both Victoria and Queensland with an additional 180 women attending the Biblical Womanhood component of the conference.

Harry Reeder and his team challenged us to do a hard self-assessment of ourselves, our ministry and our future. Harry used the example of the Ephesian Church. After only slightly more than a decade Paul had to send Timothy back to 'revitalize' them. We can see in the Book of Revelation that the Ephesian Church had 'lost their first love' and the Church at Laodicea was just 'lukewarm'.

Another initiative will be Fanning the Flames; this follow-up to Embers will begin in April continuing as a joint effort with New South Wales and Queensland.

Rev Chris Siriweera, Rev John Nicol, Rev John Irvin, Rev Bruce Meller and I were trained in the USA to bring this program to you, the conference is two years in the making – the implementation we hope will continue for several years, and the impact we pray will last for an eternity!

Noel Wootton, a Queensland elder who attended the Embers to a Flame Conference said: 'I was certainly encouraged by the recent conference - to be reminded what is being done by some churches, and what might be done if church leaders address the principles of church revitalisation.'

The conference topic was addressed by breaking down church revitalisation into several compact headings: to allow us to regain an understanding of what will revitalise a local church, and to suggest to the leadership an approach for implementation. It will also be necessary for both our leaders and members of the congregation to accept that revitalisation is necessary and to agree that a specific approach must

be developed to achieve the same. Leaders are not the 'thermometers' just reading the temperature; they are the 'thermostats' responsible for changing the temperature.

I leave you with a word from Harry Reeder: 'I am confident that God will bless a church when his work is done in his way.'

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions about the Fanning the Flames program which entails an 18 month commitment. Subsequent related stand-alone weekend seminars can be provided at no cost to your church even if you are not a participant in Fanning the Flames. Please ring us, we desire to assist you in any way that we can.

*Robert Carner
Director Home Mission Committee*



Harry Reeder

women's conference

embers at eaglehawk

Christine Romeo, the wife of Home Missionary Bob Romeo, helped in running the Women's Conference at Eaglehawk and she writes:

The Women's Conference at Eaglehawk was preceded with a luncheon for the speakers, their bus driver Rev Mark Tonkin and their host and hostess Drs Alan and Mairi Harman. The presenters: Annette Blake, Cindy Reeder, Cathy Cheely and Catherine Trinkle (all wives of elders or pastors at Briarwood) spoke warmly to the 60 strong gathering. They began with a very humorous skit which demonstrated how members of the same church can view the state of their church in very different ways. They presented biblical teaching on the Creation order for men and women, ideas for showing hospitality creatively, personal experiences and the importance

of Bible study, memorization of scripture and quiet times. No one present will ever be able to forget the 'sock story'. Annette shared how through the memorization and pondering of scripture God changed her whole outlook on a household chore. Excellent handout material was provided. Afternoon tea allowed for a short time of questions and fellowship, but being on a very tight schedule, time for interaction at the end was limited. Without exception everyone thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon. Many of the women who had travelled some distance expressed their desire to hold a similar event again – perhaps with local speakers. Just for now we'll leave that 'ember burning' and trust the Lord for guidance. Eaglehawk's congregation would like to thank the Home Mission Committee for the opportunity to host such a successful event.

Christine Romeo

OCCASIONAL VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED FOR THE HOME MISSION COMMITTEE

Periodically a few extra hands would be beneficial for the HMC, this can take the form of administrative help. We have an urgent need for an experienced person in the catering area who would be willing to donate their time on the rare occasion that it is required.

One example is a former town planner who volunteered a few hours for one project toward a Home Mission project and subsequently saved us not only a significant amount of time but funds as well.

Some of the occasional work may even be done in your own home!

We maintain a "SKILLS REGISTER" for the wider church. Anyone who would like to offer their special skills can register them with us so we can make their availability known to the wider church.

Suggested needs:

- Administrative, landscape consultation, building consultation, power point layout and instruction, general computer tuition
- Accounting, book keeping tuition, specialty teaching, etc

**PLEASE CONTACT DR R. L. CARNER
HOME MISSION OFFICE (9655 1406)**

around the presbyteries and churches

honouring a faithful servant: the retirement of the Very Rev. Edward R. Pearsons

On Sunday 18th June, St Andrew's Presbyterian Church at Gardenvale East held a celebratory luncheon to thank The Very Rev Edward (Ted) Pearsons and his wife, Margaret, for their commitment to St Andrews and to wish them a long and happy retirement. During the luncheon, Mr Bill Thompson (Session Clerk) presented Ted and Margaret with a beautiful serving tray and thanked them for their 31 years with the congregation at St Andrew's.

