

# Christ Church Community Centre Annual Report 2018



**Christ Church Mission Community Centre**  
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## Perceptions and Reality ...

“The Block” – a national televiewers’ ‘must watch’ for those who find satisfaction in another’s DIY trials and tribulations. “The Gatwick” – up until last year, seen by St Kilda residents and some Melburnians as a ‘blackspot’ where the trials and tribulations of individuals often spiralled into the public domain and were viewed distastefully with calls to get them out and close it down.

But not everyone saw it this way. Anson Cameron, in an article in The Age on the Gatwick wrote “I had supposed this place entirely vile ... but on the third floor of that infamous hotel I found a place of peace for people who hadn’t found it anywhere else”. (“A brand new day in Bedlam”, p.3 of Spectrum, 3 November 2018).

Now, fewer than 10 luxury apartments have replaced almost 60 rooms available for crisis accommodation and long-term rental. Gentrification draws approval from many.

However, the reality is that the community’s ‘problem’ has not been solved by a cosmetic makeover. While the community’s preference may be that organisations, agencies and the government deal with this problem, those who need such support are now somewhere else, not on Fitzroy Street, save for those restless individuals who now sleep ‘rough’.

Meanwhile, the need for crisis accommodation has not left our suburbs, nor have the risks leading to that need. In an average month up to 80 people come to our Centre for emergency food supplies, generously supported by South Port Uniting Church Parish Mission. For many who may be only one rent payment away from facing homelessness, or in danger of falling into arrears on utilities, money saved on food can help keep people off that slippery slope. This, and a weekly community evening meal provided by supportive and non-judgmental volunteers and staff, is just part of our community support and development work as we seek to overcome the poverty of resources and the related poverty of relationships.

More of what we do is in the following pages. We invite you to read, to share in our purpose and to support our work in whatever way you are able.

Michael Wilson  
President, Christ Church Mission Inc.  
December 2018

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What Christ Church Mission’s Community Centre is about ...

Christ Church Mission’s Community Centre (St Kilda’s Little Mission) is committed to creating an environment which is welcoming, inclusive and supportive for the diverse range of people and groups in our local community.

Recognising that poverty of resources and poverty of relationships can lead to social exclusion, the Centre offers opportunities for social interaction and personal growth, particularly through:

- Weekly free community meal
- Emergency support
- Volunteering opportunities
- Engagement in free or low-cost activities, and
- Community outreach

We are challenged to be the explicit social justice arm of Christ Church Parish.

## Bringing the Community Together - Some of Our Activities

The year has its own rhythm – but put people into the mix and the unpredictable happens. That is how life has been for us within the local community through the last 15 years. In a variety of ways we try to put into action and enlarge our capacity to engage the community, increase skills, and allow people to make connections. Here are some snapshots!

### The Preserving Project

Delicious and varied chutneys and relishes are produced each week in the Centre's kitchen by the inventive volunteers – Susan, Anne & Peter – using fresh fruit and vegetables provided by Second Bite that are excess to the needs of our Open House Meal. A great fundraiser! What can't be used goes to our compost.



### Neighbour Connect



Our work with older women in social housing on The Esplanade continues to develop. This program links gentle chair-based exercise, lunch and discussion. While the exercise helps strength, flexibility and stability, the discussions help improve their English conversation skills, overcoming loneliness in the process.

### Stepping Stones

After 12 years, time has taken its toll on our Stepping Stones group. With frailty getting in the way of attendance despite the enjoyment when the group gathered, the group has had a final celebration. From its beginnings as a post-bereavement support group it became a social opportunity for relatively isolated older people, with an understandable particular focus on delicious afternoon-tea prepared by or volunteers and staff. We are now exploring possibilities for working with carers of people in the early stages of dementia.



### Emergency Support & the Little Pantry

With the help of South Port Uniting Church Parish Mission and food from Second Bite and Foodbank, we have been able to sustain our Emergency Support program. The number of people coming for access to food and toiletries has ranged from 60 to 90 per month. This put pressure on our storage and funds from Feed Melbourne provided a wall of cupboards and upgraded refrigerators to allow an increase in the range and amount of food. The Little Pantry on our Acland Street frontage is proving as popular as ever.



### Open House Weekly Meal



The Wednesday evening meal provides nourishment and social connection for many – over 3,000 meals a year. And this is just part of the catering output of our volunteers: 1200 chocolate-chip cookies for sale at The Block Open Day, for example. No wonder the volunteers need to rest after preparing dinner!



## Bringing the Community Together - Some of Our People

### Peter: From Diner to Volunteer



"My neighbour invited me to an Open House meal. I saw the ad on the door for volunteers and then spoke to the manager and have now been a volunteer helping make the Open House meals for 3 years. I really enjoy the sense of community and feeling useful."

