

## Creation, Creator and Creativity...

Conceived in love within the Divine Heart

A burst of energy, love's power let loose from the Sacred Dream.

Unfurls from infinity drawing time and space around

This dynamic Word of God speaks chaos into order,  
matter out of ideas and love in physical form.

This Big Bang burst of life from the Heart at the centre of the universe  
Is light and love and peace.

It is joy and hope and wonder.

It is the Spirit of life dancing everything into existence  
as it passes through the dream being breathed into life.

One power-filled word from God and everything is.

One Divine thought and possibility emerges into reality.

A love-song of created wonder delighting the unfolding world.

A gentle Bach aria or Rossini orchestral cacophony.

A frenetic Dixie jazz chart or smooth pop ballad.

The symphony of life rolls out in unfolding delight, energy and rhythmic  
spontaneity.

The artist's colours fill the palette, blending, forming, defining; tossed onto the  
canvas of the universe.

Blues, greens, yellows, reds and everything in, around and between brightly  
lighting the world

Bringing life to colour and colour to life.

Deep dark colour subdued or threatening peers up from space to space.

Sadness and pain expressed in dark colour and minor key.

Joy and delight rises through the darkness to offer embrace and hope.

Love lies bleeding before and through this pain – resurrection life and joy.

Creation imbues this fragile world with beauty and wonder.

Creativity is the genetic gift that runs through the human community.

Creative expression in art forms, love and life.

Creative blessing, story, invention and living...

Creation conceived in love within the Divine Heart for all that is.

*Geoff Stevenson*

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# If 'God is an artist' what does that mean for Christian community?



Jonathan Inkipin

It makes all the difference, John O'Donohue used to say, whether you see God as an artist. Once you do, everything changes. For, as he observed so rightly, we have so over emphasised the will of God, and so devastatingly neglected the imagination of God, that we have deeply impoverished ourselves. As he expressed it:

*Each of us is an artist of our days; the greater our integrity and awareness, the more original and creative our time will become. (in To Bless the Space Between Us: A Book of Blessings)*

Do we see ourselves like this, and act accordingly? I'm working on it myself. For I didn't used to regard myself as an artist. That is only for special people, I used to think, and you have to be very good at it. Now I know that that is bunkum. We are *all* artists. Some work with paint, clay, or other materials. Some with the human body and its expression. Others with music or words. Others shape places, communities, moments or people. For we are all made in the image of God, and the first divine biblical characteristic (read Genesis) is creativity: then, now and always. That is something I love about St Luke's church building in Toowoomba. It comes marvellously alive when, at the time of the Carnival of Flowers and at other much more ordinary times, it is clothed with the grace and creativity of God in human artistry. And it can happen every day, if we let it and embrace it.

My sense is that our Christian communities would be radically different if we were to embrace God

as artist and ourselves as truly co-creators, shaping life's raw materials into new forms of beauty, truth and justice, through love. We Christians do still think of God too much as a lawgiver or police officer, a mechanic or an engineer. All those occupations can also speak of God. Yet they can distance us from God's intimate, costly and creative involvement with us, and from the invitation to share that love in similar ways with others. Art can thus reopen our eyes and ears and touch our souls and world afresh.

For me, the church is therefore what a brave man once called 'an art school of divine majesty'. Think of that, or, better still, imagine that: feel it, and see what a difference it makes to your life and faith and that of others. What Father George Tyrrell, the great Catholic Modernist, was trying to say is that being part of a religious tradition and community is like being part of an artistic tradition and community. There may be great 'masters' like Rembrandt who show the way. An artist may sit at their feet and learn and develop in that art school. For we do not make art by ourselves. That is an individualist fallacy. Yet there will come a time when every artist needs to make this task their own. Perhaps they will even overthrow some of the foundational assumptions and shapes of their master: all however in the cause of deeper beauty, love and truth. Isn't that, said George Tyrrell, how faith evolves and expands?

How would our Christian communities look if we took such divine creativity seriously, and some aspects of inherited Faith more lightly? Many of our buildings would look different and the way we do 'church' would be different. It is indeed sad to see church buildings and Christian communities that have become frozen with past artistic relics or where they are consumed by contemporary concerns for function, program and efficiency. We have a long way to go in Toowoomba. Yet, like an increasing number of

other Christian communities, we are establishing partnerships with local artists and nurturing artistry in one another, open to visual, aural, tactile, movement and other dynamic artistic expressions. We hope it will inspire others to see God's art among us and to grow as artists of God's grace.



Linda Murray

Seasons of Creation as a topic has unleashed an abundance of contributions from around Australia. We have been blessed with an outstanding range of expressions of our human creativity using various forms of poetry, prose and visual Art to explore the gift of God's magnificent Creation across all seasons.

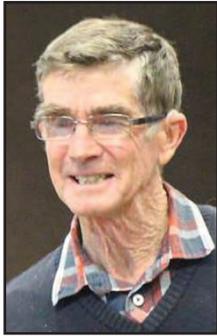
This issue is therefore meant to be a reflective experience of this artistic sharing of our Creative gifts from one heart to another. Whilst pondering and allowing ourselves to perhaps be stirred to new insights into our own perceptions of the Seasons of God's Creation in our own individual and unique lives.

