



SA News



Newsletter of the Presbyterian Church of South Australia

Issue 8

September 2010



A Word from the Moderator

During my time, to date, as State Moderator I have had a number of various duties to attend to. One of which, I have had the wonderful honour of accepting invitations to visit various charges throughout the State of South Australia. The main theme that our Lord laid upon my heart, when I visit with the various charges, is to encourage the smaller charges of our churches in our State of South Australia. It has been, in my opinion, that many of these charges are presently going through quite tough times. Not just with the many trials and tribulations that smaller charges have to contend with, but they mainly struggle with the issue that some charges are quite larger than theirs, therefore they must be failing God badly.

In line with this thought process I would, therefore, like for us to take a moment to remember back some thirty or so years, to the time which we, in the Presbyterian Church, refer to as union. For those who can remember, it was a time of great despair when we in South Australia were hit extremely hard with great reduction in charges and therefore lost many congregations and people attending church with us, which included friends, family members, etc. It was an exceptionally tough and despairing time for many, many people. Some folk began to believe it was the end of the Presbyterian Church in South Australia. However, due to God's greatness He gave the Presbyterian Church at the time great people who led the remaining people and charges through those early turbulent times. Not all people may have agreed with their methods or opinions all the time, but they hung on believing in God, His Word, and that God still had a place for the Presbyterian Church in South Australia. These people sustained the Church so that it still survives today. It may seem to some that it is still weak in numbers, but it is still here, living and breathing God's Word. And the Church is not only still here, but it is here with a purpose, and for a purpose.

So we are here now in 2010, what now? May I suggest we revisit Hebrews 11 and re read about the faith which is explained in great detail in this chapter?

Now we are here today, now what, you may be thinking. Well I would like to challenge each and every one of us today, that the times in which we are now in are **now up to us**. It is up to each and every one of us to fan the embers to a flame, and to have God's light burn so very bright for those of the world to see clearly. May I also encourage you all. Encourage you to pray for one another, to pray for God's light to be upon the lost, to pray for encouragement for all charges (especially the smaller ones), and to pray for an increase in the work in the "Great Commission" which we can read in Matthew chapter 28: 16 – 20.

May God bless you and keep you.

Barry Rossiter
South Australian State Moderator

Jean Flynn Church Elizabeth

After a somewhat interesting period last time this time seems humdrum by comparison. It's been the "same old, same old" for this last quarter. One interesting result is that the police traced a finger print from the robberies we had last April and, as a result, they have made an arrest, and I understand a trial will be held shortly.

Our attendances have been down over the winter months, this is due to the usual winter ills, colds etc. However, we have had some visitors. Last year Brian from New Zealand worshipped with us while on his holiday with family in Mawson Lakes and, once again, we welcomed him for a period of about six weeks while he was in Australia. We also had the pleasure of the Beards from Texas, friends of the Stows, for one Sunday whilst they were on holidays in July. The Stows and the Beards then travelled to Melbourne, visiting Christine and her family, the daughter of Rev Kev and Sandi, also seeing the various sights in Melbourne and surrounds.

While Rev Kev took his leave the pulpit was occupied by a lecturer and a student from the Adelaide College of ministries. They were both welcomed warmly and their supply was appreciated.

On the first Sunday in July the State Moderator, Barry Rossiter, visited us at the Jean Flynn Church and preached the message during worship at Elizabeth. This was followed by an enjoyable morning tea.

Rev Kev has been preaching through the book of Acts recently and we've just started chapter six.

Sunday 8th August a Hymn Fest was held followed by afternoon tea. Once again this was a great success. It was presented by Ceri Jones with his wife Pat on the organ; some of the old favourites were enjoyed by all.

This, sadly, will be the last SA News that will come from my pen. Rev Kev will be retiring at the end of September. This has not been an easy decision for us to make but

after prayer and much discussion we feel that this is the right time to retire. We will be going back to Queensland to our home in Yangan, a small village near Warwick, on the Darling Downs. Our daughter, Kate, her husband Steve and their children live in Ipswich which is about one hour twenty minutes drive from Yangan, so we will be getting to know our grandchildren again, as well as doing some work around our home. Travel plans are not part of our retirement as we were fortunate to do most of our world travelling during our working lives, so the thought of settling down in one spot is very appealing.



