CHRIST CHURCH MISSION

ANNUAL REPORT 2017

Christ Church Community Centre
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Christ Church Mission Inc

Why we do what we do...

There was a time and a place where communities were easily defined and where you knew you belonged: where you could hear the village church bell, that was your community. But as life became more complex, the indicators changed: the local radio station that your radio could receive, the very local paper - these kept you in touch with the neighbours and the now-widening community. Now, with television and the internet we are part of a global community, constantly in touch – but impersonally, at a distance. These days, if we want to or need to experience belonging, our neighbourhoods are the starting point for restoring the more personal experience of communities.

There's a challenge, though, in our neighbourhood - and a challenge for us. Our neighbourhood is not homogeneous … there is disparity. Disparity that is close to the surface. There is poverty of resources and poverty of relationships. Information from the 2016 Census is gradually becoming available, revealing aspects of the changing picture of our part of St Kilda. Here are some snapshots for the area bounded by Fitzroy Street, Grey Street, Barkly Street, Carlisle Street and the Bay where the Census identified the following …

- In the 2,600 households surveyed there were 4216 people
- 892 lone person households [40%]
- 486 people aged 65 years and over [12%]
- 158 people in need of assistance due to disability [4%]
- 1080 renting privately [48%]
- 105 renting social housing [5%]
- 325 households having a weekly income of less than $650 [17%]
- 262 households in the lowest 40% of incomes paying more than 30% of their usual gross weekly income on rent, so are in rental stress [22%]
- 405 households having an income of more than $2500 per week [21%]
- 1453 households with an internet connection [71%]

It is this disparity, the reality of poverty of resources and poverty of relationships, which led to the establishment of the Christ Church Community Centre in our neighbourhood. Each week around 200 people are welcomed into our Community Centre: Some come to simply make contact with another person, some come to have a meal, some come to meet with peers for support, some come to be creative, some come for emergency food, some come to give their time and talents as volunteers, some come to be in contact with nature, growing our community garden, some are brought to enjoy the company and hospitality of people and some come to celebrate … They all come because there is some reason, something desired, and here is the place, the Community Centre, where it can happen. People enter as individuals and become people who are known, drawn into links which continue outside the Centre, extending into our neighbourhood and other neighbourhoods, forming and discovering community, belonging.

We invite you to share in our purpose and support our work.

Michael Wilson
President, Christ Church Mission Inc.
December 2017

Michele Sholl
Manager, Christ Church Community Centre

Open House Weekly Meal

It's been another busy year with our regular activities and a few special events thrown into the mix. Our Open House community meal has continued to attract a loyal group of diners. With food sourced from Second Bite, Foodbank and local bakeries, our ever resourceful team of volunteer cooks and servers have managed to produce more than 3,870 free delicious and nutritious three-course meals this year alone.

Garden Nomads

Gardening featured high on our calendar with our green-fingered volunteer Garden Nomads providing assistance to members of the community struggling to maintain their gardens. Mentoring and training was provided in our flourishing community kitchen garden which is also a source of fresh herbs and veggies for the community meal.

Quilting

The highlight for the quilting group was our second exhibition in the Church during the St Kilda Festival which attracted a number of new members keen to join our group crazily cutting fabric into small pieces, so they could sew them back together again.

Yoga

Our in-house yoga groups kept members focused and supple and the after-class coffee sessions had a good following too.

Stepping Stones

The Stepping Stones seniors group has continued to meet fortnightly to share stories and experiences and occasional guest appearances. Highlights included the annual Seniors Week musical afternoon tea and the local community ball.

The Preserving Project

Excess fruit and vegetables are being turned into an enticing range of chutneys by our in house preservers. So far about $1,000 has been raised from sales to support the work of the centre.

The Little Pantry & Emergency Support

Designed and built by Robert Rapoport, this has been installed on the Vicarage fence on Acland Street, as a source of small items of emergency food. Neighbours have been alerted to its existence, and have been helping to keep it filled. This supplements the emergency support program run from the centre, which is accessed by more than 60 locals in need each month.