Our marvellous technological advances allow us to experience the vibrancy of the colour and variety of mediums that have been used to explore our theme. We hope you take time to sit with this edition, music playing, your favourite beverage at hand and relax and enjoy the variety and beauty of God's Creation in all the Seasons.

*Linda Murray (for the Editorial Committee)*

# Deputy Leader's Letter

## Creation and Mysticism



David Sloane

As I looked through my Spiritual Journals, I came across several instances where God in creation was very real to me. Were such occasions of wonder and awe mystical experiences? If we take Evelyn Underhill's definition of mysticism "*the direct intuition or experience of God*", they well may be. Not that one puts having such a mystical experience into some sort of spiritual elite. Underhill stresses that "*every human soul has a latent capacity for God and is open to all believers.*"

Some would say such experiences are a spiritual bubble bath. Not so say the mystics. Mary's contemplative role makes her a better equipped Martha (Luke 10:38-42). Active and contemplative parts reinforce each other. As William Tyndale puts it, "as a man feeleth God in himself, so is he to his neighbour."

One scholar of mysticism, W. T. Stace, distinguishes between introverted mysticism based on meditation or contemplation, and extroverted mysticism, experiencing God in creation and nature. C. S. Lewis and Francis of Assisi were examples of the latter.

Such 'Burning Bush' experiences are more common than you think. C. S. Lewis found inspiration in "*little sights and sounds seen at windows in odd moments.*"

Let me share from experience I had on January 5th 2002 at Narrawallee Headland near Mollymook on the south coast of NSW. I was feeling

rather despondent and went on to the headland and sat on a rock. I took with me Henry Drummond's classic book "*The Greatest Thing in the World*", based on 1 Corinthians 13. It was mid afternoon and the sun was shining through a heavy smoke haze from thirteen days of bush fires around Sydney. Suddenly I looked up and the big wet rock in front of me was sparkling with gold specks. I couldn't believe my eyes, I heard no voices but the presence of God was real. I was literally awestruck and didn't want to leave. I took it to be confirmation of what I had just read that 'LOVE' needed to become my mission in life. I moved away but upon returning to the same place the sparkling gold effect was gone, even though the diffused light conditions were almost unchanged.

I once did a retreat with Robin Prior at the Palotti Retreat Centre in the timbered ranges of Millgrove east of Melbourne. At the conclusion of the three day retreat I wrote the following poem.

*I walked around the refuge,  
Among the Mountain Ashes tall,  
The raindrops sparkled on the ferns,  
The bark in many colours spoke,  
A Cuckoo Shrike fluttered through the leaves,  
The Kookaburras sang,  
And I knew that it was God.*

*I sat upstairs before a window green,  
The clouds would come and go,  
Fascinated, I watched and drank it in,  
The rains patter on the roof was comforting and rest,  
The warm silence of the night wrapped me round and round,  
And I knew that it was God.*

*The people that I met,  
Saw the Christ in me and I saw the Christ in them,  
We talked, we laughed, we ate,  
And though we came from different strands,*

*We felt a bond that binds,  
And I knew that it was God.*

*And now I sit before a window blue,  
The clouds are nearly gone,  
The rain has fallen and the air is clear and bright,  
Before me stretch hot plains,  
Where the ground is hard and stony,  
And encouragements are few,  
But I have been on the mountain top,  
And I know that you are God.*

David Sloane

Reference: David C. Downing, "Into the Region of Awe" IVP, 2005

## Celestial Visitors

I received two visitors today.  
They perched upon  
My eleventh floor window sill  
And chirped gaily at each other.  
Perhaps they didn't really come  
To visit me?  
Yet their arrival  
Pierced my wandering  
consciousness  
Preoccupied as it was  
With life's banalities,  
And blind to its transcendence .  
Suddenly I was focused.  
Alive to the present moment  
I was enchanted by celestial  
singing  
- A charming operetta  
In two- bird harmony!  
Soon their spontaneity  
Had taken rule  
Over my inner spirit  
Which of late had become  
- Quite contrary.  
They did not tarry  
For too long  
These delightful minions,  
Free to come and go  
As their fancies bid them.

Amy Daniel

# Haiku Poems from South Australian Wellspring Members

Life unfolding,  
Endless possibilities  
no longer.

New life.  
A baby girl surprising us.  
Unbridled joy.  
*Elizabeth Mortimer*



Walking river paths,  
Creator's blessed presence.  
Dolphins and I soar high.  
*Val Bennett*



Leaving home is sad -  
follow the snail's example,  
carry home with us.  
*Jane Pitman*

Trees grotesquely cut  
for power lines.  
Beauty is lost.

Water laps the shore line,  
parched feet wet.  
Gentleness of waves.  
*Jean Stirling*



Cold, dark receding.  
Blossom bursting, nestlings squawking.  
Hope is borne again.

Hair flying, eyes aglow.  
cartwheeling exuberance.  
Unfettered and free.  
*Lynona Hawkins*



Still on land  
free to dance,  
singing the land down under.  
*Jack Goodluck*

Morning sun warmed  
coffee catalyst friendship,  
past-wrapped sharing.

Loved wrapped actions  
shower, dressing, food, drink, walking.  
Old age.  
*Barbara Washington*

## Autumn

How can I embrace this autumn day?  
There is beauty, creation in song and joy,  
Vines, bronze and gold, so rich yet  
resting and dying.  
Lambs bleating, magpies in harmony,  
sheep grazing on quiet, green hillside.  
A little creek bed where giant gums  
give shade.  
God the great Giver, you feed my  
soul this day.