### Natasha: Coordinates the Emergency Support



Here is Natasha (c) assisting Virginia & Tatiana –

"It is beautiful and positive the support you provide.

Everything we need you have. Thank you"

### Dee: A Garden Nomad

Carla is recovering from a broken ankle that occurred 18 months ago, a complicated break making it impossible to keep up the garden. Dee finds the role satisfying as the results of the visits are not only visual and practical from the gardening point of view but also offer an additional social opportunity for Carla.



### Marie: In the Neighbour Connect Program



"For me it's survival. I was very angry.

When we don't have the yoga my body is different.

The yoga relaxes me and I enjoy the company."

### James: Our 'Open House' Dishwasher Expert



"I began attending the Open House evening dinner almost 3 years ago. Saw all the work going on in the kitchen and thought I could help out and became a volunteer and have been volunteering ever since. Really enjoy giving a hand and look forward to seeing everyone each week."

### Carmen: Retiring Committee Member

A member of the Committee for 8 years, Carmen has now retired to help look after grandchildren. We will miss her wisdom and pragmatism! Here she is at our Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, receiving her certificate.



## Bringing the Community Together - Some of Our People

### Susan & Robyn: Two members of our Quilting Group



“We enjoy using it as a time to create while building relationships with different people.”

Creativity, conversation, collaboration (and perhaps a little competition) lead to impressive outcomes!

### Marie & Josie: “Open House” ‘stayers’



Our mother & daughter team have been helping prepare meals as part of Open House for over 10 years. “It’s the highlight of our week.”

### Julie: Open House Evening Volunteer

“I was attending a quilting exhibition being held in the church. I heard about the programs being run at the Community Centre and the positive team spirit of those involved drew me to become a volunteer ... Really enjoy seeing the smile we create on people’s faces each week when they come for dinner.”



### Jen: Neighbour Connect Volunteer



Jen, our volunteer support, with some of The Esplanade residents. Their comments include:

“This is something which helps us be part of the community and we look forward to each week.”

“I enjoy the company and lovely lunch and am especially interested in the yoga breathing techniques.”

### Community Centre Kitchen Gardeners



(Clockwise from left)

Elaine (Coordinator), Patrick, Mixie, Joe and Dianne are involved each week because ...

“Helping also helps me”

“I enjoy talking with people”

“I like being an active part of the community”

“I’m proud of working together to make things grow”.

Proceeds from the First Saturday plant sales enable us to buy tools and equipment to keep the garden vibrant.

## Our Volunteers

This is our amazing team of volunteers. Their support across the range of our activities over the last year (and much earlier for some) is indispensable and we acknowledge them with heartfelt thanks.

|                     |                   |                  |                 |                     |
|---------------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| Josephine Alexander | Niki Camilatos    | Lindsay Jamieson | Anne Murphy     | Will Robinson       |
| Stefan Angheli      | Debbie Carmichael | David King       | Nigel Murray    | Esther Roth         |
| Julie Armstrong     | Rod Carmichael    | Ruth Kingston    | Maree N'Diaye   | Christopher Selleck |
| Jim Arter           | Janet Cathels     | Susan Kohn       | Judy O'Brien    | Michele Sholl       |
| Lee Baird           | Sue Connor        | Evanna Lake      | Pauline O'Brien | Mark Spehr          |
| Marie Baker         | Maurice Cook      | Tony Lion        | Valda O'Keefe   | Myra Stanford       |
| Stuart Baker        | David Dawson      | Valerie Lion     | Joseph O'Reilly | Marcus Stelling     |
| Benjamin Battle     | Dee Douglas       | Huw Lunn         | Angie Pai       | Jen Sykes           |
| Braden Barnes       | Robyn Foy         | Gemma Makike     | Ally Pearl      | Peter Turner        |
| Murray Barnes       | Tracy Garden      | Kelly Mallcott   | Polly Perry     | Jonathon Usi        |
| Howard Brooks       | Joe Gauci         | Patrick Manning  | Andrew Pope     | Theo Warsh          |
| Robin Clarke        | Dianne Hollis     | James McAlpine   | Jahnai Rajani   | Virginia Weymiss    |
|                     |                   |                  |                 | Steve Witchowski    |

## Our Staff

The Centre is open 3 days a week and our four staff members - 3 part-time and one casual – are employed for a total of 61 hours (1.6 effective full-time). They bring a wide range of skills and experience covering Community Welfare, Mental Illness, Homelessness and Community Development to their relationship with our community.