Volunteers in focus

Volunteers are essential to the work of Christ Church Community Centre. We currently have over sixty people generously giving their time in a number of different capacities. Without their support the Centre would quickly grind to a halt. This year we celebrated the 80th birthdays of two of our longest serving volunteers, Josie Alexander and Jim Arter. We asked 2 of our newest volunteers to interview them.

Angie: When did you first start volunteering at Christ Church Mission and why?

Josie: It was 2009. Marie (my daughter) came first and I wanted to come and help with the Open House meal. I've been cooking since I was twelve and it's always made me very happy. I grew up in Malta in a family with ten children and I used to cook for my siblings.

A: What keeps you coming in every week?

J: I really enjoy working with the volunteers. I look forward to seeing everyone on Wednesdays. It's a nice sense of community. I try to come every week and don't miss it without good reason.

A: Do you feel a sense of responsibility being titled ' The Soup Queen'?

J: No. I'm as much a part of the team as everyone else and I just want to help.

A: How would you feel about me taking that title from you in forty years?

J: I would be very happy! I'll try and keep the apron clean for you!

Young Jim: Ok, old Jim when did you start volunteering here?

Jim A: When the place opened in 2003. I turned one of the first sods, with the Bishop, Fr Jim and John Thwaites. Pia, the first manager, asked if I'd help out with the new Stepping Stones group. I was already cleaning the Church and doing the garden, then I was asked to clean the Community Centre too. I was really just a general rouseabout but that sort of led to me keeping an eye on the building because I lived nearby. The first time we put on our free community meal we had five people turn up. So they sent me down the street to find more people. I still tell everybody about the meal when I'm out and about. A lot of people already know about Josie's soup and reckon it's the best in town.

YJ: What do you get out of volunteering?

JA: I was always active and it gives me something to do, a lot of satisfaction and friendship. I feel like the Centre is a second home and I'm happy to drop by before I go to bed each night to check that everything's ok.

Apart from all our other wonderful volunteers, many of whom have been supporting us for years, we often have 'ring-ins' from other parts of the world who drop in and make us part of their lives for as long as they're in town. Tracy Garden spent about six months with us and shared her thoughts.

"I found out about the Centre on the City of Port Phillip website. I had only been here a couple of weeks and I wanted to meet real people and not feel so much of a tourist. I had gone from having a busy life in London to having nothing much to do. It was great at first, like a long holiday, but after a while I wanted something more meaningful. Once I started helping with the Stepping Stones group and the Garden Nomads program I began to look forward to my weekly involvement. I felt part of the community, absorbed some of the culture, and learned things I would never have picked up from a guidebook."

Our Volunteers

This group are the backbone of our organisation. Our amazing team of volunteers make an essential contribution to the work of the Centre in the full range of activities. We acknowledge and thank the following people who have volunteered during the last year:

Josephine Alexander
Jim Arter
Lee Baird
Marie Baker
Stuart Baker
Bradley Balbi
Stephen Baldwin
Braden Barnes
Murray Barnes
Ant Bridgeman
Niki Camilatos
Debbie Carmichael
Rod Carmichael
Steven Carter
Janet Cathels
Robin Clarke
Jack Connor
Sue Connor
Maurice Cook
David Dawson
Robert Forrest
Robyn Foy
Tracy Garden
Joe Gauci
Amelia Hogg
Dianne Hollis
Phillip Jaboor
Lindsay Jamieson
Sandra Johnston
David King
Ruth Kingston
Susan Kohn
Evanna Lake
Tony Lion
Valerie Lion
Patrick Manning
Elen Masson
James McAlpine
Glenys McLeod
Emma Miller
Anne Moriarty
Anne Murphy
Nigel Murray
Maree N'Diaye
Pauline O'Brien
Denise Orloff
Joseph O'Reilly
Angie Pai
Andrew Pope
Anthony Poygaridis
Jahnavi Rajani
Will Robinson
Mark Spehr
Myra Standford
Marcus Stelling
Peter Turner
Jonathon Usi
Theo Warsh
Virginia Weymiss
Damien White
Mounya Wise