Nestling in the hillside is a house  
not drawing attention to itself.  
Just waiting, still and being,  
but it too is a giver, a giver of shelter,  
of warmth, of expectation and hopes.  
Life is here, but now the vines speak  
of death.

God the great Giver, give me wisdom  
to embrace life and death.

Shall I work a tapestry  
with needle and wool of many hues?  
Perhaps a posy for the bedroom of  
this house.  
Prayer could be the essence that I work.  
I need not only wool but prayer,  
for I was made to pray and work.  
God of beauty, bless all offerings in  
your Name.

This autumn time, this house and  
dwellers here,  
every we seek fulfilment and joys of  
every hue.  
Spread your covering wing and  
watch over each new life,  
child and lambs through winter into spring.  
And may the summer time  
bring rewards of harvest birth.  
God the great Giver of joys that  
earth cannot provide.

*Pat Nommensen*



# Does Every Church Need An Illuminator or Graphic Artist?

In a fresh visual age, so much more dynamically so than in the past, there are new opportunities for the Spirit. Perhaps every church community therefore needs an illuminator or graphic artist as much as they need readers, preachers, teachers, sidespeople, elders or musicians? There are a number of internet-based individuals and groups that can help to fill the void.

From a Celtic perspective, the Lindisfarne Scriptorium is one inspiration - <https://www.lindisfarne-scriptorium.co.uk>

Others can be found on social media resources such as Pinterest – for example: <https://au.pinterest.com/ecervini/christian-art>

For a few years, my own community was blessed with the skills and lively quirky spirituality of Kathy Appleby, a gorgeous illustrator, professional graphic artist and adorable cat lover.



In a fresh visual age, so much more dynamically so than in the past, there are new opportunities for the Spirit.



The picture above is one of her creations, which we have used for baptismal cards and other productions. Kathy now lives in Port Macquarie and is happy to consider commissions. Her website is <http://www.katherine-appleby.com>

*Jonathan Inkipin*



# West Australia Report

## Be Still and Know That I Am God



Linda Murray

For W.A. Wellspring Retreatants this challenging concept was explored as a way of experiencing the theme of *Spirit Moving Amongst Us*.

In May 2016 six members of the W.A. Wellspring Community met to share some special time together in the country town of Northam 80kms NE of Perth. Hospitality was shared most profoundly as the two members in the town shared their homes and made everyone most welcome.

Janelle had developed a gentle progression from Lectio Divina as a way of breaking open the Scriptures to Christian Meditation to finally creating shared Mandalas. The quietness of the

experience led participants to reflect that they really were aware of the Spirit moving in and between them. As the six sheets of 6 concentric circles were passed around each contribution added to make the final creations true community and communion were tangibly experienced. The beauty of their creative reflections can be seen below.

In winter time, strong winds, low temperatures and 0 degrees at night, my winter garden is sparse but none-the-less colourful and beautiful. My spring garden parties in the warmth and breezes and flowers dance all over each other. How splendid are the seasons, the rhythms of God's creation.

Janelle Macgregor



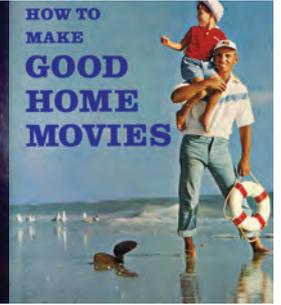
On Sunday the importance of sharing faith was actively experienced as they shared worship with four asylum seekers from the Yongah Hill Detention Centre, that is located close to the town. The irony of the guards being present and enjoying the fellowship of the morning tea reinforced the on-going tragedy of the situation. Corina and Anne, our wonderful hosts live in Northam and visit the centre regularly and offer support in whatever ways they can.

The participants, Janelle, Neville, Jane, Julie, Anne and Corinna felt the Spirit had indeed moved amongst them and in the stillness of their retreat from the world they had felt their spirits enriched by the loving presence of God. As Jane concluded, "it was a calm and contemplative retreat full of wonderful personal and group moments shared amongst us. The fellowship shared, especially with several refugee detainees, at the local church service on Sunday was a highlight for me."

Linda Murray



# BAMM: BOOKS, ART, MUSIC, MOVIES



BAMM is a place where Members and Friends reflect on their recent viewing, hearing, creating, and reading in ways that engage the central concerns of the Wellspring Community.

## BAMM: MOVIES

*Canberra Review: The BFG – a movie for everyone*



*Marilyn Tandukar*

I am glad I didn't read the reviews of this film before I went to see it a few weeks ago. I tend to dismiss a lot of reviews or not read them these days. They don't seem to be on the same planet as me, or I have a different way of looking at things, especially children's films. The rating is PG. It has received mixed reviews and the box office takings are not that high in the US.

I went to see this one with another adult, not a child, and someone who appreciated Roald Dahl's books. My grandchildren are great fans, and have read most of them, or had them read to them by their parents.

I have always appreciated Dahl's crazy imagination and imaginative use of words, and I was not disappointed.

The BFG speaks most terrible wigglish -- after all, he has never been to school, and "sometimes is saying things a little squiggly." Everything he wants to say "is always getting squiff-squiddled around."

