



# Annual Report 2012-2013

## Christ Church Community Centre

14 Acland Street, St Kilda, Victoria

ABN 48 967 756 651



### ***Who are we? ... What do we do?***

We are a diverse group of people - volunteers, paid staff, voluntary committee – who strive to enliven the building known as Christ Church Community Centre. Located in the heart of St Kilda we provide opportunities and reasons for people from the surrounding community – particularly those who feel unconnected or isolated – to meet and mix, to express and learn, to give and to benefit.

We organise and host socially inclusive activities designed to decrease isolation and foster relationship building within the local community. And we aim to be a catalyst, to also open up the Centre for others to run programs and provide services.

Our work has been financially supported by several Trusts and Foundations, by Local Government programs and individual donors. They have helped to keep our doors open and to keep us operating by underpinning the part-time employment of our skilled and valued staff members (six people working the equivalent of one-and-a-half people full-time) including two community support workers) and some of our programs.

At the start of 2013 we farewelled Father James Minchin, Parish Priest and driving force since the Centre's inception. Since then we have been supported by Father David Greentree, currently the locum at Christ Church and coincidentally one of the founding staff members of the Centre.

In our tenth year we have continued to consolidate and to initiate, as you will see from our Manager's report on the following pages. For a growing number of people we are no longer just a place on the Acland Street hill that almost nobody notices – we have a place in their lives. We hope that in reading about what is being achieved, you will be inspired to take interest in our work and to support us in any way you can.

Michael Wilson  
President, Christ Church Mission Inc.  
November 2013



*Front Cover Photos include:*

*Top - The Community Garden, Quilting sessions, Stepping Stones program for Seniors, Election Day sausage sizzle, Second Bite delivery, Staff members, Group undertaking Certificate I - Pre-Vocational Preparation, Book Sale, Seniors Week Afternoon-Tea, Open House Dinner preparation. iPad class*

*Bottom – Quilting session, Stepping Stones group, Open House Dinner preparation, Community Garden, Yoga Group gathering, Father James Minchin, Bishop Philip Huggins*

*Page 2: Christ Church Community Centre (Photo by Catherine Sutherland, Architect Arthur Andronis)*

**Manager's report**

**Our Programs: Open House**

For the last 6 years we have provided a free weekly community meal on Wednesday evenings for up to 100 people. While the majority who attend are older men who reside in local rooming houses, we have been pleased to see an increase in the number of women and families attending.

A large meeting room is available for reading or chatting beforehand. Many people are regulars who tell us how much they appreciate the welcoming environment and opportunities to socialise, as much as the delicious three course meal.



Ingredients are mainly sourced from Second Bite, Foodbank Victoria and local bakeries.

The meals are prepared and served by teams of volunteers, freeing staff members to catch up with the diners on a personal basis.

Participants also have access to packaged bread, fruit and occasionally other donated goods to take away.

**Community Kitchen Garden**

Support from The Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation has enabled us to fulfil a long-term wish to establish a community kitchen garden on Parish property beside the Centre.



Members of a variety of the Centre's groups meet to participate in regular workshops and contribute to the work involved in producing fresh vegetables and herbs for the weekly community meal.

**Emergency Relief**

Basic groceries, some perishable food and toiletries are available to people who are struggling to survive on restricted incomes. During the last year we have noticed an increasing number of families requiring assistance (up to 50 each month), many of whom are refugees or homeless. Supplies are sourced from Foodbank or through the generosity of Christ Church parishioners.

### **Garden Nomads**

While many older people prefer to stay in their own homes as long as possible, maintaining their environment becomes an impossible task. Our green-fingered volunteers assist frail or disabled residents to maintain their gardens, which often also enables them to continue to live independently in the community.



### **Stepping Stones**

A group of elderly isolated local residents meet fortnightly for animated discussions, reminiscence, singing, trivia quizzes, guest speakers, slide shows and always the mandatory special afternoon tea.



Each year this group swells to over fifty as we host our traditional Seniors' Week Musical Afternoon Tea, which attracts seniors from all over the City of Port Phillip.

### **Lively Arts: Introduction to the iPad<sup>1</sup>**

This continues to be a very popular group for older women, many of whom have overcome their fear of technology. Some have received iPads as gifts or have acquired their own and are using them to keep in touch with their families and friends.



The enthusiastic response to these classes emphasises the need for further touch technology training, particularly for this age group. A self-help group which arose from earlier programs has continued to meet for mutual support and problem solving at their own pace.

<sup>1</sup> The Lively Arts program was established in 2011 through a grant from the John T Reid Charitable Trusts

**Lively Arts: Patchwork and Quilting**

This group is gradually growing in popularity as local women recognise the therapeutic value (and joy) to be had from cutting fabric into little bits and putting it back together again to express their own personal aesthetic.

A number of women have now completed whole quilts and are revelling in their new found addiction as well as the companionship of others with similar interests.



**Yoga**



There are two general yoga groups each week at the Centre. These are low-cost, led by a qualified staff member and attract a number of keen local men and women.

A chair-based group is also held for older participants at their nearby Office of Housing residence.

