



**Victorian**  
Council of Churches

Victorian Council of Churches  
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Melbourne VIC 3000  
Ph: 03 9650 4511

# Council News

October 2017



## A Message from our Executive Officer



### *A Reflection*

One of the immeasurable gifts of this position is that of visiting and being amongst God's people. During this past month I have been humbled to gather with the Copts and acknowledge their world wide leaders and hear again the call to make disciples in all the earth.

Then I gathered with our St George Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church of India brothers and sisters and participated in their liturgy , gave a word of reflection on the Gospel reading and after sharing hospitality I held a discussion with a number of young adults on faithful living.

This weekend just gone I spent in rural Victoria gathering in a Uniting Church and sharing worship and an opportunity to tell something of the life and work of the Council.

Where I go I am blessed by the sense of the richness of the Kingdom to which we belong. Many years ago I read a Edith Schaeffer book where she described the Kingdom as a tapestry with every Christian being a thread and God being the weaver... In my moving around amongst us I am sensing more and more the wonder and majesty of the tapestry being woven by of God.

*- Ian*

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I am currently establishing my diary for second half of 2017 and 2018 and would welcome opportunities to come and share stories of the Council activities with your Church or organization – you can contact me on 03 9650 4511 or email at [ian.smith@vcc.org.au](mailto:ian.smith@vcc.org.au)

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## News from the Council

Council continues to work on a number of fronts:

- Through the representation of the Executive Officer Council is providing a Faith voice into the current public discussions on the End of Life Legislation
- Council is also active in the VicPol Multifaith Committee as this committee attempts to establish a Youth Council and is seeking young Christians to represent the Churches
- The Council continues to work with the planning committee for the 500th Commemoration of the Reformation—flyer later in Newsletter
- Council is continuing to explore avenues to enable churches to be able to respond appropriately to the raft of new legislation before it:
  - i. Child Safe Standards that are now enforceable in Victoria for all Faith Communities
  - ii. Reportable Conduct Scheme that comes into law at the beginning of 2018
  - iii. Responding to the recommendations tabled in the Domestic Violence Royal Commission in Victoria.

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## From the President of the VCC

What a marvellous expression of unity we were part of during the visit of His Holiness Pope Tawadros II to the Coptic Church and community.

During time with us His Holiness blessed the new Coptic Central Church, he met with leaders both civic and Spiritual and he spoke at many gatherings.

It was very good to be part of this and to share with the Coptic community in worship and celebration.

The final Papal Banquet was amazing with well over 1,000 people present and sharing in a very happy hospitality.

We are blessed to be able to share with one another across the traditions and ways of spreading the good news in Jesus.

It is indeed a blessing to be part of the worship and traditions and we are able to respect and enjoy with one another.

Jesus called us to be one “a new commandment I give you, love one another as I have loved you”

Thanks to His Grace Bishop Suriel (Bishop of Melbourne) who as Host and leader gave us a greater understanding of the spirituality of the Coptic Orthodox expression of the Christian Faith.

+Peter

## Visit of Pope Tawadros II



This picture shows a number of Heads of Churches standing with His Holiness Pope Tawadros II after the opening of the Eporo Tower in Melbourne.

The Victorian Churches were blessed recently with the visit of Pope Tawadros II. Whilst here in Melbourne His Holiness held many meetings, spoke to many people and dedicated the new Copt facilities in the CBD of Melbourne.

His Holiness expressed a warmth, generosity and sense of humour as he shared in the many events. The Council was present through our President Bishop Peter Danaher and the Executive Officer Rev Ian Smith.

## VCCV looking for a volunteer

Have you got a few hours a week? - can you use the Dewey System?, if so please contact Ian Smith at VCC.

The VCC is privileged to hold a substantial Ecumenical Library and we are keen for it to be properly catalogued, digitised and then made available to the Churches as a resource.

