

# Multiculturalism Matters

UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA | PRESBYTERY OF SOUTH MORETON | 23 JULY 2014



**'We welcome you and look forward to building a future with you ...'**

**'It means so much for us to have a church we can belong to ...'**



## Niue people join Acacia Ridge church

A COMMUNITY of Niue people has found a church home with the Acacia Ridge UC.

Forty-one people, from infants to elderly, were received into the congregation either as confirmed members, baptised members or adherents, at a special service on July 13 attended by the acting Presbytery Minister, Rev. Dr Ray Reddicliffe.

The Niue community had been holding their own services at Knox UC Moorooka since 2006. Some had become members of that congregation and shared in worship there, but most were associated with a Niue-language service led by Rev. Steve Havilitama, who had been received as a minister of the Uniting Church in Australia in 2008.

When Knox closed earlier this year, the people did not just want a new place for worship but sought to integrate fully with a congregation as part of the Uniting Church.

Discussions with the Acacia Ridge church indicated that they would welcome the Niue people into their congregation, sharing their worship, witness and service under the one Church Council, with the option of the Niue people also holding their own language service if they felt the need to do so.



**PHOTOS: (top left) Acacia Ridge elder Judith Johnston formally welcomes the Niue people; (top right) Rev. Steve Havilitama responds; (middle) Trinity and Steve Havilitama, church chair Mary Chapman, and Rev Dr Ray Reddicliffe after the service; (above) some of the congregation during the service.**

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*Multiculturalism Matters* is published fortnightly and emailed with the Presbytery Newsletter. You are welcome to email, or copy and distribute. Each issue can also be downloaded from the Presbytery web site: <http://www.southmoreton.org.au>. Please email David if you would like to receive the newsletter directly by email. Submitted photos and stories reflecting the cultural diversity of the South Moreton Presbytery are welcome.

## Canberra speaker leads Calvary's young adult leaders retreat

FIFTEEN young adult group leaders attended Calvary Korean UC's Young Adult Leadership Retreat from July 14-17 at Lamington National Park.

Guest speaker was Rev. David J. Hong of Canberra, a former missionary in China and the founder of Asian Young Adult campus ministry at the Australian National University.

Mr Hong led the seven sessions of the retreat, with additional one-on-one mentoring sessions, on two themes: how to finish university and prepare for their future as Christians, and how to evangelise their university campus.

His messages were very similar to John Calvin's *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, beginning with a focus on who God is and who we are, and leading the group to reflect on God's purpose and call on their lives.

The retreat days were intensive, beginning at 9:00 am and finishing at 2:00 am with 2-hour breaks for morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea.



PHOTOS show: (top) the retreat participants, and (below) one of the sessions.  
Photos: David Won Kim

## 'Global view is needed for a healthy faith'



HEALTHY Christianity needs a global vision of faith and of the church.

The new director UnitingWorld, Rob Floyd, said this at a special afternoon tea co-hosted by South Moreton presbytery on July 14, marking his first visit to Brisbane since taking up the position in May.

Representatives from several of the Presbytery's multicultural congregations attended.

Mr Floyd spoke about the UCA's commitment to ecumenical and regional partnerships, and current issues in UnitingWorld, including relationships with overseas partner churches.

This led to a wide-ranging discussion about issues facing migrant churches, including relationships with their 'mother' churches overseas.

Rev. Alan and Sharyn Robinson and Stephen Haase also spoke about Beenleigh Region UC's link with the Guadalcanal Circuit of the United Church of the Solomon Islands.

Some of the South Moreton presbytery people with Rob Floyd (centre, standing).

## Australian delegates at South Pacific forum



Here are the Australian delegates, including several from South Moreton presbytery, at the South Pacific area seminar of the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women, held at Emmanuel College, St Lucia, July 8-12.

*Photo—Matt Gees*

# “SONGS OF PEACE”

SUNDAY 10 August 2014 – from 3.00pm to 7.00pm  
The Salvation Army Life Community Church  
123 Paradise Road, Slacks Creek

Logan Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders, Churches Together Indigenous People's Partnership (CTIPP) and the Pacific Island Communities in Logan, invite EVERYONE to the “Songs of Peace” to celebrate the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples.

The event in Logan celebrates the conciliatory efforts made by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Pacific Island communities to maintain peace and harmony.

Come and hear the sound of peace from Indigenous Australians and Pacific Islanders . Listen to the voice of youth and community leaders.

