

INTERSECTION

OCTOBER 2009

By Alana Pryor

GREAT THANKSGIVING DAY

As we near the end of the year, it is time to look back and reflect on what we have to be thankful for.

On Sunday 8 November, St Michael's takes a moment to stop and give thanks. With a special service and beautiful flowers in the church we are reminded to celebrate the beauty in life.

These aren't always the big moments, they often surprise us, arriving unexpected but affecting us significantly. Somebody has given you support when needed, a smile perhaps or compliment. Maybe you

have been struck by the beauty of nature or a special piece of art or poetry.

Whatever it may be, great or small, beautiful moments help enhance our living experience and for this we are thankful.

Sunday 8 November is a day where we take the time to thank those who have helped St Michael's grow and transform – those who have supported us where many doubted, those who believe in St Michael's and its causes.

We would like to especially thank all those who make St Michael's what it

is. Without the people and their help, St Michael's would not be the thriving community it is.

We thank all who enable St Michael's to continue searching for a positive and open belief that aids those in need.



A THEOLOGY OF BEAUTY

In 2008, St Michael's promoted its first essay competition.

In the consciousness of widespread violence, multiple life stresses and the strains on the planet, we invited essays on *The Theology of Beauty*. The call for entries went far and wide and we received 53 entries from



Victoria to the UK and the United States.

With such a large response, our adjudicators had a tough decision.

We are pleased to announce that the winner of *the Theology of Beauty* Essay and \$8000 is Lesley Chamberlain of England. The award will be

presented to Lesley in absentia during service on Sunday 8 November.

The winning essay entitled *Towards a Theology of Beauty for the Twenty-First Century: A First Philosophy of Objects* will be available to view on the St Michael's website from Monday 9 November.

We would like to thank all who entered the competition and hope that much was found in the experience.

“IT'S ONE THING GETTING CLOSE TO GOD BUT ANOTHER FINDING A CAR PARK.”

Have you ever wondered what all the fuss is about at Sunday At St Michael's? People come by tram, two legs and even skateboards to awaken senses, question beliefs and incite conversation. We're sure you'll find a seat available – pity we can't promise the same about a car park.

www.SUNDAYATSTMICHAEL'S.com.au

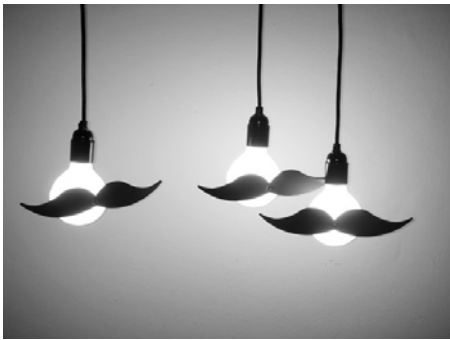
120 COLLINS - 10 AM



SUPPORT THE MOUSTACHE

You may have noticed there is a disproportionately large number of men sporting hairy upper lips on the streets of Melbourne. This distinguished look is not just a fashion trend; it is a statement. Four years ago the month of November was also referred to as Movember as part of a campaign to change the face of men's health, raising funds and awareness for *The Prostate Cancer Foundation Australia* and *beyondblue*.

The aim: men would grow a beautiful



mo', for the month of November to promote the cause and fundraise.

Since the four years since its foundation over 24 million dollars have been raised making the following things possible: Prostate Research Fellowship; Development of a biopsy database; study of patient outcomes after open and minimally invasive surgery; PROFIT – prostate fractionated irradiation trial; *beyondblue* info line; Don't Beat About the Bush campaign; Indigenous Men's Sheds; Research

into the link between depression and men's cancers.

St Michael's member, Clive Smith, is sporting a moustache in aid of the cause. He will be in the hall after service to accept your generous donations. Alternatively you can go to <http://au.movember.com/mospace/164471/> and donate online using your credit card or PayPal account OR write a cheque payable to 'Movember Foundation', referencing Clive's Registration Number: 164471, OR you mailing it to: Movember Foundation, PO Box 292, Prahran, VIC, 3181 Remember, all donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

Help support and change the face of men's health for the good.