Contact Ian on [ian.smith@vcc.org.au](mailto:ian.smith@vcc.org.au) or 03 9650 4511

# REFORMATION 500: JOINT CATHOLIC-LUTHERAN SERVICE OF COMMEMORATION

*"In commemorating the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of the Reformation this year, Catholics and Lutherans can now do so because the Holy Spirit has lead them on a journey from conflict into deeper communion. So from this vantage point the beginnings of the Reformation will be rightly remembered when Lutherans and Catholics hear together the Gospel of Jesus Christ and allow themselves to be called anew into community with the Lord.*

*I invite you to Evening Prayer together at St Johns Lutheran Church.*

*It is a time when Lutherans and Catholics can jointly rediscover the power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in our time."*

**Archbishop Denis Hart**  
**Catholic Archbishop of Melbourne**

The service will feature liturgy from  
"Common Prayer: From Conflict to Communion"  
and the Bach cantata  
"O ewiges Feuer, o Ursprung der Liebe" (BWV 34).

**When:** 7:00pm – 28th October 2017

**Where:** St Johns Lutheran Church  
20 City Road, Southbank, Victoria  
(Access via Southgate complex or City Road)

For further information, contact St Johns Southgate  
on 03 9682 4995 or [stjohns.southgate.vic@lca.org.au](mailto:stjohns.southgate.vic@lca.org.au)



**LUTHERAN  
CHURCH**  
OF AUSTRALIA

**VICTORIAN / TASMANIAN DISTRICT**



**CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF MELBOURNE**

## From the World Council of Churches

### Swiss Lutherans mark 500 years of the Reformation

Lutherans from all over Switzerland gathered in Geneva on 10 September for a eucharistic worship commemorating both the 500th anniversary of the Reformation and 50 years of the Federation of Lutheran Churches in Switzerland and the Principality of Liechtenstein (BELK).

### Seminar explores how populist rhetoric leads to racism

Rising populism, racism and xenophobia - how can churches act against this tide? Practitioners, ecumenical officers, and representatives of mission and church-based humanitarian agencies came together in Geneva from 1-3 September to formulate an answer.

### World Week of Peace in Palestine and Israel

17 - 24 September 2017

Worldwide

During this week which includes the International Day of Prayer for Peace on 21st September, church organizations, congregations, and people of faith are encouraged to make a common witness by participating in worship services, educational events, and acts of supports to support peace and justice for Israelis and Palestinians.

### In the Pacific, time to re-chart the boat of unity

Pacific church leaders are re-reading the stars, and re-charting the course of their ecumenical vaka together in a time when the region is facing unprecedented socio-economic and political pressure.

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## JCMA Friendship Walk, Sunday 22nd October 2017

Come along on Sunday 22nd October and spend an afternoon walking together in friendship and goodwill between a mosque, synagogue and a church. Starting at the Albanian Mosque in Carlton North we will walk together to the East Melbourne Hebrew Congregation Synagogue, then walk across the road to St Peters Eastern Hill Anglican Church. We will start with a prayer of peace and reflections and then learn about some of the history and traditions of each of the places we visit.

### RSVP, Registration and Information

To register book your free ticket on eventbrite <https://jcmafww.eventbrite.com.au>.

For more information please call Ginette Everest on (03) 9287 5590 or 0400 211 221 or email to:

[executiveofficer@jcma.org.au](mailto:executiveofficer@jcma.org.au).

Go to our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/jcmaonline> and Twitter <http://twitter.com/jcmaoz> using #JCMWalk and JCMAfriendship to invite others to join us in walking together in friendship and peace.

### Meeting Place & Planned Walking Route

1.45pm – Registration

2.00pm - Albanian Mosque – Imam Dr Bekim Hasani

765 Drummond St., Carlton North VIC 3054, google maps <http://bit.ly/1KbPHwz>

3.30pm - East Melbourne Hebrew Congregation Synagogue– Rabbi Dovid Gutnick

488 Albert street, East Melbourne, google maps: <http://bit.ly/2delE0D>

4.00pm – St Peters Eastern Hill Anglican Church - Father Hugh Kempster

15 Gisborne Street (corner of Albert Street) East Melbourne, google maps: <http://bit.ly/1O4w0xE>

### For People With Mobility Issues

A minibus is available for people with genuine mobility issues who cannot walk the distance thanks to Jewish Care who have generously provided a minibus. Seats are limited, bookings essential so please call Ginette on 03 9287 5590 for availability. At this time wheelchair access may be limited at some of the venues and on the minibus.