Since we were married all those years ago we've moved, on average, every 22 months, so we think it's time to hammer in some stakes.

We wish the South Australian church God's blessing for the future and, during the remainder of our time, we will be working with the Session to get the ball rolling for a replacement for the Rev Kev.

Sandi Stow

Dunbar Homes

Dunbar Homes annual fete is to be held on Saturday 23rd October 2010 between 9.00am – 12 noon.

We are seeking quality donations of Bric-A-Brac, crafts, in-date grocery items, etc. These items can be dropped off at Dunbar Homes, 11 Mawson Road, Salisbury, at any time. Mrs A Robbie is the contact person and can be reached on 08 8285 5819. Everyone is welcome to attend on the day. Tours of Dunbar Homes can be arranged with the Facility Manager, Cathy Power, on 08 8282 3480.

The Fete is Dunbar's major fundraising event for the year and all funds raised are used for purchasing items for our 57 Residents. Some previous purchases from fundraised monies have included – outdoor furniture, TV cabinets, games, puzzles, paints, etc and of course our car. We are looking forward to this years fete and are sure this will be our biggest and most successful ever!!

Cathy Power
Facility Manager

Millicent

Greetings from St Andrews, Millicent to all the other churches.



Derek Redman enjoying a cup of coffee at the Assembly.

Millicent hosted the 124th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of South Australia at the end of May. We had a wonderful service the first night. Sue Pappin had the organ boosted up to its fullest, and with all the wonderful voices singing well known hymns, we almost lifted the roof. We were privileged to see Pastor Barry Rossiter from Port Augusta inducted as Moderator of South Australia for 2010, and to listen to a wonderful address "A New Commandment" by the Western Australian Moderator, Mr Bill Macrae. The next day began with a Communion Service and the rest of the time was taken up with business. The catering was carried out by our



Some of the ladies who helped in the kitchen during the Assembly. L to R Betty Thompson, Madeleine Schapel, Allayne Pettingill, Sue Pappin and Gwen Burdon.

ladies who received many compliments. Everything went off well.

Biggest Morning Tea was organised by our energetic organist, Mrs Sue Pappin and her friend, Mrs Sue Vanderheul. With the help of the church ladies a great day was enjoyed, with \$1500 being raised for the fight against cancer.

The Ladies Guild held their annual coffee morning with ladies from other churches attending. The guest speaker was Mr Bob Downs who held everyone's interest while relating his experiences of Bird Watching in the surrounding districts.

Evening fellowship is in recess during the cold winter months—this will resume in September.

Jean Potter has gone off to Scotland, her homeland, for a much needed holiday. We wish her a safe and happy trip.

We are hosting a combined luncheon for all the ladies of the town's churches on 15th July and also hosting a luncheon in aid of the Bible Society on the 22nd July.

We are all praying for the health of Mrs Mary Reekie, and our organist, Sue Pappin, who are at present in hospital.



Sheila Millie and Jean Potter enjoying themselves at the Tuesday night barbecue at the Assembly.



Laleen Clarkson and Alan Thompson enjoying a cup of coffee at the Assembly.

We thank the Penola Elders who continue to provide services here, and also to Rev Clarkson who officiates at Communion Services, Baptisms and Funerals. We had two baptisms on the 11th July, Ahnee Rose Grosser and Ruby Marie Suclin, a lovely occasion. These babies are great grand daughters of two of our members, Mrs Rona Walker and Mrs Nestor Buck.

Thelma Thomas

Editor's Note: Mrs Reekie has since passed away and we pass on our condolences to the Millicent congregation and to Mrs Reekie's family.

Hmmm!

“The covenant is an expression of God's will, not man's, and man must listen to its terms, trust God that they are holy and just and good, and order his life accordingly.”

J Gresham Machen

Mount Barker

Greetings in the Name of our Lord & Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Due to a small State Grant received by the Church here in Mt Barker, we are in the midst of reaching out into the community by running a 'Parenting with Hope' program. Our first session commenced on 26th August and runs over a five week period, providing twelve and half hours of teaching and child minding. This required some of our members completing or updating 'Breaking the Silence' and National Police checks. Please pray for us that, as we attempt to reach out into the community, the gospel may be faithfully proclaimed.