A FEELING OF BELONGING

We are always happy to see new faces at St Michael's. New people bring different ideas and a wide range of experiences to the community – helping us to grow and learn. Our aim is to give back in ways that are beneficial to the community. For this we need to be diverse and open-minded. Without new people and different ideas, we end in a rut and may be unable to move forward. It is the people and philosophy of St Michael's that make this such a unique and exciting church.

We have already welcomed 39 New Members to St Michael's in June this

year and there is another opportunity for people interested in officially joining St Michael's to do so. After Sunday service, you are invited to meet with Dr Macnab and other St Michael's members to discover what being a member is all about. Your experiences, your attitudes and opinions are an important part of St Michael's.

If you are interested, either now or in the future, we welcome you to the meetings to talk to current members and get a feel for what it is to be part of such a diverse and lively community. Visit: <http://www.stmichaels.org.au/st->



[michaels-church/membership-and-donations](http://www.stmichaels.org.au/st-michaels-church/membership-and-donations)

NEW MEMBERS MEETINGS

The next meeting with Dr Macnab will held after service on Sunday 22 November

TRIO ANIMA MUNDI - OPUS 1

Ludwig van BEETHOVEN Claude DEBUSSY Hermann GOETZ

When: 8 November 2009 at 2 pm Where: St Michael's Uniting Church

Tickets: \$30/\$15 Family \$70

Proceeds support *Kids Under Cover*

THE FIRES OF RELIGION

At the beginning of the year St Michael's implemented New Faith Ingot Groups which provided a forum for further exploration into a progressive theology. As part of these groups guest speakers of various backgrounds have come to present at Sunday workshops for those interested.



public relations, writing, art and theology, this provides her with an extensive scope and understanding of a topic from many facets.

When Val visited St Michael's in 2008, focusing on her provocative book *Catching Water in a Net - Human Attempts to Describe the Divine*

she made a strong impression on the 100 people who attended.

On Sunday 15 November Val Webb will present *Book Burnings and Crucifixions: the fate of new religious ideas*.

This presentation will link a broad range of subjects with a cohesive exploration of what happens when progressive theology meets an outdated theology.

Val comes to St Michael's with a varied background. Her professional career spans microbiology, business,

We are pleased that Val is back to speak and encourage you to come explore another view of faith.

Book Burnings and Crucifixions: the fate of new religious ideas.

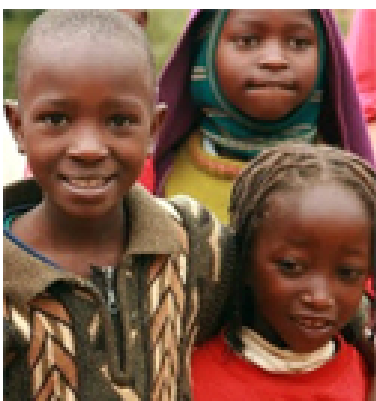
with Val Webb

When: Sunday 15 November after Sunday service

Where: Waratah Room, Level 1 St Michael's Centre

BEAUTY AND RELIEF

Amir Farid has played at St Michael's several times this year and each time he amazes. His mastery over the piano keyboard and his ability to inject his own personal experience and understanding into the music he performs are wonderful. It is a pleasure to hear him play.



His latest concert on Sunday 25 October was another such performance that exceeded musical expectations. His beautiful

handling of the repertoire impressed many and left audiences exclaiming at his talented and moving performance.

The concert was not only a joy to attend, with music that inspired, it also raised \$1,854 for the *Children's Hunger Relief Fund*.

This was yet another wonderful opportunity to see a fine musician play and we hope to see Amir at St Michael's again.

ELECTION RESULTS

It's good to see that 23 people offered themselves for election to the Church Council. That they choose to volunteer their time and skills to St Michael's is exciting. It's even better when all 23 are emphatically affirmed by the Congregation vote.

Council elections were held on Sunday 18 October and the large numbers who voted obviously saw the conviction the candidates show for the cause of St Michael's.

The candidates were installed in office during service on Sunday 8 November as part of Great Thanksgiving Day.

