



# The Contact

The monthly newsletter of the  
Red Cliffs Church of Christ

## WELCOME

We're so pleased to have you join us here at Red Cliffs Church of Christ.

We love to have you worship with us, & pray you'll be blessed and encouraged as we seek to respond to God together. Please stay for a cup of tea or coffee in the hall after our service, we'd love the chance to get to know you better.

## MARCH GUESTS: BEL & PHIL THOMSON

It's such a great pleasure for our Church to host a visit by **Bel & Phil Thomson** on the first weekend of March.

On **Sunday 3 March** Bel will lead us in worship together with her husband Phil who will be our guest speaker. Phil works as Executive Officer of *Willow Creek Australia*, and is a Christian Leadership Coach, Trainer, and Speaker.

Bel, a talented singer-songwriter will have already been introduced to many as she performs for a Ladies Coffee & Cake night (*a combined event with Mildura CoC*).

Some may remember Bel & Phil from their previous visit to Mildura – and I'm sure everyone will make them and their growing family most welcome. Bel & Phil will also be at Mildura CoC's 5pm Sunday service.



## WHAT IS LENT?

Lent is the annual period of Christian observance that precedes Easter. The dates of Lent are defined by the date of Easter, which is a moveable feast, meaning that it falls on a different date each year.



Lent starts on Ash Wednesday (**6 March**) & its observance lasts for 40 days, mirroring the 40 days that Jesus spent fasting in the wilderness before starting his ministry. It can also be seen to mirror the 40 hours that Jesus spent in the tomb prior to his resurrection.

Lent is a penitential period, involving the dual disciplines of abstinence and fasting. During Lent many Christians commit to fasting or giving up certain foods, habits or luxuries - for example meat, cakes and sweets, alcohol, smoking - for its duration (the money saved is often then donated to charity). This is done both as a form of penitence and as a spiritual tool to tame the body and 'sharpen the spirit' for prayer, reflection and contemplation in preparation for the celebration of Easter.

## A SEASON OF PRAYER & FASTING

The **World Day of Prayer** service also fall at this time of year, and was hosted by Red Cliffs Church of Christ on Friday evening.

Thanks to all who assisted in the service preparation and particularly to Tanika who spoke on the night. All of the Red Cliffs churches were represented & the Project Offering raised over \$350.



## NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER & FASTING 2019

Naomi & Tanika also led a segment of Sunraysia's celebration of the National Day of Prayer and Fasting, held at Mildura's Alfred Deakin Centre on **Saturday 2 March**. Thanks to all those who have committed themselves to prayer (and some to fasting) over this Lenten period.

**Red Cliffs Church of Christ**

53 Guava Street (PO Box 54)

Red Cliffs, VIC 3496

[www.redcliffschurchofchrist.org.au](http://www.redcliffschurchofchrist.org.au)

**Minister**

Naomi Thorne

0488 720 962

**Secretary**

Liz Milne

5024 7046

## SPIRITUAL LIFE

### SERMON TOPICS

Christ commanded His followers to "love one another." What does that look like in today's world?

In March we'll complete our five week series we began in February. In case you've missed it, the *I Love My Church* series has helped us talk about: Loving Our Community, Loving by Serving Others, Loving by Giving to those in Need, and Loving by Sharing.

Our life Groups have been helping us discuss these subjects, and we encourage everyone to join one. As we progress through March our attention will naturally be drawn toward Easter. This month's front page feature on Lent with it's focus on prayer and fasting is a helpful entre.

Don't forget, you can invite a friend to come to church or perhaps to your Life Group. We'd love to share Christ's love with them and invite them to join us in the adventure that is following Jesus.



### SUNDAY PRAYER TIMES

You're always welcome to join us for prayer in the Church 9.30-9.45am (before our service) each Sunday.

This is an excellent time to prepare yourself for the service ahead, and you still get time to welcome visitors & friends.

### STEWARDSHIP SUMMIT

Wealth with Purpose (WwP) is the theme for a 2019 Stewardship Summit. WwP has a passion to see Christians use their money to invest in eternity and to ensure that Churches and ministries are fully funded.

The summit is held in cities across Australia including Melbourne (**20 March @ Stairway Church**) and Adelaide (**27 March @ Adelaide Christian Centre**).

The summit's goals are to fund vision, maximising resource stewardship and fostering financial discipleship, all in order to advance the Gospel.

The line-up of speakers come from throughout Australia and the denominational spectrum. If you would like to find out more about the Stewardship Summit 2019, please go to their website;

[www.stewardshipsummit.com.au](http://www.stewardshipsummit.com.au)

Here are links to two short videos about Wealth with Purpose and last year's Summit featuring Mike Heptonstall (Kellyville Anglican Church) <https://vimeo.com/306155776> and Nick Scott (Mount Pleasant Baptist Church) <https://vimeo.com/261473419>.

