

2021 ANNUAL REPORT



BENDIGO BAPTIST CHURCH

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

PROVERBS 16:3

Church Council COUNCIL 2020/21



Tim Schofield
Chairman



Dave Lovell
Senior Pastor



Ian Stephens
Administrator until
July 2021



Geoff Jordan
Administrator from
July 2021



Kris Tatt



Shane Ooi



Ken Geyer



Lailah de Noronha



Graeme Coleman



Wendy Steele



Bert Schmid



Jeff Kraak

Senior PASTOR

This year started with a great sense of hopeful optimism believing that God had some great things in store for each of us at Bendigo Baptist as we pushed into 2021. And while the ongoing effects of a global pandemic continue to touch each of our lives, it's clear that God has been at work in the following areas:

DISCIPLESHIP CULTURE:

On Monday March 16th, we made a decision. Our commitment to BEING & MAKING disciples of Christ continues to permeate the entirety of church life. A weekend training event in March entitled "The Journey" and two discipleship training cohorts that have met for 12 weeks have been of great assistance in helping people understand Christ's model of relational discipleship.

RELATIONAL DISCIPLESHIP VEHICLES:

For decades, the weekend service has served as the key vehicle for gathering a larger crowd of Jesus followers for meaningful corporate worship, but the pandemic has forced us to adapt and embrace other relational discipleship vehicles. Life Groups & and now our Micro Church Gatherings are emerging as key vehicles for helping us grow biblical disciples.

WORSHIP GATHERINGS:

The addition of another service at our Eaglehawk Campus has been a great blessing to those in that location. It has also helped us think outside of the box with the introduction of Micro Church Gatherings in this season. This weekend we have the capacity for 250+ people to be gathering in groups of 20 across our city. These groups are a great example of the mission of God in the hands of ordinary people.

MINISTRY INTERNS:

We've had two young adults involved in an internship program this past year and we are grateful to Ps Treena Denny for her oversight of these interns and the development of a new intern model that will be on offer in 2022.

COMMUNITY CARE:

This past year has seen our community care continue to provide a practical demonstration of God's love and care in this city. God's favour on this ministry is obvious and it has a great reputation for making a difference. Our search continues for a permanent home that we can own in the heart of the CBD.

NATIONAL & GLOBAL DISCIPLESHIP:

The opportunity to work alongside, and help, pastors in VIC, NSW, QLD understand relational discipleship has continued in creative ways. We are grateful to Ps Dave Gascoigne for launching a discipleship network in the South Pacific region and as he continues to work closely with our intercultural partners.

BENDIGO CHRISTIAN COLLEGE:

The required twenty-one enrolments we received in June, has enabled us to keep proceeding with the VRQA application. We are celebrating a \$30,000 gift received to assist with process. We are currently submitting a planning permit with the Planning Minister before seeking registration for the college in the middle of 2022.

FAITH DECISIONS & BAPTISMS:

We celebrated seven faith decisions and baptisms across our campus locations.

CAMPUS EXPANSION:

Our Eaglehawk Campus development continues, with drawings for new building being completed so costing can be ascertained. Generous contributions have already been given into a building fund for this project.

Ministry in 2021 would not have been possible without the faithfulness of many different people in the life of our church. I am so grateful for the strong leadership of CHURCH COUNCIL in these trying times. I especially want to thank Tim Schofield (Chair of Council) for his faithful and tireless leadership over the entirety of this

pandemic. He has stood in the gap and helped us as a church navigate these challenging times with grace and courage. I will miss his leadership in 2022 as he steps off Church Council at the end of six years of service. I also want to express my gratitude to Kris Tatt, Wendy Steele, and Shane Ooi for their faithful ministry at Council. They have laboured well for the Lord, and we've been blessed by their ministry to the church. We trust that they have a good break in 2022.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank our extensive MINISTRY TEAM at BBC and BCCI 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 who have stepped up and continued to serve our Lord Jesus Christ. Please know that your ministry is making a difference in the lives of others. You are helping fulfill a vision that started in the 1850's, when a group of our brothers and sisters at Collins St Baptist Church in Melbourne began to dream about a strong ministry presence on the goldfields in Bendigo. Like them, we are

ORDINARY PEOPLE, EMPOWERED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT, dreaming of BEING AND MAKING DISCIPLES WHEREVER WE GO. It's the mission of God in the hands of ordinary people and I'm grateful for the ministry of all our volunteers, who are helping us to make biblical disciples in relational environments.

So, just as being a witness of Christ wasn't the responsibility of the first disciples alone, neither is it the sole responsibility of just a few people in this church as we move forward into 2022. Every one of us, if we embrace the name of Jesus, has been called and empowered by the Holy Spirit to be and make disciples of Christ wherever we go.

Looking forward to a great year of RENEWED ministry in the coming year, as we continue to embrace the mission of Jesus for our lives.

Blessings,
Pastor Dave Lovell
Senior Pastor



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

As I began to think about what to put in my annual report to our church, the initial feeling which came to my mind was grief. Not my own grief per se, rather, grief for God's people around the world and the effect the global pandemic has had on churches and our own local body of believers here at Bendigo Baptist Church (BBC). Our inability to gather for worship and teaching in a larger setting with the people of God whom we love and care for, has not been easy. I will be honest with you...I have grown frustrated, impatient and indignant at times throughout this year. I suspect some of you might have had, or still have, similar feelings.

While this grief has been heavy to bear at different times throughout this year, I made a very conscious decision not to let these feelings overtake who I know I am in Jesus Christ. I have been reminded time and time again these feelings (or the pandemic itself) cannot rob me of who I am in His eyes. The events of this world do not define who I am (or we are), or change His love and care for us. Let us remember saints—we are safe in Him! Psalm 91:4 has been a great verse for me to cling to during these times:

**“He will cover you with his feathers.
He will shelter you with his wings.
His faithful promises are your armour and
protection.”**

Despite the many challenges our local body of believers have faced in 2021, our Senior Staff, led by Pastor Dave Lovell, along with our Ministry workers and faithful volunteers, have continued to persevere and pivot as needed, to ensure worship has been made available and the Word of God has been presented each week. We are so very blessed to have such dedicated believers in our midst, using and sharing their skills and talents to ensure we continue as “The Church”, despite not being able to gather as we would like.

We have seen some staffing changes over the course of this year, with the departure of Ian Stephens as Church Administrator. Ian served faithfully for almost four years, and we all benefitted from him being in this role. Ian's

accomplishments in this role are too many to name, but I am confident BBC is more favourably seen in our community, closer relationally and more sustainable energy wise because of Ian's commitment and skills. Ian...thank you for serving so faithfully and sacrificially.

Geoff Jordan was appointed as the new Church Administrator in July and has hit the ground running. Geoff has been a member of BBC for over thirty years and brings to this role, not only a wealth of experience as an accountant, but equally as important, his kind nature and genuine love, commitment and passion for the local church and God's children. We are blessed to have Geoff in this role.

More recently, Brock Gravener, our Campus Pastor at Eaglehawk, who has served with us for almost eight years, has decided to move on to new areas of ministry. From the early days of Brock's ministry, we saw new life and energy breathed into the Eaglehawk Campus community. Brock, with his pioneering spirit and love for the lost, created an atmosphere of service for many of our church goers and opportunities for the homeless and marginalised to join us in a safe and caring environment. BBC, but specifically, the Eaglehawk Campus and community, are better placed to continue to reach the lost and care for the people of God, because of Brock's genuine love and commitment to this local body of believers. BBC will miss Brock, Bree and their four boys serving on our ministry staff.

The year has been yet another challenging one for Church Council, as they have led through the second year of the pandemic and navigated the changing landscape in which we found ourselves. I think I can speak for my fellow Council members when I say 2021 has challenged us more in our leadership and required us to seek the wisdom of the Father more earnestly and humbly in many aspects of our responsibilities. I have been so impressed with the commitment, love and grace shown by our Council members toward one another and to our wider church family. The heaviness of leadership was very evident this year, especially in the latter part of the year,

but we supported and prayed for one another, and we have felt the prayers and support of the wider church, as well. A special note of thanks to Bert Schmid, Shane Ooi and Kris Tatt for your service on Council this year. Best wishes as you move into other areas of ministry. Wendy Steele is rotating off Council after serving six years. Thank you, Wendy, for your dedication and commitment to Church Council and to our local church. Thank you to all Church Council members for your faithful and selfless leadership this year—you are loved and so appreciated.

In closing, I would like to thank my church family for allowing me to serve on Church Council these six years. I'm especially grateful for the opportunity to Chair the Council these past two years. Although these last few years have challenged my faith and resolve at times, and humbled me greatly, I feel stronger in my faith and my commitment to this local body of disciples. Thank you for your prayers, encouragement and love for me—I'm eternally grateful.

Lastly, a huge thank you to our Pastor, Dave Lovell, who was my fellow sojourner these past two years. We have accomplished and weathered much together, but most importantly, we have grown closer as brothers in Christ and our resolve

to serve Christ in this place. Thank you for your encouragement and prayers, Pastor...I'm better because of you!

Church---as we come to the end of 2021 and look forward with great anticipation to what 2022 will bring, I ask each of you to please stay agile, humble and prayerful. I'm not sure where the Father is going to take his Bride in the coming year, but I'm confident He's still at work in the midst of the uncertainty and chaos of our world. These are exciting times and we need to be ready to respond as He leads us. Stay encouraged Church...you are loved dearly!

God Bless You All!
Tim Schofield
Chairman of Church Council



**CONNECT
& CARE**
2021
Annual Reports

CONNECT AND CARE

I love the words of Jesus in Matthew 6 when He encourages the disciples to, "...store up for yourselves treasures in heaven..." These words have inspired me throughout the year to not lose sight of what is really important, particularly in what has been another challenging 12 months. 2021 has certainly been full of twists and turns, however, I have been constantly amazed at the perseverance and faithfulness of everyone here at Bendigo Baptist Church (BBC). You really all are a rich faith community and an inspiration to many. So firstly, thank-you for your love and support over the past 12 months. I feel really blessed to be part of what God is doing here at BBC.