Staff

Our staff members, all of whom work part-time, have varied backgrounds, with training and experience in Community Welfare, Social Work, Education, Mental Illness, Homelessness and Community Development – a total of 4 people – 3 part-time and 1 casual working a total of 61 hours over 3 days (EFT of 1.6)

Manager - Michele Sholl, BA, Dip Ed, Dip Community Welfare, Dip Frontline Management.
Community Development Projects - Elaine Wilkinson, Dip Community Welfare
Program Facilitator - Elizabeth Ng, BA Community Development, Dip Family Therapy, Accredited Yoga teacher in the tradition of Krishnachrya
Community Support- Barbara Nicholson, BA Hons, Cert in Family Life Education, Cert IV in Life Coaching
Community Support - Anthony Bridgeman, Cert III Community Services, Cert IV Community Development (until December 2016.)

The Centre staff are significantly assisted by Jim Arter as Caretaker.

Financial extract

Our Finances - Christ Church Mission Inc. operating as Christ Church Community Centre

Income & Expenditure for the Year to 30 June 2017

Revenue	$	**Expenses**	$
Operating Income (Grants)	142,606	Staff costs (1.6 EFT)	131,917
Donations & Venue hire)	63,287	Program costs	26,305
Members' subscriptions	25	Office expenses	895
Interest	3,976	Insurance	3,583
	209,894	Rent	9,000
		Maintenance & Cleaning	7,743
		Bank charges	278
		Depreciation	67,949
		Accrued Annual Leave	15,549
			263,219
Surplus (loss) from ordinary activities	(53,325)		

This is an extract from the audited financial statement. Full financial statement is available on request.

Thank you

With gratitude we acknowledge support in money and/or in-kind given to Christ Church Community Centre by the following:

Individuals

Stella Beal
Sharon Davis
Caroline Hogg
Sue Koschade
Sym Kohn
Donna Milham
Patsy O'Dowd
Valda O'Keefe
Lyn Oliver
Mick Pacholli
Jennie Peel
Purvis Family
Robert Rapoport
David Sholl
Mark, Hana & Maya Stoffberg
Rae Telfer
Dorothy Waterfield
Adreanus Widjaja
Joe Wilding
Steven Zammitt

Organisations

Bakers Delight – Hampton
Brown Forman
Bunnings - Port Melbourne
Dogs Bar
Elwood Patisserie
Foodbank Victoria
Feed Melbourne
Galleon Café
Grill'd St Kilda
Star Health Service
Kedem Community
Kiwanis Port Phillip
Mt Bernard Olives
Port Phillip EcoCentre
SAP Australia Pty Ltd
Second Bite
South Melbourne Community Chest
South Port Day Links
Toyota

Other Funders

Perpetual
QBE Foundation

Australian Government
-Department of Social Services
City of Port Phillip

Committee of Management

The Community Centre Committee of Management is responsible for the overall Governance of the centre. The committee includes:

Michael Wilson – President
Geoffrey Court – Secretary
Father Turi Hollis
Valerie Lion
Carmen Ayres – Vice President
Charles Baird – Treasurer
Stephen Baldwin

How you can help

- Donation of non-perishable food and toiletries. You can leave them at the Community Centre, 14 Acland St, St Kilda, Monday and Thursday between 10 am & 2 pm (Wednesdays until 7 pm)

- Donations of $2 and more are tax-deductible and can be sent to Christ Church Mission Inc. PO Box 1221, St Kilda South Vic 3182. Or you can donate online at: https://www.givenow.com.au/cause1510

- Volunteers are always welcome – especially for involvement in our Garden Nomads, Open House and Stepping Stones programs. Express your interest to any of our staff – phone 9534 9250 or email communitycentre@christchurchstkilda.org.au

- Hire our venue for your next function or workplace meeting.

- Like our Facebook and instagram pages to stay up to date with the latest news and events.
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/ChristChurchCommunityCentreStKilda
Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/ccmcommunitycentre/

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