The Very Rev Ted Pearsons' last service, prior to his retirement, was held on Sunday 30th July 2006 at 10:00am. Ted has had a very distinguished career in the Presbyterian Church. Originally from South Australia, his first appointment was in 1958 as student supply to the vacant Parish of Clare/Hart/Koolunga in South Australia. His ministry postings were as follows: Clare, Port Lincoln, assistant to the Minister at Port Adelaide, Seaton Park, Avondale Heights/Queens Park, Streatham in the Western District, Victoria, Cheltenham and from 1975 St Andrew's, Gardenvale East.

Whilst at Cheltenham Ted became the Clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria and served in this position for some 30 years. In 1982, Ted was elected Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria and from 1985-1988 Moderator-General of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia. Ted and Margaret will continue to live in the area and they are planning to travel around Australia. Ted will also have extra time to perfect his golf swing!

Because of Ted and Margaret's hard work within St Andrews' Presbyterian Church, Gardenvale East the congregation will continue to flourish into the future.

Lily McDonald



Margaret and Edward Pearsons

new minister and ministry in bairnsdale

It was a wonderful sight to behold as the Bairnsdale Presbyterian Church was filled for the ordination of Gary Stephens on Sunday 21st May, 2006. The Moderator of the Presbytery, the Rev Ken Brown led the afternoon service with the Rev Theo Fishwick bringing the sermon and charge from Isaiah 6:1-8. After the service, everyone gathered for afternoon tea in the hall. As is usual on such occasions, it was a time to catch up with old friends and to make some new ones. Warm fellowship was had by all. Gary, Natalie and their young children arrived in Bairnsdale for their exit appointment at the start of the year and have been warmly received by the congregation and by the Presbytery in general. The day was one of genuine celebration for all.

Sabine Bruce

a time to celebrate: ballarat south's 150th

It is with thanksgiving to Almighty God that Ballarat South Presbyterian Parish will celebrate its 150th anniversary in 2007. The Parish now incorporates the former parishes of St John's and Paton Memorial as well as the present congregations of St David's (Pleasant Street Ballarat), Scarsdale as well as Ebenezer. 1857 was a significant year in Ballarat with the discovery of gold and the rapidly expanding community. Ebenezer was used by God in sending several missionaries to Korea at the end of the nineteenth century.

A band of volunteers are busy collating historical records and planning the publishing of a written history. The anniversary weekend activities being planned are a formal dinner with entertainment, a welcome Sunday luncheon, visits to St David's and Scarsdale with special hymn singing followed by a luncheon on a country property on the holiday Monday. The special focus of the weekend will be the visit of the Moderator General of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, the Rt Rev. Bob Thomas. Mr Thomas will preach at a combined Parish service to be held at Ebenezer at 10.30 am on 11th March 2007.

We are building a database of names of former members and friends. If you can help, please contact Mr Alistair Johnstone telephone 03 5331 9920 or email alis-

tair@bhs.grampianshealth.org.au or postal address 1/210 Talbot Street South Ballarat Vic, 3350. Further information can be obtained from our Session Clerk Mr Keith Harris on telephone 03 5332 3765.

John S. Woodward

improvements and expansion at canterbury

It was with a great sense of rejoicing and thanksgiving to God for his faithfulness and marvellous provision that over 200 people (including two former ministers, Rev. Alex Stevens and Robert Betts, the third, Rev. Marvin Hagans was involved in a Presbytery rally in Geelong) came together on Sunday afternoon 23 July for a Service of Thanksgiving and Dedication of the renovations recently completed at Canterbury (Canterbury Presbyterian Church).

A Session retreat, input from various sections of the congregation, the unexpected opportunity to purchase cheaply industrial kitchen equipment from Banksia Court Receptions, an encouraging increase in offerings, some words of wisdom from a young Board member moving on to another Presbyterian congregation after growing up at Canterbury Presbyterian Church and some inspiration per our long-serving Treasurer and elder Kevin Childs from the kitchen of the Chinese Church in Sydney at the GAA and the decision was finally made to engage Rees Construction Group to proceed with renovations. The renovations have given us new toilets, a new industrial-style kitchen and several new classrooms as well as the upgrading of a couple of old classrooms. \$300,000 was borrowed from the Capital Fund to help finance the project. We are looking to the Lord to help us service this loan as we also continue to support Sam McGeown in his work as pastor of the Japanese congregation and Michael Lee who began less than 1 year ago as second worker in the English congregation helping particularly with the ministry to Koreans.