### Donations

JCMA is a not-for-profit organisation and donations go directly towards delivery of our many events, forums and conferences and to support our workshop programs in primary and secondary schools. As a listed harm prevention charity we have DGR (Deductible Gift Receipt) status. Your donations are tax-deductible (donations over \$2 are tax-deductible). If you would like to make a donation to help support the work of JCMA please go to our website <http://jcma.org.au/donation>.

### JCMA Membership

JCMA is a membership based organisation for Jewish, Christian and Muslim people of faith. If you would like to find out about joining JCMA as a member you can go to our website at <http://jcma.org.au/jcma-membership> or call Ginette Everest on (03) 9287 5590 or email to: [memberships@jcma.org.au](mailto:memberships@jcma.org.au).

### JCMA Supporters

We are proudly supported by the Islamic Council of Victoria, Victorian Council of Churches and Jewish Community Council of Victoria.

We look forward to seeing you there.

The Jewish Christian Muslim Association of Australia presents

# JCMA FRIENDSHIP WALK

Sunday October 22 2017 2.00pm- 4.30pm



Come along and spend an afternoon walking together in friendship and goodwill between a church, synagogue and a mosque.

#### Meeting Place & Planned Walking Route:

1.45pm Registration

2.00pm **Albanian Mosque**  
765 Drummond St., Carlton North  
Please arrive 1.45pm for 2.00pm start

3.30pm **East Melbourne Hebrew Congregation**  
488 Albert street, East Melbourne

4.00pm **St Peters Eastern Hill Anglican Church**  
15 Gisborne Street (corner of Albert Street) East Melbourne

- Booking online: Eventbrite <https://jcmafww.eventbrite.com.au>
- More information: Ginette Everest [executiveofficer@jcma.org.au](mailto:executiveofficer@jcma.org.au) or (03) 9287 5590
- For those with walking difficulties, a minibus available: email [david@jccv.org.au](mailto:david@jccv.org.au)



**JCMA**  
Jewish Christian Muslim  
Association of Australia



## Joint Journey to Jerusalem April 2018

### 'Understanding Each Other'

In April 2018, fifteen people from the Jewish Christian and Muslim faiths will embark on an incredible journey of discovery to Jerusalem. Spiritual leaders, lay people, men and women, will visit each other's historical sacred places to study and share texts, to listen to each other's story and to truly 'meet' in the City of Jerusalem which is so sacred to all three faith traditions.

If you are interested in being a part of this unique and special journey you can download a brochure with program cost, selection criteria and application form here: [JCMA Joint Journey to Jerusalem 2017](#).

**Dates:** 29th April – 9th May 2018

**How To Apply:** Download a brochure and application form here: [JCMA Joint Journey to Jerusalem 2017](#). Email your completed application form to [jjj@jcma.org.au](mailto:jjj@jcma.org.au) or send by mail to PO Box 146, East Melbourne, VIC 8002.

**Expression of interest due:** 24th November 2017. Successful applicants will be notified by 14th December.

**For more information:** You can contact Ginette Everest at JCMA by email [jjj@jcma.org.au](mailto:jjj@jcma.org.au) or call 03 9287 5590.

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## Palestine Israel Ecumenical Network

### Become a member!

Now is the time to stand with those in Palestine and Israel who are seeking a just, sustainable peace. This is also the time to join with others in becoming a financial member and supporter of PIEN.