I was most impressed by the tender depiction of the BFG. Mark Rylance has been made up to be the most attractive and approachable character (for a giant, that is).



On the other hand, Sophie, the young orphan, played by Ruby Barnhill, is a brave, sensible but also determined girl who is not daunted by the giant's size or quaint ways.

Perhaps the most endearing is the relationship that forms between the BFG, the dream maker and Sophie during their time together. Sophie learns about trust and perhaps finds a way out of her situation. The BFG learns how to tackle the other giants who put him down and abuse him.

The ending is a little hard to handle, but apparently was more true to Dahl's story than Spielberg. A solution involving the Queen, the British Air Force and helicopters over the North Sea seemed a little surreal.

I think this is a film for all family members, from toddlers to great grandparents. The BFG left me with a tears in my eyes and many a chuckle at

his delightful character and hilarious language. A must for those who still are young at heart.

*Marilyn Tandukar*



Breakfasting with joy  
Honey eater sips her wine  
Flower shares her bliss.

From "The Seasons in Haiku"  
by Jacinta Shailer sgs

# Queensland Report - Celtic Prayers from Brookfield



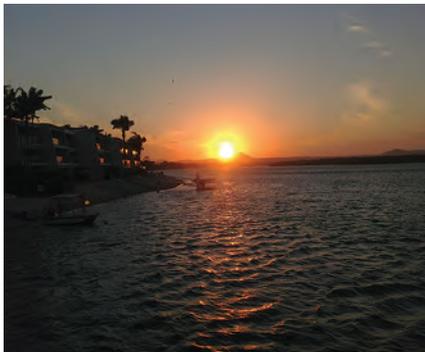
*Helen Menzies*

Heather Eckersley and I attended a “Celtic Prayer” writing workshop held at The Brookfield Centre of Spirituality in May. It was led by Judy Kennedy.

After twenty years with her husband as Wycliffe Bible Translators in the Torres Strait Islands, Judy completed a Behavioural Science degree in Pastoral Counselling. With a longing to strengthen her intimacy with God she later joined The International Community of Aiden and Hilda at Lindisfarne on Holy Island. Judy has been leading retreats and workshops in churches and private homes nationally. We were greatly refreshed by our experience.

She shared many of her own experiences and encouraged us all to share our ideas. She led us with trials of different wording and ways of saying things. We were then offered a very large display of coloured photographs, asked to pick one, and write a Celtic prayer blessing of our own centred on the picture. The following are our two blessings that we hope may be a blessing to others.

*Helen Menzies*

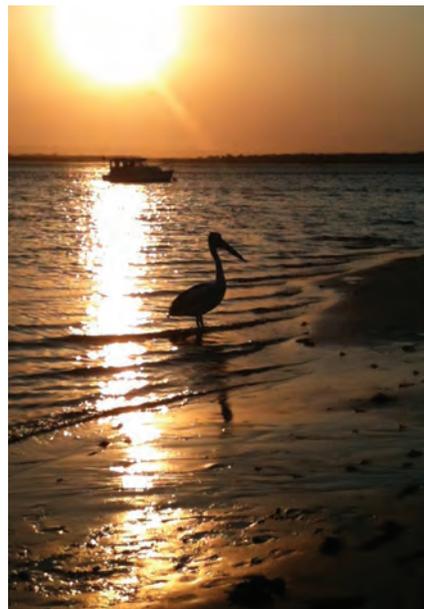


## **Peace of the Setting Sun**

Praise God,  
for my own direct line to you  
in the setting sun.  
For all the glory of the way.  
For the palm tree  
and the bark canoe,  
that bring to mind  
the dear people,  
who were living on this land  
before we ever came.  
Who extend to us  
the honour  
of sharing  
in their dreaming.

Peace of the setting sun to you.  
Peace of the path of Peace to you,  
Peace of God which passeth all understanding to you.  
Peace to you.  
Peace to you.  
Peace to you.

*Helen Menzies*



## **Endless Peace**

Deep Peace in the Gentle Light to you,  
Surround you in warmth and love.

Deep Peace of the Endless Ocean Rhythm to you  
Gather you in Love's embrace.  
Deep Peace of the Pelican heartbeat to you  
Invite you into Deep Trust.  
Peace to you.  
Peace to you.  
Peace to you.

*Heather Eckersley*

# ENGAGEMENT

IF YOU WANT ME TO ENGAGE, THEN TELL ME THE PURPOSE, TELL ME THE GOAL, AND GIVE ME IMMEDIATE FEEDBACK ON HOW I AM DOING.



**Engagement:** Members and Friends will have an opportunity to engage with or respond to ideas that were addressed in the previous issue of *Pipeline*. Engaging with the ideas of others, respondents will affirm and / or commend the ideas and also take the opportunity to recommend other points of view.

## Sixty Five Years On

For fifty years we have lived in Princes Hill only three kilometres from the centre of Melbourne. The early planners saw the need for dedicated parks and we are blessed with Princes Park and Royal Park, a vast expanse of sporting ovals, walking paths, tennis courts, children's playgrounds and much natural grassland dotted with clumps of trees.

My daily bike rides have covered much of our inner city streets, but my favourite ride is a large area of Royal Park close to the university and the Royal Children's Hospital and near to the wide promenades of Flemington Road and Royal Parade.