Mid-year, the PWA ladies hosted a Regional Meeting and Community Concern Event for the Australian Church Women (SA). The event was held to raise both awareness & funds for the Epilepsy Association of SA & NT. Many visitors were encouraged with the welcome and hospitality shown.

Council have now approved the plans for the addition of two toilets to be built with direct access from the Hall, subject to finance, with the possibility of extending the current hall to include a foyer. A new front sign has also been installed near the front fence to provide more information to passers-by.

Other events planned for the year include: a Church Garage Sale on 25th September; a bush BBQ on 9th

October at McAllan's property, at Strathalbyn/Woodchester, for parishioners and friends; a free community concert with a 16 strong stringed orchestra and 25 strong choir for an inspiring Saturday evening on 16th October and an address by Dr. David Catchpoole of Creation Ministries International in the evening of 17th October.

The Web Site of the Mount Barker Presbyterian Church is also developing. The address is: www.mtbarkerpc.org.au. May those who visit our site feel welcome to visit us in person and maybe even join us in person as a community of God's people.

A Ladies Bible Study has now commenced on Wednesday evening's with encouraging reports indicating the blessing of being able to study His Word together. Breakfast for Blokes continues to provide opportunities to invite and encourage other



Kent Limosnero sharing with the blokes – 10 July, 2010.

men through the personal testimonies of various speakers. The Principal of Adelaide College of Ministries attended our July meeting while one of the students, Kent Limosnero, spoke on helping those affected by drug abuse through a centre set up in the Philippines called House of Hope, a non-profit Christian organisation.

Robert Finster

Assembly 2010 Report

St Andrews Millicent was the Moderator's choice of venue for the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of South Australia for this year.

On Monday 24th May 2010 at 7.00pm the Congregation of Millicent along with the Ministers, Commissioners, invited guests, friends and visitors filled the church and joined in worship to Almighty God led by the Moderator Ps Barry Rossiter.

As Ps Barry had been elected to serve as Moderator of the 2010 Assembly, the immediate past Moderator Rev Gary Ware inducted Mr Rossiter into the office by leading the Congregation in prayer.

Mr William (Bill) Macrae, Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of Western Australia preached a very encouraging and challenging occasional sermon entitled: "A New Commandment".

Invited guests, new and returning members of Assembly were welcomed and invited to join the congregation in a very well catered supper provided by the Millicent congregation. The time spent in fellowship at the breaks, supper, morning and afternoon tea and lunch were an encouragement to the Assembly and also those who joined us.

The Tuesday morning sitting commenced with our usual Communion Service led by Rev Bill Lutton, Director of mission partners our overseas mission organisation, who delivered another encouraging and challenging sermon "What A Real Church Looks Like".

The Assembly was pleased to receive the PWA report presented by Mrs Cathie Ross who showed and explained the story behind South Australian PWA's new banner which was on display.

Mr Bill Macrae presented a report on the Church in Western Australia, which is about the same size as our Church here and facing similar struggles. This was a great encouragement to all members of Assembly and the visitors who were present.

The Assembly heard the reports from the Committees and considered them and the deliverances, that is the requests of Assembly and the advice given to the Assembly from the relevant Committee, and then, after due consideration, made its decision on each deliverance.

The results of these decisions are available, to be read, from your Minister or your representative elder in what is known as Blue Book 2010.

Some of the more notable outcomes are:

Norwood/Para Hills charge has been divided into Norwood Appointment Parish and Para Hills charge,

Rev Damien Carson is the sole minister of the Para Hills charge,

Rev Andrew Gall has resigned from the ministry of Word and Sacrament of the Presbyterian Church of Australia,

Rev Alan Clarkson has retired from the Wattle Range Parish and been granted the status of Minister Emeritus,

Rev Dr Reg Mathews has retired from the Norwood/Para Hills

Parish and also been granted the status of Minister Emeritus,

Church and Nation Committee continues to monitor our Parliament and raise awareness of matters such as euthanasia, single sex marriage and other matters of concern to the Christian Community,

Code Committee has completed its revision of the Rules and the latest edition should be on the website when all the changes are completed,

Rev Ian Touzel was elected Moderator Elect for the 2011 Assembly at Mount Gambier,

Stipends and Allowances were set at 90% of that set by NSW Assembly,

Visit of Arlindo Marcal Moderator of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Timor Leste to South Australia in September,

Mission themed rallies planned for October,

New Regulations regarding reporting of Breaking the Silence compliance,

All congregations encouraged to keep the work of PCA Ministries before their congregations,

Annual Ladies Weekender continues to be supported,

Vision Bookshop commended to all congregations,

Assembly Committees to meet week beginning 5th July, 20th September, 8th November and 21st March 2011,

Assembly was greatly encouraged by the attendance of visitors to the Opening Service, the Communion Service and to the Assembly in general, and particularly to the Tuesday evening barbeque held in the hall at Millicent.