Congratulations to all successful candidates. They are:

- Graeme Adamson
- Wal Berryman
- Neil Blood
- Catherine Cleghorn
- Val Gill
- Elizabeth Green
- Julie Hall
- Helen Hardham
- Peter Kingsbury
- Patricia Lever
- Allan McLaren
- Evelyn McLaren
- Albert Phillips
- Carole Phillips
- Stuart Reid
- Wal Reid
- Wilf Sawatzky
- Richard Siegersma
- Pamela Smart
- Ian Smith
- Margaret Smith
- Gwen Waters
- Harold Young

SAGE

SUCCESSFUL AGEING, GROWTH AND ENHANCEMENT

Celebrating 25 Years of SAGE!

FRIDAY 27 NOVEMBER

THE THING MOST MISSED IS THE THING I MISS MOST



Time: 11 am to 1 pm
Where: St Michael's Hall
120 Collins St,
Melbourne.
Cost: \$15 inc. Lunch

For more information
please call Margaret Karafilowska
at Cairnmillar on 9813 3400

PARTY WITH SAGE

SAGE is celebrating 25 years of operation and inspiration and we invite you to attend this momentous occasion.

The faces may have changed and its structure evolved but the fact is, SAGE is still a great source of support, advice and fun for many. Since its inaugural meeting in a small room at Cairnmillar Institute in 1984 it has grown. It began as a small group of 15 people who threw themselves into the program with aplomb. The program continued, the numbers steadily increased and now, SAGE has supporters and fans from all over. At times we can find some 120 people in attendance in one SAGE session at St Michael's.

SAGE is about keeping fit—psychologically and emotionally as we age. Aimed to those 45 years and onward the program encourages questions and curiosity and the search for satisfaction, purpose and well being in life.

Many approach ageing differently. Some are surprised they've reached the age they have, others feel frustrated as they recognise their growing constraints. Some grow depressed, and others lose the life purpose they once had. SAGE concentrates on preparing people psychologically to move into the next phase of years after 50 when our focus in life change. We admit there are health issues to be managed,



changing relationships to acknowledge and stereotypes to dispel. SAGE faces these issues and fears and provides techniques to cope – to find ways to sensibly age and discover growth and enhancement in doing so.

Many come to SAGE wanting to live to a good age and do it well. And it appears that at SAGE they find the means. All types of topics have been covered, pearls of wisdom shared and many come away from these sessions with a new lease on life.

The St Michael's Office welcomes Kristen Wilson who will be temping in the absence of Alana Pryor. Alana is on leave from 16 November until 27 January. The next edition of *Intersection* will be printed before the Opening of Programs

ST MICHAEL'S

ON COLLINS - MELBOURNE

120 Collins St, Melbourne 3000

P: 9654 5120

F: 9650 3863

E: office@stmichaels.org.au

W: www.stmichaels.org.au



LEARN TO MEDITATE

Six one-hour sessions
26 October—7 December
When: Monday 1 pm - 2 pm

Where: Jacaranda Room
St Michael's Centre

Cost: \$70 includes comprehensive notes

Bookings St Michael's 9654 5120
Casual attendees welcome



INTERSECTION

DECEMBER 2009

By Alana Pryor



ROOM TO THINK

It's hard to admit it, but the Christmas rush is nearly upon us. Christmas advertising has hit out screens, post and inboxes. Supermarkets are stocked for all our decorating needs – even the Christmas tree on Swanston street has been erected.

There are times when we feel like we need to escape, take a breath and get

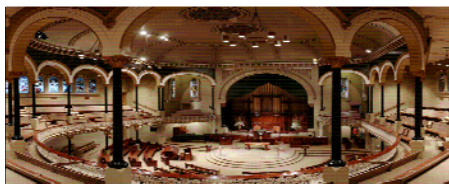


away from it – even for a minute. At St Michael's we can be relied on to provide a quiet place to stop in the midst of all this bustle and noise. A visit to Mingary, the surrounding gardens or a Sunday service may be what you need to unwind and recoup your strength. Re-discover your calm at St Michael's.

COMMUNITIES TOGETHER

In December Melbourne is the host city of the largest global Interfaith event - the Parliament of World Religion (PoWR). As the world's spiritual leaders and their followers visit the city, celebration of respect, understanding and collaboration between faiths will be prominent. St Michael's is excited to be a part of it.

We support the core values of the POWR and will participate in this multi-faith event by hosting a Communities Night event on Friday 4 December.



