



2022 ANNUAL REPORT

BENDIGO**BAPTIST**CHURCH

TO BE A
COMMUNITY OF
EMPOWERED
BELIEVERS
REACHING OUR
CITY, STATE,
NATION AND
GLOBE FOR
JESUS.

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COMMIT TO THE LORD
WHATEVER YOU DO,
AND HE WILL
ESTABLISH YOUR PLANS.

PROVERBS 16:3

Senior PASTOR

There is no denying that the last 3 years, since COVID-19 hit our shores, have tested us all – individually and as a church. There was a sense of great sadness for us all as we farewelled Pastor Brock Gravener in November 2021 and then Pastor Dave Gillett in January 2022. Each of them has played such a significant part in the life of this church and it's taken us some time to adjust to their absence. We are deeply grateful for the impact of their ministry, and we firmly believe that God is using each of them as they continue to follow His call on their lives.

While the impact of the pandemic was still being felt at the end of last year, it was with a sense of bright optimism that we stepped into 2022 believing that God was still in control and the best was yet to come. There is no doubt that God has been at work among us during this period and we give thanks to Him for the following:

Ministry Innovation: For decades the weekend service has served as the key vehicle for gathering a large crowd of Jesus followers for meaningful corporate worship. The pandemic helped us innovate and explore other key vehicles for growing biblical disciples. I'm so grateful to be a part of a church that was willing to adapt and embrace other models and approaches towards ministry. A huge thanks to the many people who stepped up and gave leadership in our multiple micro gatherings from September 2021 through January 2022. An even bigger thanks to those that continue to assist with our weekly livestream. It's reach is huge and the ministry potential of an online campus is something we will continue to explore.

Community Care Hub: This time last year we thought we had a potential home in

View St for this important ministry in the city. When God closed the door on that property, He opened another door giving us the opportunity to purchase the property that we we'd been renting in Hargreaves St for the past ten years. God's hand in this was obvious as we received three donations totalling \$1.8 million dollars – the exact sale price of the building. We praise God for His incredible provision and look forward to renovating this building in 2023 to suit ministry needs.

Bendigo Christian College: As I write this, we're still currently waiting for our Planning Permit from the Minister of Planning and registration permission from the VRQA (Victorian Registration & Qualifications Authority) to start the school in February 2023. The work that has gone and continues to go into this application process by the college board is massive and we're grateful for the work of people like Gary Griffen, Abe Steel and Ian Stephens who have shouldered a heavy load in recent months. We are giving thanks to God for **\$350,000** that was given in short term loans to assist BCC with start-up cashflow should they receive the green light to start by the VQRA.

Faith Decisions & Baptisms: We are celebrating 15 faith decisions and 11 baptisms YTD across the life of the church.

Ministry Staff: We were grateful for the appointment of Pastor Andrew Johnston as the Campus Pastor at Eaglehawk. His ministry in that community continues to build upon the strong foundation left by Ps. Brock. We also acknowledged the work of Jenny McWilliam (BBC) and Maree Shay (BBCCI) for their ten years of ministry.

Generosity: As a church, we have

responded with great generosity throughout this year to meet the financial commitments of our ministry budget. We are currently behind our budget but I'm confident that we will finish strong. We received donations of \$15,300 for the crisis in Ukraine and this was directed towards Baptist World Aid for distribution amongst those that are most needy in that region. We also received \$1,300+ in the month of September for the work of Mission Aviation Fellowship.

Internships: Our intern program has played a significant role in helping shape and grow the lives of Sam Nicholas and Uzzielle Santos. It has been a thrill to see the transformation that has occurred in their lives throughout the year. I'm grateful for Ps. Treena's leadership and for the broader input of our ministry team in this leadership development pipeline.

Ministry in 2022 would not have been possible without the faithfulness of many different people in the life of our church. I am very grateful for the strong leadership of our **CHURCH COUNCIL** who have helped us emerge from the pandemic with a renewed ministry focus. Their contribution to this body of believers is immense and we appreciate their willingness to provide leadership in what has been a tough season of life. I also want to express my gratitude to Ken Geyer for his faithful ministry on Council over the past 15 years. He will be stepping down from this role at the end of the year to pursue other interests. We praise God for the wisdom and discernment that he has given in service to this church.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank our extensive **MINISTRY TEAM** at BBC and BBCCI for their faithful contribution and service in the past twelve months. These times have been incredibly challenging and each of them have made many sacrifices to serve our church family. Their dedication to our mission and vision is truly inspiring and I trust that God continues to bless their ministry endeavours in the coming year. Please take time to thank them if your life has been touched by their ministry.

And finally, I want to thank the numerous **MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS** that have continued to faithfully serve our Lord Jesus Christ. Please know that your ministry is making a difference in the lives of others. Thank you for the part you've played in LOVING GOD, LOVING OTHERS and being about the MISSION of GOD in this world.

As you read the reports that follow, I pray that your heart will be stirred with gratitude by all that God is doing across Bendigo Baptist Church. Next year we will take time to celebrate 170 years of continual ministry at BBC and I'm looking forward to our future as we seek to BE disciples that MAKE other disciples of Jesus Christ in this city, state, nation, and globe.

For His Glory
Pastor Dave Lovell
Senior Pastor



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Welcome to our Annual Report for 2022. I would like to start by capturing Tim Schofield's (Church Council Chairman 2020 - 2021) closing remarks from last year's Annual Report.

These are exciting times and we need to be ready to respond as He leads us. Stay encouraged Church...you are loved dearly! If I can reflect on the early part of the year, then come back to these words.

In January we farewelled the Gillett family as Dave became the Pastor at Epsom Community Church. Dave, Allie, Lewis, Emma and Noah have all played a part at Bendigo Baptist, Dave having served in ministry for over 10 years and as Generations Pastor had a significant ministry and impact in our church community. He presented well researched sermons, often did follow-up podcasts, coordinated young adult village nights and Sunday evening services. Lots of weddings and baptisms as well as ensuring our Youth and Children's ministries were well supported. It was good to celebrate the Gillett's contributions, bless them and release them to further ministry in a new setting.

You may recall that January was also an unsettling month as COVID was still front of mind and securing a supply of RATs (Rapid Antigen Tests) was the pre-occupation of many and created a new dose of fear in negotiating the way forward. Fortunately, February saw a slow calming of COVID hysteria, and we could actually see our way forward in doing church and life in a manner where we lived with COVID and got on with things.

In returning to Tim's closing remarks above, we have experienced exciting times

at Bendigo Baptist since February and in many respects (whilst we may not have recognised this at the time), we were ready to respond to God's lead and in lots of ways we have stayed encouraged.

It was after February where Pastor Dave Lovell felt somewhat burdened with a sense of grief, after both personal circumstances dating back over 2 years, and difficult times in ministry negotiating the latter part of 2021, culminated in him initiating the sermon series *Rhythms that feed our soul*, which followed preaching series on *Revolutionary Disciple*, *King Jesus* and *Generous*. It was the *Rhythms* series that has helped many within the church to recalibrate their lives and seek new, ongoing ways to connect with God.

In May, church members gathered to affirm the appointment of Andrew Johnston as Campus Pastor, Eaglehawk after having conducted a very successful temporary appointment where he had greatly endeared himself to the local church community. The evidence since then further confirms that this has been a very beneficial appointment. The Brazier Street house has had minor structural changes to increase room sizes and be more suitable for children's and other ministry activities.

With the ability to re-gather for in-person services it has been fantastic to see new families attending and very successful Newcomer's gatherings, creating opportunities to meet others and to understand a little more of who we are.

The great news story of this year has been Bendigo Baptist Community Care Inc (BBCCI) being able to purchase 214 Hargreaves Street (building), debt free,

with the support of several very generous donations. The excitement has continued to grow, powered by this outcome and the possibility of planting new churches and fellowships, again, assisted by the prospect of external funding sources.

As a Church Council, we have greatly appreciated the removal of barriers to meeting and serving together on the one hand, and on the other, the new energy to go forward collectively, in building our discipleship culture and breaking of new ground in ministry.

On behalf of Church Council, I would like to acknowledge the contribution of all our staff team and interns who have stepped up this year taking on additional tasks, doing extra hours from time to time, maintaining a positive attitude, and willingly supporting each other. Thank You!!

At the start of the year, I re-joined Church Council after a brief break and we welcomed Dale Caldwell, Angela Schofield and Gaelle Broad to Council as well, working with Jeff Kraak, Graeme Coleman, Ken Geyer, Geoff

Jordan and Dave Lovell. We have worked extremely well as a Council team, and it has been a joy to do ministry together. Ken Geyer has advised he will not be seeking re-nomination and I would like to acknowledge his contribution which collectively totals some 15 years involvement on Church Council. I speak for Council when I say that we will miss his input, wisdom and encouragement.