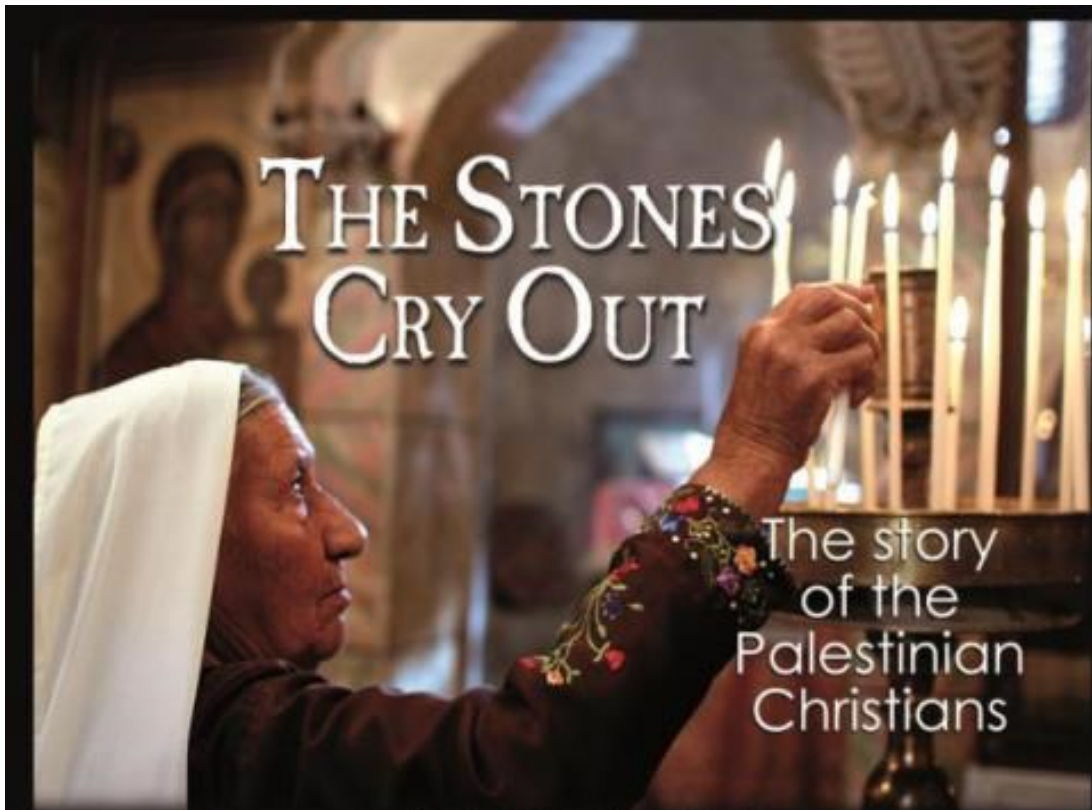
For a joining fee of \$20, as well as any other amount you wish to contribute, you will be standing with others committed to peace and justice in Palestine and Israel. Will you join us?

[Follow this simple link to complete your membership application. We look forward to you joining us.](#)

Note - at the time of writing, we are not able to process credit card payments, but will be able to do so soon. In the meantime, please join using bank transfer or via cheque. Details are on the PIEN website.



## National Screening of “The Stones Cry Out”



**Have you ordered your tickets? Can you bring others along too?**

PIEN (Palestine Israel Ecumenical Network) has arranged national screenings of the entertaining and powerful documentary, "The Stones Cry Out". The film explains that Christianity was born in Palestine 2,000 years ago, yet many people are unaware Christians still live there. For over 60 years all Palestinians have suffered displacement, expulsion, and occupation and Palestinian Christians' voices have been drowned out in the turmoil. This is a chance to hear their story...

The first Melbourne screening is just days away, being in Brunswick on 21st September, with another one in Bayswater on 19th October. We don't want you to miss out on this important film. In fact, we believe that it is so important that you should bring lots of other people along too. This is an important opportunity to let your friends and church members see and learn about life for Palestinian Christians.

