

fellow workers

news from around the presbyterian church of victoria

Editor **Chiara Bilyj**

ed.fellowworkers@gmail.com

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**PYV Winter
Camp
Page 6**

Religion in the Public Square Colloquium takes risks



Assembly Hall was packed for the segment on freedom of religion

A very exciting and enriching experience was had by the 250 registrants to the inaugural Church & Nation Committee Religion in the Public Square Colloquium held over three days in late July in the Robert White Hall, 156 Collins St. Ages ranged from early twenties upwards.

For a while the Committee was concerned about the level of reg-

istration, but two weeks out word had got out to the wider Christian public so that attendance over the three days varied between 110 and 175 people. Many of our ministers attended. Approximately 30 came from interstate – South Australia, NSW, ACT, Tasmania and Queensland. Possibly a third were non-Presbyterians, with many Catholics in particular



Professor Scott Rae, keynote speaker attending. In the end, the requirement that a registration fee be paid proved no impediment to filling the Hall. We were at capacity and had the Colloquium been a week later, we would have been in trouble!

Some have been puzzled as to why we called the event a Colloquium and not a Conference.

Continued on page 2

PTC students take the gospel to the streets around Hume

Every year, Presbyterian Theological College sends its ministry candidates out on an eight-day mission to support the efforts of a local church in its local community.

The College mission goes through a three-year cycle of support to a country parish, a metropolitan parish and an overseas church or mission. Last year the mission was to Tatura and Rushworth. Next year it will be to Bangkok. This year, from 20 to 27

June, the focus was on Hume.

Hume Presbyterian Church serves a swathe of outer northern suburbs, including Greenvale, Attwood, Broadmeadows, West-Meadows, Glenroy, Gladstone Park, Roxburgh Park, Dallas, Coolaroo and Campbellfield.

The mission team consisted of ten ministry candidates, two members of the College faculty, and one candidate's wife. Hume assessor elder, Bruce Blythe, also

joined the mission team for the week.

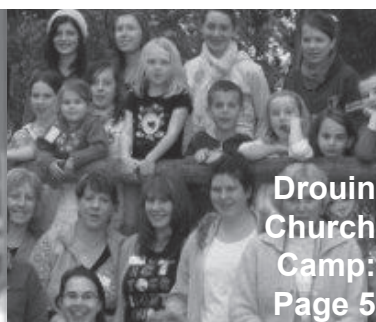
Our base of operations for the week was the manse, where Rev. Scott Kroeger and his wife Nancy made us feel at home. We were abundantly fed throughout the week by the Kroegers and three other households of the congregation.

Matt Tegart preached the sermon on the first Sunday, and I...

Continued on page 4



**City
Bible
Forum
arrives in
Melbourne:
Page 3**



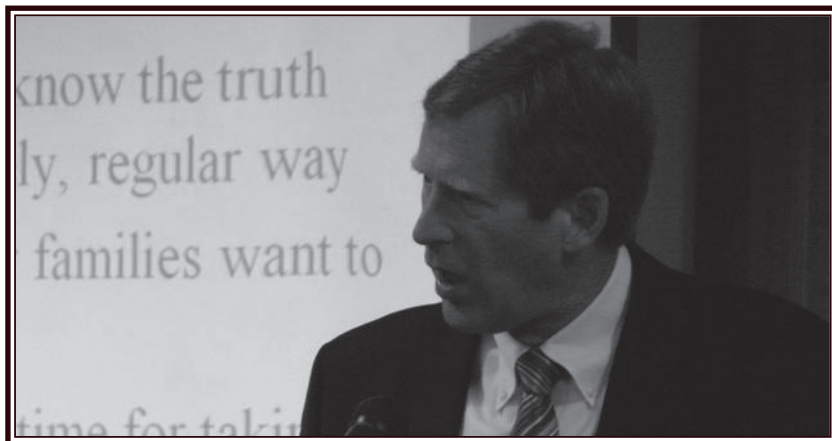
**Drouin
Church
Camp:
Page 5**



**New
profile
section:
back page**

**Deadline
for next
FW edition:
1st November
2010.**

Religion in the Public Square Colloquium takes risks



Professor Scott Rae from Biola University, Los Angeles, exceeded expectations

continued from page 1

According to the Macquarie Dictionary, a colloquium is defined as a meeting for the purposes of discussion. We tried to achieve this through the question and answer sessions and the hour long 'roundtable' discussion at the end of each day. However, because of the great interest engendered by the papers and the numbers attending, the time allocated to question times and roundtable left some disappointed in not being able to put their questions.