As the years pass I have discovered that, although I love walking on lonely beaches or wandering through the Victorian countryside, places which seem to easily evoke a mood of wonder and worship, I can discover some of those same emotions as I pedal around my favourite Royal Park.

On the one mile circuit around an extensive grassland with barely a tree, there bursts upon my sight a stunning skyline of the city of Melbourne and for some years now I have been reciting, sometimes silently, a poem which has been embedded in my head for 65 years.

In particular I used to repeat it during our last state election when the sitting government was energetically

pursuing plans to build an East-West road link which would have involved years of digging, tunnelling and altogether disrupting this wonderful part of Royal Park. I would recite the poem each morning I was there and wonder how any politician could possibly destroy this place simply that people could get across the inner city more quickly. As it happened the government was defeated, not least

because the opposition members promised that, if elected, they would cancel the contract.

So, my beloved grassland is still there in all its glory and from time to time I pause on my ride, gaze over to the extraordinary skyline and declaim those memorable words of the William Wordsworth, composed upon Westminster Bridge, September 3, 1802:



Earth has not anything to show more fair;  
Dull would he be of soul who could pass by  
A sight so touching in its majesty;  
This city now doth, like a garment, wear  
The beauty of the morning; silent, bare,  
Ships, towers, domes, theatres, and temples lie  
Open unto the fields and to the sky;  
All bright and glittering in the smokeless air.  
Never did sun more beautifully steep  
In his first splendour, valley, rock, or hill;  
Ne'er saw I, never felt, a calm so deep!  
The river glideth at his own sweet will;  
Dear God, the very houses seem asleep;  
And all that mighty heart is lying still!



As I rode around the park this morning I rejoiced in the fact that Bert Foxcroft, our English teacher, had taught this Wordsworth sonnet to us, a group of 13 year old boys, in 1950, and I delighted in the power of the poet's images to resonate with a 78 year old slow cyclist on a cool winter morning on the other side of the world.

*Mac Nicoll*



*Refining Spirit*

**Cosmic Collision  
Dad and Willoughby**

When I was around 13 years of age, I was allowed to listen to a conversation between my Father, Jack, and his close friend Professor Eric Willoughby from the Electrical Engineering faculty of the University of Adelaide.

They were discussing Quantum Mechanics, which I found fascinating

as they shared thoughts about the complex space in every atom, which makes up matter.

Eric described this space as “infinity” and Jack was on about “Eternity”. I had heard of both terms for the universe in the sky, but not the Infinity in each atom. I have not forgotten the occasion, but I’m hazy about the detail ! If you want to know more ask a Physics teacher.

Recently I happened to hear the news report that, due to a collision between two black holes, Gravitational Waves became visible for the first time .... The how or why is not within my grasp to remember and I haven’t heard any more news about it, but I remember the simulated images and I was suitably impressed enough to mark the occasion with a painting !

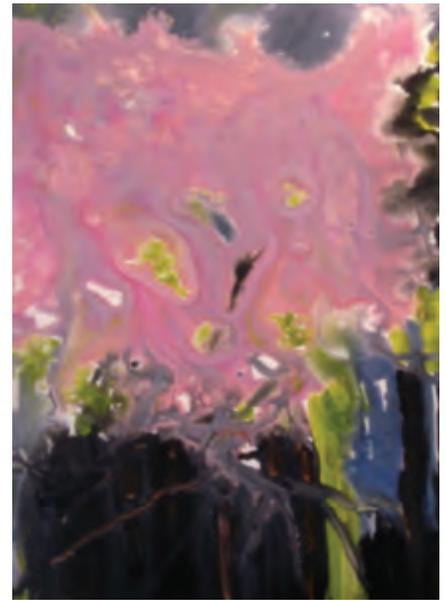
*Marg Nicoll*



*Freedom*



*Storm*



*Joy*



# The Act for Peace Ration Challenge Held in Refugee Week 2016

I really wasn't sure when I started whether I could achieve the Ration Challenge. I was afraid I would break the rules and eat something such as nuts or a biscuit in between meals as I would be so hungry.

Ultimately I only needed to make one confession (swapping 8 instant coffees for 8 tea bags and paying the fine). If they wanted me to raise money, I didn't need headaches.

I learnt:

1. That variety in my food is very important to me. 'Not flat bread again!'
2. That I longed for fresh vegetables. I was rewarded with one carrot, one onion and some mushroom as people sponsored us.
3. That fruit was important to me.
4. That I didn't miss meat.
5. That I didn't need sugar.
6. That I could have all the clean water in the world compared to a refugee.
7. That I was warm, sheltered from the elements and could put up with a food challenge as long as I didn't work too hard.

Our rations were:

1.92 kg rice 85 gm chick peas  
200 gm flour (I chose wholemeal)  
170 gm dry red lentils 125 gm tinned sardines (1 tin)  
400 gm tinned red kidney beans 300 ml vegetable oil

For these ingredients, we were offered 12 recipes, most of which I made sometime in the week. The highlight was: when people sponsored us, we were able to receive a REWARD:

\* Create a team and earn 70g of milk powder and make the classic Syrian dish of Foul. (We had a team of 2 – June & me.)

\* Sponsor yourself and earn a spice or flavouring for the whole week. (Curry, cumin, nutmeg, cinnamon did make difference.)

