



M U C



Magazine

The News and Views of the
Murrumbeena Uniting Church



To make Christ known by preaching the
gospel in word and deed

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The Uniting Church in Australia
MURRUMBEENA UNITING CHURCH

June - July 2021

MINISTRY TEAM

REV. JAY ROBINSON

Minister

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PASTOR KELLY SKILTON

Pastor for the Young Adults and the Sonder Collective.

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ZAK HANYN

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CHURCH COUNCIL



CHAIR:

**Alison Campbell
Rate**

0438 569 690



TREASURER:

Greg Pressey



Doug Faram

Also responsible for Pastoral Care
0422 033 283



Jo Petzer



Rachel Dart
Minutes Secretary



Margaret Reid



Dave Robinson
Correspondence Secretary

ORGANISATIONS AND GROUPS

- Community Garden
- Craft Circle
- Drop In/Coffee with Jay
- Adult Fellowship
- Friendship Fellas (Men's Group)
- LIFT (Women's Group)

THE CHURCH

- Adult Bible Studies
- Pastoral Care
- Worship Band
- Lending Library

YOUNG ADULTS (18-35)

- Getaway
- Sonder Collective
- Studies
- Sunday Brunch

YOUTH (13-17)

- Camps
- Youthy

CHILDREN & FAMILIES

- Families
 - » Family Craft Days
 - » Family Movie Days
- Kids
 - » Countdown to Christmas
 - » Kids' Time
- mainly music

**GLENDAL
LEIGH**

Culture of Safety contact person
9568 8177



Welcome to this June/July (Winter) edition of the *MUC MAG*. As always, it is full of interesting items to read and photos to view. The street party on 28th March was a great success, perhaps due to the beautiful sunny day, and Bruce has provided a page of photos of that event.

Not surprisingly, the onset of the colder weather has increased the possibility of contracting illnesses like colds, 'flu, and of course the corona virus. Already, a sudden increase in reported cases of corona virus around Victoria has led to lockdown restrictions being applied. This in turn has impacted the manner in which our worship services and other activities can be conducted. Two "positives" concerning this are:

1. We experienced harsher measures last year, and therefore have established ways of making worship and communications possible; and
2. The congregation endorsed the proposal to upgrade/install audio and video facilities to reduce the workload on Bruce and me in providing online streaming, YouTube videos and USB versions of our worship services.

These mean that, whatever might befall us, we can continue to share in learning and applying the Will of God to our daily lives.

That said, we are very fortunate to have the Moderator of the Victorian/Tasmanian Synod as our guest preacher for the 44th Anniversary of the Uniting Church worship service on 20th June. It is hoped that there will be no restrictions on gatherings for worship services at that time so that our doors can be wide open as the congregations of Coatesville and Leighmoor have been invited to join us at Murrumbeena.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Warren Cramer for being willing to be Chairperson of the Congregation. I'm sure the change from me will be most welcome. I also thank Roz Franklin for stepping into the role of Secretary of the Congregation, taking over from Peter Barnes, and also Marg Edwards for being willing to continue in her role of Representative of the Congregation to the Presbytery of Port Phillip East.

As well as the *MUC MAG*'s regular features, I draw your attention to articles by Lois Bates and Phil Kemp, as well as the proposal seeking volunteers for the Winter Shelter program being conducted by Compass Community Care within the municipality of Glen Eira.

For those readers who view the PDF "soft copy" rather than printed pages, you will see web-links underlined and in blue text (as below). If you click your mouse cursor on any of these, it will take you directly to the related webpage, without having to retype the link. (Yes, I've been doing this for most of the *MUC MAG* issues, but realised that I have never actually drawn it to your attention.)

Blessings upon you.

Roger McCowan

Please e-mail articles to: triumphguru@gmail.com, or hand them to Roger on a Sunday, preferably no later than 18th July.



As well as our own website at <https://www.murrumbeenauniting.org.au/> you might find the following links of interest (if you haven't already).

facebook.com/murrumbeenauniting/ - Live stream of 10:00am Worship and Service

murrumbeenauniting.online.church - Live stream of 10:00am Worship and Service

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-v0xIBPkGfZJcOl062yCjg/> - recorded Service

FROM THE MINISTER...

As I write this I am preparing for some leave. The last 12 months have been a challenge for us all in one way or another, but things are moving ok at the moment and we have the ability to gather, to worship together and to begin to plan for the rest of 2021 and into the future.