CONNECT

Relationally connecting people into the life of BBC is one of the key priorities for my role as Connect & Care Pastor. This year, I had the opportunity to run a couple of Joining our Church Family gatherings. While participation was relatively small, some extra follow-up has resulted in 10 people coming into membership. This, along with some intentional follow-up of newcomers and connecting those looking for a Life Groups, has meant that we continue to work towards pursuing the inclusive culture that God desires us to reflect. When we have been able to gather face-to-face, our team of greeters and café volunteers have helped us create the welcoming and friendly environment that we are renowned for at BBC. A big thank-you to all the people involved with the greeting ministry and to Nicole Pratt and the team who have provided access to some great coffee at our Sunday gatherings.

CARE

Pastoral care at BBC is another high priority for my role as Connect & Care Pastor. Whilst this year has had its challenges, the care of everyone connected to BBC remained a high priority. There have been some new babies, marriages and, sadly, some have gone home to be with the Lord. Along with many surgeries, hospitalizations and challenges as a result of the pandemic, there are always many opportunities to reach out and care for those we love. I want to again thank Michelle Cook and Mark Boyd, along with our Pastoral Care Teams, for your amazing ministry. The cards sent, letters written, phone calls made,

texts sent, meals delivered and a listening ear are simply incredible and appreciated by all. These acts of service, along with the Emergency Prayer Chain (thanks again to Graeme Parker and Lauren Gaskell) and the Weekly Prayer Notes, means we continue to do well at caring and supporting those in need, a testimony of God working in and through the lives of those who call BBC home.

As we come to end of another year, it is always great to look back over the past 12 months and see how God has been in the midst of all situations across the life of the church. Without a doubt, we worship and serve an incredible God and can look forward with confidence that 2022 is going to be another great year of doing life under the rule and reign of King Jesus.

Andrew Johnston
Associate Pastor (Connect & Care)



PASTORAL CARE



The 2021 BBC Care team of Clynton & Margaret Robinson, Lynn Boland, Tamaryn Lim, Jenny Trebilcock, David Haugh, Judy & Ken Trewin, Julianna Gibbons, and our newest team member Laura Blyth, have been a pleasure to lead in providing creative care with limited opportunities to be face-to-face this year.

Door drops, flowers, cards & heart prayers, bulletins & treats in letterboxes, occasional meals, plus many phone calls, messages, and face-to-face visits when permitted, have kept the team serving and caring for our BBC family. Each member of the team uses their gifts and skill sets in specific ways.

Tamaryn has the special job of tracking with pregnant families and visiting and gifting each of the newborns with a soft toy lamb. 2021 has seen 15 new babies welcomed into the BBC fold!

Jenny has penned nearly 100 cards from Engagement through to Get Well to Sympathy and all of life in between! Lynn, has visited many, whether in person or by phone and has made and prayed over many prayer blankets. If you have been a recipient of a blanket, you will know how special these are. Margaret is a wonderful admin support and she and Clynton have visited with many by phone and in person.

David, Tamaryn, Julianna, Judy and Ken have specifically prayed before, during and after services, either in person or online, over phone lines, at people's hospital bed sides or in their homes. Linda Letto and Janine Vendy have also joined us for specific prayer ministry, and we have seen God answer prayers in miraculous ways.

It has been said that prayer is the powerhouse of the church and that the spirituality of the church

can be measured by the substance of its prayer gatherings. It has been wonderful to gather and pray with brothers and sisters in Christ on many occasions across the life of BBC throughout this year. The Worship & Prayer night at Eaglehawk was a rich expression of this, as were the Prayer Retreats at Gunya. From the Monday Prayer Notes with many intercessors, to the 1st Monday of the Month Prayer Gatherings, to the Prayer Chain capably enacted by Graeme Parker and Lauren Gaskell, I am grateful for your prayers.

Despite lockdowns, we have been able to meet as a team most months for training and equipping in 2021. Training topics: Mental Health, Anxiety, Loneliness, Grief & Loss, Trauma & Critical Incident PIT, Prayers of Blessing, Trusting Wisely and training from the Centre of Non-Violence in financial, emotional, domestic, and elder abuse, protection, and resources.

In March 2022, we are hosting a 2-day Mental Health First Aid Training Course at BBC. We also hope to offer opportunities for upskilling, prevention, and care with BBC community training events to raise understanding, as well as a Healing Service, Marriage Enrichment Day, and a Memorial Service, all of which were postponed in 2021.

Personally, these past two years have been extra demanding for me, as alongside my pastoral role, I have been completing my Graduate Diploma of Counselling & Integrated Psychotherapy (Spiritual) with the hope to complete my Masters over the next few years.

It's been a joy to be a part of a BUV Leadership cohort throughout 2021 which has included retreats, journeying with other pastoral workers from across Victoria and much soul searching and reflection. I am grateful for the way that God has challenged and stretched me and for the input of Bill Brown and Kimberley Smith as they have led us.

Pastoral work never fits neatly into a 9-5, 1.5-day week and requires flexibility and after-hours availability. I would like to thank my husband David and my kids Bailey, Mitchell & Melyce, for their willingness to share me with the BBC family. I could not be me without their love and support. I would also like to thank you, our church family, for your encouragement, support, and prayers.

It is a God gifted privilege to be trusted to share in your deepest joys and greatest pains, to celebrate

answers to prayer and to journey towards maturity as Christ's disciple with you.

Michelle Cook
Pastoral Care Worker



PIECEMAKERS

This year has been very difficult due to Covid 19.

We usually meet on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month to enjoy good fellowship, the sharing of many skills, joining together with staff members for morning tea and a lovely time to share life. 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.

Robyn Geyer

SERVING CHRIST TOGETHER

This year, we have acknowledged 108 years of Continuous Women's Ministry for Bendigo Baptist Church.

It has been possible to meet at both Eaglehawk and Junortoun Campuses and welcome new members to our group of women, as we continue to support our Missionaries around the world, our Church and each other.

Once again, it has been a year of starts and stops with lockdowns because of the Coronavirus Pandemic, with some of our guest speakers cancelled out once again. We look forward to more time together soon.

Lorraine Clarke
Secretary

DISCIPLESHIP 2021 Annual Report

DISCIPLESHIP (NATIONAL/GLOBAL)

Hi Church, I would like to take this opportunity to share some of the ministry blessings over this last year,

While travel has on the most part been out of the question, Dawn and I did have the privilege to sneak up to Orange NSW in March and take part in a Journey training weekend with Mark Brooks and his wife Beth (Salvation Army leaders who head up a large pastoral team in western NSW), along with 5 regional pastors and a number of their congregation.

This was a wonderful time and Mark reflected that this was very encouraging for him and the team, helping them develop a discipleship culture that starts with me (Them). We are looking forward to sharing more in future times, as we explore how they can follow Jesus in their context in relational environments.

Sharing our discipleship journey with pastors from QLD, East Gippsland and Melbourne, continues to be a great joy and it's very encouraging to see what God is doing in the life of their Churches and their personal lives.

God just continues to open up opportunities as the influence of discipleship keeps growing,

Had a few more Journey trainings planned and was very close to being able to do them, until COVID stepped in and stole those opportunities from us. (next year ☹️)

We have an incredible team of Intercultural partners that we continue to support and track with, making the relationship with them even closer than ever before, I believe. As relational discipleship becomes more and more who we are as a church, (a group of people who follows Jesus and helps others to follow Jesus with intentionality). This is being done by spending time face to face when we can, zoom calls, face time, text messages, emails and connecting in with our Online church services. All of this to say we are experiencing the journey together that the Holy Spirit has us on. We are inviting them to be part of this, in their contexts. We can learn from them and be an encouragement to them, so that they experience it truly as a partnership. I personally do believe that they would feel more loved and included as individuals now, more than

ever. Great job Church! Let's keep loving on them and championing them on, as we do discipleship in so many different places around the Globe. So many stories to share as these beautiful people follow Jesus, but I will have to share them another time.

So, as you can read, there is lots going on. How exciting!

Now, for a little overview:

- Zoom Journey overview with 5 church leaders over 6 weeks
- Journey Training weekend in Orange NSW with those 5 leaders and about 15 of their key people
- Regular contact with 3 main Pastors who are all very keen to grow intentional relational discipleship, and contact with a few others who are interested
- Regular contact with our Intercultural partners
- Connection and relationships with some of the sending agencies of our partners, helping them to understand our heart for relational discipleship
- Being involved with the Journey training we held at BBC in Feb
- Planned, and nearly got to do, two other Journey trainings which were cancelled due to lockdowns
- Being part of our Senior leadership group, working together on, and teasing out, what it actually looks like for us as the BBC community to be disciples who make disciples and how we best live that out personally. I Love our team, just saying.
- Ongoing contact and encouragement with pastors in QLD, NSW, VIC and USA
- We have started a network for the South Pacific region - this is a group that has strong connection to RLM (to encourage, promote and grow relational discipleship communities)
- Being part of our Global Impact team, who cares for our Intercultural partners and more
- Lead a life group
- Got to preach at the Eaglehawk campus

I have learnt that you can build relationship over the phone, FaceTime and zoom calls. It for sure is not my preferred way to develop friendships, but it is possible many of these friends I have grown to love and do ministry with I have never met. How crazy is that? They have been able to share with me and together we have been able to disciple each other as followers of Jesus, unpacking God's word, as it instructs us, challenges us and continues to mature us as His children.

Just wanted to share some of what our Church is doing, and I do hope this is an encouragement to you.

God is continuing to stretch me, grow me and reshape me every day, always His apprentice.

Bless Ya

David Gascoigne, Your Servant and Global and National Discipleship Pastor



DISCIPLESHIP (LOCAL)

I began my report last year by saying what a privilege and blessing it was to serve as the Local Discipleship Pastor – even in the midst of a global pandemic. This year is just the same! I am profoundly thankful for the staff and volunteers that I serve with and for the blessing of being part of the team at BBC.

There is no doubt that in so many ways 2021 has been challenging, exhausting and difficult.

Through it all, though, I have been deeply aware of God being at work as we continue to pursue being a church that is passionate about being disciples who make disciples. Restrictions on gatherings – both large and small – have not stopped us from following Jesus, being transformed by Jesus and being committed to the mission of Jesus. Admittedly, there has been a great deal of complexity, frustration and last-minute changes, but God has proved his goodness and faithfulness time and again.