The genesis for the Colloquium goes back at least four years, with a number of elements to the fore: a conference targeting the lay members of the Church which would cover matters of ethical importance to lay members; the desire to demonstrate to Christians that we have defensible positions across a broad range of issues worth addressing and to do so in a public forum; and then more particularly to begin exploring a Christian world and life understanding that drew upon our own reformed tradition. Over the past several years, my involvement in inter church and political arenas provided fresh insights, such as the need to employ the four voices of the church – the prophetic, academic/professional, persuasive and artistic, as well as a growing awareness of informed, articulate persons to the forefront of their professions both within the

Presbyterian Church as well within other Christian communities.

We sought a keynote speaker and found one in Professor Scott Rae from Biola University, Los Angeles who exceeded all our expectations. Dr Rae proved knowledgeable, absolute tops in his field. He spoke plainly and clearly, whilst his modest American manner made him endearingly ac-

cessible and acceptable to all.

Once we knew Dr Rae's strengths lay

in business, pro-life and bio-technology ethics we were able to pair local speakers with him. In all, 23 papers were presented by 18 different speakers. One of the themes our ministers heard repeatedly was the need for them in their preaching to address the ethical issues our people experience in their daily lives, especially in the workforce.

All sessions, including the question and answer periods and roundtable, will be made available through The Reformers Bookshop in MP3 format for a modest fee, whilst it is hoped that the same can be done for the papers presented and

Power Point presentations.

The Committee took several risks in planning the Colloquium.

The first was making use of Catholic speakers. One of them delved deeply into Catholic academic underpinnings, which exceeded the capacity of most to derive much benefit other than to be appreciative of the depth of scholarship within the Catholic tradition. The other strayed somewhat in Biblical understanding, but was of such stature as well as such clarity of expression, relevance and deep Christian conviction that any slight exegetical missteps were quickly forgiven.

The other risk was to run a protracted segment on freedom of

'What a great Colloquium. So professional. So stretching. Such quality presenters. Thank you.'

'Thank you for a wonderful, stimulating colloquium.'

'The Colloquium was great. It's probably one of the first times we feel like the denomination is engaging directly with some of these important issues in society. It was also good to be around other like-minded people.'



religion in which the heads of the Australian Human Rights Commission and the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission were pitted against our own champions in the persons of Professors Tonti-Filippini, Parkinson and Aroney, the latter a Presbyterian elder from Queensland. The room was packed for this segment and at the end, the general consensus was that the risk was one well taken. For once

'The Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission take a different view on how the religious exception clauses in the new Equal Opportunity Act should work.'

the Human Rights industry had to take note of Christian concerns that were politely but cogently, even pointedly, expressed. However, it is fair to say that at this point in time, the Victorian Commission take a different view from us on how the religious exception clauses in the new Equal Opportunity Act should work. The fact that this has been clearly articulated is a worthwhile gain. It was agreed that the Commission would consult with us (and our allies, including the Christian Schools) regarding the operation of the exception clauses.

The Assembly Hall facilities proved superb and Scots Church is to be commended not only for the tasteful and practical refurbishment of the building, but also their wholehearted and professional support in the running of the Colloquium. Likewise without the efforts of the Committee members and our volunteers, in particular Michelle Davidson, Joy Venning and Clement Teo, the Colloquium would never have gone as well as it did.

The next part is to plan the follow up!

Watch this space.

David Palmer
Church and Nation Committee

City Bible Forum arrives in Melbourne

Getting together for a drink after work in Melbourne's CBD is not uncommon but it took on a special meaning for the 94 people who recently gathered (10th June) for canapés and drinks for the launch of the City Bible Forum in Melbourne.

The City Bible Forum is a mission organisation which focuses on workplace outreach in the business districts of Australia. It has been operating for nearly 20 years around Australia, but never in Melbourne, until now.

Attendees heard about the vision and mission of the City Bible Forum and also heard stories of how people had come to know Jesus through the work of the City Bible Forum elsewhere in Australia.

Many innovative and exciting initiatives were launched as part of the 2010 program. The program is grounded in evangelistic prayer teams and training which helps people share Jesus in the workplace. Many exciting public forums were also launched – lunchtime Bible seminars, the Smith Lecture, an evening with a high profile chef, and even international volunteering opportunities. Melbourne Director of the City Bible Forum Robert Martin said, 'Workers in the CBD are all different and we need to offer a variety of forums to engage these people with the claims of Jesus'.