BAYSWATER: 7:30pm, Thursday, 19th October. [Bookings here](#)

If you need any more information, or if you have any trouble with these links, go to the [PIEN website event page](#). We hope you can make it, this is a really important film.

Would you like to show this film in your town or church? Contact PIEN to discuss.

If you need any more information? [Contact PIEN](#)

## From ANTaR



### ***Murnong: Yam Daises and What if? Now Showing at Koorie Heritage Trust***

Saturday 5th August 2017 – Sunday 8th October 2017

Linked by the culture of their Wadawurrung ancestors, mother and daughter artists, Aunty Marlene Gilson and Deanne Gilson have developed two concurrent solo exhibitions exploring their differing styles and techniques.

*What If?* by Aunty Marlene presents a series of new works in her signature narrative style, telling iconic stories of her Country and community. *Murnong: Yam Daises* by Deanne, presents an installation of ceramics and paintings as an investigation into the loss of women's traditional practices through colonisation into the contemporary present. The exhibition is held at the Galleries of the Koorie Heritage Trust, located in Federation Square.

For more information, [click here](#).

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## Changes to Working with Children Checks

***The Victorian State Government has gazetted changes to the Working with Children's Checks.*** These changes come into effect on the 1st August 2017. Essentially, the change tightens the requirements for WWC checks so that all adults who come in contact with children within Faith communities require a WCC check.

See <http://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au> or 1300 652 879

## Victorian Council for Christian Education

### Grad. Cert. in Children & Families Ministry – enrol now!

Offered through the University of Divinity, this [Graduate Certificate](#) presents an opportunity to enhance your ministry gifts, to increase your capacity for engaging ministry and to learn in a caring, interactive and stimulating environment – as well as providing formal recognition of your skills in ministry. For ministers/pastors engaged in general ministry, those employed in specific Children & Families ministry roles and anyone with a passion for ministry with children and their families, the course requires completion of two compulsory subjects (see below) and one subject of your choice.

[DA/DS2/3/9010S The Nurture and Spiritual Guidance of Children](#) next offered as intensive Nov 29,30, Dec 1; Dec 4-6

[DA8015S Children and Families Ministry: Core Issues in Diverse Contexts](#) next offered as intensive in Feb 2018

## Re:Generations - Exploring intergenerational ministry and mission Regional Options

If an intergenerational approach is the key to effective ministry with people of all ages, what does it look like in practice? How can it be implemented by local congregations? What can stay the same and what needs to be changed? **Re:Generations - Exploring intergenerational ministry and mission** is a unique opportunity to engage with these questions and more! Come along to explore the topics of

Intergenerational ministry - worship, mission and more

Messy mission - learning from Messy Church as an intergenerational model

Here to Stay – a framework for nurturing lifelong discipleship

These engaging, participatory and practical events will be facilitated by Chris Barnett from the Centre for Theology & Ministry.

*More information & registration:*

Oct 6 & 7      North East Vic      [Euroa \(Oct 6\)](#) & [Myrtleford \(Oct 7\)](#)

Oct 13 & 14      Northern Vic      [St. Arnaud \(Oct 13\)](#) & [Eaglehawk \(Oct 14\)](#)

Oct 20 & 21      North East Vic      [Wangaratta \(Oct 20\)](#) & [Echuca \(Oct 21\)](#)

***The Victorian Chapter***  
**of the**  
**Australian Church Library Association**  
is meeting on  
**Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> October, 2017 at**  
**Manningham Uniting Church**  
**152 Andersons Creek Road**  
**Doncaster East (Melway34 E6)**



**The program will include**

- **A speaker, David Lepore, from the Bible Society, which is celebrating the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of its work in Australia, (in the morning);**
- **In the afternoon a session on biographies and autobiographies with members bringing and speaking about some examples from their libraries which they can recommend.**
- **our Biennial General Meeting**
- **a swap table - bring along books, videos, cassettes, CDs and other resources that you no longer need;**