Three men in our congregation have played crucial roles in these renovations – Ian Mills who drew up the initial plans and from the beginning provided invaluable input at the planning stage, Graham Nixon who obtained the industrial kitchen equipment for us and has arranged for tradesmen to carry out many tasks particularly in completing the kitchen and Peter Motalli who acted as project manager and



Canterbury choir

provided invaluable advice in our dealings with builder and tradesmen.

A feature of the Service of Thanksgiving and Dedication was special musical items from an English ladies choir, a Korean choir and 4 Japanese women whose singing was truly Spirit-inspired. The Moderator, Rt Rev Graeme Weber preached on Acts 9:31. We thank the Lord who has done amazing things at Canterbury and look forward to what he has for us next.

Grant Lawry

living for christ, yesterday, today and tomorrow: malvern celebrates its 100th anniversary

On Sunday 30th July at 3pm a service was held at the Malvern Presbyterian Church to give thanks to God for 100 years of worship in the current church building and the 100th anniversary of the organ. The day was a great encouragement and blessing to the congregation, with around 350 in attendance. The sermon was delivered by the Moderator General, the Rt Rev. Bob Thomas, who spoke from 1 Peter 1 & 2 on the theme 'Living for Christ Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow.'

The congregation also heard from the Hon. Peter Costello, MP, who spoke of some of the great changes in Australia over the last 100 years and compared it with the unchanging nature of the Christian faith, as and when the church is faithful to its mission and calling. Prayers were led by Rev. Dr John Woodward and Rev. Dr Allan Harman.

Another highlight was the superb music, including the Malvern choir, the organ played by Ryoko Mori, brass instrumental music led by Ken and Trinette McClimont, and soloist Sylvia Isaac. After the benediction, there was the cutting of a cake by our longest serving member, Mr R (Bob) Christie. The afternoon tea was well attended, with all of the dignitaries staying on for a chat and a cuppa. A great time was had by all.

Philip Daffy

PTC librarian retires

The first of August marked the retirement of Margaret Zarifeh after 20 years of dedicated service as the librarian at the Presbyterian Theological College. A luncheon at the college the week before gave an opportunity for TEC members, lecturers, other college staff and students to thank Margaret for her devotion to her task. A presentation was made to her by the Principal, Professor Douglas Milne on behalf of all present.

Margaret commenced her work just after the college moved to its Box Hill North site and the library is what it is today largely because of her efforts on behalf of the staff and students. She is responsible for the pleasant décor of the college library, having chosen its furnishings and decorations. The library is a restful place to browse and read, and visitors routinely comment on how attractive it is. Margaret supervised the computerization of the cataloguing system and found places for an ever increasing number of shelves to hold a collection that now encompasses over 18,000 items and the library subscribes to more than 120 journals. The library is in many ways the heart of the college, with staff and students depending upon it for the resources needed for study and research. Indeed it is a resource for the whole church, for all our ministers, elders and members can make use of it.

Greg Goswell

new role within mission partners

On Sunday afternoon, July 16 at the Ashburton church, Rev. Robert and Mrs Leonie Betts were commissioned as Partnership Development Coordinators with APWM Victoria. Ashburton minister, Rev Peter Orchard, led the service. The Rev Bill Lutton, National Director of Mission Partners APWM, preached on Matthew 9.35-38, taking up the theme 'Begging for Workers'.

Rob and Leonie will assist missionaries, before their departure to the field, in partnership

development (or 'deputation', as it was once called) and on their return for furlough. Currently Rob and Leonie are assisting 2 missionary couples who are hoping soon to be able to depart to the field. Next year they will have more input with missionaries returning from the field either for furlough or for good.

APWM will reimburse Rob and Leonie for travel and 'out of pocket expenses', otherwise they are working part-time in a voluntary capacity. They need our prayer support.

Peter Orchard

unless the lord builds the house: the opening and dedication of north geelong

Around 150 people gathered on Sunday afternoon, 2nd July, to witness the dedication of the new church facility and manse at the North Geelong Presbyterian Church. After years of planning and twelve months of construction, it was now time to give thanks to the Lord for his amazing goodness in a worship service led by the Presbytery of Geelong. A pastoral greeting was delivered by the Moderator General, Rt Rev. Bob Thomas, along with a heart warming prayer of dedication. The Moderator of Presbytery, Rev. Marvin Hagans, delivered a stirring sermon 'After Dedication - What Then?' from 1 Kings 18:30-39. The congregation also appreciated a photographic PowerPoint presentation of the 'Narrative of Steps' which had led to this occasion.