This year, our Life Group leaders have continued to faithfully serve our church family as they have cared for, nurtured, shepherded and led their groups. When possible, groups have been excited to meet together face-to-face. During lockdowns, groups have met on Zoom and kept in touch and supported one another through phone calls, text messages and messaging apps. Once again, I am profoundly grateful for each one of our Life Group leaders and the ways in which they have graciously met each challenge and provided essential connection and community for our church family. They are an inspiring group of people and I am thankful for each of them!

A highlight in our BBC discipleship journey was running our first 'Journey Training' in February. Over 30 Church Council, Life Group and key Ministry Leaders joined together for a day-and-a-half of exploring what it means to be a disciple who makes disciples and experience practical ways of living out Jesus' model of discipleship in a variety of relational settings. It was a fantastic weekend! Unfortunately, our second

'Journey Training' had to be postponed and then cancelled, due to ongoing COVID restrictions. This training will continue to be a key element of equipping each of us to be disciples who make disciples and I look forward to us being able to gather for multiple training events in 2022.

I have also had the joy of journeying with a small group of our young adult leaders through a 12-week discipleship training course. I love seeing their heart and passion for Jesus, and for people, and look forward to how God will use each of them to fulfil his mission in the years ahead. Next year, I will look to gather multiple small groups of people to connect in with this 12-week training, as it is a powerful tool to help us be intentional leaders in relational environments.

Looking ahead to 2022, I am excited to see what God will do in us and through us, as His Church, to fulfil the call of discipleship that is central to all that we do at BBC. There are several key elements that will be in focus in the year ahead:

- Providing 'Journey Training' for multiple leadership groups and for our general church community.
- Continuing to encourage everyone to be an active member of a Life Group, knowing that this is a key relational environment where we can each grow to spiritual maturity in Christ.
- Working with current Life Group and ministry leaders to identify, train up and release emerging leaders, who will then be able to branch new groups that carry our heart for intentional, relational discipleship.
- Providing opportunities for people to engage with in-depth discipleship training through the 12-week Discipleship Training course.
- Developing a local discipleship Core Team who will bring their gifts, strengths, passion, experience and wisdom to growing our discipleship culture at BBC.

There is no doubt that 2021 has been filled with challenges and yet we have continued to see God powerfully at work, showing us more and more what it means to live out our calling to be disciples who make disciples. As we head into 2022, I am trusting that we will continue to know the faithfulness and hope of Jesus, wholeheartedly following him, becoming more like him and leading others to know the love and hope that he alone brings.

Blessings,
Treena Denny



**EAGLEHAWK
CAMPUS
2021
*Annual Report***

EAGLEHAWK CAMPUS

Hi Church,

Who would have thought that we would still be in the midst of restrictions for a second year running?

I recall mentioning in my ministry report in 2020 that it seemed like the world was in a sense of idle and waiting. As I reflect on this once again, I know for sure, that this is not the case for the Church. I am reminded of, and encouraged by, the words of Jesus when he said in Matt 16:18, “[.....] I will build my Church, and the gates of hades will not prevail against it.” I have been encouraged that the Church has been able to pivot and adapt to our current context and time and continue to increase the Gospel reach in the midst of turbulent times.

Our current restrictions have made us rethink our gathering sizes and format. We have multiplied small and wide; branching our larger gathering into numerous smaller micro gatherings of 20 people. I believe that these smaller gatherings have, and will continue to, create an environment that will foster a greater relational depth and opportunity for people to meaningfully contribute as they gather. We have expanded from two, to six gatherings each Sunday. I trust that we will be adding our 7, 8 or 9th gathering soon.

We launched our ‘ministry markets’ earlier in this year; giving the ministries of our Church an opportunity to create a display of their ministry and put it on show after our Sunday gatherings. This was a great opportunity to tell their ministry stories and to give people an opportunity to get involved in the different ministries in the life of our Church.

PLANTING A NEW EXPRESSION OF GATHERING

For well over 12 months, we have sensed God calling us to plant a new Sunday gathering that would be quite different in its expression; the same mission, but different methodology.

In April, we began to meet with a group of people for prayer, discernment and conversation around what this new gathering could look like. We strongly sensed that we should create an environment where people would have an

opportunity to meaningfully engage and contribute as they gathered. One of the significant differences is the method of Bible teaching. This, less formal, approach incorporates table-based discussion and exploration of the scriptures.

Although the many lockdowns have slowed its establishment and traction, I believe that it has great potential to connect with and disciple people meaningfully moving forward.

CAFÉ 3:SIXTEEN

What a year!! Café 3:sixteen has maintained great relational connection with their Café family. It has continued to gather as restrictions have allowed, and also moved to ‘emergency food relief’ in times of lockdown. We have seen significant growth in many people’s faith, including the Baptism of Scotty in term 3. It simply warms your heart to see someone come to know Jesus and be transformed by Him! That’s truly why we do what we do!

The restrictions have certainly brought many challenges; however we know that we will learn lots of great lessons that will help us get better at sharing the Gospel in this community in the future.

MADCOW COMMUNITY GARDEN (MCG)

The MCG continues to ‘thrive’, pardon the pun. The hot house in our Brazier street ministry house backyard is full of seedling that are ready to plant. The team has grown and has maintained its connection, despite the ongoing lockdowns and restrictions. We look forward to a big year in 2022 as we implement some new ideas. Watch this space.

SCHOOLS MINISTRY

Although unable to be on site in the school, our schools ministry team have continued to connect on Monday mornings, to pray for the school, the teachers, the students and their families. This prayer time has grown into a meaningful time of connection, encouragement and support for the ministry team in this last season.

We are celebrating our school chaplains in our local schools.

- Leigh Pryse - Eaglehawk Secondary College
- Katie Pagliaro - Eaglehawk North Primary School
- And newly appointed Chaplain to Eaglehawk Primary School - Ali Gillett

Please continue to pray for them, as they support the students, teachers and parents with the love of Christ.

DISAPPOINTMENTS

In the midst of celebration and breakthrough, there are also your fair share of disappointments. This year has been really hard for many people, both within our Church family and those in the wider community. People have felt isolated, stressed and anxious, and fearful in the midst of this pandemic. It has been challenging to remain connected with our Church family, however people have been able to find creative ways to gather with others.

It has been challenging to build any real sense of momentum; both in regard to relational connection, in our services and in our wider ministries.

We have had to cancel many significant events this year; including our combined Churches Dahlia and Arts Float, Family fun days, our yearly Church camp and, I'm guessing, the upcoming community Christmas Carols in Canterbury Park, also.

I look forward to a time where lockdowns do not hinder the momentum of the collective mission of the Church and, in particular, the opportunities to further increase the presence of Christ within the Eaglehawk community.

ON THE HOME FRONT

Our little family is going really well. Bree has started a new photography job in a local studio, which she is thoroughly enjoying. Tolly, our youngest of four boys, is growing quickly and will be shortly off walking and created havoc (just like his brothers).

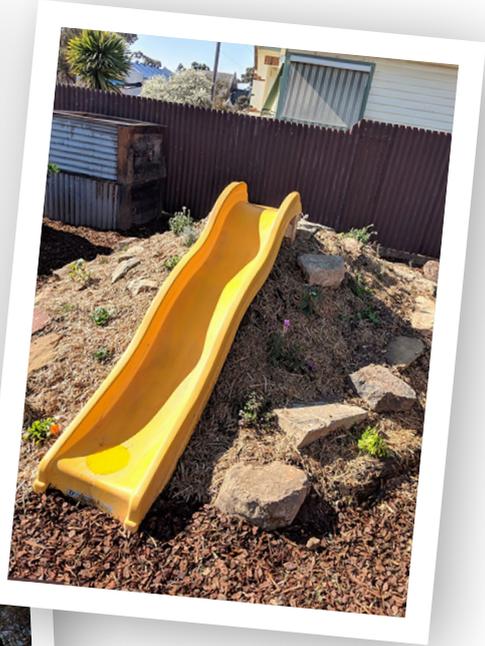
This year has been challenging for our two oldest kids with the on/off nature of schooling and also being separated from their friends. It has certainly been a challenge to juggle a big family and balance the demands of life and ministry. We will get it right one day lol.

We are all in good health and are thankful that we have lots of space to be at home as a family.

Thank you Church for your ongoing support and prayers!

Pastor Brock Gravener





**CHILDREN,
YOUTH &
YOUNG
ADULTS**

2021

Annual Reports

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Children's Ministry at Junortoun has been fruitful in unexpected ways this year, the restrictions we have all faced, have caused a strengthening in the partnerships between Church and home, and I am very grateful.

Our role as the Church has always been to equip and encourage families as they disciple their children and this has become increasingly important as our families have encountered so many challenges in the past twelve months. It is pleasing to be able to report that for many the challenges have tightened their family unit and brought them closer together. For those who have shared their struggles with us, we are incredibly grateful that you have allowed us to be a part of your journey this year and we know that we are all better together, even if together means a text message, phone call or park catchup.

We have made the most of gathering together where we could, and continued to offer all of our curriculum and parent resources via the website for families to use at home. When we haven't been in person, we have hosted an online presence each Sunday morning for those who wanted to connect over zoom.

I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the extraordinary service of Louise Nott and Spencer McWilliam over many years. They have both recently decided to step down from their positions as Key Leaders. Louise and Spencer have both served faithfully and have been an amazing asset to our church. The longevity of

their service speaks to their Christ like characters and their heart for children. They will each be sorely missed, and we know that their influence will continue to be felt for a long time. We are all extremely grateful to them and to God for them. Thank you Lou and Spencer, we wish you all the best in the future and we will be praying that you are blessed more than you could possibly imagine!

2021 is not what we were expecting, and we are not sure what the future holds, but I am confident that our Lord does. I am praying that we will continue to hold out the message of Jesus with hope to all who need it, and that this will result in ongoing blessings as children watch God at work in their circumstances.

Donna Clarke
Children's Ministry Worker (Junortoun)



YOUTH MINISTRY

Well, we hoped 2021 would not be the same as 2020 but we found ourselves in familiar territory. As with other areas of ministry that depend on having groups of people together, youth ministry has been difficult territory in our COVID situation again this year. Big events like Winter Camp and Game of Life were postponed and then cancelled again. I am very proud of the willingness of our leaders though to do whatever we could to enable youth to get together. We know teenagers are Zoomed out at the moment, so whenever the restrictions allowed us to we have done whatever we can to enable the youth to be together. The youth seem to have appreciated this, and we have appreciated the support and co-operation of parents as we have moved and changed things regularly.