April and May have seen the coming and going of the season of Easter and we have now entered into the season of Pentecost. Pentecost, although we celebrate this on one day, is the longest season of the church. We are in the season of Pentecost now until we begin Advent at the end of November. We have a couple of festival days in this season, but most of the time our colour for the season is Green. In this time of Pentecost, we tend to focus a bit more on some themed series and this will happen again over June, July and August.

Speaking of festival days, you will see the flyer giving some more information about the service to be held on 20th June 2021. The anniversary of the Uniting Church of Australia is on 21st June where in 1977 the three churches of Methodists, Presbyterians and Congregationalists came together. This year we are celebrating as the three churches in our cluster, Leighmoor UC, Coatesville UC and ourselves, come together to celebrate. We have the honour of the Moderator of the Vic/Tas Synod Rev Denise Liersch preaching for us. Murrumbeena UC will host the service and the planning has begun not only around the service but also for the morning tea to follow. This will be a great time of worship and fellowship so don't miss out.

Our bunch groups are slowly getting together and sorted out. There have been some good conversations about what we are doing here at MUC and what we could be doing. More opportunity for these conversations will take place over the next couple of months so keep your eyes and ears open for details.

We've been approached by the people at Compass Community Care to be part of the Winter Shelter Program for Glen Eira. Generally, this is a great program to be involved in and church council is working through just what that might involve. In the meantime there is the opportunity for us all individually to get involved and sign up as a volunteer. All the details and links about this are in another space in the MUC Mag, so please consider getting involved.

I want to take a moment to thank our outgoing Congregational Chair and Secretary. Roger McCowan as chair and Peter Barnes as secretary have given a valuable service to the congregation in their leadership. I believe Roger has been Congregational Chair for well over 10 years (I think he told me 15!) and I'm afraid I don't know how long Peter has been secretary, at least the 5 years that I have been here. It is always so important for our members to step up into leadership positions.

We welcome Warren Cramer as the new Congregational Chair and Roz Franklin as Secretary. Thank you both for your willingness to accept the nominations for these roles. We also thank Marg Edwards for continuing to be our Presbytery Representative.

Rev Jay Robinson



MUSIC AT MUC

I would just like to take a moment to show gratitude and respect to our new Indonesian congregation in joining in with us on given Sundays for worship. The faith and devotion to God and the beautiful choral singing which you bring into our church is wonderful and adds further flavour of melody, lyrical depth and an even richer cultural diversity to our community. The harmonies you share complement the amazing and graceful contribution that Alison, Dave, John, Josh, and the

greater musical and technical team accomplish in our weekly worship. All our Murrumbeena music is bringing the magic and power of Spirit within us and who knows - perhaps into the street air outside our church to passers-by on a Sunday morn! So just a Christ-felt thank you for filling our senses with the glory and universal love of God to all our talented musicians at Murrumbeena Uniting Church.

Phil Kemp

LECTIONARY FOR JUNE/JULY

As we move into the time after Pentecost Sunday we enter into sometime between the end of one lectionary year and the next. This is the time we take the opportunity to look at some scripture in detail or follow a particular theme for a series of weeks.

20th June is a special Sunday as we will gather with Coatesville and Leighmoor UCs to celebrate the anniversary of the Uniting Church. We are very fortunate to have the Moderator, Rev Denise Liersch as our preacher for the day. We will be hosting the service and we share in morning tea afterwards in the hall. There will be more details to come so mark the date in your diary and we look forward to be part of this special day.

Our focus passage has been "I am the vine and you are the branches" so we're going to take some time and explore this in detail. It comes from John 15 and also speaks of abiding in God. Most of July will be exploring this with our focus being John 15.

Once we head in August there will be another focus - but more of that in the next MUC Mag.

6 th June	Hebrews 9	The mercy seat
13 th June	Leviticus 25:8-55	Jubilee
20 th June	John 17:1-11, Eph 2:19-21	UCA Anniversary special service
27 th June	John 15:1-12	Abide in Me
4 th July		God is the grower
11 th July		Jesus is the vine
18 th July		We are the branches
25 th July		What is the fruit for?
1 st August		What is our harvest?