The Sunday following the church dedication, a Community Open Afternoon was held on the new church premises. The event attracted 80 to 90 people from the neighbourhood, many of them with no church connection.

Allan Lendon



North Geelong opening

in spirit and in truth

ministers' family camp explores worship

The prayers of many were answered. We were told that the bushfires that ravaged much of South Western Victoria earlier this year came within 500 meters of the Halls Gap campground – by God's grace the facility was saved and in the process they were able to service the



Randy Mayfield

fire fighters and others in the community who were forced from their homes.

Subsequently the June 2006 ministers' family camp was able to proceed as usual. I was particularly encouraged by the

number of families that attended this camp for the first time. I had the pleasure of accompanying Randy Mayfield for an additional week, which included a trip in the NSW Outback with Rev Michael Willsmore, two concerts in Mildura and a later one in Cranbourne.

This was Randy's second trip to Victoria. He visited last year with one of his ministry colleagues. After conducting a seminar in Surrey Hills Presbyterian Church (which was open to all in our wider church), we had the privilege of accompanying him on a sightseeing trip to Philip Island. Randy is a well known Christian singer, songwriter and lecturer in several Presbyterian seminaries. At the camp he taught, he entertained and yes – he took the opportunity to laugh with many and cry with some (Romans

12:15). His theme was to explore both the subject of worship and what kind of music is God pleased with. For those who feel that a song/hymn is not somehow canonised until the author is dead – Randy's message would have been a real challenge! Randy presented a balanced and Biblical view of music in worship for which we were greatly blessed. For those who would like to experience a bit more of Randy's ministry and become part of his prayer team you can locate him on www.randymayfield.freehomepage.com/-8k or for free music downloads: music.download.com/randymayfield/3600-8432_32-100096210.html - 107k.

Robert Carner

Director of the Home Mission Committee

in the centre of things

scots' ministry to the cbd

The Rev Dr Harry Reeder stated recently in his lectures at the 'Embers to a Flame Conference' that he envied the location of The Scots' Church, Melbourne, right in the centre of this great city. The Central Business District (CBD) with its Parliamentary, legal, arts, educational, retail and business precincts opens its arms to people from all over the world. Each week from Monday to Friday approximately 567,000 people commute to the CBD. It is estimated that by 2010 the population of the City of Melbourne area will be 100,000 people. At present 67% of those who live in the CBD were born overseas and many of the CBD residents are students attending one of the 15 tertiary institutions located in the CBD square. It is into such a context that God has placed The Scots' Church for the past 168 years to actively engage people from all walks of life, through a variety of means, with the life changing message of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Our ministry here in the CBD is shaped by the four dimensions of our Congregation's Mission Statement:

upreach, downreach, inreach and outreach.

In order to reach the residents living in apartments we have commenced a number of Home Fellowship Groups in various apartment blocks. These groups begin with a meal. The Koreans bring their Kim Chi, the Indians their curries, the Malaysians their dishes and the Aussies their casseroles. The dinner is followed by Bible Study and prayer. These groups have also run a number of evangelistic events: Gingerbread House Events, weekends away and Trivia nights. Home Fellowship groups provide a hub of community activity, as well as providing a friendly context to invite people to explore the message of Christianity.

Our ministry to commuters is also shaped by the four dimensions of our Congregation's Mission Statement mentioned above. We've been establishing a network of Evangelistic Prayer Teams across the CBD at lunchtime. Held in various offices EPTs meet twice a month, gathering people from different church backgrounds to pray for their work colleagues. Our Wednesday 1pm service continues to teach the Bible to city workers.

We have been running a series of talks during the year entitled 'Faith in the City' where prominent Melbournians have preached. Two upcoming 'Faith in the City' services will be: the AFL Grand Final Week service on September 27th at 1pm, when John Van Gronigen, Chaplain to the Western Bulldogs will be preaching, and a Special Service on November 22nd at 1pm, when Aaron Baddeley, the champion Golfer will be preaching. These two services will be opportunities for people to invite their work colleagues to hear a clear explanation of the Christian message. Postcards for both these events have been printed for people to use to invite their work colleagues. These postcards will be distributed around the apartment blocks and on the streets. We are currently planning to initiate our first CBD early morning (7.15am start) discipleship group.