In closing, may I say that it has been a delight to work with our Senior Pastor, Dave Lovell as we have adjusted to our new relationship, with the roles that we carry.

May you as our church community, be encouraged, be excited, and most of all, be ever mindful that we are all ordinary people tasked with God's mission where we are, doing His kingdom work.

Ian Stephens
Chair
Church Council



TREASURER'S BBC REPORT

OFFERINGS SUMMARY

	Ministry giving actual 2022	Ministry giving budget 2022	Ministry giving actual 2021	Total shortfall monthly
January	83,976	69,000	66,781	14,976
February	55,814	69,000	58,059	-13,186
March	57,268	69,000	73,750	-11,732
April	50,621	69,000	58,946	-18,379
May	67,153	69,000	55,370	-1,847
June	71,124	69,000	85,117	2,124
July	88,405	69,000	68,134	19,405
August	66,716	69,000	66,648	-2,284
September	57,000	69,000	55,348	-12,000
October	-	69,000	54,649	-69,000
November	-	69,000	63,696	-69,000
December	-	69,000	73,521	-69,000
Year to Date	\$598,077	828,000	\$780,019	- 229,923
Monthly av.	\$66,453			
monthly ministry goal		\$69,000		
Excess/- Shortfall YTD				- 22,923
% excess/-shortfall				-3.69%

2022 has been a challenging year for many of us and this has also been the case with the BBC giving. The giving to September 2022 is \$22,923 below budget (this time last year BBC was \$32,847 below budget). There have only been a few months where the monthly giving budget has been met.

However, due to our staff levels not being at budgeted levels there has been a savings in salaries to the end of September of \$104,792 (due to resignations of senior staff at the end of 2021 which haven't been fully replaced yet). This savings in expenses, together with hire of facilities income exceeding budget has meant that our bank account has actually improved over the 12 month period. The balance at 30 September 2022 was \$220,087 (which is above the comfort level of \$70,000). The Building for Life loan has remained almost unchanged for the past 12 months at \$358,198.

Monies held on behalf of the Htoo Moo Paw church is currently \$140,402. As they open their open bank accounts in the coming year our bank account will reduce by that amount.

SUMMARY

TOTAL BANK BALANCES AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2022

Bendigo Baptist Church Balance Sheet Prev Year Comparison As of September 30, 2022

	◊	Sep 30, 22	◊	Sep 30, 21	◊	\$ Change	◊
Baptist Financial Services Bank		375.73		8,711.28		-8,335.55	
BANK							
Sunda Funds to be paid out	13,631.49		12,784.79		846.70		
LOAN Bendigo Christian College	539.19		-31,439.51		31,978.70		
LOAN Building for Life	-358,197.72		-357,371.24		-826.48		
CONTINGENCY FUND	8,777.40		8,777.40		0.00		
CAPITAL WORKS FUNDS	16,862.92		16,862.92		0.00		
GENERAL 345677/chq	220,086.67		97,490.72		122,595.95		
SPECIFIED FUNDS	<u>136,879.26</u>		<u>95,094.20</u>		<u>41,785.06</u>		
Total BANK		38,579.21		-157,800.72		196,379.93	

Despite the challenging times we continue to see God's blessing touching many lives connected with BBC. He has given us so much throughout the years. The challenge in the coming year will be to increase our giving to meet any increase in our staff at BBC to ensure our current and future ministry needs are adequately met. We continue to look to him who will sustain us through these challenging times.

Geoff Jordan CPA



**CONNECT
& CARE**
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PASTORAL CARE



Singing out, arms raised high, I looked out across the congregation, seeing familiar faces and new, worshipping our Lord together in one accord. Tears of joy streamed down my cheeks as I silently spoke to God as I sang.



“Thank You Lord! How good is it to be back as your body worshipping You in Spirit and in Truth. The body of Christ as You designed; we need You and we need one another. I didn’t realise how much I had missed this until now!!”



This was the highlight of my year; week by week, seeing the church family return. Greeting sisters and brothers in the foyer, sharing communion as one in Christ, praying for one another, grieving together, celebrating prayer



answers, and gold balloons adorning the stage!

Jesus’ parable of the lost sheep in Luke 15 reveals to us the heart of a shepherd; He sees the one amongst the flock. He notices when one goes missing and He leaves the 99 to seek the 1. Each one is known to the shepherd, their characteristics and personality, their idiosyncrasies, their struggles, their joys, their unique markings, and ways. Each one matters. Each one belongs. Each one gifted for the other. He loves each one.

Pastors are often referred to as shepherds of the flock and albeit quite imperfect compared to the Great Shepherd, my heart, amidst the grief and loss of recent years, was set to go after the 1s and make sure that IF they were no longer part of the fold @BBC, they were connected somewhere and were still following the Great Shepherd.

Therefore, April & May saw us checking in with

over one hundred individuals and families not yet back at Junortoun campus, to ascertain their status. There has been much movement amongst flocks, a shifting, and a resettling, and now, toward the end of 2022, sheep are finding or re-finding their fold. And I’m grateful. I’m grateful for the time spent tracking, tending, listening, and understanding. I’m grateful for the new additions. Most of all I’m grateful that the Great Shepherd continues to tend so compassionately with me.

The BBC Care team of Tamaryn Lim, Jenny Trebilcock, Margaret Robinson, Lynn Boland, Laura Blyth, David Haugh, Clynton Robinson, and myself have welcomed Roni Gonzaga to the team in 2022. Additionally, we benefitted temporarily from a Young Adult; Gen Ellis, as well as intern; Uzzielle Santos.

The monthly Monday Prayer Meeting @7, Prayer Notes, the Emergency Prayer Chain ably administrated by Graeme Parker & Lauren Gaskell, and our Sunday & Special Prayer Ministry Teams have necessitated prayer as priority at BBC. Answers at times have been immeasurably more than we could ask or imagine and have grown faith and depth of trust in our Lord’s sovereignty and mercy. Waiting with others, some for years now, has required new levels of trust and faithfulness; our Lord hears the cry of each one and all we can do is trust God’s heart and perfect timing as we wait.

It has been fabulous to re-establish visitation in many areas including newborn babies, communion, and shut-in care. Hospital and palliative visits continued to be restricted, but we were able to successfully acquire a pass when necessary.

We have said “bye for now” to several special brothers and sisters this year, relieved their suffering is over and they are in the presence of our Lord. Participating in memorial services has increased and provided growth opportunities

to serve in this way. The grief and loss remain for many as they learn a new rhythm without their loved one. God is the greatest Comforter and Healer, and He ministers through Holy Spirit with loving care. He also ministers through His children and journeying through crisis, grief and loss is part of this team's privilege.

Cards ministry was capably led by Jenny and supported by Laura, and we are grateful to Janet Gawthrop for providing us with her beautiful homemade cards. Food Tidings has been re-established by Tamaryn, who now has a team of 18 ready to provide meals.

The BBC Care team has been intentionally visually present in the foyer on Sundays. They have joined me for the prayer walk before services, praying with children and youth teams, provided additional pastoral care greeting in the foyer and have afforded after service prayer. This has facilitated re-connecting with the church family, connecting with newcomers, and hearing of pastoral care needs.

Our bi-monthly team meetings have sought to build deeper relationships, share testimonies, devotions and pray with and for one another and church care needs and has been a priority which has drawn us closer and deeper as a team. I appreciated time spent 1:1 with team members and seeing their growth and development in their love for the Lord through their discipleship

Alternate months saw us run training events aimed at deepening knowledge and understanding on

specific topics relevant to our church family. We have welcomed many from our BBC community, other churches and chaplains and provided awareness, prevention, and skills. Topics covered so far in 2022 are: Pastoral Care 101, Mental Health First Aid Certification across two Saturdays, Suicide Awareness & Prevention and Neurodiversity. Pornography Awareness, Prevention & Healing, Managing Emotions & King Lies, as well as a Couple Enrichment Coffee & Dessert night, are still to come.

It has been a fulfilling year as we have come back **BETTER TOGETHER!**

I would like to thank the BBC Care Team for their consistent dedication and care to our BBC family and their love, care, and prayers for me. Thanks also to my husband David and our children Bailey, Mitchell & Melyce who have continued to support and release me to serve our BBC family. Thanks to God for the privilege of sharing in your lives and trusting me to carry the precious burdens of your hearts. May we all seek to grow deeper connection with God and may He transform each one of us to Christlikeness, for His glory.