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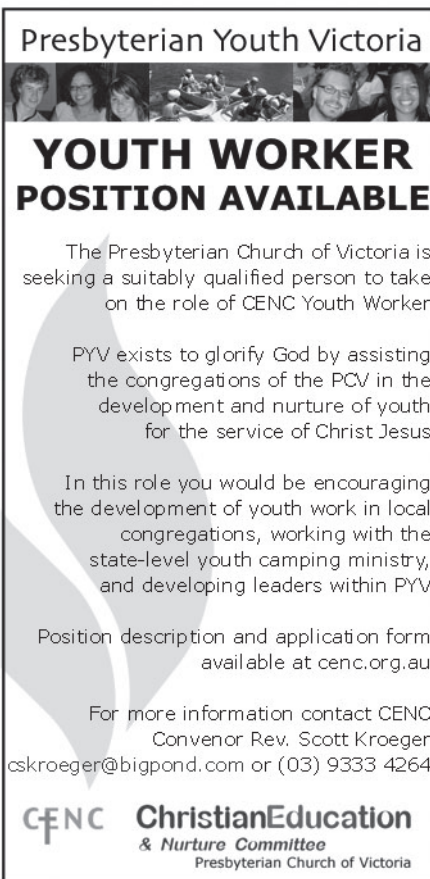
Robert Martin, Melbourne Director of CBF

Many of those who attended were excited by the program, 'I'm excited to see CBF starting in Melbourne and keen use this opportunity to invite my non-Christian colleagues to hear about Jesus'.

There is much anticipation for the first series of lunchtime public meetings in late August and September. For more information, look at the Melbourne CBF Blog: melbournecbf.wordpress.com or website www.citybibleform.org.

For further details contact:

Robert Martin, Melbourne Director
Robert.Martin@citybibleforum.org



Presbyterian Youth Victoria

YOUTH WORKER POSITION AVAILABLE

The Presbyterian Church of Victoria is seeking a suitably qualified person to take on the role of CENC Youth Worker

PYV exists to glorify God by assisting the congregations of the PCV in the development and nurture of youth for the service of Christ Jesus

In this role you would be encouraging the development of youth work in local congregations, working with the state-level youth camping ministry, and developing leaders within PYV

Position description and application form available at cenc.org.au

For more information contact CENC Convenor Rev. Scott Kroeger cskroeger@bigpond.com or (03) 9333 4264

CENC Christian Education & Nurture Committee
Presbyterian Church of Victoria

PTC STUDENTS TAKE THE GOSPEL TO THE STREETS AROUND HUME



Most of the student mission team with some members of the Hume congregation

Continued from page 1

preached on the following Sunday. During the week, we operated in pairs in evangelistic outreach to the communities of Hume. Some went door-knocking, which proved to be fairly unfruitful, while others focussed on bus and railway stations, which were far more promising.

We sought to engage people through a six-point community questionnaire, a method which turned out to be very helpful in getting total strangers to think deeply about God, faith and eternity. The

six questions were:

1. What is your greatest concern at the moment in this community?
2. Are you part of any religion, or do you currently attend any church/temple/mosque?
3. If you could ask God one question, what would it be?
4. Do you think the church/temple/mosque prepares people for life after death?
5. If you were to die tonight, where do you think you would go?
6. If God said to you, 'Why should I let you into my heaven?', what would you say?

In total, the team engaged 231 people in conversation, with 186 people completing the six questions. We were able to give out 98 Hume Presbyterian Church introductory brochures and several hundred postcards advertising a youth gathering for the final Sunday evening. Most importantly, through using the questionnaire, we were able to present the basic message of the gospel of Jesus Christ to 82 people.

The final event of the mission, a youth gathering around the theme 'Life's Big Question', was held on Sunday evening, with games, music, pizza and a gospel talk from our mission co-leader, final-year candidate Steve Deroon.

It was a wonderful week, and we learned many valuable lessons about street evangelism. May God bring forth a bountiful harvest from the many seeds that were sown in Hume.