The Summit event is suitable for any Church Leaders that have an interest in the finances of a Church (Pastors, Church Boards & Council, Treasurers, Key Lay Leaders).



## DISCIPLESHIP

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

**John 13:34-35 (NIV)**

### LIFE GROUPS

*Life Groups* are where our Church members share life together – they're the best way to get to know others, yourself, and God better.

All of our Life Groups are currently looking at the '*I Love My Church*' material which supports our weekly Sunday messages.



Each of the groups is developing their own meeting patterns, gathering at a range of different times and days of the week. Find out more by chatting with Rachel, who can be contacted on ☎ 0448 373 131, or join a Life Group with a friend.

### RETREAT

*Retreat* meets each Wednesday at the Church from 10am through to 11.30am. Throughout the year each meeting includes a word theme.

The ladies enjoy fellowship and prayer and raise funds for designated projects through an offering collected in the last week of each month.

If you'd like more information about *Retreat* speak with Gwen. New members are most welcome. The host and words are detailed below;

Date	Host	Word
<b>6 March</b>	Coral	Plan
<b>13 March</b>	Lyn	Presence
<b>20 March</b>	Gail	Build
<b>27 March</b>	Gwen	Contest

### CONNECT

*Connect* meets on alternate Tuesdays in the Church meeting room from 12-2pm.

The group is open to ladies of all ages to encourage faith for daily life through topical and bible-based discussion. Any ladies who might be interested are invited to chat with Sue.



### HYMN SINGING AFTERNOON

Mildura Church of Christ invite you to enjoy an afternoon singing hymns and listening to some special guest artists. Sunday 10 March from 2pm at Mildura CoC, concluding about 4pm with afternoon tea and fellowship.

### TITHES & OFFERINGS

For those who find it most effective to arrange giving via online transfers, the details are;

**Red Cliffs Church of Christ**

**BSB: 633 000 Account: 159 189 497**

There's no need to enter any identifying names but it is helpful if it was described as "offering".

## OPERATIONS

### CONTACT DEADLINE

Usually we try to have *The Contact* available for distribution (and online) ahead of the first Sunday of each month.

If you have material you would like to see included in The Contact please provide it to Bruce one week ahead of the last Sunday of the month.

### ROSTERS

The rosters for **March 2019** are now available, Please ensure that if you're rostered time that doesn't suit, you organise a swap with someone else. Also, if you do swap (even into future months) please make a note of the swap on the 'master roster' posted on the kitchen noticeboard. This roster shows duties through to the end of May.

## LEADERSHIP NEWS

**WELCOME  
Lunch**

As a Church we have been delighted to have several people join us over recent months and we're keen to ensure everyone is made to feel welcome, and be confident about belonging.

To this end, it is planned to have how a welcome lunch on **Sunday 24 March**. Invitations will be provided and if anyone would like to assist please talk to Naomi.

### CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATE

Following a stalled attempt to update our May 2017 Church Directory last year, the Leadership team have asked that we try again.

If you were not included in the previous directory, or if your contact details have changed, please keep an eye out for the opportunity to update details.

### NEW PLAYGROUP

The Board has recently agreed to the use of our facilities by a supported playgroup facilitated by Mallee Family Care. The group meets in our hall and yard on a Thursday afternoon.

Prior to making this arrangement the Board also consulted with the Red Cliffs Community Playgroup, who are continuing to use our facilities on Tuesday and Thursday mornings.

Anyone doing work around the church (e.g. mowing lawns) must avoid working here during these times.

## MISSIONS

### MAY IS MISSIONS MONTH

*Missions Month* provides an excellent opportunity for us to consider how we can be "a movement of the people of God gathering in and around the central figure of Jesus Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit, living out his way in our neighbourhoods, and inviting others to do the same" (courtesy CCVT's mission statement).

### LIVING LINK MORNING TEA

Following the service on **Sunday 10 March** Eddie & Angela H are coordinating this month's Living Link Morning Tea. All donations are sent to our 'living link missionary' Fiona Briers at Bright solutions, Vietnam.

**Bright  
Solutions**

## LEADERSHIP NEWS

(continued)

### NCD SURVEY

As a Church we began making use of the *Natural Church Development (NCD)* survey tool to benchmark and build upon our church health in 2015. It's now two years since our last survey in March 2017 and many of you will have been invited to completed the survey again.

Your perspectives provide unique insight into what's going well and what needs attention, and our leaders are looking forward to reviewing and sharing the results.

### NATIONAL REDRESS SCHEME

Some months ago our Church was been invited to join the CCVT Participating Group in the National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse. The February Board meeting resolved to join the scheme, reflecting our Church's strong commitment to the integrity of being a safe place for all.

### 2019 LEADERSHIP RETREAT

Over recent years we've developed a pattern of having an annual Leadership Retreat, involving both Board members and other leaders. This year we continue this pattern and have booked the weekend of **April 5-7** for the retreat.