Opening our doors to people of all faiths and from all over the world, is a wonderful way to demonstrate St Michael's presence as a open and forward thinking city church. The evening will feature displays of the interesting programs and events held at St Michael's and well as a session for any questions people may have about the church.

This is a chance to show the world what a great place St Michael's is and what it gives to the community. This free event begins at 7 pm and we hope to see you there.

DECEMBER ADDRESSES



Sunday 6 December 10 am

Our inner world disturbs us but also brings its contentment.
Dr Francis Macnab

Sunday 13 December 10 am

Everybody needs to belong but we need powerful GLUE.
Dr Francis Macnab

Sunday 20 December 10 am

There is an important 'Yes': your future life will depend upon it.
Dr Francis Macnab

Friday 25 December 9 am

Enjoyment comes in bundles. Leave room for it.
Dr Francis Macnab

Sunday 27 December 10 am

Rachmaninoff's Symphony No 1. A psychological disaster then, a psychological lesson for us now
Dr Francis Macnab

mingary
COUNSELLING SERVICE

Professional, confidential low-cost counselling for a broad range of personal issues. Male and Female Counsellors.

\$30 Initial Consultation \$20 Subsequent Consultation
Monday-Friday: 9 am-5 pm

St Michael's Centre 120 Collins Street, Melbourne 3000 T (03) 9654 5120 F (03) 9650 3863

THE ART OF CHINESE COOKING

Sharpen your knives, and prepare to enhance your culinary skills. The final the Arts for Rights event for 2009 may perhaps be the highlight of a year with many highs.

It's time to experience the joys and flavours of Chinese cooking with celebrated chef, author and public speaker, Elizabeth Chong.

On Thursday 10 December Elizabeth demonstrates the way to create a sumptuous Chinese banquet. Not



only is this an opportunity to watch and learn from a professional, you can also learn about the philosophies about Chinese cooking, the ingredients and preparation.

Following the cooking demonstration a delicious champagne and chicken lunch will be served where participants can socialise and make plans for your own upcoming feast.

This is the event for any food lover

and the best part is that by enjoying yourself, you will also be raising money towards a worthy cause. All funds raised at the event will go *the Fred Hollows Foundation* which continues the good work of Professor Fred Hollows restoring the sight in developing countries and improving the health and eyesight in Indigenous Communities in Australia.

INTO THE CHINESE KITCHEN

Venue: The Hall, Ground Floor
St Michael's Centre,
120 Collins Street Melbourne
Date: Thursday 10 December
Cost: \$35 Adults/\$30 Pensioners
This includes a donation to a chosen Human Rights Organisation

INSPIRATION FOR CHRISTMAS

Their enthusiasm for song as they perform is written on their faces. The Choir, led by charismatic Jonathon Welch will perform at a special Christmas concert on Wednesday 16 December.

The Choir is a newly formed choir that supports Jonathon's outreach choirs *The Choir of Hope and*

Inspiration and Pride and Joy. Through Jonathon's fantastic efforts choral members have felt a new purpose in life and the inspiration to move forwards with confidence and a new found hope.

The energy and love of singing and performance will make this Christmas Concert an unforgettable event.

Come and join us to support the ongoing development of the choir and the marvellous work it is doing for its members.

THE CHOIR

When: Wednesday 16 December
Time: 7.30 pm
Where: St Michael's Uniting Church, 120 Collins Street Melbourne 3000

The St Michael's Uniting Church Office will close for Christmas at 12 noon 24 December 2009 and will re-open 9 am 4 January 2010.

JOHN BODYCOMB—ST MICHAEL'S GUEST

In January we welcome Dr John Bodycomb as a guest to St Michael's for the first three Sundays of January 2010. Dr Bodycomb has been to St Michael's on several occasions and on each he has impressed with his

forward views and interesting addresses. He comes to us as an experienced minister, an educator and a Medal of the Order of Australia for his promotion of religious freedom and to fostering ecumenism.

NOTE TO ALL COUNCILLORS:

The December Conference will be held on Sunday 13 December.

GLOBAL CONCERN
CHRISTMAS MARKET

GREAT CHRISTMAS
GIFT IDEAS

CAKES
JAMS & CHUTNEYS
CRAFTS
RECORDS TAPES C.D

Friday 4 December
from 9 am
In St Michael's Walk