We have been encouraged to see how God has been working in the lives of some of our teenagers as they have found themselves struggling in different ways through the year.

Being able to see some of God's quiet work in the background has been a blessing.

I am so grateful to each of our leaders who have continued to show their heart for the youth in amongst the changes and challenges of the year. I particularly appreciate our key leaders (Emily Kemp (Ignite) and Jason Spowart (Shed)) and our interns this year (Matt Johnston and HayNay). Week by week, it's a tremendous encouragement to be involved in ministry with them.

Please pray for our teenagers. The immediate and longer term effects of all the lockdowns and restrictions we have experienced in Victoria over the last couple of years are being felt and will be felt by them and their families way beyond this year. In an uncertain and fractured world their need for finding belonging and identity in relationship with their creator Jesus and his people are as great as ever.

YOUNG ADULTS

The young adult years are a time of socialising, exploring, spending time together. Lockdowns and restrictions have certainly affected the sense of community amongst our young adults. In the midst of this though, God's goodness has been evident and there have been plenty of encouragements through the year:

Some of the Village Nights we had earlier in the year gave us an opportunity to talk openly about issues affecting the YA community, and helped some of the younger members of the community get excited about taking ownership and getting involved more.

A group of our young adult leaders and church council members spent time with some research called 'Growing Young' and thinking about how we can be a church community that actively facilitates mixing of generations and helping young people be involved in church decision making and leadership. It was very worthwhile.

Some of the young adults got away to Halls Gap together on the June long weekend, and

that was a great encouragement. The sense of unity and care for each other, and seeking God together was a highlight of the year for me.

We moved our evening gathering to 5pm, which has been well supported and will continue to be a positive thing for building community as we meet.

Life groups have continued to be a glue for our community, and I have appreciated the commitment of our life group leaders and their willingness to do what they can to help have our groups together.

Dave Gillett
Associate Pastor (NextGen)



GIRLS' BRIGADE BENDIGO

We thought, at the end of 2020 that things would go back to 'normal'. How wrong we were. There is nothing 'normal' about a post COVID (are we actually 'post?') life.

We have seen over many years that camps build relationships far faster than anything else, so we bit the bullet and planned one for Riddells Creek in the 2nd last week of Feb. It was a bit nail biting as a lockdown was called 2 weeks before, but all things fell into place, and we had a wonderful 2 days away with about 85% of our girls able to go.

The rest of the year has been both online and in-person, which has made working towards achievements complex, but not impossible. The majority of girls have managed to cope with the online sessions, although the in-person sessions were always more well received. The introduction of snap lockdowns challenged the team to make activities exciting when we could not deliver packs, but I am so proud of the GB leaders who worked together, under difficult times to stay connected to the girls and meet the aim to be relevant, relational and responsive in those difficult time.

The program has continued to be relevant and fun for the girls – we have done things like pets, hand crafts, backyard games, service, kindness, games skills, my community, food management, disability awareness and more.

We are grateful again, for the partnership between Bendigo Baptist and Girls' Brigade Bendigo that allows us to be and make disciples amongst girls and their families the Bendigo community.

Jenny McWilliam
Senior Bendigo Team Leader
GBA National Commissioner



GIRLS' BRIGADE
Victoria
BENDIGO



**CREATIVE
MINISTRIES
REPORT
2021**
Annual Report

WORSHIP MINISTRY

I have been passionate about Creative Ministries for many years. I love worship - the opportunity I have to sing words of praise and thanksgiving to God and lead others to do that same. I love production - the ability to use technology to make God's word and the activity of the church accessible to large groups of people. I love creative arts - using various forms of creative expression to worship God and reveal His nature. Each of these things bring me joy as I engage with them for myself, and even greater joy as I see them used to bless, strengthen and encourage the Church.

I also love having the opportunity to do ministry with people who are skilled and passionate about these things. I take delight in seeing and hearing their God-given gifts, watching them serve Jesus as an expression of their discipleship and experiencing being part of a team that love each other and love building God's Kingdom together. I love the people I have the privilege of doing ministry with and I'm passionate about them enjoying their ministry, giving God their best, and the role we have as a group in leading and serving the church.

Like 2020, key themes for Creative Ministries in 2021 were pivoting and adapting. With each lockdown, it seemed that a new set of rules and restrictions came into place to work within. One thing that didn't change was the fact that numbers of people able to gather together was restricted, not just the wider church congregation, but also for those producing services. The sum outcome of this was that many of the members of the Creative Ministries team weren't able to serve at church on Sundays as they had in the past, while others were involved every single Sunday.

This has been a very difficult thing for the members of the team to go through, it has had an impact on our church and I have personally been very saddened to see the effect of lockdowns upon this ministry. Going

from an average of around 30 people engaged in Creative Ministries across three services each Sunday pre-COVID, having the capacity to have close to 40 people engaged in ministry each weekend across six services (including the live-stream and Youth) when no lockdown restrictions are in place, but often having just 7 (some off-site) people involved in just one livestream service during the height of restrictions has been tragic for our ministry. I want to thank team members who have patiently waited to be involved again and have jumped back in when the opportunities have come along. I also want to thank the small group of people who kept the wider church gathering going during the most extreme lockdowns, allowing BBC to still meet together as a church each Sunday through some of the darkest days of the year.

In amongst all of these things, 2021 has actually seen growth and development in Creative Ministries. As eluded to above, when all BBC worship services are running as planned, there are six places where the Creative Ministries team serves: the Junortoun 10:30am onsite service, the livestream/recorded service (obviously the Junortoun AM service and the livestream services are closely connected, but in fact they have differing requirements for their production), the Eaglehawk 9:30am and 11:30am services, the Junortoun 5:00pm (previously 6:00pm service) and Friday night Youth services.

Some specific areas of growth in the last 12 months have been the BBC livestream, the 11:30 Eaglehawk service and the Youth service.

Producing the weekly livestream would not be possible without a number of roles being filled, roles that were created when the livestream first began. They include video director, broadcast sound engineer and camera operators. There is now also a greater amount of work done to prepare the service for broadcast which includes lighting, screen presentation (song words, preacher

notes, video playback, graphics, etc) and the production of videos for sermons, anchoring, bible reading, communion or any other relevant element. This behind-the-scenes work is time consuming, technical and often complex, and much work is done in the lead up to Sundays to ensure services are presented to the highest possible standard to enable the congregation's engagement.

With growing numbers at our Eaglehawk Campus throughout the year, Pastor Brock Gravener was passionate about providing another service for people to attend and so the 11:30am Eaglehawk Campus service was born this year. Although this is a smaller service, and has a different format than other BBC services, Creative Ministries still has an important role to play and it's been great to see team members, some who are very young and just starting off in ministry, others who are returning to ministry after a break, serve in this environment using their gifts.

An exciting area of growth has been the Youth church team. With Brenton Apostolou, Zoe Cuthbertson and Braidy Phillips leading this ministry with passion and dedication, it has been fantastic to see BBC youth provided with great opportunities to encounter God in worship and in their gatherings.

These three areas provide great examples of how Creative Ministries is impacting the church, growing in numbers and capacity and serving the wider ministry vision of BBC.

One of the biggest blessings to me personally, which flows out into the ministry of BBC, is a small group of people who have worked behind the scenes with me throughout the year

- they are Luke Cuthbertson, Garry Logan and Tim Stubs. Every week, where possible, we have come together to plan, prepare and work towards producing livestream services, and also bring gradual but vitally important change and development to technological systems and infrastructure. Each of these guys has generously, and often sacrificially, volunteered hundreds of hours this year,

to serve BBC alongside me - in the midst of achieving great results, there is always a lot of fun and laughter, underpinned by a passion to build God's Kingdom by using our gifts. These are not the only people who have served behind the scenes, but I want to thank each of them specifically for their generous investment into this ministry. In particular, Luke has very much been my right-hand-man, carrying much of the responsibility of the Tech, Production and IT areas of this ministry. His generous involvement and investment has been beyond what I ever could have asked.

In all the twists and turns 2021 has brought, and though Creative Ministries hasn't been able to function at peak capacity, I want to thank each and every member for being part of the team. In their often sporadic involvement, through no choice of their own, in their patient commitment, and in their willingness to dive back in when called upon, I am so grateful for each member, the gifts they bring to their service and the passionate love for Jesus. Thank you!

As a ministry, we aim to serve Jesus in the specific contexts appropriate to BBC, to lead and facilitate people's engagement with God. I trust that each person who has joined BBC online or onsite has been blessed and built up because of the ministry of this team. We look forward to a new season in 2022 and trust God to continue to use us for His glory.

Andy Denny
Worship Pastor



ADMINISTRATOR'S
2021
Annual Report

ADMINISTRATION

2021 saw the changing of the guard with Ian Stephens retiring in July 2021 and Geoff Jordan being appointed as new Church Administrator. If there was one thing we learnt from 2020, it was to expect anything, and 2021 continued to challenge us with the unknown. Yet again, we have seen service formats change several times, from being able to meet together early in the year, to online services only and moving to a number of smaller gatherings later in the year, as we continue to try to work within the Government guidelines.

How has this impacted the church Administration area?

- Again this year, the use of our facilities have been significantly reduced. Playgroups met till the end of Term 1 and have been in recess since. Most other ministries, such as life groups, children's ministries and youth programs have juggled between meeting on ZOOM in terms of meetings, and smaller gatherings meeting at our Eaglehawk and Junortoun campuses and also Life Essentials in Hargreaves Street. It has been frustrating to take and juggle bookings for our facilities, only to have them changed or cancelled due to ever-changing directives given by the State Chief Health Officer.
- 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).
- 2020 Audit was completed, but largely unaffected by the restrictions.
- COVID safe Business Plan & protocols have continued to be updated and changed and implemented across four sites as the rules have changed. This has included the issuing of permits at times, and later in the year, having to sight COVID certificates. This has been a challenging time for our staff, and caused a certain amount of distress within the team.