\* Raise \$200 and earn 8 tea bags. (I paid a \$50 fine for 8 instant coffees)

\* Raise \$300 and earn 170g of extra



*Peggy Goldsmith*

veggies, such as a tin of tomatoes which can be used to make middle-eastern dishes like Fasoulia. (Tin of tomatoes, an onion, a carrot.)

\* Raise \$500 and earned 70g of extra protein. (Two small eggs weigh 70 g)

\* Raise \$700 and earn 50g sugar. (Sugar left over.)

\* Raise \$1,000 – wow! Reward yourself with a bonus item of your choice up to value of \$5. It must be one item only. (One chicken sharing the cost with my husband, Jim.)

For refugees, rewards come when they make crafts and sell them. Our rewards came when people sponsored us. People were so generous that June & I were able to reach over \$2, 500. Altogether the 8,000 people taking the Challenge have now raised over 2 million dollars and over 7,000 refugees can be fed for a year (as at July 8).

Menus:

Breakfast: Fatima's Mushid Dera – 40g lentils; 100g rice; oil to drizzle; spice. Served hot with some milk or yoghurt as a reward later. Flat bread: Flour; cold water, a little oil plus curry powder sprinkled. ½ boiled egg; some sardine.

Lunch: Spiced kidney beans: 1 tab oil; 200g Kidney beans: ½ tin; 100g tinned tomatoes; ½ cup water, spice – coriander. Or

Rasha's Light Foul: 200g kidney beans; 70 g earned yoghurt, spice or

flavouring. or

Falafel: 40 dried chick peas, spoonful of flour, spice, small amount of vegetable eg onion, 60 ml oil for cooking.

Tea: Lentil soup: lentils, spice, some vegetable; flat bread. Or

Later in the week: cook chicken soup and add lentils & vegetables.

Last day: Fried rice: 1 cup cooked rice; pinch of sardines, oil, vegetables, flavouring.

At the end I had 1 kg rice left over and some sugar.

As Jim was not doing the Ration Challenge (no-one with a medical condition was allowed to do it), each mealtime two separate meals needed to be prepared. That became quite difficult when my flat bread was not ready and Jim's toast was. This would never happen to refugees!

The first two days of the Challenge were the worst – headache, light headed, aches, loss of energy. After that it was OK. I lost 2 kg early on, and have stayed that weight. I did learn that I could discipline myself to wait for a meal. I felt that I should be able to have enough determination to endure for one week what Syrians endure year in and year out, and I could.

*Peggy Goldsmith*



Spring is in the air  
Gumtips grace the greening bush  
Praise and joy abound

From "The Seasons in Haiku"  
by Jacinta Shailer sgs



# GREEN GRANNY and the GROOVERS

*Everything we touch is  
skin on the  
face of God*



*Fr Eugene Stockton*

Limiting your toilet flushes and turning off lights as a spiritual discipline?

in the course of one's prayer journey... Jesus makes self-denial the price of discipleship! ... It is obvious that one who is centred on self is incapable of self transcendence and the flight to oneness with the Totally Other," says Father Eugene. "I propose that self denial consists in keeping the ego in the right place-not making it the centre of things...not taking yourself too seriously."

In the past this asceticism or self discipline has come to involve denying the body any comforts, fasting, going without sleep and "any deeds embraced by the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience, a program of mortification."



Care for people or nature shows in the way one handles them or speaks to them.

Every thing we touch is skin on the face of God.

Any action can be a caress-no need for overkill let's not take ourselves too seriously! "

See Fr. Eugene Stockton's Wonder a Way to God p 63-67 &115-118

*Joy Connor, Lisa Wriley,  
and Helen Kilborn*



Composting and mulching to strengthen your prayer life? Avoiding disposables, recycling, growing veges and trying not to use your car to deepen your spiritual life? You have to be kidding!

Not so says Fr Eugene Stockton, Wellspring Member, green mindfulness hermit.

"All great mystical traditions concur in the need for self-denial at the outset and

But the necessary self-denial, says Father Eugene, can focus on a "program of life enhancing deeds rather than the negative and artificial ones of the past", a program of vivification, a green mindfulness, with" a gentle sense of fun," where "one watches ones' impact on both persons and things. It is an attitude that cares even to small matters. Care is simply love that follows through.



Bottle brush in bloom  
Heralding a misty morn  
Heart lifts in wonder

From "The Seasons in Haiku"  
by Jacinta Shailer sgs

# Wellspring Gathering 2017



*Peter and Lorraine Riggall*

Planning for the Gathering in 2017, in Launceston, is well under way.

We are proposing the theme of “Experiences of Struggle and Hope”. The dates for the Gathering are 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th October, 2017 to fit in to school holidays. (And to provide slightly warmer weather than we have at the moment.)

Several ideas for sessions are being investigated but we intend to have some Aboriginal educative sessions, including experiential teaching. We will also approach Wellspring members to lead designated sessions.

Also on our plans is the opportunity to visit a private conservation area at “Dunbarton”, Nabowla, north east of Launceston, which includes rare native species and a wildflower labyrinth.

## Dunbarton

Dunbarton is a 42 hectare property located on the Little Forester River at Nabowla in north eastern Tasmania, 57 kilometres from Launceston.

In 2000 Peter and Lorraine Riggall inherited the property, which had been owned by Peter’s family, since 1960.