- Manager (to 30 June 2018) – Michele Sholl, BA, Dip Ed, Dip Community Welfare, Dip Frontline Management
- Manager (from 18 June 2018) – Elizabeth Rooney, BA Social Welfare (Social Law)
- Community Development Projects – Elaine Wilkinson, Dip Community Welfare
- Program Facilitator – Elizabeth Ng, BA Community Development, Dip Family Therapy, Accredited Yoga Teacher in the tradition of Krishnachrya
- Community Support (to August 2018) – Barbara Nicholson, BA Hons, Cert in Family Life Education, Cert IV in Life Coaching
- Community Support (from August 2018) – Natasha Belshaw, Bachelor of Business (Marketing)

Our Centre is cared for by Jim Arter.

## Our Finances

### *Christ Church Mission Inc. operating as Christ Church Community Centre*

#### Income & Expenditure for the Year to 30 June 2018

| Revenue                                 | \$              | Expenses                 | \$             |
|---|-----------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| Operating Income (Grants, Venue hire)   | 186,692         | Staff salaries (1.6 EFT) | 129,368        |
| Donations                               | 40,564          | Other staffing costs     | 6,054          |
| Members' subscriptions                  | 40              | Program costs            | 34,768         |
| Interest                                | 3,263           | Office expenses          | 922            |
|   | <u>230,559</u>  | Insurance                | 3,718          |
|   |                 | Rent                     | 9,000          |
|   |                 | Bank charges             | 274            |
|   |                 | Depreciation             | <u>69,772</u>  |
|   |                 |                          | <u>253,876</u> |
| Surplus (loss) from ordinary activities | <u>(23,317)</u> |                          |                |

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

## Our Supporters

We acknowledge with gratitude the support given in donations, gifts, grants and/or in-kind by those listed below and others who prefer to remain anonymous:

### Individuals

Stella Beal  
Isla Carboon  
Bruce Ellis  
Caroline Hogg  
Sue Koschade  
Sym Kohn  
Rick McLennan  
Patsy O'Dowd  
Valda O'Keefe  
Lyn Oliver  
Jennie Peel  
Laraine Proctor  
Robert Rapoport  
Bronwyn Rudolph  
Helen Schapper  
David Sholl  
Mark, Hana & Maya Stoffberg  
Rae Telfer  
Dorothy Waterfield

Adreanus Widjaja  
Joe Wilding  
Steven Zammitt

### Organisations

Bakers Delight – Hampton  
Bunnings – Port Melbourne  
Dog's Bar  
Elwood Primary School  
Feed Melbourne  
Foodbank Victoria  
Galleon Café  
Grill'd  
Kedem Community  
Kiwaniis Port Phillip  
Mt Bernard Olives  
Narcotics Anonymous  
Poets Grove Family & Children's  
Centre

Port Phillip EcoCentre  
Second Bite  
South Melbourne Community Chest  
South Port Uniting Church Parish  
Mission  
Springvale Gospel Singers  
St Andrew's Opportunity Shop,  
Brighton  
St John's Anglican Church, Toorak  
Star Health Service  
Toorak Ecumenical Churches  
Opportunity Shop  
Toyota Community Foundation

### Other Funders

Sidney Myer Fund  
City of Port Phillip

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## Committee of Management

Responsible for the overall governance of the Centre, the voluntary Committee includes:

Office Holders: Michael Wilson – President, Carmen Ayres – Vice-President, Geoffrey Court – Secretary,  
Charles Baird – Treasurer  
Members: Father Turi Hollis, Stephen Baldwin, Susan Kohn

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## You can be part of our work by ...

- > Donating non-perishable food and toiletries. You can leave them at the Community Centre, 14 Acland St, St Kilda, Monday, Wednesday & Thursday between 10 am & 2 pm (Wednesdays until 7 pm)
- > Donating \$2 and more which is tax-deductible. You can donate online at:  
<https://www.givenow.com.au/cause1510>
- > Volunteering – especially for involvement in our Garden Nomads, Community Kitchen Garden and Open House programs. Express your interest to any of our staff – phone 9534 9250 or email us at  
[communitycentre@christchurchstkilda.org.au](mailto:communitycentre@christchurchstkilda.org.au)
- > Hiring our venue for your next function, workshop or Owners' Corporation meeting
- > Liking our *facebook* and *instagram* pages to stay up to date with the latest news and events

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ChristChurchCommunityCentreStKilda>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/ccmcommunitycentre/>

website: [www.ccm.org.au](http://www.ccm.org.au)



We are grateful for support from ...



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## Parish Partnerships

Our ability to continue working in the community has been supported by South Port Uniting Church Parish Mission, the Anglican parishes of St John's, Toorak through the Toorak Ecumenical Churches Opportunity Shop and St Andrew's, Brighton through the St Andrew's Opportunity Shop.

We continue to be thankful and challenged by their support!



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## Hiring our Venue

Our facilities are a community resource, available for hire. We have hosted gatherings ranging from celebrations of life events through to workshops and Owners' Corporation meetings, with reduced rates for community groups. There are also two low-cost Yoga classes (daytime and evening) which are open to new members.