PROPERTY:

- New sprinklers and re-vamp of lawn areas behind the Novo Centre
- We continue to improve our online streaming capability which has been greatly needed again in 2021.
- The new building development for Eaglehawk Campus continues to be progressed.
- New chairs were ordered for Junortoun Campus Auditorium and pews are progressively being sold.
- We have commenced the long over-due process of changing over the office phone system, which often sees people on the other end being cut off during a call.
- The continued hire of facilities by Coffee Storm (Tim & Rhiann Caldwell) and Building Healthy Lifestyles has helped not only with the church budget, but also building the church presence within the community, with many more people coming onto the church property.

In summary, in what has been as very challenging year, the Administration area has remained busy, although it has had a much-reduced interaction with the church community, due to the restrictions.

Geoff Jordan
Administrator



BENDIGO CHRISTIAN 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.

We continue to praise God for developments towards establishing Bendigo Christian College (BCC) on the Junortoun church site in January 2023.

We are pleased to advise that our faith target of 25 initial students has been met. As mentioned in this report last year, we would be greatly heartened to see more families from BBC becoming part of the BCC school community.

The Board has worked tirelessly in our faith vision. Gary Griffin, our Executive Officer, has brought his considerable educational experience as he works with external consultants in planning and permit applications. This has enabled the school vision to progress expeditiously. Added to this, we have received a donation of \$30,000 to meet many of these costs. We praise God for His provision. Further funds will be needed as we re-fit the Novo Centre and prepare to establish the school in 2023.

Several plans to optimise space in the Novo Centre are being considered by the Board. Our desire is to enable as much flexibility as possible that will still allow the Novo Centre to be used by other parts of the Bendigo Baptist Church community.

The Board continues to hold information sessions and get-togethers for interested parents and others. We also send out a regular school newsletter. If you would like to receive this newsletter, please email Lauren Gaskell at the church office - lauren.gaskell@bendigobaptist.org.au

In the past twelve months, we have added Michelle Chng as a consultant to our Board. Michelle, a teacher herself, also has particular experience working with Karen families.

Many challenges to commencing the school remain. We are still working with VicRoads, to determine how they will view our application for a school on our McIvor Highway site. By June 2022, our application to the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA) must be submitted. Every school in Victoria must be registered with the VRQA. Schools need to meet standards which are contained in the Education and Training Reform Regulations 2017. A comprehensive and rigorous procedure is laid out by the VRQA, which would-be schools must follow, if they are to receive registration. This is a huge task for a new school.

The school board continues to value your prayer and ongoing interest. This simply cannot be undertaken alone.

Yours on the journey,

Phil Trebilcock

On behalf of the **Bendigo Christian College Board** (Phil Trebilcock, Pastor Dave Lovell, Graeme Coleman, Graeme Parker, Louise Nott, Linda Ietto, Merilyn Tatt, Ian Stephens, and Gary Griffin)

**COMMUNITY
CARE
DIRECTORS
2021**
Annual Report

They say that the roller coaster is much more fun than the scenic railway! I think the jury might still be out on this one, but there is no doubt, it has been a year of ups and downs. The lockdowns and everchanging COVID landscape have brought about many challenges this year. Many of our programs running for short bursts before being plunged into lockdown again. We now have approximately 70 staff and 150 volunteers across the organisation. Staff and volunteers have been quite amazing in the midst of all this and although the impact on their ministries has been very difficult, there has been a real sense of purpose and hope, despite what might eventuate. I want to thank the extraordinary team of staff, leaders and volunteers right across all the different ministry areas of BCCCI. They have kept going and provided a shining light into our community through these trying times. It has been a massive team effort. Thankyou!

The community enterprise arm has continued to grow. We have been able to put aside some money for a building fund as well as getting us through a tough year last year. As it has continued to grow this year, it became obvious that we needed to pour funds back into the business to help us manage the ever-growing compliance issues and administrative workload. There have been many changes to workplace arrangements, awards as well as the constant COVID changes to deal with. In 2022, we will sow even more funds back into the business model to ensure our staff can fulfill their obligations and manage the workload.

Buildings- We have outgrown our warehouse space and will be actively seeking a new warehouse as soon as an appropriate one becomes available. We will also continue to search for new premises for our CBD space over the coming months. The temperance hall seemed to be the future home for Madcow, but this has not turned out to be the case. We are constantly reviewing the model and trying to understand the best fit for both spaces as we move forward.

What I have witnessed this year has been quite amazing. People have rallied around each other when things have got tough. Whether the busyness of the community enterprise, the challenges of the homeless work, or the

overwhelming need that has become evident through Gilead, every ministry area has forged forward with a positive mindset and ready to take on the challenge. Nexus, Playgroups, 1Hope, and the op-shop, have been severely impacted by COVID but the team have led so well through this season. Many people have had leave cancelled or struggled with the personal heartaches, but together we have looked after each and cared for each other in the midst of it all.

There is no doubt that we have been blessed abundantly by God, and that is evident in the culture that has been formed throughout our organisation. I am so proud of the entire team because I see them living their faith every day. This is impacting our city for the better.

It's been a long, tough year but the future is looking very bright for BCCCI. I know 2022 will bring its own set of challenges but I do believe we are ready to face them together with God. We will continue to look for more opportunities to diversify our income streams to ensure financial security. We will seek to identify new premises for our community enterprises that will take us beyond the next few years and finally settle on a more permanent CBD home.

Finally, BCCCI is a practical expression of God through His people to our city. Whether we are providing a hot meal, singing and dancing or sorting clothes, we are making a difference in the lives of others, and I am so blessed to lead this incredible group of people.

Matt Parkinson
Community Care Director



MADCOW ADMINISTRATOR

Well, another year has passed and what a year it has been! MADCOW Community Enterprises had continued to grow, and this has meant my (and Maree Shay's) workload has increased greatly in the past year. Due to these increased administration demands it has been fantastic to welcome Penny Martin onto the Administration team!!

This year I've continued to work from home during lockdowns, coming to work at Life Essentials once or twice per week. This has been challenging at times with managing working at home, remote learning for Daniel (now in Year 7) and still trying to stay connected in at work. Moving forward, it will be great to return to work at Life Essentials all the time and have Daniel return to normal schooling in Term 4.

Government requirements continue to change and grow. For example, COVID requirements, Long Service Leave, Vaccinations and Workcover just to name a few. We are developing our processes to manage these changing government requirements as well as managing the continued growth in the business.

As part of managing the growing MADCOW Community Enterprises business we are in the process of implementing a new software program called Visual Care. This software will manage rosters, invoicing and payroll, which will then connect directly with our accounting software Reckon. This implementation process has been quite difficult, as there are many specific options the software

developers needed to add so that it suited our requirements. There has also been a huge amount of data entry required in rosters, clients, services, and staff. We are hoping to have the software implemented before the end of this year, as soon as all these technical issues are ironed out.

Management of cash flow in the business is also very important, ensuring invoices are sent in a timely manner, accounts receivable followed up and accounts payable paid. It has also been difficult during lockdowns this past year with ministries of Bendigo Baptist Community Care not able to run. Playgroups, Nexus BYT, 1Hope Mentoring and Life Essentials have all been impacted. However, our cash flow management has helped us through these challenges, and it has been fantastic that we have been able to save some money towards our Building Fund. This will assist us as we discern where God is leading us moving forward.

I look forward to the opportunities God has in store for Bendigo Baptist Community Care across all areas of our ministry in the coming year. Thank you for the privilege of serving at BBCCI.

Naomi Boyd
Administrator



1HOPE MENTORING

Things haven't panned out quite the way we thought they would this year, so we are learning plenty of patience, resilience and flexibility. We have 8 willing and enthusiastic 1Hope Mentors, with 2 others finishing up throughout the year for various reasons. This

means there needs to be serious praying and recruiting for the start of 2022. The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few! Now more than ever students need 1Hope Mentors in their lives in these uncertain and changing times. Will you consider this role? It takes 1

hour a week with one primary school aged student to make a significant difference. The impact is huge!

We continue to touch base and communicate with both Camp Hill and Strathfieldsaye Primary Schools and pray for the students, teachers and leadership of those particular schools. The minute 1Hope Mentors are allowed back onsite they will be there, as has been the case throughout this turbulent year.

Please consider becoming a 1Hope Mentor, you won't regret it.

2022 is our year to shine!

Lynley Jordan
1Hope Mentoring Coordinator



NEXUS

This year started with excitement, as we re-cast and began rehearsals for the 2nd attempt at getting *Oliver!* back to the stage. The Leadership and Production Team had some new faces, and it was wonderful to be back together again as a community of people ready to lead our wonderful cast into our theatre production.

Regrettably, the year quickly turned into a series of snap lockdowns that seriously affected our ability to rehearse in person. However, we found creative ways to still connect through Zoom, and we came together whenever possible, after implementing many new and creative Covid-safe ways to meet.

As I can imagine many ministries would say, this year took a great deal of prayer and extra effort. At times we would often ask ourselves, "Should we stop or keep going?" After many discussions (and prayer), we decided to keep going and tried to get the production onto The Capital Theatre Stage.

Unfortunately, we never made it to the theatre due to lockdowns the week we were supposed to 'bump in'. Although this was gutting, we were able to make a last-minute decision to perform a small series of informal dress rehearsals for parents only.

I have contacted every cast member since we finished and asked if the journey was worth it despite not making it to the stage. Instead of writing about the amazing relationships and their theatrical experience, I thought I'd share

a few of the quotes the cast said I could share about their experiences at Nexus:

'The biggest part I miss the most is the friends that I've made on this crazy (and long) journey, I definitely didn't expect to make as many great friends as I've made, and I want to thank you so much for making a platform for kids like us to finally feel welcomed and also show what we're passionate about.'

'Thanks again for your love and support, I appreciate it more than you can imagine.'

'I'm confident that God is in control.'

I believe these three statements perfectly sum up our year. Community (friendship) is what Nexus strives to build throughout the year so that young people can know that they are loved. We believe that we have such a unique opportunity to use the Arts to show God's love to so many people around us, and despite the crazy 2021 year; God is most definitely in control.

Julie Lovell
Director – Nexus BYT



MADCOW COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT

WHO ARE WE?

It is interesting to reflect on my role as Community Engagement Worker for BBCCI where in 2018 and 2019 I had responsibility around Emergency Relief of food and financial support via an appointment system and then in 2020 the Covid-19 Pandemic took hold and my role transitioned into Food Relief responsibilities to the broader community. During that period the need for a concentrated support to the Homeless became increasingly obvious and so as of November that year, my role transitioned to being responsible for hospitality to the Homeless in the form of the current MADCOW Café for the Homeless and their friends.

