

MCISC NEWS No. 6

Working with Churches

You might be surprised at how much we, as a community based organisation, work with churches.

Throughout my career I have worked for a variety of churches including the Anglicans, the Catholics and the Uniting Church.

I have always and continue to find many kindred spirits in the mainstream and on the fringes of churches, driven by their faith and a commitment to acting justly, loving mercy and walking humbly with their God.

Whilst we don't always agree on everything, we do have a common goal of caring for and helping those who are doing it tough in our local community.

Indeed, since I have been in Mornington (9 months already) it has been my great pleasure to meet and work closely with members of several local churches.

As an organisation, we worked closely with Mornington St Vincent de Paul on the Christmas Hamper Program.

We continue to operate our Fresh Food Program from St Mark's Uniting Church.

I have been actively involved with Peninsula Voice, an organisation that originally grew out of Mornington Peninsula Churches. Their aim is to promote education, awareness and advocacy on public policy, social justice, ethics, wellbeing and health across the Peninsula. PV recently hosted a very successful discussion with Hugh Mackay and is currently working on an event focusing on isolation, loneliness and social disconnection.

I attended a #ChangetheHeart gathering on Fisherman's Beach which was organised by local churches in conjunction with Common Grace, in the lead up to Australia Day and which aimed to seek justice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, justice for Climate and Creation, justice for those living with Domestic and Family Violence, and justice for Refugees and Asylum seekers.

A number of local churches provide donated food on a weekly basis to help us keep our pantry stocks up.

I have been involved in establishing and supporting a new local Inter Church Network and I look forward to seeing how this develops.

Lastly, I am very excited about working in partnership with the Mornington and Mt Martha Anglican Church in presenting the inaugural Lenten Film Festival. Each Sunday afternoon at 3.30pm during Lent (4th March – 18th April) we will be showing a film at the Anglican Centre on the corner of Albert and Octavia Streets Mornington, along with wine and cheese. The aim of each film is to encourage thinking and discussion about the human condition and where we might find hope in the world. I attach the 6 week program in the hope that you might attend some of the showings.

Our catch cry is "Community Supporting Community" and as the church is a big part of the community in the Mornington area, it is my pleasure to be working so closely with members, across denominations, in the interests of our clients.

Stuart Davis-Meehan, Manager, March 2019

News from the Mornington Community Information and Support Centre

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