*(Pictured: Morning Tea after a Yoga session)*

**Year of Favour Program**

Through a joint project of the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne, Kangan Institute and Kunexion Learning in conjunction with the Christ Church Community Centre, members of the community were offered the opportunity to take part in an accredited course leading to the Certificate 1 in Vocational Preparation. Based at the Centre, a number of the twenty-five who embarked on the program were also Open House attendees.<sup>2</sup>



*Some of the participants, with Dr Srebrenka Kunek (facilitator – in orange), Bishop Philip Huggins & Mike Wilson*

<sup>2</sup> The Centre-based intensive workshop program concluded in September 2013, with participants then required to complete their submissions for competency-based assessment

### ***The Centre as a Community Venue***

A number of organisations and individuals rent space at the centre for meetings, seminars, rehearsals and celebrations. Narcotics Anonymous uses the venue for four very well attended groups each week and St Kilda Legal Service is based at the Centre until early 2014 while their usual home is being renovated.

We welcome these opportunities to provide a service to the wider community for no longer are we “just a place on the Acland Street hill that almost nobody notices”!

### ***Our Volunteers***

The staff team is supported by over fifty people who make an essential contribution to the work of the Mission through a range of skills and experience, as well as their boundless enthusiasm and effort.

Our volunteers prepare, cook and serve the weekly community meal, collect food from Foodbank, Second Bite and local bakeries, help with the fortnightly seniors group, and are involved in the gardening program and the recently-developed community garden.



Christ Church Mission believes in the inherent right of all people to engage with and contribute to their local community and that productive relationships develop from this process. We currently have a growing number of volunteers who were originally recipients of assistance and are now keen to give something back.

Above all, our volunteers are the gift that keeps on giving and so continually they have our gratitude.

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### ***Staff***

Our staff members have varied backgrounds, with training and experience in Community Welfare, Social Work, Education, Mental Illness, Homelessness and Community Development.

Michele Sholl BA, Dip Ed, Dip Community Welfare, Dip Frontline Management – Manager<sup>3</sup>

Elaine Wilkinson Dip Community Welfare – Community Development Project<sup>4</sup>

Elizabeth Ng BA Community Development, Dip Family Therapy, Accredited Yoga teacher in the tradition of Krishnachrya – Program Facilitator

Barbara Nicholson – Administration Assistant

Anthony Bridgeman – Administration Assistant

Jim Arter – Caretaker

### ***Committee of Management, Christ Church Mission Inc***

Michael Wilson – President

Carmen Ayres – Vice-President

Geoffrey Court – Secretary

Charles Baird – Treasurer

Valerie Lion

Father James Minchin

Father David Greentree (locum)

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<sup>3</sup> Supported by a grant from the William Buckland Foundation (managed by ANZ Trustees)

<sup>4</sup> Part funded by The R E Ross Trust and The Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation

**How we keep going ...**

We gratefully acknowledge support in cash or in-kind given to Christ Church Community Centre during 2012-2013 by the following:

**Individuals**

Anonymous (x 6)  
Mary Grace Levakis  
Parishioners of Christ Church St Kilda  
Stella Beal

**Organisations & Businesses**

Anglican Parish of St John's, East Malvern  
Bakers Delight - Hampton  
Bunnings - Port Melbourne  
Canterbury Singers  
Elwood Patisserie  
Foodbank Victoria

Holley Nethercote Lawyers  
Second Bite  
TransAccess

**Trusts & Foundations**

Feed Melbourne  
Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation  
The R E Ross Trust  
William Buckland Foundation (managed by ANZ Trustees)

**Support from Government**

City of Port Phillip

<b>Income &amp; Expenditure for the Year ended 30 June 2013</b>	2012-13 \$	2011-12 \$	2010-11 \$
<b>Revenue</b>			
Operating Income	97,002	127,545	14,876
Fundraising	6,293	262,150	49,650
Members' subscriptions	30	35	35
Interest	9,423	965	1,795
	<u>112,748</u>	<u>390,695</u>	<u>66,356</u>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Staff costs	99,126	76,744	83,118
Program costs	35,119	30,543	20,751
Bank charges	261	253	293
Office expenses	1,392	1,798	2,042
Insurance	3,658	3,112	2,814
Rent	9,000	9,000	0
Depreciation	75,111	74,581	74,386
	<u>223,667</u>	<u>196,031</u>	<u>183,404</u>
Surplus (loss) from ordinary activities	<u>(110,919)</u>	<u>194,664</u>	<u>(117,048)</u>

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

**What this means ...**

Thanks to generous donations and philanthropic grants over the last 3 years, we have been able to develop our programs and build a stable team of part-time staff. But this funding does not guarantee our long term future and our capacity to run fee-for-service activities is significantly restricted, given that many of our participants have low (if any) income.

We are subsidising the current program and pay our staff the appropriate award rates, so we are drawing on our capital to sustain the existing level of our operations. While our Centre belongs to and is leased from the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne, we are also responsible for all maintenance on our building.

We are not the only group needing and seeking financial support from donors and philanthropic trusts. Our point of difference – apart from our community of interest – is that we wish to offer the opportunity for individuals who may desire a more engaged philanthropy to enter into partnership with us and receive more personal feedback than only a receipt or accountability statement.

In the meantime, we continue to apply to potential funding sources where appropriate and would be grateful for support through your donation whenever possible!

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***How you can help us ...***

- Donations of non-perishable food and toiletries are always welcome – you can leave them at the Community Centre, 14 Acland St., St Kilda, Monday-Thursday between 10 am & 2 pm.
- Donations of \$2 and more are tax-deductible and can be sent to

Christ Church Mission Inc  
PO Box 1221  
St Kilda South, Vic 3182

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



<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Christ-Church-Community-Centre-the-Little-St-Kilda-Mission/409973252381298>

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