If you would like further information about any of our CBD ministries please don't hesitate to contact me on 9650 9903 (bh) or richard@scotschurch.com

Richard O'Brien

Minister to the CBD

The Scots' Church, Melbourne

mission malawi

CAP Blantyre Synod has an Aid & Development arm to its ministry – called the Projects Office. The Projects Office is involved in several Christ-motivated sustainable aid and relief ministries for the poor, the orphans and the vulnerable of Blantyre region. The Office has 58 persons working for it. They have been able to identify Local Impact Areas (where need is greatest) and have 5 or 6 different types of ministries working simultaneously.

The manager took us (all, except Don Elliott who was visiting pastors) to the field of four of these ministries - three in the morning and one in the afternoon.

Typically we would gather at the community house which was hosting a children's program - join in to what we could join into - and meet with the local area committee. Each 'project' is run by a local management committee. Initially set up and funded by CCAP Blantyre Synod, the synod soon withdraws funding in order to get the committee into fund-raising and becoming self sufficient. This committee identifies from its area the most seriously affected families and the most vulnerable children for help.

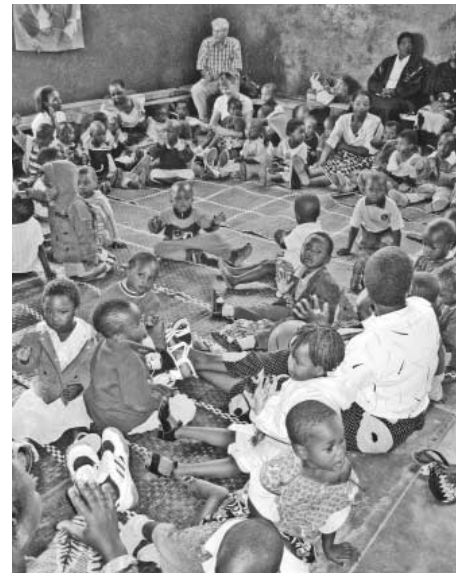
There are orphan children for day-care (two meals a day) with a Christian based teaching program; also ministries to the sick and dying (often with no carer left in the family); or to children of a dying sole parent ... the list goes on. At these com-

munity centres it was a delight to see the team get straight to work: John Flett dancing with the children and playing football with them (donated footballs from EPC); Sandy Carroll praying with children; Judy Flett and Cathy Herweynen singing Christian songs; Sue Steendam surrounded by children while she gave out Bible books and pens.

We were reminded and thanked several times during the day – as representatives of the Presbyterian Church of Australia - and with tears - for the amazingly timely gift of FAMINE RELIEF that we sent over to them after Christmas. How privileged we at Eltham are to be at the front line and greet children and families who were kept alive because of the \$100,000 gift we sent after Christmas from the PCA.

We were then split up into smaller groups of two or three to visit homes in crisis and there we were deeply touched and moved and distressed.

I was taken up a steep 'goat's track' beside rough terrain, refuse and smells and hovels - yet each had happy smiling children and, less-so, adults. I was introduced to a woman who lives in unimaginable circumstances - these are the poorest of the poor on the face of the earth. I talked a little with her yet her eyes hit the ground due to shame (I think). She's still a whole person but feels her destitution makes her look less so!



Malawi orphanage

Early this year her husband left her with 6 young children (to marry another girl) and she is left without income, without food, without possessions and living in a hovel. We chatted a little in my broken Chechewa (exhausting my vocab after 3 minutes!). I asked about her older girls (about 10 - 12) and she said that they don't go to school because they are too embarrassed to go because they have no clothes. The whole family is destined to relive the poverty cycle. They have nothing to live for.

After an awkward pause - I knew I had to do something - but I knew not to do things without checking, so with the permission of the aid worker we took the lady down to the market stalls where I did some buying (good practice for me). I bought 50 kg bag of maize but couldn't lift it; 20 tomatoes, pidgin peas, beans, greens, sugar, salt, soap, eggs and brought them home to the family. I haven't done much BUT kept one family alive for five weeks. The Projects Office sustainable programs will do much more than this - but I had to do something!