It is a credit to the members of St Andrews Millicent that the presentation of the church, preparation sought by the Clerk and Moderator and personal attendance at the Assembly meetings was far in excess of the expectations of the Assembly.

A particular thanks is extended to the Session Clerk Mr Alan Thompson for his organisation of the Tuesday evening Barbeque, catered by the Rotary



Club of Millicent, a job well done.

We give thanks to Almighty God for the faithful witness at Millicent and we pray that God will continue to bless this faithful and diligent ministry as he has in the past.

Brian Johnson
Clerk

Members of the 2010 General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of South Australia.

North Adelaide

The last quarter was a full calendar at North Adelaide. Special events included our Annual Tartan Day Celebration with many guests visiting from the Scottish societies, Scottish Radio and the Adelaide Kiwanis - the service was attended by over 100 people, and was followed by the addressing of the haggis and the building of some good friendships. We were especially thankful that Joseph Fombason and his wife Eveline invited a number of guests from the Adelaide Kiwanis.

We have been overjoyed to have the first Anniversary Celebration of the Korean Congregation - the growth that God brought about has been remarkable – the congregation now consists of 70+ members, and we are looking forward to Pastor Ahn's appointment as an assistant minister now that he has obtained permanent residency.

We are always saddened that just as new people keep joining our parish – those who have faithfully served and attended in past days are restricted in their attendance – some names that many of you will be familiar with have had enormous struggles - Mima Gray in her 108th year, Joan Macdonald, Elder Jim Petrie and his wife Doris, Elder Brian Redpath, Jim & Marion Hosie, Ray Mander, Alec Tanner and Eve Walker (one of the first police women in South Australia).

We are looking forward to welcoming again a number of new members (possibly twelve) at the next Communion Service....a delightful family from Kenya, a couple from Indonesia, a lass from Camerouns....along a with a couple of Aussies!

Last Sunday was a tremendous occasion with over 80 people sitting down for the Annual Yuletide Lunch together. A good opportunity to invite friends to church, then bring them to a three course meal, beautifully prepared by our Function Committee under the leadership of Jean Niven (our Session Clerk's wife) and a team of willing helpers. The service was specially made into an outreach service, *with the children's story addressing the issue of Jesus' dying so we could live, and the sermon was on the 'Parable of the Great Banquet'*. Afterwards, we were pleased to sing gospel songs and to a measure be entertained by the gospel group from Kersbrook Church of Christ

The Emerge on Archer@six service has stabilised but still needs some rebuilding. The arrival of Estaban & Kemerli Lievano has helped with the dynamic leading of the services and we hope that they can settle long term. Estaban is a final year student at QTC, and they plan to lead a worship workshop in September. *BOOKWISE* has been an exciting new venture during 2010....we have listened to, read and discussed the book 'Good and Beautiful God', and we are excited about starting the sequel 'Good and Beautiful life'.

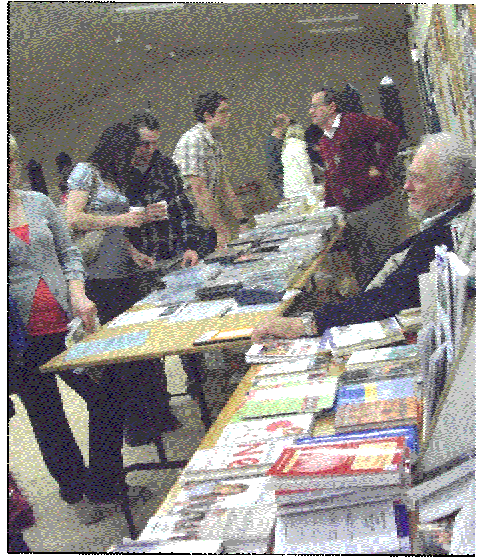
We praise God for his goodness and mercy...and so plead with him to be with us as we go forward into the rest of the year. Check out our webpage which is rapidly getting under construction and contact us at emergeonarcher@gmail.com; standrewskirk@gmail.com

To God be the glory

Chris Ten Broeke

Mount Gambier

John Mackay, Australian Director of Creation Research, was with us for a weekend of ministry on 28th-30th May. His theme was "Building a Christian Worldview".