*Phil Court
PTC ministry candidate*

THE PTC MISSION WEEK AND HUME GATHERING COME TOGETHER

On the 27th of June this year the Hume Presbyterian Church and the Presbyterian Theological College combined to create another amazing Gathering, one that was extraordinary. It was the climax of a week of hard work from the PTC students. After spreading God's word around Hume and providing the congregation with the opportunity to engage more in God's word, the students then had their minds set on the Gathering.

In that short time the PTC students prepared a night jam-packed with fun, teaching and a whole new atmosphere. The games kept us on the ball, and had us fleeing from it at the same time! The giant foose-ball was great fun, before it sucked out all our energy, which was then regained with some fan-



Pizza was devoured at the end of the Gathering

tastic dinner later on. The HY-POD band was fantastic with the praise and worship but the highlight of the night would have to have been Steve Deroon's talk on 'Life's Big Question.' Steve gave an engaging talk about why Jesus is so important in our lives and why we need him.

The Gathering was incredible. The hard work of the PTC students and the Hume Youth made it a Gathering never to forget. I hope the next one can be just as fantastic as this one.

*Duan Ziegelaar
Hume Presbyterian church*



Exploring Isaiah, pop culture and Ashcombe Maze at Drouin Church Camp

Merricks Lodge on the Mornington Peninsula was the destination for about 85 people from Drouin Presbyterian Church for an action packed church camp over the weekend of 30th April to 2nd May.

With sixty-four campers and twenty-one day visitors, the camp was a wonderful opportunity for members of the congregation to spend quality time together. Nello Barberi, PCV Training Officer, shared with us from

the book of Isaiah in three study sessions on the Saturday and a Sunday worship service. There is much to be gained from Isaiah in our current context. There were challenges given about what we really value, as well as seeing our God who gives hope and strength. Thanks to Nello for encouraging and challenging us from God's Word.

Our talented music team provided uplifting singing at each

session, and we learnt some new songs over the course of the weekend. We were entertained on Saturday evening by members of the congregation who shared a variety of talents, and we all



Drouin Presbyterian Church enjoyed a weekend together at Merricks lodge

entered into a spirited game of 'team scattergories' to finish a fun evening.

The primary-aged children were very appreciative of Mark and Jackie Atkinson from OAC Ministries who ran an excellent program while the adults and older teenagers attended the Isaiah studies. Luke Martin from our own congregation kept the teenagers enthralled with 'pop culture' stud-

ies based on the book and DVD *The trouble with Paris*.

Saturday afternoon was free time, and a few headed to the beach at Point Leo for some beach activities—some kids braved the cool water for a swim! Another group successfully navigated Ashcombe Maze, while a few headed into Hastings to check out the sights including pelicans, the pier and a lovely waterfront café. Others were

happy to relax and spend time with friends back at the campsite.

Church Camp is a much-anticipated annual event for the Drouin Pressy folk. It is always encouraging to see all the ages mixing so well, friendships developing and strengthening, and God's gifts being used to further His Kingdom.

*Rev. Mark Smith
Pastor, Drouin Presbyterian Church*

Grand Final Fever Comes To Scots' Presbyterian Church

Scots' Church in Melbourne is getting into the AFL Grand Final spirit by holding a Church service on Wednesday 22nd September at 1pm.

The guest preacher will be Rev John Boyers, chaplain to Manchester United Football Club. Manchester United boast that they are the world's most popular football team. The Rev John Boyers is a Baptist minister and has been their Chaplain since 1992.

This is the tenth year this service has been held at Scots' in AFL Grand Final Week. The

replica Premiership Cup will be on display and everyone who attends the service is encouraged to wear their team scarf.

On the day of the service there will be a sausage sizzle in Collins Street as a fundraiser for Sports Chaplaincy Australia.

We encourage everyone to come and hear Rev John Boyers preach during this week of celebration, when sport and the Christian message come together in the City of Melbourne.

Robert Lowe, Scots Church

What's happening in your Sunday School?

The Christian Education & Nurture Committee (CENC) wants to support churches who are holding Sunday School classes.

We know that many churches struggle to choose material. To help, the CENC is keen to provide a place on the web where you can read reviews and comments from current Sunday School teachers about the material they use. You'll also find contact details so you can speak with these teachers.

For more, go to www.cenc.org.au or contact Rev. Brian Harvey: 3471 Warburton Highway, Warburton. Ph 5966 2309

Grade 5 & 6 kids make their PYV debut



'Tug-of-war' was a favourite game on Primary Camp

small groups let the kids bring up any questions they had about the talks with their leaders, as well as playing a special board game and sculpting artworks out of 'magi-clay'.