Michelle Cook
Pastoral Care Worker



PIECEMAKERS

Piecemakers have been excited to be able to meet again after what has been a difficult period in our history.

Our numbers have been growing and it has been wonderful to see a number of new ladies become part of our group.

Good fellowship has been a key as ladies have been actively involved in sewing, knitting, embroidery, patchwork and crochet, also making items for Samaritans Purse shoeboxes.

We continue to meet on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month and welcome anyone who would like to join us. Robyn and several other ladies have shared in a time of encouragement and then we are joined by ministry staff for morning tea. This is a highlight.

Reporting last year I said.

This year we along with so many others had to abandon gathering as a group.

We have relished the opportunity to come back together in the last month or so but recognise that venue availability due to government regulations still makes the immediate future uncertain. We live in hope.

Our Hope has been realised and we are delighted to be back and flourishing.

Robyn Geyer

SERVING CHRIST TOGETHER

Serving Christ Together is a ladies group with a Mission Focus.

It has been possible to meet for a full year after our previous years of lockdowns and has been much appreciated as we meet on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Tuesday mornings of the month at the Junortoun and Eaglehawk Churches.

We have acknowledged 109 years of continuous Women's Ministry as we continue to support our

Missionaries around the world, our church and each other.

Used postage stamps are still collected to send to Baptist Mission Australia as they continue to support our Missionaries around the world.

Lorraine Clarke
Secretary

DISCIPLESHIP

2022

Annual Reports

DISCIPLESHIP (NATIONAL/GLOBAL)

There are so many things to be thankful for as I write this report, not the least is the reduction in covid restrictions allowing us some long-awaited freedoms and yes, travel!

We have been able to hold two journey trainings at our Junortoun campus this year in April and August, I along with Dawn, was able to be involved with both of these as well as do an external Journey training in the lower Blue Mountains with a church group. This was a wonderful time, the lead Pastor and one of his key leaders were also able to join us in our August Journey training. Both have said they found it very helpful as they plan the future direction of their Church growth and discipleship will sit centre of what they do. This has been very rewarding to work closely with the Lead pastor and I will continue to so in the future we have developed a close friendship over the last couple of years. He has mentioned to me on numerous occasions his gratitude to BBC for the role you allow me to play in their Discipleship development, as well as with other groups.

The early part of the year saw us commission

Kate as she left for South East Asia to serve with Baptist Mission Australia, and to work among our adopted people group the Sunda. This was so exciting for us as a church family to see a home-grown Disciple of Jesus step up to go and make disciples of all nations. The transition for Kate has been a huge one, with the relocation as well as language learning, adjusting to a new culture, health and integrating into the team there. Working with our other intercultural partners continues to be such a joy for me personally as we come along side of them, encourage them and pray for them, as well as financially support their ministries. We now have four of our own people who we partner with, this is a great discipleship model as we take the great commission of our Lord Jesus seriously. Raising up our people to have a heart for the nations as we as a Church identify, disciple, and empower followers of Jesus to go and make more followers of Jesus in intercultural situations. The role of Global discipleship pastor has allowed us to support our partners in a next level manner and I am sure if you spoke to any of them, they would tell you of their appreciation

to the Church for benefits of the relationship they enjoy. Because of the role, it has helped us to be much more intentional with our partners.

In May we held the Mission Sunday where one of our partners Andy M who is from Baptist Mission Australia, share with us at both campuses over three services. He had us looking at how we can be equipped to walk across the street or across the Globe, with the Good News message. 'MAF Fuel for Father's Day' was taken up well and we had a great response from the Church Family.

We continue to aid in practical support also where we can. In the month of August we sent a work team up to Numbulwar NT where Josh and Steph Mackenzie live, to paint the inside and outside of the Church building. The team consisted of Pastor Andrew Johnston, Clynton Robinson and Wes Steel. They did an amazing job and accomplished what they set out to do both work and to be an encouragement to Josh and Steph, this also doubled as a Pastoral visit by Pastor AJ. Phil Trebilcock and I will be doing a tour of our Partners in Southeast Asia in October, this will take in three of our partners as well as time spent with our adopted people group. This will be a wonderful time to see Kate, Andy L, also Dave and Enty. Phil and I will be looking at a project that will support the continuation of ministry in the Hill community.

I have had the privilege of assisting the Granite Flat Community Church to find a Pastor, this is proving to be a challenge as many of our rural Churches are finding. The role of moderator is a new one to me so learning on the job. I have had good support from the Regional Baptist Minister Graeme Semple along with Pastor Dave Lovell, they have both supported me in this. If you know of anyone, please let me know, thanks.

It was a highlight to have some of the RLM team come out in August. I have been and continue to have a Discipling relationship with Jeff Pettit who is the regional coach for Australia, we have been able to develop a very close working relationship. We have a South Pacific group we are all in with Richard from New Zealand and Dave from Fiji. Building each other up and encouraging each other in our ministries.

I am excited about many of the opportunities that God continues to bring our way, as a Church we can partner with Him to Be and make disciples of Jesus.

Bless Ya

David Gascoigne

National and Global Discipleship Pastor



DISCIPLESHIP (LOCAL)

This year marks my first year on staff where we haven't been in rolling lockdowns! I'm grateful for the ways in which I see God continually at work, in and amongst us, as we grow as a church of disciples who be and make disciples in relational environments. Jesus has given us the blueprint for discipleship and as we follow him, are transformed by him and are committed to being on mission with him, we will grow to maturity in Christ.

As well as the specific areas of responsibility that I have in my role, I have seen evidence of our continued growth in discipleship as people in our congregations have responded in faith decisions and baptism. The responses to our 'Generous' sermon series to serve and give was one of the most encouraging experiences of my year. People have continued to grow in their spiritual maturity as they have dug deeper into various spiritual disciplines in response to what God has said to us through the Spiritual Rhythms series. The message of 'abiding in Christ' has certainly been prominent in 2022, beginning with our Revolutionary Disciple series back in February and continuing through the year in many forms. This abiding relationship is at the heart of what it is to be and make disciples.

LIFE GROUPS

I have again had the privilege this year of walking alongside our Life Group Leaders. We currently have 27 Life Groups, capably and lovingly led by leaders who faithfully nurture and care for their groups through every season of life. We had some groups finish up at the end of last year and new groups start this year. For many groups 2022 has been a year of rebuilding and re-connecting after two years of lockdowns, isolation and disruption to normal routines. With so many new people calling BBC 'home', it has been encouraging – and essential – to have so many Life Groups that have opened their homes and hearts to new group members. A challenge for us heading into

the future is to identify and equip emerging Life Group leaders so that our groups can branch and incorporate more of the people that want to join a Life Group.

As part of supporting Life Group Leaders, I have hosted bi-monthly Life Group Leader Gatherings. These evenings have been designed to equip and encourage leaders as we explore different elements of relational discipleship including building healthy relational environments, group facilitation skills and how to lead intentionally. Each session has provided Life Group leaders with the opportunity to share their experiences, learn from one another and pray for each other.

JOURNEY TRAINING

A highlight this year has been running Journey Training events in April and August. Journey Training is a foundational tool for us as we develop a culture of being and making disciples and it has been exciting to see so over 70 people from our church, and beyond, experience and engage with the training. I am thankful for the staff and volunteers who have served to make Journey Training possible, particularly our facilitator and catering teams.

In August we were delighted to welcome a team from Real Life Ministries, Idaho to be part of our Journey Training and our Relational Discipleship Weekend. RLM have invested a great deal into our pursuit of biblical relational discipleship, and it was a significant time together, both personally, and for the entire staff team and wider church. We deeply appreciate their on-going support, encouragement, wisdom and friendship.

INTERNS

Relational discipleship was also expressed through our Intern program in 2022. Uzzielle Santos and Sam Nicholas came on board as

Youth Interns and have participated in our BBC Intern Development Program and the Baptist Union of Victoria EMERGE Leadership Program. As we continue to develop our Intern program, we trust that more and more emerging leaders will be challenged, encouraged and grown through serving as Interns. It has been an honour to walk through this year with Sam and Uzzielle and to see the many ways in which they have grown in their relationship with Jesus and as leaders. We are offering Internships again in 2023 and look forward to seeing who God leads into this unique opportunity.

