

# Christ Church Community Centre Annual Report 2016



Christ Church Community Centre  
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## ***Why we do what we do where we do ...***

Today Acland Street – for many people – *is* St Kilda. Once, in the 1830s, the area now known as the Acland Street Hill was a green knoll, just a picnic area on the foreshore and a grazing lease. By 1842 *Green Knoll* was renamed *St Kilda*, Acland Street was created and development began.<sup>1</sup> At the top of the hill, some things have changed, and some remain the same. There's the sandstone church – Christ Church Anglican Church – much the same as when it was completed in the 1850s, the oldest Anglican Church south of the Yarra. There's the church's Vicarage, built around the 1870s and still much the same now. There's the parish hall, better known to people as Theatre Works. But in between these last 2 buildings is the Community Centre's Kitchen Garden. And open since 2003, there is the Christ Church Community Centre tucked behind the vicarage and next to the church.

We're small and refer to ourselves as “the little St Kilda Mission” and face constant challenges, but from our beginning Christ Church Community Centre has had a clear focus. The focus is to be a neighbourhood place where people can connect. Because we are here, many people – for a range of reasons – have been part of the Centre's activities as participants, as givers, as recipients and as partners. About 800 people a month come through our doors to make use of the Centre and its programs.

A key driver of our work is to support people whose lives are difficult because of *poverty of resources* or *poverty of relationships*. Some local people live in precarious accommodation, just one rent payment away from being homeless. We believe that through hospitality there can be the beginnings of a breakthrough in alleviating this poverty – providing nourishment in the form of food and friendship.

So there's dinner one night a week and an emergency food cupboard for people experiencing urgent disadvantage. Our Kitchen Garden contributes to both. The “Garden Nomads” program helps frail or disabled people maintain their home gardens as well as providing training for people with special needs. The enthusiastic quilting group and other groups also use the Centre – Narcotics Anonymous and Alcoholics Anonymous meet regularly. As well as no-cost chair-based exercise sessions in our outreach to women in local social housing, there are also in-house low-cost Yoga classes. We have shower and laundry facilities, unavailable or risky to use in some accommodation.

The building is welcoming. More important is the welcome offered by the volunteers and staff. Most important is the experience for people who enter as individuals and who then become people who are known, drawn into links which continue outside the Centre, extending into our neighbourhood.

If you'd like to know more, join as a volunteer, be a participant, a financial supporter, drop in Monday to Thursday (10-2) at the Centre, 14 Acland Street, check out our website [www.ccm.org.au](http://www.ccm.org.au) You will even find us on facebook at “Christ Church Community Centre - the Little St Kilda Mission”.

We hope you will be inspired by our work and be drawn to translate that inspiration into your own action, whether as a volunteer or as a supporter, whether in your neighbourhood or ours.

Michael Wilson  
President, Christ Church Mission Inc.  
December 2016

Michele Sholl  
Manager, Christ Church Community Centre

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<sup>1</sup> “Timeline 1800-1900”, Peter Johnson, St Kilda Historical Society < <http://www.stkildahistory.org.au/history/st-kilda-timeline/timeline-1800-1900>> January 2017

## Manager's Report

We keep saying it's not really all about food at **Christ Church Community Centre** but ... In 2015-6 we served 4224 meals at **Open House**, our free weekly community meal.



With the support of over sixty volunteers and generous donors we collected more than 1000 sacks of bread from Elwood Patisserie and Bakers Delight in Hampton and 500 crates of fruit and vegetables from Second Bite. Foodbank was the source of 400 litres of milk, 800 kg of other dairy products, 850 cartons of non-perishables and 1300 kg of fresh fruit and vegetables.



All of this food would once have been thrown out!



Every Wednesday from midday our cooking crew performs miracles of invention with this produce to create meals worthy of any dinner party.

From 5pm the serving crew assembles to serve the three course meal to up to a hundred diners, with some who attend every week in anticipation of a delicious meal and good company, meeting old and new friends. Our volunteers not only provide a service, they are encouraged to take time to get to know all who come to dinner.