WHAT DO WE DO?

People who identify themselves as homeless find their way to us having been referred by Haven Home Safe in the main, or simply by 'the word on the street'. I conduct a very brief assessment to get to know something about the person's circumstances, where they slept, if they are currently connected to other organisations and to provide them with information about what we can offer and refer on, if required.

Our broader connections include Haven, Salvo's, Anglicare, Vinnies, Uniting Church, Department of Justice, Centre for Non-Violence, Annie North, Gianna Centre and the Winter Night Shelter.

Our role with the Winter Night Shelter this year has been to provide a space for their Guest Coordinator to conduct Assessments and to provide an avenue of contact with guests via the Café space.

We were also able to provide a space for the Census representative to ensure our Homeless were counted this year as well.

The MADCOW Community Breakfasts have increased from one morning a week to five mornings a week. We offer a hot breakfast from eggs and bacon to omelettes or a 'surprise breakfast' created by our self-claimed chef – Al. Thursday morning is aptly known as 'Al's Kitchen'

by one of the Homeless. This is just one great example of the rapport built by our volunteers with our visitors.

WHY DO WE DO IT?

We are driven by the desire to build relationships and to share the love of Jesus to those in need and we do this through hospitality and providing for their basic everyday needs ie: food, drinks, clothing, toiletries, shelter, bedding, a shower, and a laundry service.

HOW DO WE DO IT?

We currently have a volunteer team of 30, some onsite, others offsite cooking meals or supporting with donations. This is a dedicated team with a heart for mission and each with a valuable contribution to make. They are skilled, dependable and often add their own 'flavour' to this ministry which makes it very inviting for our visitors to the Café.

WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES?

The greatest challenge is the unknown and the unpredictable situations presenting to us for attention and support. We meet these challenges the best we know how at the time, but still with respect and without judgement.

The other challenge has been the pandemic. Thankfully we have been able to maintain our ministry throughout this period; it has however come with some difficulties and frustrations around meeting restriction requirements and feeling like we are offering the hand of hospitality and taking it away, or limiting it with the other.

We did have a glimpse of what we love this space to look and feel like when we started the Tuesday 'Pot to Plate' meal service. A roast meal for example was cooked ready for serving on a plate ready to eat, where our visitors were seated, and playing cards while waiting. It was a lovely sight to behold. Let's pray that we can get back to this before too long.

WHAT'S NEW?

This year, Foodshare offered to pay us for pre-cooked meals and so the MADCOW Free Chow labels adorned our meals and were distributed by Foodshare to needy individuals and families. The cooking team did an amazing job, cooking 150

meals a week for several weeks raising a sum of \$7,000 in support of our ministry.

Several of our volunteers have taken on extra roles of responsibility whether that be in a support capacity to the counter and cooking teams or whether it is ordering stock for the 'Weekend Food Packs' or menu planning and purchasing of food for the meals our volunteers make for the Homeless.

MADCOW Community Enterprises are also utilizing our space with a person under a supported placement. We are blessed to have this person here twice a week, cooking desserts and biscuits for the Homeless and our volunteers.

WHAT HAVE BEEN THE HIGHLIGHTS OF 2021?

- A team effort establishing a ministry that is valued and meets a very real need.
- One of our Homeless being baptised in April.
- Another of our Homeless of the Muslim faith asking about Jesus and one of our volunteers responding with buying a Persian Bible for Him. Now this man is linking into BBC services online.

MADCOW CAFÉ FOR THE HOMELESS AND FRIENDS

Having our Homeless visitors come in specially to share about major things going on in their lives ie:

having a baby, visiting their children, getting a job, medical diagnosis, going to court.

WHAT HAVE BEEN OUR INSIGHTS IN 2021?

Our insights this year have been recognising the need to grow what we do 'organically', waiting on God for His guidance and direction. The flexible model of service delivery works. Being 'available', when the Homeless need us works. Establishing positive social connections and building relationships of trust are vitally important to this cohort of our community.

I personally believe that Jesus' disciples, dedicated to mission for His name's sake; together in community and for community are reasons for the 'successes' experienced throughout BBCCI.

WHERE ARE WE HEADING IN 2022?

Engaging the Homeless 'Beyond the Café' is a direction we are taking into 2022, based on an identified need for 'something to do'. We believe that taking a person-centred approach to what type of 'Activity' and an 'Activity with Purpose' seems to be emerging as important.

THANK YOU

I want to say a huge THANK YOU to our volunteers, for their commitment, enthusiasm, and their

MADCOW CAFÉ FOR THE HOMELESS AND FRIENDS STATISTICS 2021											
2021	Period	Presentations	Homeless Individuals	Same person visits more than once in a day	Friends of Homeless	Brekky	Drinks	Meals	Food Packs	Motel	Support
Jan	13 Days	322	295	27	no stats	68	213	141	82		12
Feb	20 Days	567	471	96	no stats	111	422	264	58		3
Mch	23 Days	653	523	100	30	131	468	302	99		32
April	20 Days	559	452	38	69	107	397	275	121	2	24
May	21 Days	576	436	60	80	134	386	253	103	2	23
June	22 Days	621	489	74	58	208	396	251	28		9
July	23 Days	945	% Of Homeless individuals to friends is 80 / 20			233	591	374	200	1	83
Aug	22 Days	1022				242	673	455	115		73
TOTAL		5265				1234	3546	2315	806	5	259

personal investment in this important ministry to the Homeless. Thank you for meeting the many and varied challenges and for working with me to establish a safe, caring, and trusted environment in which God's love can radiate and bless others.

We are often blessed by different people donating goods for the Homeless. This is very much appreciated.

I thank Matt, Rod and Naomi each year and will continue to do so as without their support,

encouragement, and willingness to respond so promptly to my requests is amazing when they are themselves busy, yet they still take the time out for me.

AN EXAMPLE OF A SATISFYING DAY AT MADCOW 12.8.21

I left work today feeling a real sense of satisfaction, hope, joy, and thankfulness. Today God's miraculous handiwork was so obvious. It excited me and I felt such joy and thankfulness at the end of the day. I was reminded too of the 4th Beatitude given to us by the Lord Jesus when He said, "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for justice, for they will be satisfied." That was a reality for me today. Why, because:

I could see God's handiwork in the life of a man who has been associated with MADCOW for 6 years, transformed by God's grace on his life with Matt and Rod from MADCOW and Brock from Eaglehawk Campus/Café 3; 16 journeying with him, as he shared with us his experience to faith, today, at our regular half hour devotional time, before opening our doors to more of God's handiwork in the lives of those we see daily.

An example being a woman, who has journeyed with us for near on 3 years, was baptised this year and experiencing the spiritual battles that come with a newfound faith in the Lord, came to me today and asked to provide her with the phone number of a Rehabilitation program. She also affirmed her desire to volunteer with us. I can see God's handiwork in her life, not having had communication for about 3 weeks, her appearance and persona noticeably different. Her conversation with me clearly indicated the journey to Christ has begun in a very real and obvious way.

Having contact with a consultant friend and colleague from my days in the Employment Industry just yesterday, I had the opportunity to refer one of our regular Café visitors for an appointment today. He later returned, most appreciative and thankful for the referral with the Consultant agreeing to mentor him into employment and while employed for a period.

A volunteer began the steps today of a vision to engage people beyond the Café. He took a regular visitor to the Café to share in a musical session with guitar and harmonica and another visitor an opportunity to revisit his artistic flair in sketching.

The volunteer excitedly told me they would do the same next week and that his volunteer offsider will spend some time with a couple of other visitors to the Café, one being a competition golfer in a past life, and so a 'putting practise device' will be set up to enable an opportunity of engagement beyond the Café for him next week.

I noticed one of our regular visitors asleep with his head on the Café table. I woke him to see if he would like to chat, but the timing wasn't right, so I let him sleep on. At the same time a man we supported for a good 2 years sat, sleepy from alcohol consumption. I said he was welcome back when he was sober.

While manning the Café with another Volunteer in the afternoon, the Café scene gave me a warm feeling of contentment as I saw one person curled up in the corner chair, sleeping; the fellow I just mentioned who slept with his head on the table, was back after we closed for lunch and though still struggling to pull things together, managed a hot meal and cuppa. Another shared with me his concerns about the fighting in Afghanistan, his home country. I found it a real privilege to hear his concerns about what was happening with the Taliban and the American's leaving his country.

The satisfaction here for me today was that the MADCOW Café for the Homeless is a refuge, a safe place where there is no judgement, but love, acceptance, and true concern for an extremely needy, lost, lonely cohort of our community, yet at the same time a people with an amazingly resilience amidst adversity.

While all this was going on, another volunteer was doing odd, mundane but important jobs behind the scenes, making up snack packs, recording fridge temperatures, packing food left over from the Winter Night Shelter into containers to freeze, checking the fridges for out-of-date food and doing the laundry.

And, in the afternoon one of the MADCOW Community Enterprise staff, supported one of their clients in the kitchen, decorating biscuits they made the day before for the homeless.

Then to top it off, the Café visitor who I invited to chat with me earlier on in the day said he wanted that chat at 4.00 o'clock and so with the Café door closed, timing was God given, and an uninterrupted opportunity of an hour sharing about what was happening for him. It was truly satisfying and the first intimate conversation after a year of hot meals, cuppas, and the occasional chat.

This reinforced for me how long it can take to build a trusted relationship and how being available and a consistent presence in the lives of the Homeless is so very important.

Then at the close of the day, sharing with Matt about some of these treasured moments, he gave me the go ahead to pursue inviting two of the people I have mentioned here in, with an

opportunity to be engaged 'Beyond the Café'.

What an exciting, and a most satisfying day seeing God's handiwork revealed in people's lives and in so many ways. I had a heart full of thanksgiving as I headed for home after such an amazing day.

Fiona Mummery
Community Engagement Worker

GILEAD

What a year it has been!

We are feeling really encouraged here at Gilead. So much has happened that is giving us greater scope to be of assistance to our community.

In the past year we have added a new male counsellor to give our team a more rounded approach to those requiring assistance. John makes us a team of three and it has been such a privilege to have such a calm and quiet spirit amongst us. Welcome again John.