LOOKING AHEAD

I'm excited to see what God will do in us and through us in 2023 as we live out the call to be and make disciples in relational environments. In every relational vehicle, from our Sunday gatherings to those one-on-one discipling relationships, Jesus is at work to transform us to be more like him so that we can be more and more effective in helping others come to faith in Christ. I am looking forward to playing my part in helping us to continue to grow in

spiritual maturity as disciples of Jesus. Heading into 2023 I will be trialling a new discipleship training program by Jim Putman, looking at different ways for us to run Journey Training for specific ministry teams, championing our Life Group leaders, supporting our Interns, as well as continuing to develop our discipleship pathways at BBC.

Thank you for the on-going privilege of being part of the ministry team here at BBC. Your support, encouragement and prayers make all the difference! I am part of an incredible team – both staff and volunteers – and am profoundly thankful for God's call to ministry at BBC.

Blessings

Treena Denny

Local Discipleship Pastor



EAGLEHAWK CAMPUS 2022 *Annual Report*

EAGLEHAWK CAMPUS

It's an absolute privilege to report on the wonderful ministry happening at our Eaglehawk Campus. It's been 8 years since the merger, with God working in some amazing ways over those years. This report reflects on some of what's been happening and responds to the goals that were agreed to at the commencement of my appointment as Campus Pastor in April this year.

DISCIPLESHIP CULTURE

Over the last 5 years, Bendigo Baptist Church (BBC) has done a great job of realigning its vision and mission to reflect the task that Jesus left His disciples. Discipleship is very much a passion of mine and I'm totally behind the Church's vision for what this could look like in the region. Furthermore, aligning the Eaglehawk Campus with the vision of BBC not only unifies us, but will also position the Eaglehawk Campus well for the future. Over the past 9 months, pursuing a discipleship culture through modelling and encouraging the participation in a variety of relational environments has certainly been achieved and will always be front and centre in shaping future conversations and ministries. We are very excited about what God is going to do in the Eaglehawk community as we seek to follow, be transformed and serve on mission with Him in the coming year.

TEAM MINISTRIES

One of the mandates that sits strong in the role as Campus Pastor at Eaglehawk is to build a team ministry that leads our Youth and Children's Ministry. While this is a work in progress, we have established a Kids Ministry Team which leads Kids Church on Sunday. This has enabled us to restart this vital ministry with between 10-14 children in attendance at the 9:30am service, which has been a great move forward for the Eaglehawk Campus and is progressing along well. There are also the beginnings of a Men's Ministry Team. It's been great to see them take on the monthly Pizza Nights with up to 25 in attendance.

CURRENT MINISTRIES

There are several ministries that are happening at the Eaglehawk Campus. Over the course of the

year, we have given time for all of our ministries to promote themselves in the anchor spot on Sunday mornings. This has been a great way for the congregation to be aware of all the ministries at Eaglehawk and an encouragement for us to support and pray for one another.

Café 3:16 continues to be an amazing outreach into the Eaglehawk community. Led by Travis and Rhian Cox, and a wonderful team of highly committed leaders, Café 3:16 has between 40-60 participants connecting on a weekly basis. Alison Apostolou, with her team of helpers, do a great job each week in providing a delicious meal, which is enjoyed by everyone. Each night consists of worship, prayer, gospel presentation and intentional conversations. God is certainly working in the lives of many at Café, and it's encouraging to see so many connect in and call Café their family. Under the guidance of Travis and Rhian, ALPHA is available on Tuesday nights for any Café participants. This has seen 12 in attendance and will be an ongoing part of the café community moving forward.

MADCOW Community Garden is an important part of our community engagement. Under the leadership of Lloyd Crothers, the community garden meets fortnightly on Saturday mornings. There are 10-15 who regularly attend, helping with the maintenance, harvesting and building of the garden. Wicking beds are a strong feature of the garden, along with, composting and a worm farm. The garden provides a great opportunity for anyone with an interest in sustainability, organic gardening, recycling, upcycling and or just being in the outdoors. Every morning there is a morning tea/lunch which is a great space for faith conversations.

Schools Ministry is another key ministry at Eaglehawk. Led by Alison Phillips and a dedicated team of helpers, with a particular focus on the Eaglehawk Primary School. Breaky Club, classroom reading and cooking classes on Fridays with parents and students, are all part of the team's ministry. Alison leads a monthly pray meeting and discussion which has been pivotal in keeping the schools of Eaglehawk in our minds and hearts. It's been good to also have Alison Gillett (School

Chaplain) joining in, as this has been a wonderful way of supporting her in her role. I have the privilege of sitting on the School Council, which also gives the Church an opportunity to be involved in the care and nurture of staff and students connected to Eaglehawk Primary School.

PASTORAL CARE

A big part of any pastoral role is the oversight of pastoral care. Meeting with Mark Boyd regularly, is a great way not only hearing of pastoral needs within the Eaglehawk congregation, but also helps facilitate an action plan for care. Mark and the team do an incredible job of showing love and support to those who need it within the church community at Eaglehawk. Cards, flowers, meals, phone calls, texts, emails and visits are all part of the good work that happens under Mark's leadership. Meeting monthly to discuss the needs of the congregation, helps in keeping the team informed and facilitating a care plan. This is followed by a lunch together in a local café, which has been a great way of building relationships within the team.

BUILDING PROJECT

The passion to continue pursuing a new build at Eaglehawk is very much part of the vision for the Church and the Eaglehawk congregation. A meeting with the Bendigo City Council on Tuesday the 4th of October 2022 confirmed that we are well positioned to go ahead with a building project at Eaglehawk. While there are some minor considerations that need addressing, for example, making sure we have adequate parking bays, heritage compliance and neighbourhood considerations, the council is supportive of the build, seeing it as a good thing for the Eaglehawk community. Currently the needs of the church are not requiring more space, however, as the church grows, more space to do ministry is inevitable.

In all, the Eaglehawk Campus is a wonderful church community. While there have been some demographic changes over the last 12 months, things are heading in the right direction. As we continue to build on the good work of many past leaders, particularly that of Brock and Bree Gravener, over the past decade. I strongly believe that the Eaglehawk Campus will continue to flourish as a community of people who love and follow Jesus, thus making a difference in the local community. With 2023 pending, there is a spirit of excitement in the air as to what God will do in the Eaglehawk in this coming year.

Eaglehawk Campus Pastor
Andrew Johnston





CHILDREN, YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS

2022

Annual Reports



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

None of us knew what to expect in Children's Ministry this year. We headed into it ready to see what God had instore for us post Covid. We have not been disappointed!

Last year we thanked and farewelled Dave Gillett, Louise Nott and Spencer McWilliam.

Each of them played a massive part in the lives of our children over many years and we have all missed them greatly.

God gifted us with teams of people who picked up where they left off and very successfully carried on the mission, working extraordinarily

hard to teach and model what loving Jesus with your whole heart looks like. We are all extremely grateful to each team member for the contribution they have made this year!

In Term 1 we relaunched Kidz Biz, our Preschool Ministry, and Gateway, our primary school ministry. Term 2 saw the Youth team and the Children's teams join forces to relaunch Youth Church for our grades 6 to year 8. In Term 3 we rebranded creche as Mini Biz and welcomed our one and two year olds into our space during the sermon. Each one of these ministry areas have grown and flourished over the year. We have consistently had around 100 children and adults in with us on Sunday mornings. It has been so good to be together in person all year!

We continue to ask God to provide more people who are committed to the spiritual growth of our children and who are available on Sunday mornings. Trusting that He will give those who serve a deep joy and awareness of the eternal value in what they do. There is still plenty of room for growth in our leadership teams; they have been well and truly stretched with our numbers over the year.

A special mention to Jenny McWilliam, Matt Johnston and David Gascoigne. They have been so generous with their time and talents as we have worked together to implement new legislation, brainstorm ideas, and continue to see our young people stay connected to God and each other as they transition through each life stage.

These are some of the many highlights for me this year:

- * Watching our leaders form healthy teams, working so well together, encouraging each other and seeing those more experienced discipling others. Watching people take a risk as they have learnt new skills and seeing them all faithfully love our children.

- * Seeing the children engage with each other. Friendships grow in importance as children get older and seeing them develop relationships with others who love Jesus, and will encourage them, has been wonderful.

- * Watching our younger children engage in the big story of God's great love for them, and seeing our older ones dive into some big

questions about life, faith, scripture, which have both served to show all of them that they too are a part of God's ongoing story of redemption.

- * Hearing the children learn new songs, that teach great truths, and also happen to be ear worms.

- * Hearing so many children say the monthly memory verses, knowing that they understand them, and that God will fulfill His promise that His word will never return void.

- * Hearing the stories from families as they have continued to grow in confidence in their ability to disciple their children. This year we have had more families than ever using what we do on Sunday mornings throughout the week. We have continued to offer through the website and social media: devotions, conversation cues, activities and prayers, which have been utilised this year and that has absolutely been a highlight!