In 2002 they learnt of the Private Reserve Scheme and applied for the property to be assessed. It was



*White Gum stand*

accepted as being suitable to become a Private Reserve.

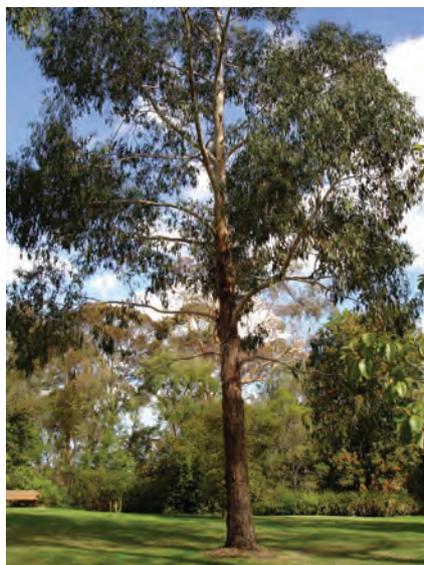
The values of the reserve that were deemed important were :-

Black Gum (*Eucalyptus ovata*), White Gum (*Eucalyptus viminalis*) and Coastal Eucalyptus *Amygdalina* forest.

The Black Gum forests are a high priority for protection on private land in Tasmania and because they had been extensively cleared in some areas, are now regarded as endangered.

The tall White Gum is endangered due to clearing for forestry and agriculture.

It was agreed that 22 hectares would be covenanted. Compensation included money for weed control. Weed eradication has been a high priority and the work is still being undertaken.



*Black Gum (Eucalyptus ovata)*



*Butterfly Orchid (Sarcochilus australis)*

The Riggalls were keen to have a covenant so the area could be preserved in perpetuity. The covenant would have a similar status to a National Park.

The property has a variety of flora and fauna and is enjoyed by many visitors throughout the year.

There are many orchid varieties and other wildflower and fungi species



*Coastal Eucalyptus (Amygdalina)*

that have been of interest to field naturalists and botanists. They have arranged field trips to Dunbarton to identify and collect specimens for the Herbarium in Hobart.

A visit to Dunbarton provides an opportunity to experience a unique Tasmanian environment that has been preserved for the enjoyment of others. *2017 National Gathering Planning Group (Kathryn Richards, Alan Bawden, Lorraine and Peter Riggall)*

# Fair Trade and Seasons of Creation



John Martin

Fair Trade and Seasons of Creation,  
Pipeline September, 2016.

For a product to be able to carry the Fairtrade Mark it is necessary that it meets several conditions:

*'Fairtrade advocates for decent working conditions, fair prices for farmers, sustainable practices, **environmental protection** and the empowerment of farmers and workers in developing countries.'*

(From the Fairtrade Australia website. Words in bold highlighted by me.):

The Fair Trade Association, of which Wellspring is a Faith Community, lists *'Ten Principles of Fair Trade'* of which Number Ten is 'Respect for the Environment'. Quoting from their website: *'Organisations which produce Fair Trade products maximize the use of raw materials from sustainably managed sources in their ranges, buying locally when possible. They use production technologies that seek to reduce energy consumption and where possible use renewable energy technologies*

*that minimize greenhouse gas emissions.'* (See [www.fta.org.au](http://www.fta.org.au) Select 'More...')

The theological foundation for protection of creation and respect for creation is found clearly in Psalm 24, verse one:



*The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it; (NRSV).*

The Creation: this planet and the creatures, including people, who populate it demand respect because this globe belongs to God.

By using Fair Trade products at our Wellspring meetings and in our homes we are working for the creation both in season and out of season.

John Martin

## A Prayer For Our Earth - Pope Francis

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe  
and in the smallest of your creatures.

You embrace with your tenderness all that exist.

Pour out upon us the power of your love,  
that we may protect life and beauty.

Fill us with peace, that we may live  
as brothers and sisters, harming no one.

O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth,  
so precious in your eyes.

Bring healing to our lives,  
that we may protect the world and not prey on it,  
that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.

Touch the hearts  
of those who look only for gain  
at the expense of the poor and the earth.

Teach us to discover the worth of each thing,  
to be filled with awe and contemplation,  
to recognise that we are profoundly united  
with every creature

as we journey towards your infinite light.  
We thank you for being with us each day.

Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle  
for justice, love and peace.

*An encyclical letter on Ecology and Climate, Laudato Si', p 189.*

# National Workshop - 15th October 2016

## Another way of being, another way of knowing

Wellspring Community's foundational principles commit us to the development of a contextualised spirituality that reflects the Australian character and landscape. We aim to be a community that puts down roots in the Australian soil. We seek to be earthed in the Australian soil and landscape. We seek ways of being relevant in the communities in which we live and work. We want our language, lifestyle, and liturgies to be expressly Christian and Australian. Our National workshop will explore these issues. All Members and Friends will receive a copy of chapters from Eugene Stockton's book, *Landmarks: A Spiritual Search in a Southern Land*. We will meet in groups in each state. There will be times of local discussion and times when we connect with each other across Australia by teleconference. If you cannot join a local group but would like to be involved call me on 0420936190 and I will advise you.