We also acquired a grant, which has allowed us to begin to explore group work within the community. Thanks again to Dino Appla, who through his knowledge and expertise in grants writing was able to get us over the line. The main reason for applying for the grant was to assist those who might want to engage in group work, (however find it a bit outside of what they can afford), to be offered a subsidy. Through Dino's creativity and tenacity, we are now able to offer this to our group work clients, at a reduced or no cost arrangement. Such a blessing.

The first group "Safety Within", is being offered by our counsellor Naomi, who is very focused on assisting those with trauma, which is one of her main areas of expertise. One group has been run so far, over a six-week period, and has been highly acclaimed in the evaluation process. We are looking at one more operating before the end of the year. Well done and thanks Naomi. She has written the program herself and I have to say, it's most impressive.

The second group "Foundations for Peace" is ready to go; we are just looking at a date to start being either at the end of this year or early next, so watch this space.

Two of our counsellors are now keeping wait lists, so our service is certainly in demand, which is a wonderful endorsement of both our counsellors and the way God has blessed Gilead. We just pray into that, as we hope people don't need to wait too long for us to be able to intake them. Please pray with us.

In the 12 months, June 2020 to June 2021, we took in 95 new clients, which is a phenomenal number of people given that we will see those people for anywhere between 6 and 12 sessions each on average. The greatest issues presented were in the areas of relationships and anxiety.

During the past 15 months Gilead has grown from strength to strength. Given we are in difficult times, Gilead has experienced both blessings and difficulties: blessings in that God has used and grown us in so many ways and difficult in that we are seeing more and more presentations of people with relationship, anxiety and other Covid related issues.

We just feel so blessed that God continues to use us in being able to assist people to heal, in Jesus name.

We wait upon the Lord as we look toward the future. It's all in His hands and we trust He will take Gilead on into whatever he has waiting. We look to Him in anticipation and Hope of many blessing to come.

Many Blessings
Jackie Wagland – Director, Gilead Counselling.



LIFE ESSENTIALS

What a year! An enormous 12 months of change for Life Essentials.

Sales have been well down due to a number of factors. Everyone knows about COVID and this has had a major effect on our sales, and ability to have staff in the building. The new GovHub and Law Courts (TAFE) construction has had a major effect on us as well. Almost one third of our sales were generated by workers from the Council and TAFE, and they have been absent for the whole year. With a predicted opening of mid to late 2022, we are looking forward to getting more customers back through the doors.

The uncertainty of opening has also had an effect on retail trade. But more concerning was the effect it was having on many of our customers. This was 'their place' and social outlet. The isolation and anxiety that many of our older customers have and are suffering is sad.

But where there has been a lot of gloom and doom, there have also been some wonderful moments. The morning devotional and prayer time has been the highlight. At 9.30 am we gather to read "Vision Word For The Day" and then discuss and have a prayer time until shop opening at 10 am. While many people couldn't get to church, we feel so privileged to have had our own mini-church services, five days a week. This has been an amazing year of sharing and caring together. The fruits of this time together are very evident.

We have had a lot of fun. . . in dark times you need to be positive, and we have positivity in spades. People who do good deeds for others: without being asked, and without seeking any recognition. Just wanting to do it. . . discreetly. So much generosity and selflessness displayed. A lot of spontaneous prayer as well, is just amazing to see happening.

We have built some wonderful teams throughout the year, with Tuesday, Thursday and Friday being the highlights. We have also lost some staff during the year, due to various reasons, and are in the process of recruiting people to work on our front counter for a half or full day each week.

The adaptability of staff has been amazing. So many changes, but their focus on doing their own part has been great. Whether it is serving on the front counter, cleaning, sorting, pricing, cutting tags or stamps. . . it is all necessary, and each person helps contribute,

Using the MADCOW café as our meeting, morning tea and lunch area has been wonderful. Lots of space and a great place to catch up.

The shop has undergone a recent layout change, with more emphasis on ladies' clothing (well that's who buys the clothes) and a better visual layout generally.

We have ramped-up our online sales with Maddie Cowan and will be focussing much more on this in the next 12 months. We can reach a much bigger customer base through online sales and are looking for volunteers to help out a couple of hours a week, in the shop, to help boost this area.

All in all, it has been a frustrating, rewarding, sad, enjoyable mix of emotions. A real roller coaster of a year. . . but one of so much promise.

Looking forward to the next 12 months, working with an amazing team.

Rod Meadows
Operations manager

MADCOW COMMUNITY ENTERPRISES

After what 2020 brought, I was hoping 2021 would be a slightly easier one. However, this year's journey has proved to be anything but on so many levels. As I type this, I reflect on how the things around us continue to deepen our relationship with God, all the while stretching us to disciple others in all kinds of different ways.

Change has been a major component of this year, everytime I thought things were almost "stable" something "changed". But as this "change" happened, I've seen people from within our team discover more about their God-given gifts and how they were called by Him, to use them for His glory. Despite the challenges this year has brought, the transformation amongst our team has been the biggest blessing of the year.

Evidently, as those within our team seek, pray, listen, hear, act and embrace who God has called them to be, I learn more about where God has placed me, what He sees my role as and the way He wishes for me to lead too. If I'm being really honest, the change in the fruit I outwardly see now, had to happen inwardly first. This year from a personal perspective has been hard, but every time, no matter what happened, God showed me how much He loved me and showered blessings amongst the challenging moments. It was in these moments where I saw significant change begin to take hold both within me and the business. It provided what I now see as a great "break" (time away) to begin to see things differently, even though at the time it felt quite uncomfortable for many reasons. The space that it created transformed me with a flavour that could only be of God: He definitely changed things for the better. As I continue to step out in faith and lean on God, I pray God continues to grant me the wisdom to know His will and purpose for what the journey ahead holds.

But from a business perspective it rings true too. In years gone by, it's been somewhat easy to manage but the last few years of rapid growth have been absolutely hectic. The change has been enormous and it is no longer like the early days where the business was only just making ends meet. The business is much greater in regard to volume of work and ministry impact, which is solely because

of God's continual blessing. But growth like this doesn't happen without change and transformation either. When God created a "break", others were able to take their own steps of faith and begin to see where God had called them. With the input of key leaders we have made adjustments to different areas of the business and this has made a huge difference to the way the day-to-day things run. Despite the changes, the transformation in our staff and the way God has used them in His own unique ways has been an incredible blessing to our business.

I'm constantly in awe of how God shifts things to enable his plans to be birthed. Not only has God shown some possible areas for new off-shoots to begin to grow but, in how He grows the branches we already have. Two of the established branches now have a key area leader who is discipling others under them and seeking God on where He is leading them. They are blooming in their own God-breathed ways and contributing in major ways to MADCOW Community Enterprise.



CLEANING

In the Cleaning area, Rollay Bani has taken on a key leader role that involves some administration, training of new/existing staff and development/implementation of day-to-day processes in both English and Karen. Her heart for God and the way it drives her leadership is seeing both her and our staff's confidence grow quickly.

"My journey began in 2014. I first heard about MADCOW when Christopher (my husband) worked there, and when Christopher moved to another job, and I replaced him. That's how I started working at MADCOW. At first, I had no experience about cleaning like the equipment and how to use it because it was all new to me. When I first started working at MADCOW, there were only 6 or 7 employees and it wasn't busy, and there weren't many hours, we only worked about 3 or 4 hour per week. Back then, I didn't ask my manager that I wanted more hours, the person who I turned to is

God, I prayed to him to give me more hours and he answered my prayers which I was really grateful for.

During my journey I had my ups and downs, while working at MADCOW I was struggling with English because English wasn't my first language, and I was having trouble communicating with my clients and my co-workers. I also have trouble using my mobile phone and other technology. I also have trouble traveling and finding the location of a house or a place. As I get more experience from working, my family and friends who were having trouble finding a job have the opportunity to work from MADCOW as I help and share my experience from working at MADCOW to help them, and now 9 family members of mine start working at MADCOW.

Now I work full time and I help others who are new, and I share my experience with them and help them to develop skills. And now we have more than 50 employees working with us, changing people's lives. I don't regret working at MADCOW, it was a wonderful experience, and it was such a great experience to help other people who need help.

I want to thank all the people who helped me go through the journey, without them I wouldn't be able to make it this far, and I really appreciate every one of you who are working at MADCOW." – **Rollay**

"When I started working at a new business five nights per week I wasn't really happy. For the first two weeks every night when I got home I was angry, I put the key down and told other people in my home to tell Maree to find someone else. But as the weeks went on, Maree sent me back, I then became comfortable there. After one month I was happy to go." – **Na Haw**

"Now after six months Na Haw speaks to the people at the job site, he also teaches other people to clean. . . I think he sees that he is a leader now." – **Rollay**

GARDENING

This year feels like the Gardening area has grown quicker than grass grows in Spring. God's provision has enabled at least 12 gentlemen (both young/mature and Aussie/Karen), to be a part of the team this year. Scott Clarke's leadership in this space has seen the gardening area transform significantly. His ability to lead, take some young blokes under his wing and build a strong rapport with clients, has seen the blokes form quite a jovial, close-knit team. The clients are quite diverse and the lengths these

guys go to in order to make their visits meaningful are a great example of discipleship.

"It's been quite the ride at MADCOW Gardening this year, the growth doesn't seem to be slowing down, and I find myself having to trust in God more and more to provide for our requirements. Needless to say, he's always been faithful, whether that be available staff for the next day's gardening while I'm biting my fingernails the night before, or an easy resolution to equipment failures when we don't have a backup.

The opportunities to care for and bless people that society has dismissed are frequent, and all the staff have taken that onboard: Christians, and not yet Christians. The difference it makes when you treat them with respect, listen to their stories, and do more than a "that's good enough for you" job they have come to expect, does have an impact. I've even had a client quote our acronym back to me, saying 'you (The MADCOW team) are making a difference!'" – **Scott Clarke**

"I enjoy working with MADCOW for the satisfaction of helping people out, and for the honest work of gardening." – **James Harris**

"Hi I'm John and I'm new to MADCOW Gardening. Over the last three months or so I've got to meet some lovely people who appreciate a little helping hand around their homes. I enjoy turning their grass into lawn, rejuvenating garden beds and spending the day outdoors getting my hands dirty. It's very rewarding. And if it couldn't get any better, I'm generally spending the day working with one of my two sons as well." – **John Harris**

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

With others taking on more responsibility it has given me some time to discern and lead into the Community Support space in a more intentional way. Initially we ventured into this space to support Karen clients on the NDIS, however this year it has grown to include other clients as well. We've seen people who have been a part of MADCOW for a number of years, along with others gain meaningful employment. Clients in this area have specific goals to work towards: this guides their request for service. The scope of activities they partake in is diverse, but may include: grocery shopping/cooking, coffee/walk, fishing, help to attend appointments, cooking meals for the homeless at the MADCOW Café, volunteer opportunities and assistance to purchase/carry

out minor projects at home. The practical nature of supporting clients with “everyday things” is providing endless opportunities to show our faith through our actions and as clients ask questions, have faith discussions.