POSITIVE PERSPECTIVES

Here are some quotes which were sent by Anne Don to us ladies in the MUC Afternoon Fellowship letter during COVID Lockdown; all handwritten to keep us going. Much appreciated. I thought it is good to share them with the wider church family at MUC with permission from Anne to do so.

THE CHURCH - A TRIBUTE:- Only the Churches stood squarely across the path of Hitler's campaign for suppressing truth. I never had any special interest in the Church before, but now I feel a great affection and admiration because the CHURCH ALONE has had the courage and persistence to stand for intellectual truth and moral freedom. I am forced thus to confess that what I once despised I now praise unreservedly. **Dr. Albert Einstein.**

WIT AND WISDOM - I know the world is filled with troubles and many injustices. But reality is as beautiful as it is ugly. I think it is just as important to sing about beautiful mornings as it is to talk about slums. I just couldn't write anything without hope in it. - **Oscar Hammerstein II.**

During a TV interview, an 87 year old woman was asked "what were things like in your day?" Smiling, the lady said firmly, "This Is My Day!".

"You only keep one thought in mind at a time, so make it a good one". - **Norman Vincent Peale.**

Many thanks Roger for all what you are doing. May God's Blessings be yours.

Kind Regards,

Lois Bates

Glenhuntly

Hello Murrumbeena Uniting folks,

Hope you are all well and enjoying this beautiful autumnal weather. These articles always feel like they roll round so quickly, so much happens in a two-month period. Things in Children and Families Ministries are going well. One of the highlights of the past couple of months was our Church Street Party that we celebrated on Neighbour Day. It was so well attended and engaged with; I would say we had over 150 people involved throughout the day. From a children and young people perspective we would have had over 25 young people involved, playing with the giant games (thanks to the Salvation Army for loaning these to us), enjoying Kelly's incredible face painting skills, dancing joyfully to the live music of Marilla Homes and friends, or devouring fairy floss (or to keep John happy "cotton candy") and popcorn. All involved had a really wonderful and fun day. One of my favourite moments was having a belly bumper fight with Leila; we had so much fun as I know other adults who let their hair down and released their inner child did also. As a result of what we did at the Street Party and through some connections with Kelly we have been contacted by a group of people who run a monthly community even at the lawn bowls club known as Local Sundays, from what we understand attracts a large following of families from Murrumbeena. This is an exciting missional opportunity that we hope to become further involved with, more details to follow.

The Easter Sunday service was a success, I received really positive and encouraging feedback from children, their families and other congregant members. I started planning the kids message in August last year and I had a lot of fun preparing the talk and making the Easter eggs by hand (thanks to Bek who is my girlfriend for helping to make the handmade eggs a plausible reality). I loved watching the kids smash them open, pull out the item and exploring the Passion Story together. After the egg-smash, we all went out and had an egg hunt it was great fun, the kids delighted in running around, looking under and over things and just generally having a good time (see photos). After the hunt we told the Easter Story in more detail and received some really wonderful questions from young curious minds that as always challenged and broadened my ideas and understanding of faith. Children and young people have an uncanny way of looking at things, that help us adults engage with something in a new or fresh way. It was so lovely to have 13 kids and their respective families involved with Easter Sunday and the hunt. It was especially lovely to have another Christian Community the GMIM Immanuel Indonesian congregation join us and come out with our kids.

Connections at the primary school are going really well, we have just started back in the kitchen garden program and it is wonderful to see the kids engaging with the curriculum, building their knowledge of local and seasonal produce and developing key social and culinary skills through our time in the kitchen. I enjoy sharing what I do here at Murrumbeena with the students and parent volunteers.



It is a really great space to be involved with to strengthen our community ties and I (therefore the Church) are becoming more well known.

Sundays are going well, the kids are engaging with the new style of storytelling where they build the story in the kids room while I read it. As always they are asking good questions, enjoying the games, and praying together. Thanks as always to Carol, Glenda, Marg and Rachel your volunteer leadership with this Ministry is vital, without you we could not meet. Each of you bring your own unique and refreshing perspective to the role, thank you.

Over the holidays we ran a day long program for the families of the Church, we had 6 sign up but only 3 were able to attend which is still a great number. We had a fun time playing group games such as giants treasure, musical statues and musical chairs, with some crafting, geography quizzes, puzzles, card games, lunch and an afternoon Disney movie, Christopher Robin. The kids had a lot of fun as I believe did Glenda and Marg who were kindly involved with leading. One of the kids asked when the next holiday program will be, so that was really encouraging.