Outside I heard some singing and on the dirt (everyone sits on dirt) were some women and children sitting and singing praises to God - it was a prayer group ... and I greeted them in the Lord and I felt like Paul who met those women praying at the river bank at Philippi (minus the river). The warm and lovely smiles that greeted me as I greeted them were memorable. Among all this devastating poverty the country is pervasively Christian.

faith challenged and increased

Over a year ago John Wilson invited Sandy and I to join a team from Eltham Presbyterian who were planning a trip to Malawi. Their aim was to go as servants to the CCAP (Church of Central Africa – Presbyterian) Blantyre Synod, to utilise our skills where they best suited. Initially I was to be doing more nursing than pastoral type ministry, but in Africa plans rarely stay unchanged.

We had a week of 'orientation' to the work that the Synod is doing, and it is an amazing work! There is little government funding for relief programs so the Presbyterian Church has taken up a lot of this work. The Bible is full of refer-

ences to caring for the widow and the orphan and this is one thing that our partner church in Malawi is doing, and doing well.

Orphan Care Programs abound due to the scourge of HIV/AIDS that is decimating the working age population, in and out of the church. The dedication of the volunteers to these children who are close to the heart of God is well worth imitating.

Two of my many highlights of the trip were: seeing Colin M'bawa and his family again, and the visit to the Parallel Training College in Zomba (PTCZ). PTCZ is in its second year training 20 CCAP Blantyre Synod ministry students. They have very little in the way of resources;

Continued page 12

John Wilson

an eye to the future

meet our PYV youth worker, andrew and suzy vines

My lovely wife Suzy and I have been married for almost five years, and we have an exuberant toddler named Tom. After working as an Aircraft Maintenance Engineer, I spent the last three years studying at PTC (actually, I'm still there, finishing off my last few subjects over the next two years). Our home church is St Stephens' Presbyterian Church, Surrey Hills.

I began work as the Victorian CENC (Christian Education and Nurture Committee) Youth Worker in July this year. My role is primarily to develop youth work within our churches by working with PYV (Presbyterian Youth Victoria). My appointment is part of a five-year plan, which PYV adopted at the beginning of 2005. This plan has four objectives: to encourage youth work at the local church level, to do PYV 'better' rather than 'more', to involve a wider pool of leaders in the ministry of PYV and to provide a better transition for the next wave of PYV leaders.

But what does this plan look like in practice? Essentially, it means revamping three areas of PYV's ministry.

activities

PYV found itself in a situation a few years ago where a large proportion of its work was done by eight bodies, who sat around the table at our monthly council meetings. We felt like nobody else was

really close enough in-the-loop to whom we could hand over major responsibility. This meant those eight people were overloaded, often having to learn by trial and error, until they approached burnout – whereupon the next in line would step in to start the process again.

In responding to this, PYV has developed a two pronged approach: firstly, we are turning a portion of our website into a procedures manual, which is full of job descriptions and resources that educate our leaders on how to fulfil their particular role. Secondly, we are working at providing a human side to this process; someone who checks that everyone knows what they are doing, and is on hand to answer questions that written instructions cannot. This is the core of my job.

leadership nurture

Currently, the leaders involved in our camping ministry are part of a vital, spiritual ministry: they are working to pass on the ancient gospel of Jesus to the teenagers of the third millennium. In addition, these same leaders will probably comprise a large portion of the Presbyterian Church's ministers and elders (and their wives!) in ten, twenty and thirty year's time. Thus, we must not treat our leaders as mere functionaries who do a job for us. They are Christians who need to be encouraged to grow in faith and godliness themselves. They need to be chal-

lenged to persevere at developing good spiritual disciplines and a gospel focused lifestyle.

To assist local congregations in this, PYV are introducing both an administrative and a personal facet to our nurture of leaders. Administratively, we have introduced a more organized and efficient system of accrediting and monitoring them. But more importantly, we are beginning to bring along older, more experienced Christians to be pastoral carers at our camps. While our camps have always featured camp parents as a support for campers, pastoral carers are there especially to mentor and disciple the leaders.

training

PYV are now utilizing two new training initiatives. The first is the FUELLED days run by the CENC. PYV is involved in the planning of these days and hopes to use them to give practical advice to those seeking to do youth ministry in local churches. Secondly, PYV is developing a course called 'Foundations.' This is a basic certificate in theology, which is fully accredited and runs in partnership with the PTC.

Please pray for me as I endeavour to assist PYV in these important works, for they will be achieved 'not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the LORD Almighty.' (Zech 4:6).