“On a Friday, eight Karen people go to Gonyah Valley Prayer Retreat. We clean up the gardens, get experience in creating gardens that represent Bible stories. I like it out there because I get to make new friends, practice English, work as a team in a quiet, peaceful place. When I am there I feel relaxed, sometimes when we arrive to the garden if we don’t feel happy then when we get there we feel better. Sometimes if when we go and clean the area with the cross we sit on the seats and pray. My client prays for the people at the garden and that we would be safe today. Danny is very patient with us and we really like the way he allows us to help the garden.” – **May Way Htoo**

“I remember reading the Bendigo Baptist Church bulletin announcing their plans to open an op shop with proceeds going back to help the Bendigo community and I knew that was a project I wanted to be a part of.

So I started volunteering when the op shop opened in June 2013 and have been a part of this amazing team ever since. The atmosphere, the warmth, the fun and laughter and, the spiritual goals and relationships are something I cherish every time I walk through the doors.

So for all these years I would volunteer once a week in the Op Shop and once a month on Saturdays while also having a career in retail career in retail pharmacy. But in 2021 I began feeling unfulfilled in my retail career and was searching for a new focus. While volunteering at Life Essentials I began chatting to Kathryn who was coming in and doing cooking with a lovely young lady with Down syndrome, and I instantly knew that this was the type of work I would love to do. Assisting people with different needs to help them live their best lives. I was looking through Facebook that very night and a job advert came up looking for community support workers through MADCOW. I immediately knew that job was meant for me, so I instantly texted Maree to express my interest. I have a background in nursing and after a phone call and interview with Maree I was offered a job. Maree confirmed my instant feeling that this was job for me when she stated at the end of our interview “I think you are the person we have been waiting to come onboard in this position”. I have now been doing

community support for 6 weeks and I love going to work every day. I have met amazing staff and clients and each day is different with varying highlights and challenges. I am so thankful everyday for Life Essentials and MADCOW for their role in people’s lives and their efforts in really “Making a difference, changing our world “ – **Heather Crothers**

“My experience with MADCOW started in 2017, walking past the Community Breakfast that was being held that morning. I popped in and spoke to Janine Logan about the possibility of volunteering. I was going to be doing some TAFE courses and knew that I was going to eventually work somewhere in Community Services. Fiona Mummery came in as our Community Engagement Officer and through our conversations, my role expanded to include Emergency Relief and as time passed and we have moved to supporting the homeless through the Café, I was given further opportunities to support people in our community.

During this time, I also met Maree Shay and consequently found out about the Disability Support that was also part of the MADCOW services. I finished my Diploma of Community Services at the end of 2020 and after having a few more chats with Maree, I was welcomed aboard as an official employee in Disability Support.

I absolutely love supporting the people I get to work with. I am very privileged to be a part of these people’s lives and the level of trust that is given by them is not taken for granted. I love the relationship that I have built with each person and being able to support them to live their best life, while I am also living my best life. I feel so blessed.” – **Kathryn Hewes**

These testimonies are a small glimpse of how God has poured out his blessings on MADCOW Community Enterprise in 2021. I’m sure there are many more that we haven’t captured here, if you see someone connected to our team I’m sure they would be happy to share a short story with you.

Finally, I wanted to say a huge thank you to you, the church. We are eternally grateful for all your support whether it is by allowing us to service your home or business, or in prayer. Please continue to pray for us in 2022 as God leads us to reach more people in his kingdom.

Blessings,
Maree Shay
Community Enterprise Manager

PLAYGROUPS

“Open, shut them, open, shut them, give a little clap!

Open, shut them, open, shut them, lay them in your lap”

This little song pretty much sums up my report for the past twelve months at mainly music, opening up, giving a clap, then shutting up and laying our hands back in our lap!!

However, I guess I need to write in a little more detail. When our year began back in February, we were able to function with some changes following the square metre rule. We made some changes to accommodate this which proved to be very positive all round with the motto ‘less is more’ ringing so true. We welcomed everyone through the double doors straight into the playgroup room where they immediately connected with conversation and play. This gave us time to wait for most families to arrive before a bell rang to announce the start of our music time and putting down the toys until later. The children soon adapted to the new format, and it always brings me so much joy to see them learn new ways and enjoy the program. We have had a minimalist approach in all areas to cope with greater cleaning requirements etc. but it has been such a positive change. It has felt very welcoming staying in one space and connection between the adults has been stronger from the outset. Everyone was just so glad to be back, and the children quickly warmed to the space, some faster than others, after such a long time away.

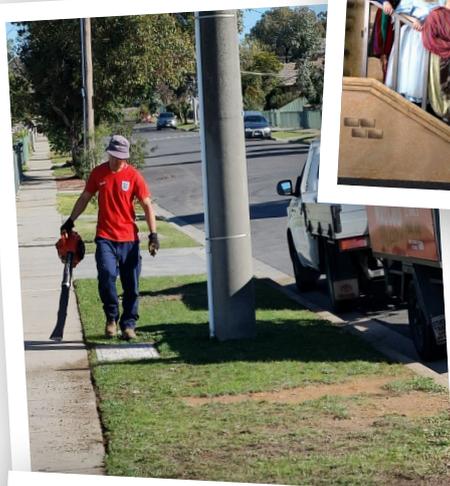
As always, God provides, and this year we welcomed five new leaders. Thankyou Janette, Rhonda, Liz, Rachel and Jillie for joining our team alongside longstanding leaders Judy, Carolyn, Jenny and Matt. This program would not exist without you, you indeed are all such a blessing to this ministry with the various gifts and talents you bring.

First term was exciting. Our outdoor space had an amazing makeover prior to beginning the year, which was noticed and appreciated by all, there was a real “buzz” amongst families both returning and new folk, with full groups over the three sessions. It was a very successful beginning. However, beyond that, we’ve been “shut” more than “open” with our hands “laid in our lap” in this space.

As we now consider term four, it is difficult to go forward with the current restrictions, but we hope we can go “sideways” and do some little things to connect our families once again to share with them and be the hands and feet of Jesus in this space at BBC.

We know God can use anything we can do, whether large or small to bless and encourage so we continue to trust Him in all these things at this time.

Jewell Jones
Playgroups co-ordinator



BBCCI TREASURER'S REPORT

What a year it has been, and for BBCCI it has been a year of change and refocus!

This brings us to the 2021 budget and anticipating that it will be a year of consolidation and growth. We anticipate the turnover for 2020 will be approximately \$2.15M and for 2021 the budgeted turnover is \$2.18M with an estimated surplus target of approximately \$107,000.

MADCOW cleaning during COVID-19 grew exponentially, and we are still expecting another solid year and continued growth. It certainly has achieved our original aims of employing Karen refugees, now employing 42 staff, 20 of whom are Karen. During 2020, MADCOW Gardening commenced, and it has great potential complementing the current NDIS clients using our cleaning service. We continue to explore new growth areas under the MADCOW banner that would enhance the business and generate more income to support many aspects of the charity.

Life Essentials obviously struggled in 2020 due to having to close for a period of time. We have budgeted on being open all year and have also shifted to online sites, like Gumtree, Bendigo buy swap and sell, etc., that many are using to sell and buy larger furniture items. Life Essentials surplus is paying for the rent of the Hargreaves St. building, which is an important hub for all the other initiatives and contributes to half the rent of Wellsford Drive.

With a combined surplus from Life Essentials and Cleaning of approximately \$300,000, it contributes towards the employment of a fulltime Community Care Director who provides vision and oversight of the Charity, who is supported by our administrator. The ongoing costs of running an organisation of this size have also increased substantially. We are aligning the wage rates for the staff effected from the BUV stipend to the Social, Community, Home Care and Disability Services Industry Award [MA000100].

MADCOW Café closed over the COVID-19 period and the space reopened as an emergency relief centre. The kitchen was used to prepare meals to support the needy and vulnerable during this season. We are currently assessing if there will be a different business model.

Nexus BYT unfortunately was unable to put on a show this year, however they are looking forward to being able to get back to the show in 2021. As it is difficult to predict what the year will bring, we have a breakeven budget this year. If things change significantly, Nexus will be able to contribute to the organisation financially as well as being a contributor to the overall mission, as they have done in previous years.

Playgroups, 1Hope, and Gilead for the most part remain strong ministry areas that are at the heart of our mission. They have a net breakeven effect on the budget.

We are increasing the hours of our MADCOW Community Engagement Worker from 30 hours to fulltime. This is very exciting as the position was initially funded by the MADride and can now be supported by the organisation. We have also included a fundraising initiative to raise \$20k and community donations of \$20k. We are also very excited to be supported by another initiative, "Pet Chow", with the very generous support of Central Vic Meats.

BBCCI Budget	2021				
Income		Expenses		Surplus/Deficit	
Administration	1,500	Administration	177,966	-	176,466
Life Essentials (inc. other income)	214,200	Life Essentials	213,235		965
Cleaning	1,743,016	Cleaning	1,441,061		301,955
Nexus BYT	114,155	Nexus BYT	112,924		1,231
Playgroups	13,200	Playgroups	13,808	-	608
Gilead	12,000	Gilead	13,617	-	1,617
1Hope	-	1Hope	500	-	500
MADCOW	80,000	MADCOW	98,170	-	18,170
Total	2,178,071	Total	2,071,281		106,790

The purpose of BBCCI is to serve our community as an act of obedience and love to God and to share that love of Christ with a lost world. We must remain financially viable whilst never losing sight of these objectives.

In Jesus we trust.

Sharon Gleeson FCPA & Matt Parkinson

18 October 2020

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

BENDIGO
BAPTIST
CHURCH