*"We pray for another way of being, another way of knowing. Across the difficult terrain of our existence we have attempted to build a highway and in so doing we have lost our footpath. God lead us to our footpath; lead us there where in simplicity we may move at the speed of natural creatures and feel the earth's love beneath our feet. Lead us there where step-by-step we may feel the movement of creation in our hearts. And lead us there where side-by-side we may feel the embrace of the common soul. Nothing can be loved at speed. God lead us to the slow path; to the joyous insights of the pilgrim; another way of knowing: another way of being. Amen."*  
**Michael Leunig**, *'When I talk to you. A Cartoonist talks to God.'*

Leunig prompts us to ask the nature of this other way of being and knowing. How do we understand "simplicity"? What is the spiritual significance of



feeling the earth's love beneath our feet? Remembering the image that God moulded humankind from the earth, what significance does our Australian earth have for us? Where and how do we feel the movement of creation? What is required to feel the embrace of the common soul?

Eugene Stockton suggests that we search for "an Australian Jesus": one who would bring to fullness Australian themes or patterns of Australian experience. Eugene writes of a "homegrown" spirituality that reflects a sense of the land as sacred and story as sacred. The very physical features of this vast continent hold spiritual riches for the discerning. The daring will find God in our own physical environment. Our sacred story is found by recognising that we inherit multiple stories. Our "boat people"

ancestors brought story derived from the Judaeo-Christian continuum but we have also inherited stories from other "boat people" who include those who arrived 50,000 years ago and those more recently arrived from south east Asia, the Middle East, and Africa.

Eugene prompts us to ask how do we encounter the land as sacred? Each chapter of Eugene's book starts with an Australian story as a counterpoint to a parallel Biblical story. Do these stories open up a sense of the sacred story?

*Stories and music, along with poetry, art, craft and the creativity of human life was the true currency of truth. These things carried a deeper, richer vein of God's word than the rhetoric of creedal or doctrinal belief that so characterises so much of the church's being ... Faith changed, deepened and morphed into something less intellectual and more trusting in the mystery that we call God. We wrestled with truth but unless it flowed into life's reality and was enacted, it felt something less than we needed. Something was missing when faith was belief rather than trust."* Geoff Stevenson, *Pipeline*, September, 2015 p.12, 13.

Neil Holm

|                                | QLD  | NSW<br>VIC<br>TAS | SA<br>NT | WA       |
|--------------------------------|--|-------------------|----------|----------|
| State based welcome            | As decided locally. Start when you wish according to local needs |                   |          |          |
| Brief national link            | 12:00 pm   | 1:00 pm           | 12:30 pm | 10:00 am |
| State based activities 75 mins | 12:15 pm   | 1:15 pm           | 12:45 pm | 10:15 am |
| Break 30 mins                  | 1:30 pm  | 2:30 pm           | 2:00 pm  | 11:30 am |
| National Link up 60 mins       | 2:00 pm  | 3:00 pm           | 2:30 pm  | 12:00 pm |
| Worship 30 mins                | 3:00 pm  | 4:00 pm           | 3:30 pm  | 1:00 pm  |
| Depart                         | 3:30 pm  | 4:30 pm           | 4:00 pm  | 1:30 pm  |

## WELLSPRING COMMUNITY INC.

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|                |                |              |                                |
|----------------|----------------|--------------|--------------------------------|
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**NEXT ISSUE:** December 2016.

Editorial Panel: Eric Smith, Neil Holm, Jim Tulip, Geoff Stevenson, Linda Murray.

**Deadline for material** is Monday 7 November 2016. We welcome contributions on any topic, but for the next issue contributions on a topic that reflect Advent perspectives will be especially welcome. Send to:

pipeline@wellspringcommunity.org.au

### Becoming a Member of Wellspring Community

**FRIENDS** are sympathetic to the vision of Wellspring Community. They seek to be informed about its activities and its common life. They receive the Wellspring annual Prayer Diary; the Wellspring annual Directory; quarterly Wellspring Community newsletter, *Pipeline*; and notices of Community events. They are welcome to attend and participate in community gatherings, workshops and local cell groups.

**MEMBERS** of Wellspring Community make an annual commitment to live according to the Rule of the Community as fully as possible.

1. To become a Member, a Friend will

- a) be familiar with the history, philosophy and theology of Wellspring Community
- b) be familiar with the Rule
- c) have discussed the Rule with a mentor
- d) have discussed with a mentor a commitment to faith, peace-making and justice
- e) demonstrate that commitment through engagement with at least two of the Wellspring areas of Spirituality and Justice
- f) complete a small project within one of the Wellspring areas of Spirituality and Justice
- g) attend at a National Gathering or National Workshop (as available)
- h) participate regularly with a cell group or make other regular connection in the case of a remote Friend in Formation
- i) meet regularly with the mentor
- j) propose to the mentor what the Friend will (continue to) bring to Wellspring Community.

2. A mentor will be nominated for the Friend in Formation through the Wellspring Council (any person with oversight/coordinating mentorships must be a member of the Council by agreement within the Council).

3. Depending on the Friend's background, the Formation period may include reading, writing, journaling, in areas such as the Spiritual Disciplines, the Gospel imperative of Justice, or other topics as suits the needs and interests of the person in keeping with the philosophy and theology of Wellspring Community.

4. The period of Formation will be one year, or as considered appropriate by the Mentor in conjunction with the Council. A Friend may commence the formation period at any time.