As usual, I wanted to leave some space to hear from other voices in the Church, Laura Jobson has kindly agreed to write a reflection from the perspective of a family who is directly involved within the Ministry of Children and Families.

Zak is doing an outstanding job with the children and families ministry. Our children (actually Dan and me too) love his Sunday talks - they so cleverly and clearly outline the Bible passage for the children. Our children particularly loved the Easter Sunday service, where the story of the resurrection was told using objects within Easter eggs and the kids were able to crack open the eggs. Zak also ran a great school holiday program that our kids really enjoyed attending. They came home chatting about all the great things they had done...and all the watermelon they had been given! My parents were down visiting from Sydney the other week and visited the Church. After the service they both commented on how great Zak is. We feel very blessed to have Zak running the Ministry of Children and Families. Thanks Zak!

Thanks to Laura for those kind and encouraging words, so great to hear from you. It is always wonderful to hear from those within our community who engage with us on a regular basis.

Anyway, that's enough from me for now. Enjoy looking at the photos and happy reminiscing.

Until the next release,

Zak.





PLEASE JOIN OUR THREE CONGREGATIONS FOR THE

UNITING CHURCH ANNIVERSARY SERVICE

**JUNE 20, 2021
10:00AM SERVICE**

**HOSTED AT
MURRUMBEENA UNITING CHURCH**

**117 MURRUMBEENA ROAD, MURRUMBEENA 3163
PARKING AT THE REAR OF THE PROPERTY**

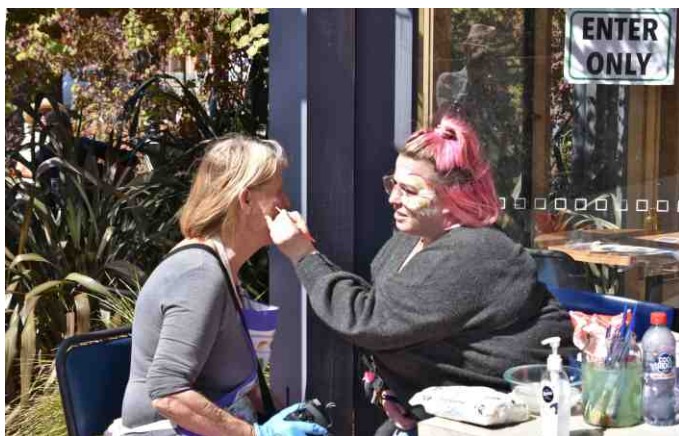
**GUEST PREACHER
THE MODERATOR OF THE VICITAS SYNOD**

DENISE LIERSCH

MORNING TEA WILL FOLLOW THE SERVICE

**AN ANNIVERSARY GATHERING FOR
THE CONGREGATIONS OF
LEIGHMOOR, COATESVILLE &
MURRUMBEENA**





Photographs courtesy of Bruce Robinson



WHAT IS THE SONDER COLLECTIVE UP TO?

Well, what a lot of things that are happening in the life of Murrumbeena with the Sonder Collective. This community is more diverse than the individuals that sit in the pews at Murrumbeena, as we have been able to share, and join in, more widely with our youth and young adults community — this includes the diversity of leadership, peers and theologies.

We have seen the incredible effect this missional community has had across our churches as many people gift their time and resources across communities and denominations to make sure that The Sonder Collective thrives. In fact, it has been noted quite significantly in two ways over the last month.

One way is via the UC Children's and Families Network that shares resources across the life of Victoria and Tasmania. Earlier in this quarter I was asked to share in the connection between digital ministry and faith formation. This video has been on Facebook is May 19 and has been watched nearly 500 times - it shares how The Sonder Collective is engaging with faith through the games and community.



If you wanted to look it up, you can find it here:

<https://www.facebook.com/UCACHildrensMinistry/videos/230303645522548>

It is only three minutes long, but it helps address the question of engaging faith online with no limits to connection, question or communication.

The other notable area is having the opportunity to be interviewed for a research paper, where an individual was wanting to explore the online community of The Sonder Collective as one of their Case Studies for their Thesis. I cannot wait for this to be published in an academic journal.

Moments like these above remind me that The Sonder Collective is not only an effective form of mission, but that people are seeing it as an innovative way to do ministry in the twenty-first century. The model is challenging people, and helps us to ask the question of what we think church actually is; particularly when communities, like The Sonder Collective, are being seen as effective ways of sharing the Jesus story.

IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE THAT IS NEW?

Yes! Infact, there have been a number of Murrumbeena people who have engaged already, but incase you missed it there has been one awesome thing we have started called 'OddSonder'. What is it? Well, on Monday Nights at 7:00pm myself and Rev Will Nicholas, from St David's Uniting in Newtown, livestream a podcast that we have started to produce. What this means is that people can listen to the podcast whenever they would like, but also that people can come and be a part of the audience, ask us questions, send us messages and interact with us as we record. Not only are these moments full of humour and some games together, but Will and I share the upcoming lectionary reading for that week. We spend time unpacking the message behind what these readings might mean, and we get to help our listeners understand things that churchgoers take for-granted — such as understanding our 'churched-language' with words like 'liturgy' or 'lectionary'.

After we finish sharing the livestream on Facebook and Twitch, we upload it to a podcast program for others to listen in their own time. But this does not mean all is over on a Monday night, as we continue the conversation with those who still have further questions about the topics that were raised. We call this the "After Party" and we have had an amazing time sharing and unpacking faith and theology together.

Everyone is welcome into these conversations, and we have had more than just the youth and young adult at Murrumbeena get involved — feel free to ask how to connect in and come and explore your faith in more ways than you may have experienced; you might learn something about your relationship with God that you had never thought about before.

oddsONDER
+AFTERPARTY

P.s Kelly Skilton

GLEN EIRA WINTER SHELTER

MUC is investigating its ability to provide our premises for one night a week for this program. The Glen Eira Winter Shelter will be running from 1st July - 23rd September (12 weeks).

The process is that each church will take turns one night a week sheltering up to 10 homeless guests and providing dinner, breakfast and the option to make sandwiches for lunch.

The following churches have also agreed to be host churches:

- » Ormond Anglican
- » St Agnes Anglican
- » St Clements Anglican
- » Holy Cross Catholic
- » Seventh Day Adventist Glen Huntly
- » Eastleigh Community Church



Compass church will provide its facilities (including a shower) during the day. To do this we need 200 volunteers from all of our local churches and the community.

All volunteers will be asked to undergo police checks and working with children checks and training will be provided.

Volunteers can register on the Compass Community Care website:

<https://www.compasscommunitycare.org.au/winter-shelter>

A five minute information video is available here: Video link -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bj-J0HkqVpo>

We are operating as an affiliate of Stable One Winter Shelter and more information can be found on their website: <https://stableone.org/>

Any queries: Email: wintershelter@compasscare.org.au

Please consider registering as a volunteer to help support this great initiative in our local community.

FRIENDSHIP FELLAS

The photo shows the friendly fellows enjoying a recent breakfast at the Brew Bar in Hughesdale. During the Winter months, the breakfasts will be at Cafe Del Mar, with the prospect of returning to the Brew Bar in the Spring.

As previously advised, our dinners on the fourth Tuesday of each month will alternate between the church and the Chai Thai restaurant, always at 5:30pm. In each even-numbered month, the gathering will be in church foyer, where the meal will comprise bulk order takeaway food distributed by one person with gloves and tongs. BYO food is also possible. There will be some furniture cleaning needed afterwards, and minimal washing up. Dates: 22 June, 24 August, 26 October, and 14 December (two weeks earlier, for Christmas).

For each other month, (dates: 27 July, 28 September, and 23 November), the dinner will be at Chai Thai, Murrumbeena.

Factors behind the changes include COVID concerns, the ability to have talks with some confidentiality at both venues, and the close availability of the church car park and toilet/washing facilities and takeaway venues.

Church members who wish to join are welcome to ask Roger or Geoff.