- * Hearing the stories of those children who have made a decision to follow Jesus! Yay, for gold balloons!!

Thank you so much to all the wonderful people who make it possible for us to have such an amazing ministry and thank you so much to our families for choosing to partner with us.

We are very excited about what God has planned for us next year!

Donna Clarke
Children's Ministry Worker (Junortoun)



YOUTH MINISTRY

2022 has been one of a kind for our Ignite Youth Ministry here at Bendigo Baptist Church. We have seen God move through so many different ways in the youth this year. We have had multiple youth make a decision to follow Jesus, from our week to week program on a Friday night, Winter Camp, and also combined Bendigo youth ministry events this year. We have seen three youth been baptized after our camp, friendships being created, a youth worship band form, fantastic games for fun, opportunities for Christian DJing in our program, and so much more occur this year. It has been a real encouragement to see the growth in numbers across the year, the excitement for every Friday night, and teenagers being equipped with the model of being and making disciples in their own context as well.

Our youth ministry has been involved in some regional and state wide Youth Alive events this year as well, which has been a huge highlight for our teenagers seeing that they are not alone in their faith journey. Seeing hundreds and thousands of other teenagers passionate for God, has really given us back at Ignite Youth momentum and focus on what exciting things we have going back in Bendigo. This was also evident through Winter Camp, and will be evident in our new event being launched this year called Summer Fest. which is our big outreach night for the year.

Coming into this year off the back of the last two years dealing with Covid, there has definitely been some struggles along the

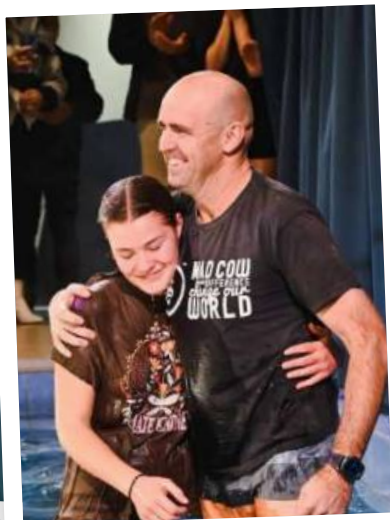
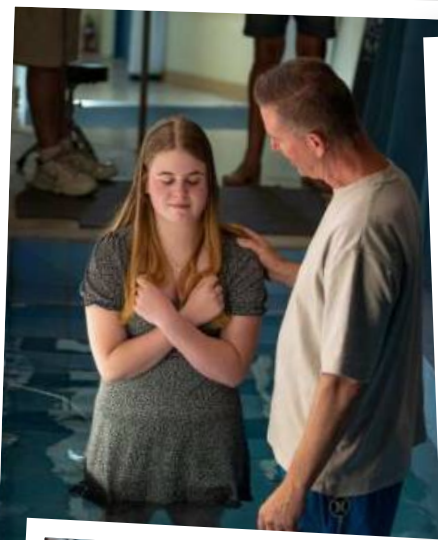
way. Getting youth excited about being back together and passionate about pursuing Jesus for themselves, our amazing youth team have done a superb job in bringing all sorts of personalities, hobbies, talents and passions out of our themselves and also the youth in which they were discipling as well. Our interns Sam Nicholas, and Uzzielle Santos, have been the back bone of the team, in organising, administration, and leading the way in the mission and vision of the youth ministry. They both have taken the role of interns in their stride, implemented what they have learnt into actions, and lived out what it means to be a disciple who makes disciples in our youth.

It is so exciting what is to come for Ignite Youth in the future, already seeing the favour God has on it this year. I'm amazed at the transformation and quality it has reached in 12 months off the back of covid, and there are some great times ahead for the youth ministry.

Please be praying for our youth. Pray for the ongoing effects of coming out of covid, and the struggles that they might face in the future with that. To continue to focus on pursuing Jesus in everything they do. With their education, sports, hobbies, and other commitments, that they would find time to continue to grow in faith and love for following Jesus together. And for our team as well, for rest and energy, and the wisdom needed to continue to support and disciple our youth for this year and the years in the future.

Matt Johnston
Youth Ministry Worker





YOUNG ADULTS

I would like to thank the Leadership for giving me the opportunity to play this role. I love it and have found it both fulfilling and challenging.

As the Young Adult community has been rebuilding after Covid we have seen some great numbers coming back to Church. We have been sitting around the 50-60 mark on a Sunday night, which is great to see. Not only are people coming back but we have seen first time commitments to Christ and baptisms. God is moving in the YA community.

We have seen the establishment of a core team of leaders come together. These guys have given of their time and passions to give direction and input to help create positive momentum. I really appreciate the time and thought this group have provided. They have made me constantly think about what we need to be sowing into the life of our Church to create a space that is honouring of God's word and relevant to them and their peers.

The process for a new Young Adults Pastor continues. We are looking to God for the right person to lead and disciple our YA community. It is a challenge now across all Baptists Churches where there is a shortage of people to fill Pastoral positions.

To my understanding we have had very few applications. Keep praying with us for this appointment.

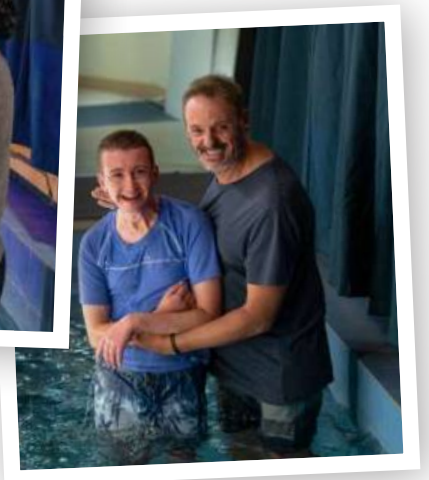
Our Young Adults are getting together in weekly Life Groups, Monday night netball continues to be a great connecting point, fortnightly Sunday night suppers are always a highlight.

Many of the Young Adults are involved in ministry such as Worship, Nexus, Friday night Youth group, Sunday youth Church, and student union (university ministry).

We have seen a few new faces this year as students and workers have moved to Bendigo; we are blessed by their attendance.

As this group follow Jesus, and help others to do the same, it's exciting to see the leading of the Holy Spirit in our Young Adult community. Why don't you get yourself along to a Sunday night service? If you have not been for a while, our group are warm and welcoming, and they would love to see you join in.

Blessings
David Gascoigne



GIRLS' BRIGADE BENDIGO

Compared to the previous two years, 2022 has been so much easier as we have enjoyed being back in person. There have been complications like cancelling one week and two camps, because we did not have enough leaders due to iso, but compared to lockdown this has been a breeze. Our numbers have been great this year – our best in a long time. We know that numbers are not everything and we are excited to see girls engaging with each other and the program as we shared the story of God's love through fun activities.

Bendigo – we have enjoyed a varied program with all the girls and have had some great opportunities to serve through Samaritan's Purse, cooking for the homeless and learning about recycling to support the environment.

We have been helping 3 young leaders to grow in their leadership skills this year and took 6 girls to leadership training in Melbourne in August. This year, 2 girls will complete the Pioneer Pin, Australia's highest award.

International – this year was the 129th year of Girls' Brigade and the 13th International

Conference. It was also our first online as it was still not possible to travel. Jamaica, the host country did an amazing job presenting an online conference. Bendigo was able to 'send' 4 leaders to various events over the course of the conference, which is a wonderful opportunity for them.

I am blessed to be working with a committed and skilled team, passionate about seeing "Girls' Lives Transformed and God's World Enriched".

As always, we are grateful to the church for its support of the leaders as we engage in the community with families and their girls to demonstrate the love of Jesus.

Jenny McWilliam
Senior Team Leader
Bendigo Girls' Brigade



CREATIVE MINISTRIES REPORT 2022

Annual Report



WORSHIP MINISTRY

As with so many other areas of life, ministry in 2022 has been a much more positive experience than it had been for a significant period of time, with much to celebrate and be thankful for. What we may have taken for granted previously was restored and after two years of the pandemic and lockdowns, it was a great blessing to be able to gather once again as God's church.

It was also a great blessing for Creative Ministries to get back to a more normal state of operation, along with some changes and additions which had been introduced throughout the previous two years to enable us to do ministry during the pandemic. I was thrilled to have members of the team once again able to serve in their areas of passion and gifting after such a long disruption.