Andrew Vines

pyv news

The coming months contain several PYV events: when this goes to print, the Social will probably have been run by the youth at Ballarat West. Then, in mid September, PYV Junior Camp will be held for grades 6-10, where Douglas Robertson will deliver a series of messages on the life of Moses. Thanks to subsidies from a fund called the Allen bequest, camp is being offered at the reduced price of \$55 each. So, if you haven't registered already, be sure to get in soon! (Forms are available from www.pyv.org.au). In November, we will hold the annual Volleyball tournament, where former Olympian David Beard will

give his testimony. December will host the PYV Carols at Heathmont Presbyterian Church. The end of the year, of course, means PYV Summer Camp. John Buchanan will be speaking on the book of Judges, while the activities will be based about the theme of 'Superheroes and Villains.' Please keep your eyes peeled for further information coming out soon at www.pyv.org.au.

Andrew Vines & Joanna Mckerrow

Christ Faith Service

excitement in the air

exit students look forward



Fagan family

miles and robyn fagan

Robyn and I met at a friend's wedding late in 1990. We were both involved in evangelism in different circles at the time. I was involved in street ministry at St Kilda and Robyn was part of a Scripture Union Theos team at Echuca. We were married in May 1992 and have two beautiful children. Prior to studying full time at PTC, I was a project planner on the Anzac Ship project at Tenix, Williamstown.

To us ministry means being obedient to God's call on our lives. We believe that God has a plan for everyone; therefore following in his unfolding plan is our first priority. Ministry will mean coming alongside of people and sharing the grace of God in both times of happiness and hardship. Ministry will also mean many changes. However, change brings about growth and opportunity.

We look forward to serving God in Noorat and getting to know the congregation and community there. We envisage being active in our local area. We are both accredited CRE teachers and I am an

accredited Auskick Coach. Robyn enjoys patchwork and quilting and looks forward to meeting with like minded people. Ministry is talking about God to both the community of believers and the community at large. We pray that our ministry will be of blessing to others.

shane cassidy

In distinction to my fellow graduating students I haven't had to attend weekly classes at the College. This was due to the fact that prior to being received as a candidate for the ministry in the Presbyterian Church of Australia I completed theological studies both in Australia and overseas.

The past three years have been a great joy and encouragement to me as I have pastorally served the Wyndham Presbyterian Church. The Lord's people in Wyndham have demonstrated a great warmth and acceptance both for me and my family. Their love for us has been outstanding. We have bonded together into a warm church where Christian growth is evident in so many people. I hope and pray that my experience here at Wyndham will be similar to all my fellow exiting students as they embark on their new ministry, wherever that may be.

Editor's note: Shane and his family have been exited to the congregation where they have faithfully served for the past 3 years, Wyndham Presbyterian Church.

willem and pam vandenbergh

Pam and I have been blessed with 4 daughters, 4 sons-in-law and (at time of writing) 4 grandchildren with two more on the way. We continue to praise God for his

grace and faithfulness. Both Pam and I migrated to Australia with our parents in the early 1960s, so Australia has been our home for most of our lives. We were born into Christian families and came to know and love the Reformed faith. It has been my privilege to serve as an elder in the Presbyterian Church for 15 years.

In 2000 I was able to undertake part-time studies at the PTC, enrolling in the evening classes that were on offer at the time. I continued on a part-time basis for the next four years until, with the prodding and encouragement from several respected brothers, I applied to become a candidate for the ministry. In my leisure time I enjoy cycling, hiking (I grew up on a dairy farm and still love the outdoors), or just reading a book. Together with Pam, I look forward to serving our God and his covenant people in the place of his appointing.

PAEDIATRIC CHAPLAIN



The Health and Community Chaplaincy Committee of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria is in the process of finalising an agreement with a major metropolitan hospital in Melbourne for the placement of a full-time paediatric chaplain.

In anticipation of a successful conclusion, **expressions of interest** are sought from interested persons.

Minimum qualifications: applicants must be mature Christians with appropriate theological training; at least one, but preferably two units of **Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE)**; or **Integrated Chaplaincy Training (ICT)**, or equivalent; and two years experience in a healthcare facility. Preference will be given to Presbyterian Ministers, and thereafter to any applicants who are in complete agreement with the theological standards of the Presbyterian Church of Australia and are committed to working within the structures of the PCV.

For a full P.D. and application form contact the convener (Rev. Theo Fishwick) by e-mail at hccc@pcvic.org.au

Applications close 30th Oct 2006.
All enquiries and applications treated with strictest confidence.