And then, when the last diner has left, there is still the cleaning and packing away to be done.





In 2015-6 we provided 933 parcels of food and toiletries to people struggling to cope on limited incomes. With no external funding we are only able to provide this support because of the generous regular support from Christ Church parishioners, the local Kedem Community and neighbouring businesses.



Every fortnight our **Stepping Stones Group** for Seniors meets to chat, sing, listen to guest speakers, reminisce and ultimately enjoy a delicious afternoon tea. Highlights included participation in the Community Ball and our annual Seniors Week Musical Afternoon Tea.

The Centre hosts three **yoga** groups a week, with participants enjoying a weekly coffee session on Wednesday mornings and regular meals in local restaurants. We also lead a chair-based exercise group at the Esplanade social housing complex.



It really isn't all about food and Tanya, who runs our **Intro to iPad** classes usually has to be reminded to allow her pupils to have a coffee break while learning about emails, internet and social media.

**Quilting** has continued to be a diverting hobby which achieves the key aim of developing and strengthening relationships among women in our neighbourhood. Such is the enthusiasm that group members sent out a plea for old shirts to produce brilliant quilts from castoffs. Biennial exhibitions provide encouragement as well as significant pride in achievement.



Our **gardening** program has diversified during the year with the **Community Kitchen Garden** becoming a focus for training and skill development as well as being a source of fresh veggies and herbs for the community meal.



A number of participants have developed the experience and confidence to join our team of **Garden Nomads** who provide gardening support to frail or disabled local garden owners.



## **Our Volunteers**

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

|                     |                    |                   |                 |
|---------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Josephine Alexander | Jim Arter          | Lee Baird         | Marie Baker     |
| Stuart Baker        | Bradley Balbi      | Stephen Baldwin   | Braden Barnes   |
| Murray Barnes       | Ron Bell           | Ant Bridgeman     | Niki Camilatos  |
| Debbie Carmichael   | Rod Carmichael     | Steven Carter     | Janet Cathels   |
| Robin Clarke        | Jack Connor        | Sue Connor        | Maurice Cook    |
| David Dawson        | Robert Forrest     | Robyn Foy         | Amelia Hogg     |
| Dianne Hollis       | Phillip Jaboor     | Lindsay Jamieson  | Sandra Johnston |
| David King          | Ruth Kingston      | Susan Kohn        | Evanna Lake     |
| Tony Lion           | Valerie Lion       | Elen Masson       | Kay McLennan    |
| Robyn Martin        | Glenys McLeod      | Diana Miller      | Emma Miller     |
| Anne Moriarty       | Anne Murphy        | Maree N'Diaye     | Pauline O'Brien |
| Gabrielle O'Connor  | Tom O'Connor       | Lyn Oliver        | Denise Orloff   |
| Andrew Pope         | Anthony Poygaridis | Raffaella Santoni | Mark Spehr      |
| Marcus Stelling     | Mark Stoffberg     | Maya Stoffberg    | Hana Stoffberg  |
| Ella Thomson        | Cornelia Trumper   | Peter Turner      | Jonathon Usi    |
| Theo Warsh          | Virginia Weymiss   | Damien White      | Mounya Wise     |
| Vincent Zhang       |                    |                   |                 |

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## **Staff**

Our staff members, all of whom work part-time, have varied backgrounds, with training and experience in Community Welfare, Social Work, Education, Mental Illness, Homelessness and Community Development – a total of 5 people – 3 part-time and 2 casual working a total of 63 hours over 4 days (EFT of 1.7)

*Manager* - Michele Sholl, BA, Dip Ed, Dip Community Welfare, Dip Frontline Management

*Community Development Projects* - Elaine Wilkinson, Dip Community Welfare

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

*Administration Assistant* - Barbara Nicholson, BA Hons, Cert in Family Life Education, Cert IV in Life Coaching

*Administration Assistant* - Anthony Bridgeman, Cert III Community Services, Cert IV Community Development