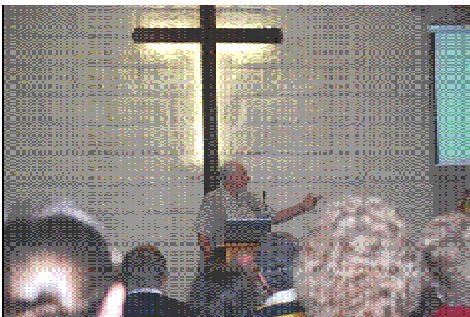


A highlight was the city wide service on the Sunday evening with approximately 180 people in attendance. John's message was "Sharing Jesus with a Dawkins, Darwin, World".

Ian Touzel

John opened up various aspects of the Christian worldview, from a creationist perspective, at six meetings over the weekend.

The Saturday morning men's breakfast was well attended and there were brisk sales of books, CDs and DVDs from the booktable.



Church and Nation Committee

The "Religion in the Public Square" three-day Colloquium, arranged and sponsored by the Presbyterian Church of Victoria's Church and Nation Committee, took place in Melbourne 22nd to 24th. July

A CD of the addresses on mp3 is available from the Reformers Bookshop in Sydney phone (02) 9564 3555

Another CD with the powerpoint slides will also become available as well.

Stefan Slucki
Convener

SA Church and Nation Committee

Naracoorte

St Andrews Naracoorte celebrated the Kirkin' of the Tartan on Sunday 4th July with a special service with invited guests from the Caledonian Society. Piper Don Patterson joined with our organist Mrs Jean Bunnik in the playing of music for some of the hymns including Highland Cathedral. Piper Don played along with Jean on her violin while the offering was taken up and again at the end of the service.

The following Sunday there were two Baptisms and a very large congregation attended. Toby Thomas Boord, son of Gavin and Kristy Boord and Jordan Glen Phillips, son of Mathew and Kathleen Phillips were baptised in the presence of family, friends and St Andrews congregation.

The Ladies Fellowship held their annual dinner at the Kincaig Hotel after church on Sunday 27th June. This was very well attended and people enjoyed going out during the day instead of at night. On Sunday 20th June the Ladies Fellowship took afternoon tea to the Longridge Retirement Village to share with several church members who don't get out very much. The residents appreciated the afternoon tea and re-acquainting themselves with friends who they do not see very often.

The last home in the current building program at Dunbar Naracoorte was occupied on 9th July. The Dunbar committee is to be commended on this wonderful project with 15 homes completed along Church Street, Magarey Crescent, Pethick Street and St Andrews Close.

Pat Leitch

Seacliff

In June we welcomed Nick, Heather and Matthew home from the Middle East, Matthew for a three-month-holiday before his next four-year-term of service there. It is uplifting to hear that satellite communication means that Christian content is freely available to him and fellow workers, where he serves, at present.

Preaching, during these days, has been both from the prophecy of Haggai and latterly on the *Character of God* based on Shorter Catechism question 4 and its answer "What is God? God Is Spirit: Infinite, Eternal, Unchangeable in His Being, Wisdom, Power, Holiness, Justice, Goodness and Truth" using the Scripture texts given in support as a basis for the sermons.

Sadly, both the building and hall were broken into in late July with significant damage done though not much property stolen.

In August the monthly craft-group made biscuit houses, some turning out like 'kit homes' (pictured). The group averages twelve with around half being regular attenders at Worship and the rest coming from outside the congregation; a regular devotional is held as part of the meeting.



Stefan Slucki

Para Hills

The last three months have gone past pretty quickly here at Para Hills. We have been enjoying the ministry of the Word and our fellowship together in our fortnightly house groups and Sunday worship. Our evening prayer service has declined in numbers somewhat, but the group that meets together at 5:00pm on Sunday nights is a very keen & consistent group and it has been a source of warm encouragement to those who have been attending. It's an extraordinary thing that we gather together each week with the express purpose of being in the presence of the Almighty God who is holy beyond our wildest imaginations, offended by our sin and unapproachable because of His glory. And yet calls us, deanses and forgives us, receives us, loves us and wants to hear our prayers. Extraordinary.