While it was fantastic to return to weekly ministry, there have been challenges and obstacles throughout the year that have needed to be navigated. During the pandemic, Creative Ministries became central in the production of Livestream church services, which was a wonderful ministry in and of itself. Coming out of the lockdowns it was obvious that the investment made into this resource and the value it had become to BBC was significant and that it would be important to continue the Livestream ministry as part of what Creative Ministries produce to serve the church each week. This created the challenge of resourcing the Livestream ministry on a long-term basis with volunteers, as well as continual upgrades and maintenance of necessary infrastructure.

It has also required volunteers to step into new areas of ministry such as video direction, broadcast audio and camera operation, and I'm very thankful to those people who have taken on these challenges and made a commitment to serve in these areas, as well as those who have

worked hard to train and equip volunteers and make the systems and procedures manageable and effective for users.

A great deal of work has been done to integrate the Livestream and in-person elements required to successfully serve BBC's vision for engaging, inclusive services that facilitate God's work in our church. I'm thrilled with the way so many people in this team have contributed and adjusted to make that happen.

One challenge the ministry has experienced is a shortage of musicians to have full bands for each service on Sundays. Particularly at the Eaglehawk campus, the worship team is in a position where growth is a significant need. I'm pleased that the team has adjusted well to this and that we can still lead worship effectively each Sunday, albeit with stripped-back, acoustic bands at times. Whilst the variety of worship bands and musical styles is welcome, my preference is that this would be done by design not default and whilst it has been wonderful to welcome new people into the team this year I look forward to continued growth in the months and years ahead.

Aside from week-to-week ministry, the Worship and Tech teams have produced great results at events over the past year. Looking back to Christmas in 2021, a small team was assembled to achieve the challenging task of producing an engaging and interactive Livestream of Christmas Together, BBC's annual Carols event. At Easter time this year, the team produced a reflective and powerful Good Friday service that focused on the scriptures, followed up by leading the celebration of Jesus' resurrection on Easter Sunday. In the middle of the year, it was wonderful to have the Youth Band and Tech team lead worship and facilitate ministry at Winter Camp and to see the youth who were

present encountering God through the team's ministry. These ministry events are all worthy of celebration.

In addition to responsibilities in leading and facilitating services, members of the Worship and Tech teams also work behind the scenes to grow and develop in ministry, as well as serve to ensure ministry on Sundays is as well executed as possible. Throughout the year team members have met in various forums to increase their capacity in facilitating God's work at BBC.

The Worship Team had five UNITE meetings, designed to equip, empower and encourage those who serve in this team. These were very enjoyable and productive times together and I was thrilled we were able to hold these events after two years of interruption.

The Worship Leaders also met throughout the year to explore and grow in their important calling to lead the church into God's presence through praise and worship. It has been fantastic to take these opportunities to be equipped for service.

Training for Tech team members is more focused on 'on-the-job training' on Sundays than meeting at other times, allowing people to grow in their understanding and capacity in the environment they will be serving in. It has been wonderful to welcome a number of new people into our Tech team this year and to see existing members explore new opportunities and challenges in areas they're not as familiar with.

On Thursdays, a small group of men have served throughout the year to advance the ministry in significant, though not always obvious ways. I appreciate this group and the guys involved; it has been wonderful to see God build a small discipleship community in the midst of the weekly pressures and requirements of the ministry.

Effective ministry would be impossible without the generous, sacrificial hard work of people who take up the call and challenge of serving Jesus and His Church. Creative Ministries has around 60 volunteers in total, with between 20 and 30 serving every single Sunday. It is a big team, full of wonderful people who love God and are passionate about serving Him. I'm so thankful for each person and their contribution, knowing that each of them has invested in God's Kingdom to see it grow and come in Bendigo and beyond.

I am also especially thankful to those key individuals who serve and contribute above and beyond so often, taking on weighty responsibilities and workloads to enable BBC to minister in the most effective ways possible. My heartfelt thanks go to all who generously contribute and trust that in serving God they will reap a great harvest of blessing from the wonderful seeds they have sown.

Andy Denny
Worship Pastor



ADMINISTRATOR'S 2022 *Annual Report*



ADMINISTRATION

2022 has seen a return to a more normal use of church property and ministry which has been no doubt been appreciated by everyone. It has allowed me to continue to get a better understanding of the use of facilities and needs across our church family. Having now been in the role for 15 months I now have a greater appreciation of what is involved in the role of the Administrator. The role, which now includes several tasks previously undertaken by the Treasurer, realistically requires more than 3 days per week (unless more roles can be done by volunteers). God has blessed the Bendigo Baptist Church (BBC) with so many wonderful volunteers that often go un-noticed, but that give wonderful service to ensure our ministries continue to operate. They are a true blessing to the various ministries and ensure tasks are done that otherwise won't get done. Although our community has settled back down to a more normal pattern of life (without restrictions and lockdowns), there continues to be rapid and significant changes in Government legislation which has a significant impact on our policies, procedures, and compliance requirements. Jenny McWilliam, with the assistance of a small team of others, has done an amazing job in bringing our policies up to date to ensure BBC meet the legal standards require of us. The further challenge with all these changes in policies, is working out the best way of ensuring the relevant ministries and departments are aware of the changes, where they can find the policies relevant to their ministry, and ensuring they have the appropriate understanding of what affects them. This will be an ongoing issue in the coming year.

How has this impacted the church Administration area?

In 2020 and 2021 we saw the use of our facilities reduced substantially. 2022 has seen our property use return in a big way. Our ministries again have had full access to both Junortoun and Eaglehawk properties. As well as this we have also had a significant increase in the hiring of our church property for weddings, funerals, birthday parties and conference/functions.

The weekly Church Bulletin continued largely in an electronic format, with only a small amount

printed and hand delivered (along with CD's of our weekly service).

2021 Audit was completed, and we continue to comply with all our various obligations.

As mentioned above, there has been a large amount of work with BBC policies and procedures that has been focussed Child Safe Standards and Safe Churches policies that have come into place through Government Legislation.

Property: The new building development for Eaglehawk Campus continues to be progressed, although it has slowed over the past 12 months. The Brazier Street property was renovated to allow it to better meet ministry needs, particularly with children's' ministry at Eaglehawk.

We have now completed changing over the office phone system, which has been long overdue.

The continued hire of facilities by Coffee Storm (Tim & Rhiann Caldwell). Building Healthy Lifestyles hired the Novo facilities until the end of September (when Aileen had to take up more permanent arrangements with possible Bendigo Christian College refit needing to commence in November. These have continued to assist not only with the church budget, but also building the church presence within the community, with many more people coming onto the church property.

MADCOW (BBCCI) has now commenced leasing the old Caretakers residence and part of the back containers. In turn the have been engaged as the cleaners and gardening of the Junortoun property and facilities. This arrangement has proven to be a great blessing to both BBC and BBCCI.

In summary, 2022 has again a very challenging year with several significant changes. As the ministries BBC continue to grow and change, the administration support within the church will continue to be a busy place.

Geoff Jordan
Administrator



COLLEGE REPORT 2021

Vision: That every child would have access to quality, Christ-centred education.

Mission: Nurturing, inspiring, and equipping young people to take their place and to influence their world for Christ.

As I write this report, Bendigo Christian College (BCC) is at a very delicate stage in commencing the School on our Junortoun church site in January 2023.

Detailed negotiations continue with the Department of Transport in allowing a school to operate and access the highway.

The June 2022 deadline to lodge our application to the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA) was submitted after a mountain of work was put into this. Our application has been acknowledged as complete. We have been advised however that much more work needs to be added to our application before registration will be considered. This work encompasses many issues including church/school governance, curriculum and strict adherence to new Ministerial Orders that all schools must follow. New schools in particular are heavily scrutinised.

We have held two very well attended events this year which were open to the broader church family. These were a bush dance and a trivia night. Both events had attendees from the broader church family. We were thrilled that several teachers from as far away as Kerang were keen to give encouragement. Thank you to everyone involved.

Our initial 25 enrolments has been depleted. We urgently need more pioneering families to join us. Can you help us?

We praise God that sufficient finances have now been donated or promised to enable the school to commence. This is very humbling.

The re-fit of the Novo Centre will only commence once VRQA approval is given. Architectural plans have been drawn up for this.

Over the past 12 months we have lost considerable experience from our Board in the retirements of Graeme Parker, Graeme Coleman, Marilyn Tatt and Gary Griffin. We thank each one for their dedication over many years. The addition of Abe Steel has been a huge blessing. Abe has energetically overseen the incredibly complex issues in getting a planning permit for our Junortoun site.