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

## **Governance - Committee of Management, Christ Church Mission Inc.**

Michael Wilson – President

Carmen Ayres – Vice-President

Geoffrey Court – Secretary

Charles Baird – Treasurer

Valerie Lion

Stephen Baldwin

Father Turi Hollis

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

Community recognition of our Centre continues to grow. A number of organisations and individuals hire space for meetings, seminars, rehearsals, celebrations and for professional practice. We have two large spaces and an office, all of which may be available by negotiation. You can discuss your needs and our capacity to meet them by phoning 9534 9250 during office hours – Monday to Thursday between 10 am & 2 pm (Wednesdays until 7 pm) - or leave a message and our staff will return your call.



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

| Income & Expenditure for the Year to 30 June 2016 |                 | 2014-2015       | 2013-14         |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| <b>Revenue</b>                                    |                 | \$              | \$              |
| Operating Income (Grants)                         | 112,679         | 50,517          | 74,264          |
| Fundraising<br>(incl. Donations, Venue hire)      | 26,167          | 61,193          | 18,015          |
| Members' subscriptions                            | 40              | 30              | 35              |
| Interest  | 5,003           | 5,710           | 7,804           |
|   | <u>143,889</u>  | <u>117,450</u>  | <u>100,118</u>  |
| <b>Expenses</b>                                   |                 |                 |                 |
| Staff costs                                       | 126,188         | 109,363         | 101,470         |
| Program costs                                     | 21,292          | 17,886          | 20,277          |
| Office expenses                                   | 912             | 1,047           | 1,642           |
| Insurance   | 3,444           | 3,397           | 3,400           |
| Rent  | 9,000           | 9,000           | 9,000           |
| Maintenance & Cleaning                            | 7,020           | 8,462           | 11,804          |
| Bank charges                                      | 268             | 277             | 255             |
|   | <u>168,124</u>  | <u>149,432</u>  | <u>147,848</u>  |
| Surplus (loss) from ordinary activities           | <u>(24,235)</u> | <u>(31,982)</u> | <u>(47,730)</u> |

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

Visit our web page: <http://www.ccm.org.au/>



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

Photos include:

Front Cover (L-R from top of page) – Christ Church Community Centre (Photo by Catherine Sutherland, Architect Arthur Andronas); Max, Elen, Rod, Phil, Jack, Robyn, Emma & Sue serving the Open House meal; Elaine, Niki, Maree, Marcus & Patrick in the Community Kitchen Garden; Seniors Week Musical Afternoon Tea; Maxie & Lindsay working on their quilts; Stephen, Liz, Philip, Robyn, Gill & Sophie enjoying a post-Yoga coffee; Garden Nomads planning meeting with Niki, Ruth, Dianne, Anne, Mark, Michele, Patrick, Mark & Marcus; Ant & Jim; Barbara with Fatima & Amal.

Page 2 – Jahnvi & Barbara bringing in the Second Bite delivery; Elaine, Glenys, Peter, Anne & Marie preparing zucchini soup; Peter; Second Bite delivery; Braden, Murray & Amelia with Bakers' Delight staff member; Taste-testers Elaine, Susan & Robyn; David & Cookie on salad duty; Juan & Patrick; Mark, Valerie & Andrew.

Page 3 – Second Bite bounty; Isabella & Barbara; A typical food parcel; Stepping Stones group; City of Port Phillip Community Ball; Yoga Group, staff and families celebrating Jim's birthday at Topolino's; Introduction to iPad group.

Page 4 – Robyn & Michele with the group's quilt for the raffle; Old shirts destined to become part of quilts; Quilting group – Lee, Sarah, Robyn, Barbara & Vishna; Creating the wicking beds in the Community Kitchen Garden; Garden notice-board; Pruning workshop with Dianne, Scott, Elaine, Patrick, David; Niki, Elaine & Joseph; Steven & Kerry; Garden Nomads Vishna, Ruth & Phil.

We gratefully acknowledge support given to Christ Church Community Centre by the following ...