Memory verses were introduced as a daily challenge by a few leaders. Acting out Psalm 1 and rapping out verses from Proverbs was a great way for everyone to memorise text, and to teach others with big smiles!

The campers enjoyed fun activities led by the exuberant Rachael Bruce and Alison Nixon. These ranged from huge games of tug-of-war, to 'pit stop mania'. We also had to catch Jesse the Goose (a dressed up leader) in the 'Wild Goose Chase'!

The 3 days seemed to rush by in one big blur. By Monday lunchtime it was time to leave, so goodbyes were exchanged and 'A-frame' hugs were rife as people left to return home, but one question remained unanswered... 'How many days until Summer Camp?'

*Kate Misso
PYV leader*

What do you get when you put two energetic convenors, one powerful speaker, twenty child-at-heart leaders, 26 kids, and one wild goose into a blender? You get one very tasty concoction known as PYV Primary Camp!

The introduction of PYV's newest camp down at Phillip Island's Adventure Resort was anticipated for months, and it did not disap-

point. The grade five and six children came along to their first PYV camp to spend time reflecting on stories that Jesus told, meeting new friends and (of course) on the flying fox!

Brian Harvey challenged us through the talks about our relationships with others, with God, and also with 'stuff' (meaning material possessions). The

Junior Camp 2010 was fantastic

Does that heading give some indication of the kind of time I had leading on Junior Camp this year? The enthusiasm of the kids, the fantastic talks by [name removed] (also known as 'Vinesy') and the meticulous planning by the executives made camp a fun and rewarding time of fellowship.

Trudging through the mud to hunt down treasure clues together was great team bonding, as was the brilliant night of ninja training. We were pitted, team against team, in a series of completely

serious and rigorous training 'stations'. Perhaps the highlight of the battle between Pirates and Ninjas—the theme of camp—was dressing up as salty sea barnacles

and agile assassins for a feast on the last night of camp. 'Aargh me hearties!'

Co-leading a group of year tens in studies was encouraging. Working

from Matthew 28, we discussed the importance of Jesus' resurrection, and how integral a part of God's plan of salvation it is. Vinesy's messages helped us realise that without Jesus' resur-

rection, we would not have been raised up with God, and therefore should live our lives in a way worthy of being united with Christ.

I was also lucky enough to be involved in the Junior Camp Radio Show, with convener Scott McNabb and I bringing some laughs and craziness to the airwaves.

I left my first Winter Camp with amazing new friends, a renewed faith and an even greater appreciation for the love of God, that saw him send his only Son to die and be raised for our salvation. I hope everyone who attended had as great a time as I did!

*Ashleigh Haughey
PYV leader*



From the meaning of life to Spiderman: Senior Camp

The 'meaning of life' is a concept that mankind has grappled with throughout history. PYV Senior Camp 2010 saw around 70 campers, from age 16 through to their mid-20s, talking about and pondering the true meaning of life.

Through four thought provoking talks looking at key points in the book of Ecclesiastes, Rev. Clinton le Page laid out for us what the Bible says about this important question. After the talks, we split into study groups where we talked about what a Biblical perspective of the meaning of life should mean in our day to day lives.

Outside of talks and studies, we spent time catching up getting to know new people, making use of the campsites facilities and generally enjoying our free time to spend together. On Saturday afternoon, we piled into cars and took a short drive into Cowes, spending the afternoon wandering the town and making the day for small children, who, catching sight of the camp's resident Spiderman, invariably had to tell their parents and anyone in hearing range.



Are they contemplating the meaning of life? Keaton Cloherty, David Sprague, Binny Hendrix, Mary Metry, Marcus Campbell, Joshua Roberts and Leanne Kumnick pulled some crazy faces on Senior camp

Sunday morning saw Primary, Junior and Senior camp combining to see the 'Backyard Bard' – a man who recites and acts out sections of the Bible, and then for the Sunday worship service where [name removed] (also known as 'Vinesy') took us back to the foundations of faith.

The final night of camp gave us free time with the Junior campers, with the option to be involved in various activities including 'Sing-star', a disco, various card and

board games, a late night beach walk for some of the older ones, and of course, PYV TV.

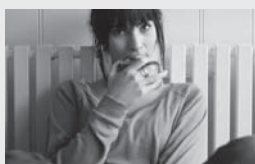
PYV Senior Camp 2010 was great: challenging and enjoyable, it was everything we could have wished for.