Pastors Rick & Leonie Wright have a keen interest in the future of our fellowship and we are looking forward to their experienced input into our leadership team, and their own leadership during our Sunday worship on that weekend.

### CCVT SUMMIT - ACCELERATE

Registrations are now open for the 2019 Churches of Christ Vic/Tas (CCVT) themed theme 'Accelerate'. This year our movement will explore, together, strategies and initiatives to build on what has occurred in previous years and add to the forward momentum and passion for God's Kingdom mission that binds us together as interdependent communities.

*Summit* will be held at Kardinia Church in Bell Post Hill (Geelong) from **Thursday 16 to Saturday 18 May**. More details about the event program, costs, & guests can be found with the registration link at;

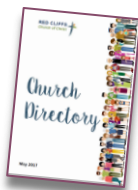
[churchesofchrist.org.au/summit](http://churchesofchrist.org.au/summit)

### SUPPORTING GROWING CHURCHES CONSULTATION

Last year CCVT began an engagement with local churches intended to support their growth. The CCVT team will be visiting Red Cliffs from **14 to 16 June** for a 'consultation'. It's hoped the 'consultation' will allow us to celebrate all that's happening in Red Cliffs, and share agreement on issues, concerns and future pathways for growth and development. Any local leaders are asked to note this opportunity to meet with CCVT representatives.

### GLOBAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT (GLS)

In planning for 2019 we want to be sure that everyone is encouraged to attend the GLS on **Friday 8 & Saturday 9 November** in Mildura, hosted jointly by ourselves and Mildura Church of Christ.





## FAMILIES

### CHILDREN

Adventure Club runs every Sunday during term for all kids of primary school age. For the cost of a gold coin donation, the program will run from 10am through to 11.15am, including a morning tea.

To register, or to find more info, please visit ...

[www.redcliffschurchofchrist.org.au/adventure-club](http://www.redcliffschurchofchrist.org.au/adventure-club)



### YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS

RED Youth have kicked off in a new format for 2019, meeting fortnightly. For more info or to talk about what's planned see Tanika, our awesome and (mostly) fearless leader.



### WOMEN'S MINISTRY

#### COMBINED LADIES COFFEE

Following on from discussions at the World Day of Prayer (2018!) Naomi is inviting the ladies from across the Red Cliffs churches to get together informally for a coffee and chat at The Shed from 10am on **12 March**.

Why not join her and invite a friend! There are flyers available from the table at Church.



#### LAVISHED 2019 - ARISE

Have you heard ... Lavished 2019 is coming. The team have been hard at work preparing a great weekend for the ladies under the theme 'Arise'. Contact Naomi if you'd like to be involved in the event, (or contact Bruce if you're a man happy to volunteer an hour or two). Make sure it's in ALL your diaries - the weekend of **May 3 & 4** will be awesome!



## COMMUNITY

### MEALS ON WHEELS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Our Church is rostered on for Meals on Wheels from **25-29 March** inclusive.

If you are able to help out for any even one or two of these days please chat with Liz.



### WORSHIP @ JACARANDA

The churches of Red Cliffs are rostered to lead a time of worship at Jacaranda Village each Monday from 2pm in The Manor.



If you'd like to assist with these services, even just from time to time, please chat with Elaine. Our next 'turn' is **Monday 15 April**.

### RED CLIFFS COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP

The playgroup meets in our hall from 10am – 12noon every Tuesday and Thursday and welcomes all children aged 0-5.

A great place to come together to play & build friendships.



### RED CLIFFS CENTENARY MEETING

The Historical Society are hosting a community meeting to plan for the Red Cliffs' Centenary Celebrations (2021). All are welcome, the meeting will be held from 7pm on **Monday 25 March** in the Old Court House on Jamieson Avenue.

### VOICES OF VANUATU CONCERT

The Mildura SDA Church invites you to come and support an exciting group of singers from Vanuatu who are touring Victoria to raise awareness and funds to support the EL HAVEN project, located just outside of the nation's capital Port Vila.

The concert will be from 6.30-7.30pm on Tuesday 9 April at the Mildura SDA Church, 301 Deakin Avenue.



### FESTIVAL OF SMALL HALLS

A selection of touring artists travel between the Port Fairy Folk Festival and the National Folk Festival, and are scheduled to perform at the Red Cliffs Civic Centre on **Sunday 17 March** as part of the Festival of Small Halls program. More info and tickets from the Resource Centre.

### VOLUNTEER FOR THE COLOUR RUN

Sunassist are looking for volunteers to help out with the Telstra Rainbow Run on **Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March** at Mildura's Aero Ovals. We will start setting up at 8am and would like to be finished packing up by 2pm. Ideally seeking volunteers to help out in 2-3 hour shifts from 8am to 2pm, with tasks including: setting up, manning stalls, throwing coloured powder, and packing up.



If you are able to help out, please contact Ash, Kristie or Richard at Sunassist on ☎ 50231906.