For the past twelve months or so our midweek groups, that are led by our elders, have been working through the statements of faith in the Apostles' Creed. Three other small groups also meet together on a monthly basis, and the session is praying about the possibility of a fourth group.

There has been some movement in terms of the congregation here at Para Hills. We have seen two families move on and two families move in. It's been a real blessing to us to have Cameron & Carmel Mackenzie attending regularly since finishing their tenure with PIM, but we will be saddened later on this year (or early in 2011) when we say goodbye to the Carswells as they take up their new post in the United States.

Matt & Steph Bannister went to Phillip Island in July and were taken in by the organisers of the Presbyterian Youth Victoria annual camp, to learn the ins and outs of running a camp for young people. Matt returned with a number of good ideas and was really encouraged by the availability of the PYV leaders to give support and advice for youth ministry in South Australia should we want or need it in the future.

A real highlight of this past quarter was meeting together for a dessert & coffee night with Matthew, to hear about his work & ministry. Usually we are pretty quiet when it comes to asking questions of visiting missionaries, but I think Matt answered about fifty questions on the night, from "what sort of septic system do you have" to "how do you tell the locals about Jesus"?!

We are in good spirits here at Para Hills and the Lord is at work among us. We are certainly looking forward to the warmer months, though! We plan, Lord willing, to hold a mens' dinner during August and to trial a "Sunday Roast", an after church roast lunch that will hopefully, in future, become an evangelistic opportunity for us to invite our friends & neighbours to.

As this report is written, our treasurer, Barbara Anderson, has not yet returned from her trip to the North Pole, but we received a postcard from Norway a couple of weeks ago. Before she left we arranged for Ian Robbie to gently explain to her that there would be no little cottage or toy factory when she got there. I think she was a little disappointed, but her fare was non-refundable so she decided to go anyway!!

Damien & Kelly are looking forward to a three week break at the end of September/ beginning of October in a slightly warmer location! Damien is perhaps the most ordinary fisherman on earth, but we wish him all the best as he blows the dust off his tackle box!!

Damien Carson

Penola

As I said before, the Penola and Mount Gambier Pastors and Elders are keeping our Church going by taking services while we are vacant. Please pray for the Wattle Range Charge that we are successful in our pursuits of calling a Pastor for the congregations.

PWA held a dinner meeting on 3rd June at Val McLean's home. Val always has a warm welcome, warm fire and music video to entertain us.



Ladies of the Church held a Street Stall (pictured) on 11th June to raise money for missions. Proceeds totalled \$677.00. Thanks to everyone who helped in any way. Men of the Penola congregation enjoy joining others from Protestant congregations in an evening of fellowship once a month called 'Shedmen'. This gives the men incentive to clean out their sheds for the gathering. The host family supplies dessert and everyone brings a salad to

share and their own meat to BBQ. Devotions and a current topical discussion, or a talk by the leader, usually happens after the main course. Most times there are twelve or more men who attend.

The July meeting of the PWA was moved to the afternoon so that ladies could carry out a working bee in the church hall. It was much needed after getting rid of the ants in the kitchen and eradicating mice from the hall! A lovely cuppa and afternoon tea was enjoyed at the end of it.

The Church and buildings were not damaged in the mini tornado that struck Penola last Saturday night. Bits of someone's plastic table were found up against the outside wall of the Church. Makes you wonder where it came from.

We held our annual luncheon and trading tables last Friday, 6th August. Although it was successful, the numbers were down for the luncheon. I suppose with the destruction of homes and buildings from the previous weekend, people had other priorities. I thank everyone who helped in any way towards this event and a special thank you those who took over the kitchen to clean up and do the dishes. I'm sure we all slept well on Friday night!

Has anyone seen our missing piano trolley?

Barbara Provis

8/8/10 (PS. Happy Birthday, Colin Ross-Smith)

Editor's Note

Thank you to all who have contributed items for this issue of SA News. Your contributions are very much appreciated. Contributions for the December 2010 issue are to be in my hands **no later than Monday 8th November 2010.**

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