Thanks to camp Convenor, Joy Venning, and the other camp executives for a wonderful camp, and to Rev. Clinton le Page for his insightful talks.

*Sonja Otto
PYV leader*

Winter Camp at a glance...

Photographs by David Johnstone



To see more pictures, go online and become a member of the Fellow Workers group on facebook.

New!

profile of a fellow worker

Wade Dyer



Wade Dyer claims that someone from Bundoora Presbyterian Church tricked him into joining their small group.

Then he laughs. 'Well, I say I was, because when I first came to Bundy (Bundoora Presbyterian), everyone invited me to their small group. They were really friendly.' He couldn't choose one. 'Then a guy invited me over for a barbecue, and I turned up. Then more people turned up, and they're like "yeah, this is our first small group for the year". So I said "it looks like I'm going to yours then."' He assures me

that the trickster is now forgiven. He loves both the small group and 'Bundy' as a whole.

Wade is a 25 year-old graphic designer from a big family of boys in Swan Hill. He moved to Melbourne at the start of this year and lives in a share house with three other guys.

We meet up on a sunny winter's day for a chat, and my nifty digital recorder captures the whole thing.

To start at the beginning, I ask how he became a Christian.

'My mother and father converted when I was in primary school. We went to a Church of Christ for a few years, and during my teenage years, I remember praying the "sinners prayer". I remember being incredibly happy, but after that my faith became really legalistic. It wasn't until uni that I think I really came into a relationship with God.'

He goes on to describe how a nasty mixture of depression, eczema and broken relationships brought him low.

'I had mostly non-Christian friends and was partying a lot. I used to think "God's real, but actually obeying him is impossible", so I didn't really try. During this period I came into a dependence on God. I had nothing, and God brought me to him. That was the biggest year of my life. I never want to go through it again, but I'm so thankful that I did.'

He talks with enthusiasm about the Presbyterian Theological College. 'It revolutionised my perspective on the Bible. I don't look at the Bible the same way anymore. I highly recommend going there!'

'I was doing a Bachelor of Ministry earlier this year and I completed Old and New Testament overviews. It was really cool. I would like to go back one day.'

We talk about graphic design, or 'pretty pictures', as Wade jokingly calls his work. He runs Design

Ministries, a graphic design company 'focused on furthering God's kingdom.' He designs websites, among other things, for mission organisations and churches. He's so passionate about it that he speeds up when he talks.

'The web is how people communicate today. It's how they connect and become informed. We don't go to libraries, or talk to our neighbours. The web is how people find things. When you go to a new place, and you're looking for a church, you immediately go to Google, and you type in "Bundoora church" and you hit enter.

'As a Prezby church, we have a great passion for the truth, and I think that could be utilized more by putting those resources online. Our pastors are some of the best trained in Australia. If they start putting things online, in easily accessible places, people would love it! I mean, non-Christians are not going to read a book. But if I send them a link to a u-tube clip, and it's a sermon, they'll click play!'

'I think the Australian Presbyterian Church has such little impact on Australian culture. But it has such potential. We have God's word, it's real, this is what the world is about, this is what life is about, let's get it out there! Paul went to where the gentiles were, to tell them about Jesus, and where our culture is... is on the internet.'

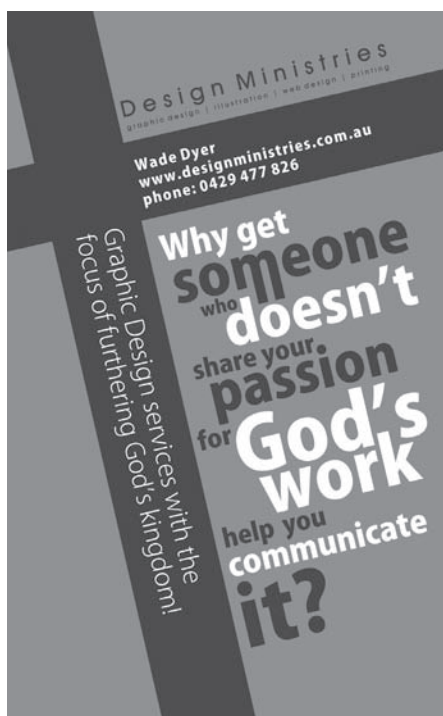
Chiara Bilyj
Editor

I bet you didn't know you're a journalist.

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