We send out a regular school newsletter. If you would like to receive this newsletter, please email Lauren Gaskell at the church office, admin@bendigochristiancollege.org.au

It is very easy with an undertaking such as this to give up. It's too hard! We can all grow faith weary. Many will say that if it is God's Will, then it will happen. We certainly know that this is true. Yet God is passionate about our faith. It is our faith that pleases Him. I don't recall a Board meeting where we have not been in prayer asking for the next breakthrough. Please join us in prayer and in practical ways.

Yours in Christ,

Phil Trebilcock

On behalf of the **Bendigo Christian College Board**

(Phil Trebilcock, Pastor Dave Lovell, Louise Nott, Linda Ietto, Ian Stephens, Michelle Chng, Abe Steel)



COMMUNITY CARE 2022 *Annual Reports*



What an exciting year it has been to date, and it has certainly been a contrast to the last couple of years. We poured significant funds into Madcow Community Enterprises to help manage the growth and we are certainly seeing the results. We also added another staff position into our homeless services to ensure it had stability, consistency and will be effective in implementing our new model of service delivery.

We have been blessed abundantly this year in tangible ways. At the start of the year, we were contemplating the possibility of having to move from our Hargreaves St site. Our new model of homeless services had really emerged, and this was having an impact on the ability for the op-shop to trade well. Fast forward to the 1st of September this year and it can only be described as miraculous. God's provision was on full display as we purchased the Hargreaves St site, after the landlord agreed to sell. Due to the generosity of the Sidney Myer Fund, the Maxwell Jolliffe estate and another individual who wished to remain anonymous, we were able to purchase the building without debt. This has been such an answer to prayer, and we have now begun the privileged task of designing a purpose-built facility to provide homeless services into the future. This has meant that we now need to find a new location for the op-shop.

The move to the Junortoun site for Madcow Community Enterprise has been such a blessing. It has given us a much stronger connection to the Church family, as it has with Nexus and Playgroups in the past. I believe it has been a win for all parties concerned. The grounds look amazing and there's such a good relationship forming between our staff and others on the Church grounds during the week.

Our challenge now is how we manage to maintain the wonderful culture that we have developed across the organisation. We have key ministries involved in the community and we have 70+ staff and 130+ volunteers across multiple sites. Once we find a new home for the op-shop, this will challenge us even further, so it is vital that our culture of love and acceptance permeates every ministry area.

I want to take this opportunity to thank my key ministry leaders. It has taken a team effort right across the organisation to achieve what we have achieved. This includes the broader group of staff and volunteers that have represented us so well through 2022.

Unfortunately, Gilead counselling is currently in recess as we farewelled Jackie Wagland into retirement. I want to thank Jackie for seeing us through a difficult time during the pandemic.

This year has certainly given us a renewed sense of direction for the future. We have overcome many challenges together and we are always looking for ways to do things better whilst maintaining our mission focus. We are always better together, and I will continue to strive for greater connection across the organisation, so our sense of team remains strong into the future.

I also want to thank the wider church family for your continued support. As we approach 2023, I look forward to the privilege of serving alongside an amazing group of people that we call the Madcow family. Together we endeavour to honour God through our service to Him and the community.

Matt Parkinson
Community Care Director



MADCOW ADMINISTRATOR

I have again had the privilege of working as Administrator at Bendigo Baptist Community Care (BBCCI). This year has been another year of change and rebuilding after COVID. We have welcomed new people to the team (both volunteers and paid staff) and have had so many opportunities presented to us. God has been working and it's so amazing that we have been gifted the entire cost of the building at 214 Hargreaves St! This will help us to be able to move forward in growing our homeless services and means that our financial position has been strengthened.

MADCOW Community Enterprises now has the Visual Care program fully implemented. This is a rostering program for our cleaning, gardening, and community support services. Data is generated from Visual Care for payroll and invoicing. There have been some challenges in the implementation of Visual Care, but overall, it has helped the reliability of our processes. We are continuing to work at improving the automation of this program and transfer of information between Visual Care and Reckon (accounting software).

The BBCCI Admin Team (Matt, Maree, Penny and myself) meet each fortnight. As the organisation

grows, it's been very important to meet regularly so we can ensure BBCCI functions as efficiently as possible. Requirements under government regulations are always changing and this year has been no exception. We have been focusing on Nexus, 1Hope Mentoring and Playgroups, but also reviewing other parts of BBCCI to ensure that all documentation is up-to-date. We have reviewed employee and volunteer on-boarding processes, as well as the requirements for Child Safe, WorkSafe and OHS. Our Policies have also been updated and ratified and these will be available for all volunteers and staff soon.

Working as part of the BBCCI team has again been fantastic. The opportunity to also connect with the wider Bendigo Baptist Church team each month has been a great time of sharing and learning together. I look forward to the opportunities of another year of ministry at BBCCI. It will certainly be a year of change with a new location for the Op Shop and renovations at Hargreaves Street, but it will also be very exciting to see where God is leading us.

Naomi Boyd
Administrator



GARDENING

"Just about every week I must trust God to provide staff to fill shifts, even when it looks impossible (Especially in the middle of COVID, with many staff going into isolation at short notice). God always provided."

In 2023 we would appreciate prayer for the right long-term staff, that share our vision and compassion for our clients, and the homeless.

Scott Clarke
Team Leader



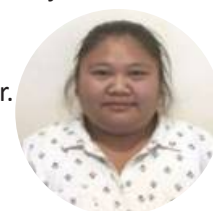
CLEANING

I visit new clients and prepare quotes for cleaning, provide cleaning training to our staff, order stock and maintain the equipment shed, as well as some administration such as running job interviews for new Karen staff and rostering.

I also meet with the staff and share cleaning experiences with our staff. I work with Eh to successfully grow vegetables that our staff now enjoy at lunchtime.

This year God brought more staff when we really needed it. I would really like you to join me in praying for: understanding of each other, working together and showing love for each other.

Rollay Bani
Team Leader



COMMUNITY SUPPORT

My role is to coordinate community supports for people living with a disability. To support staff and encourage them to build their skills and independence, assisting them to achieve their goals and improve their lives. To encourage and support people to be involved in their community and engage in community programs and to give back to others.

Work with other service providers to achieve the best outcomes for the people we support in our community. Assist in creating an environment where people feel empowered and have choices in their own lives.

I love going out and meeting the people we support and listening to their stories. I love hearing about how far they have come or hearing about what they are working towards.

I love that people we support want to have a better

life and want to build on their skills to be more independent or give back to others.

I also love hearing how staff talk about people they are supporting. The staff speak so highly of the participants, and they are so caring, supportive, and dedicated people.

People I work with have a heart for people, so people want to share and be a part of what is happening in the lives of others in our community.

I can talk to staff, and they can share their experiences and journey with God.

Prayer for people to continue to open their hearts and ministries to people living with a disability.

Melissa Parkinson
Community Support Manager



PLAYGROUP

Mainly Music has had three very happy and successful terms thus far in 2022. The interest and enthusiasm of some fifty families to continue to be involved following the disruptions during the pandemic, has indeed been a joy to see. This definitely confirms the value of this ministry to all those that attend.

It has been especially important to engage the children again in this fun, friendly, musical program after many had missed out on developing social skills and connections with other children in the previous two years. We currently have two sessions each week on Tuesday and Wednesday, averaging 25 children plus grown-ups per day. We have a number of new faces this year and always more wanting to join. I'm very grateful for the

team of volunteers who faithfully help every week to encourage, assist and be the hands and feet of Jesus in this space. We would love to welcome anyone else who desires to be a part of our team and this ministry.

Feedback from Mainly Music is always positive and the excitement of the children as they arrive brings a smile to my face and warms my heart. God is good and blesses us every week. My prayer is that the seeds sown at Mainly Music will grow and flourish in the lives that we are privileged to influence and be a part of.

Jewell Jones
Playgroups co-ordinator



1HOPE MENTORING

This year has been a much brighter and more productive year for the 1Hope Mentoring program. Currently we have 3 Mentors volunteering at Camp Hill Primary School and 7 Mentors at Strathfieldsaye Primary School. We welcomed Rob Edwards to the team and sadly we farewell Bronwyn Norman and John Moosman. I want to say a huge 'Thanks' to Bronwyn and John for their many years of service to the program and their heart to serve the students.

This year the Mentors have been able to build their relationships back up with the students and provide stability and a consistent support in their lives. I have seen and heard many stories of Mentors cooking, doing crafts, playing games, reading, helping with schoolwork, shooting hoops, kicking a ball and providing a listening ear to their students. There have been occasions where Mentors have been to watch their students play in sporting games, taken them on special events, met up with family members,

listened to their stories and been there when the things got really tough. These students have been much more settled this year knowing that someone cares and will be there to 'cheer them on' no matter their circumstances. I want to take this opportunity to thank each and every Mentor for the time they have put into their student and will continue to do so, making a difference both now and in the future.