Geoff Edwards and Roger McCowan

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

CONTACTS

Date	Time	Event
Wed, 2 Jun	7:00pm - 9:00pm	Church Council
Thu, 3 Jun	10:30am - 11:30am	Worship Service at Regis
	7:30pm - 9:00pm	Bible Study
Fri, 4 Jun	10:30am - 11:30am	Coffee with Jay/Drop-Ins
Sat, 5 Jun	2:00pm - 5:00pm	Craft Group
Sun, 6 Jun	10:00am - 11:00am	Worship (Holy Communion)
	5:30pm - 7:30pm	Sonderfy Gathering
Thu, 10 Jun	7:30pm - 9:00pm	Bible Study
Fri, 11 Jun	10:30am - 11:30am	Coffee with Jay
	All day	Sonder Youth Camp
Sat, 12 Jun	All day	Sonder Youth Camp
	8:00am - 9:00am	Friendship Fellas' Breakfast
Sun, 13 Jun	All day	Sonder Youth Camp
	10:00am - 11:30am	Worship
Mon, 14 Jun	All day	Sonder Youth Camp
Wed, 16 Jun	7:30pm - 9:30pm	Presbytery in Council
Thu, 17 Jun	7:30pm - 9:00pm	Bible Study
Fri, 18 Jun	10:30am - 11:30am	Coffee with Jay/Drop-Ins
Sun, 20 Jun	10:00am - 11:00am	Worship
	5:30pm - 7:00pm	Sonderfy Gathering
Tue, 22 Jun	5:30pm - 7:00pm	Friendship Fellas' Dinner (at Church)
Thu, 24 Jun	7:30pm - 9:00pm	Bible Study
Fri, 25 Jun	10:30am - 11:30am	Coffee with Jay/Drop-Ins
Sat, 26 Jun	9:00am - 10:30am	LIFT Women's Breakfast
Sun, 27 Jun	10:00am - 11:00am	Worship
Sat, 3 Mar	11:30am - 12:30pm	Library and Lunch
Thu, 1 Jul	10:30am - 11:30am	Worship Service at Regis
	7:30pm - 9:00pm	Bible Study
Fri, 2 Jul	10:30am - 11:30am	Coffee with Jay/Drop-Ins
	7:30pm - 9:00pm	Elders Meeting
Sat, 3 Jul	2:00pm - 5:00pm	Craft Group
Sun, 4 Jul	10:00am - 11:00am	Worship (Holy Communion)
	5:30pm - 7:30pm	Sonderfy Gathering
Wed, 7 Jul	7:00pm - 9:00pm	Church Council
Thu, 8 Jul	7:30pm - 9:00pm	Bible Study
Fri, 9 Jul	10:30am - 11:30am	Coffee with Jay/Drop-Ins
Sat, 10 Jul	8:00am - 9:00am	Friendship Fellas' Breakfast
Sun, 11 Jul	10:00am - 11:00am	Worship
Thu, 15 Jul	7:30pm - 9:00pm	Bible Study
Fri, 16 Jul	10:30am - 11:30am	Coffee with Jay/Drop-Ins
Sun, 18 Jul	10:00am - 11:00am	Worship
	5:30pm - 7:00pm	Sonder Collective
		Deadline for submission of articles for MUC Mag
Thu, 22 Jul	7:30pm - 9:00pm	Bible Study
Fri, 23 Jul	10:30am - 11:30am	Coffee with Jay/Drop-Ins
Sat, 24 Jul	9:00am - 10:30am	LIFT Women's Breakfast
Sun, 25 Jul	10:00am - 11:00am	Worship
Tue, 27 Jul	5:30pm - 7:00pm	Friendship Fellas' Dinner
Thu, 29 Jul	7:30pm - 9:00pm	Bible Study
Fri, 30 Jul	10:30am - 11:30am	Coffee with Jay/Drop-Ins
Sun, 1 Aug	10:00am - 11:00am	Worship (Holy Communion)
	5:30pm - 7:30pm	Sonderfy Gathering
Wed, 4 Aug	7:00pm - 9:00pm	Church Council
Thu, 5 Aug	10:30am - 11:30am	Worship Service at Regis
	7:30pm - 9:00pm	Bible Study
Fri, 6 Aug	7:30pm - 9:00pm	Elders Meeting

The contact details for the various groups that host these events are given below.

Murrumbeena Community Garden

Kay Pentland
Glynis Ramsay
0407 506 662

Knitting and Craft Circle

Glynis Ramsay
0407 506 662

Friendship Fellas

Roger McCowan
0439 711 381
Geoff Edwards
0409 568 206

Lending Library

Anne Don
9578 4217

LIFT

Mary-Lou Keur
0409 937 727
Roz Franklin
0403 762 695

Sonderfy

Kelly Skilton
0432 714 758

Murrumbeena Uniting Afternoon Fellowship Group

Anne Don
9578 4217

Women's Bible Study

Alison Campbell Rate
0438 569 690