GRAND FINAL SERVICE

2006

SCOTS' CHURCH COLLINS

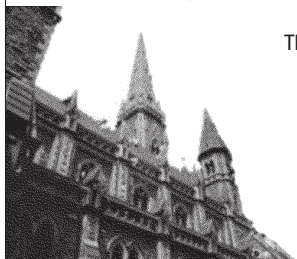
Since September 2002, Scots' Church, Melbourne has conducted a Grand Final mid-week service on the Wednesday preceding the AFL Grand Final.

This year the service will be held on **Wednesday the 27th September at 1pm.**

Our **guest preacher** this year is **John Van Groningen**, chaplain of the Western Bulldogs Football Club.

On the day of the service a **sausage sizzle** will be held in Collins Street and the replica AFL Premiership Cup will be on display in the church. Visitors attending the service are encouraged to wear their team scarf.

The worship service is now firmly on the calendar of events in Melbourne during Grand Final week and we welcome everyone to attend the service.



keep the home fires burning

(don't forget the home-based missionaries)

The mid year months of May to September '06 will have seen, a record number of our missionaries come home for a break, refreshment and deputation meetings. In case you haven't known who's been home, the list of missionaries who have come, been and gone or are still here looks like something like this –

- Paul and Janae Denness (arrived in April, returned in May)
- Mavis Price (arrived last year, returned in June)
- Roz Gill (arrived in April, returned in July)
- John and Lyn Ellis (arrived in May, returned in July)
- Joy Hill (arrived in May, returning in September)
- Rhondda and Rhys Hall (arrived in March, returning in September)
- Len and Wendy Pearce (arrived in July, returning in Sept/Oct)
- Paul and Anthea Pearce (arriving late July, returning mid November)

- David and Lisa Pearce (arriving late August, returning mid October)
- Carol Whipp (arrived in June, returning in September)

Now that's quite a list! And when you add Calvin and Ruth Mathys and Laszlo and Eva Mihalyi who are also both busy raising a support team and Graham and Sue Hammond who will be returning briefly in November for the birth of a grandchild and Alan and Faye Canavan who will be arriving in December and then Ashley and Sarah Manly who will be arriving in January, it means that more than 50% of our missionary team will be home at some stage within the 9 month period from March '06-January '07!

So who's home? Well, apart from the Tranters and the Denness Jnr's (who are still in Australia), Andrew and Fleur Letcher are home, doing a vital work at the Kangaroo Ground headquarters of Wycliffe. Barbara Brown is home too – working quietly and unassumingly in the Eastern suburbs of Melbourne. And don't forget that in Sydney the Mission Partners

APWM National Director, Rev. Bill Lutton, is home too and so is the Associate National Director, Rev. Phil Simmonds, as is Rev. Fayek Iskander ministering to Sydney Muslims and Rev. Ricky Manton is home too, among the Aboriginal community of Western Sydney. They're all home and they're all doing God's work and yet sadly, they are, more often than not, running low on financial support. When the people at Nazareth rejected Jesus, remember how he said, "Only in his hometown and in his own house is a prophet without honour." While we praise God for our vibrant and growing missionary team who serve all over the world, let's not be guilty of overlooking those who serve right under our noses!

To arrange a meeting with any of our missionary team feel free to contact them directly (it's much easier that way) or me. If you don't know how to contact them, I can help you with that too!

Philip Burns,
Convener APWM Victoria

mission malawi continued...

the students use the principal's personal library for their assignments, but they are keen to learn more about God and His word. Malawian ministers largely 'go it alone', leading to competition instead of cooperation so it seemed appropriate to encourage a degree of interdependence.

We finally saw the Theological Resource Centre, the focus of the PCV's partnership with CCAP Blantyre Synod, for ourselves. We were all privileged to

witness the Dedication Service of the Centre, with Colin as its Director. Its importance as a place where the Word of Truth can refresh ministers cannot be over emphasised.

I'm still trying to work out how the time we spent living and working in Malawi has affected me because there has not been just one single effect. Sandy and I want to go back, but when and for how long are in God's hands. I now have

a wider perspective on the universal church and how ministry can be done in it and for it. I have also been challenged about the degree to which I live my faith. While we help the CCAP through the PCV's focus on the Theological Resource Centre, they can certainly teach us about practically witnessing to our common faith in the One True God.

Dean Carroll

contribute

Your contributions to *fellow workers* are welcome! *fellow workers* is now published every quarter (March, June, September & December). All copy and enquiries should be sent to the editor (contact details above). The deadline for contributions to the next issue is **9th November**. Photographs should be digital and sent by email if possible.

SEE FOR YOURSELF

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