If there is anyone who would like to be involved in this program, please contact me. It is one hour per week with one student during school hours. Do you have the time be a positive, consistent and reliable influence to help shape a young person's life?

Lynley Jordan
1Hope Mentoring
Coordinator



OP-SHOP REPORT

Another 12 months of change for Life Essentials with MUCH more to come.

The new GovHub and Law Courts (TAFE) ongoing construction has continued to have an effect on our sales, as has the issue of parking for customers.

Having enough volunteers over the course of the last 12 months has been our biggest concern.

We have quite often not had enough people to do many tasks; including the till, helping on the truck, and sorting / pricing goods, or just keeping the shop neat and tidy.

This is due to several different reasons; health reasons, no Work for the Dole participants for the foreseeable future, a number of volunteers have also been able to gain employment (wonderful for them), and a general reluctance for people to volunteer during this season. Even with the loss of a number of people we have continued to build some wonderful teams throughout the year, with Tuesday, Thursday and Friday being the highlights.

The morning devotional and prayer time has again been a highlight. At 9.30am we gather to read "Vision Word For The Day" which we then discuss and have a prayer time until shop opening at 10am. We also have a 'deck of cards' with pictures of around 100 people involved with BBCCI and the church. Each morning, a number of these cards are pulled from the deck, and these people are prayed for.

It is great to see the building being used more these days. We have consistently had Bendigo Health onsite, Youth for Christ on Monday mornings (you should hear the singing!!), church staff meeting (monthly), as well as youth meetings after hours, and some prayer sessions and Bible study groups.

Earlier in the year we applied for a grant to go towards a brand-new truck through Social

Procurement and Enterprise Branch, Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions. Very happy to say that we received \$55,000 to go towards the purchase price. We have ordered and are looking to have the vehicle by mid-November. What a blessing this will be for years to come... imagine a truck with a radio and air conditioning.

As most people will know by now, the current location will be turning into a huge homeless centre. This means that the op shop will be moving from Hargreaves Street. We are currently looking for a building that would fit our op shop and warehouse together on the one site. When this move is finalised, I will be calling on a few people to help move... as you can imagine, it will be no small task.

Sometimes you get frustrated by things not happening but look back and you can see God's hand working.

No building... pray for owner to sell. Yes.

Not enough funds (\$1,790,000)... pray for building to be given to us for free. Yes (\$1,790,000 donated).

Need a new truck... Applied for a grant (had 3 days to do it... thanks Garry Hall for your help. Yes. We received \$50,000.

All these things seemed impossible; however, God has been gracious and granted us these things to be used for His work. The power of prayer! We prayed as a group, daily for the above.

Overall, it has been a frustrating, rewarding, sad, enjoyable mix of emotions. A real roller coaster of a year; however, I'm very excited and looking forward to the next 12 months, working with an amazing team in a new location (wherever that may be).

Rod Meadows
Operations Manager



NEXUS

2022 was filled with excitement as we cast the production of Shrek the Musical and anticipated the return to The Capital Theatre. With a brilliant cast of 35 students, we began the year building community and helping young people develop their theatrical skills and connecting with people from around Bendigo.

Our Production Team and volunteers began an incredible year of serving and putting together an unbelievable show.

This year we had many new elements introduced that made the show spectacular like a 7x4 LED video wall, many astonishing prosthetics and wigs, and a massive dragon puppet. The results were amazing, and we are so grateful for all the effort and collaboration of the remarkable team we had.

Shrek had some brilliant themes that helped us to have meaningful conversations throughout the production run. The idea of 'loving and accepting who you are', was a huge theme that we built on, and helped cast members know that we at Nexus want to build an inclusive and loving environment, as that is what Jesus has done for us.

This year, we were also able to develop our new vision platform, 'Training for Life'. We had 5 interns in various areas that gained theatrical skills and built deeper relationships with our leaders as well. These interns, most of whom were also in the production, are now going out into the community to use their skills in their future careers.

MADRIDE

Finally, a BIG thanks to Dave Gillett and his crew that rode their bikes from Bendigo to Cunnamulla QLD to raise more funds for our homeless services. With help from Epsom Community Church, we raised nearly \$6000!

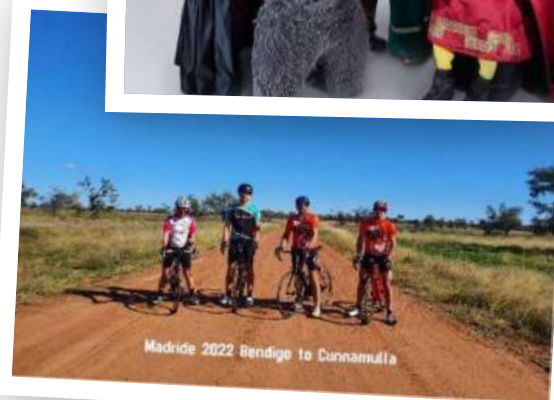


In 2022, we also re-instigated our Peer Leadership Team, and they were so integral in helping to create community within the cast.

At the end of the year, we are now taking some time to re-evaluate and review Nexus as a whole. We have been going since 2010, and after Covid, we have been running fairly thin on leaders and volunteers. Matt Parkinson and I are now looking at policies and procedure, and revisiting the mission and vision of Nexus, as this is always a great way to make sure that we are still functioning the way that God has set out for us.

Nexus has been an incredible ministry for BBCCI and BBC. The outreach into the community has been such a joy and a blessing to students and their families. Please be praying for us as we look to God for guidance for our future.

Julie Lovell
Nexus Leader



MADCOW CAFÉ FOR THE HOMELESS

For 8 months, January to August this year, 160 people have accessed the MADCOW Cafe identifying as experiencing homelessness. People experience this unfortunate situation for a brief time, others for years. We have seen examples of families caught up in the rental crisis and living in caravans to keep a roof over their family. Couples, single men, and women do not have a consistent place to live. Our homeless are on the street, others in tents, in short term motel arrangements, abandoned houses, back yard sheds, in cars or sleeping on a friend's couch.

Homelessness is a situation people find themselves in unexpectedly. A friendship, relationship breakdown, not always but often is a root cause. Sadly, alcohol and other drugs can contribute to that breakdown or can become the go to, to get by, and connect socially. The complexity of life historically and day to day is beyond our comprehension, yet they battle on. How courageous they are to meet daily challenges we (who are more fortunate) could not even contemplate.

Thankfully, God has allowed us to remain open consistently for the last 2 years, since the Homeless Café came into being. Often, we have heard the phrase, "I don't know where I would be without MADCOW." This consistent, dependable, safe, and trusted space, is respected by this cohort; we are making a difference every day by being the 'hands and feet of Jesus.'

Providing a change of clothes from the Op Shop, a shower to our homeless is one of our greatest joys, besides seeing a person enjoying a hot meal and social connection within our friendly Café environment. To have those we have helped come back and say, "thank you" and for us to see that they are doing well, is an absolute pleasure. Seeing improved physical and sometimes mental health and general wellbeing through meeting the basic everyday need of a homeless person is most rewarding.

Building trusted relationships with our homeless, and hearing their stories and day to day good and

not so good happenings, is a wonderful privilege. The people we support who eventually do find housing have ongoing mental health concerns and are still at risk of re-entering homelessness and so we will keep them registered for our support until we believe they are managing without us.

Vulnerability in homelessness is heart breaking. Vulnerability comes in different forms and is hard to comprehend, but our homeless are constantly victims of abuse because of their circumstances.

The opportunity to employ a Community Engagement Worker to support the homeless was significant as growth and servicing has required extra assistance. Kathryn Hewes has volunteered with MADCOW for 5 years and has experienced our progression to this stage of ministry. It is good to have her on board, along with approximately twenty-five volunteers who offer consistent love and support to the homeless. We are constantly indebted to their commitment and desire to do God's work in this place.

The Bendigo community, businesses and organisations have made contributions, from schools to radio, from creating useful products to donating food or bedding. Everyone's contributions help us to help the homeless.

Our vision is to provide a full range of 'hospitality' consistently and the desire is to become a 'gateway' for the homeless to have ease of access to allied health services and professional help dedicated to the refurbishment of our premises.

Seeing God at work in the development of this ministry to the homeless is exciting and encouraging.

Could you please keep this ministry area consistently in your prayers, as we are the love of God in the lives of the homeless.

Fiona Mummery
Community Engagement Manager

BENDIGO
BAPTIST
CHURCH