***Please bring a plate of food to share for lunch***

**For more information please ring Rachel -  
phone: 9850 4828 or email: [alanrachelh1@bigpond.com](mailto:alanrachelh1@bigpond.com)**

# AUSTRALIAN CHURCH LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

The Australian Church Library Association is a nondenominational organisation that seeks to promote the Christian faith through the establishment and development of church libraries. It was formed in Adelaide about twenty-five years ago, and has members in most states. The Victorian Chapter was launched twenty-two years ago, in July 1995. We usually meet twice a year, on a Saturday, from 10am to 3pm. **The second meeting in 2017 will be held on Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> October. Details of this meeting can be found on the other side of this flyer.**

A quarterly newsletter, entitled *Off the Shelf*, is distributed to members, and contains useful articles on running a church library, details of activities being held in the various states, and reviews of new materials.

**We regard any collection of books and other resources at a church, no matter how small, as a church library, and the person in charge as a church librarian, regardless of qualifications, and all are most welcome to join our organisation.**

Further information can be obtained from the website [www.acla.asn.au](http://www.acla.asn.au), or from Rachel Hardie, email: [alanrachelh1@bigpond.com](mailto:alanrachelh1@bigpond.com) or phone (03) 9850 4828.

## Forum: Working with Conflict Diasporas

AMCS (Australian Multicultural Community Services) is pleased to invite multicultural community leaders and other interested individuals to a forthcoming forum on Tuesday 26th September 2017, at 7pm, at the AMCS office in Maidstone.

**Speaker: Dr Michalis Michael, Director, Centre for Dialogue - Global Reconciliation, DEEP - Dialogue, Empathetic Engagement & Peacebuilding**

Venue: AMCS meeting room, Level 1, Suite 111, 44-56 Hampstead Rd, Maidstone

Important note: entry from the car park in Emu Rd

Places are limited.

To RSVP, please send an email to [info@amcservices.org.au](mailto:info@amcservices.org.au) providing your name, telephone number and requesting to come to the forum.

<https://www.amcservices.org.au/event/forum-dr-michalis-s-michael-phd-ma-ba/>

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## Dozens of countries sign nuclear weapons ban treaty

On 20 September at the United Nations in New York, a treaty to ban nuclear weapons was formally opened for signature. At the time of writing, some 49 states have signed.

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New Research available of Faith and belief in Australia.

McCrindle Research have just release their latest findings on Faith and Belief with in Australia.. very good resource.

For more details go to: [www.faithandbelief.org.au](http://www.faithandbelief.org.au)

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Council News is the official newsletter  
of the Victorian Council of Churches

Editor Rev. Ian Smith Executive Officer

Email (as well as to unsubscribe):  
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Tel: 9650 4511

We're on the web!  
[www.vcc.org.au](http://www.vcc.org.au)



**Victorian**  
Council of Churches

The Victorian Council of Churches is a fellowship of churches which confess the Lord Jesus Christ as God and Saviour according to the Scriptures and seek to fulfil together their common calling to the glory of the one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

\*\*\* If you have an event that you want others to know about then contact at [vcc@vcc.org.au](mailto:vcc@vcc.org.au) excluding January we plan to publish a Council News each month \*\*\*

## Child Safe Standards

### A Reminder

As of January 1st 2017 the Victorian Child Safe Standards become mandatory for all Churches and Faith organisations.

For more details visit:

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

How to implement the Victorian Child Safe Standards in your faith community that come into place on 1 January 2017.

The Victorian Council of Churches in partnership with the National Council of Churches in Australia – Safe Church Program has collaborated together to provide a toolkit and Training Portal to ensure that all Faith Communities in Victoria have the opportunity to ensure that they are prepared to implement the Child Safe Standards in their faith community.

We are pleased to partner with the Commission for Children and Young People ([www.ccyp.vic.gov.au](http://www.ccyp.vic.gov.au)) in assisting faith based organisations to meet the Child Safe Standards by providing a range of faith-generic resources, tools and supports.