

# CHRIST CHURCH COMMUNITY CENTRE

## ANNUAL REPORT 2019



**Christ Church Mission Community Centre**

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## **Partnerships with our Community**

It's 20 years since Christ Church Mission Inc was established. One of our guiding mentors over most of our life has been our retiring President, Mike Wilson. His guidance has ensured that we have been able to continue our programmes addressing society's core needs: the poverty of resources and the related poverty of relationships. When Mike retired in August 2019, we thanked him for his remarkable service and wished him well but know that his contribution will be hard to replace.

Mike regularly confirmed that our role was to work with others in St Kilda to address the needs and to ensure that we never wasted resources by duplicating functions offered elsewhere. So we would like to say a big thank you to the other organisations operating in the St Kilda area with whom we work to address the needs we confront: the City of Port Phillip, South Port Uniting Church Parish Mission, Port Phillip Community Group, Brigidine Asylum Seekers Project, Elwood & St Kilda Learning Centre, Sacred Heart Mission, Star Health, First Step, Launch Housing and the many other services with whom we have contact.

We are offering services which are not available elsewhere. We have been able to maintain our emergency food programme, thanks to South Port Uniting Church Parish Mission, providing the only emergency food program of its kind in the area. We have been able to continue our Neighbour Connect programme offering yoga in social housing. We have been able to continue our Garden Nomads programme reaching out to those at home who can maintain their garden and our Open House meal each Wednesday enables us to meet people with needs in a friendly environment.

Much has been publicised about mental health issues in the community. We accept our responsibility to do what we can to assist those with mental health issues. We have implemented training over the last couple of years to build the confidence of our volunteers and staff to approach people with apparent mental health issues but know we are not doing enough.

We do not find this easy. Keeping our organisation afloat is an ongoing challenging issue. Our hope is that we can establish fundraising methods that give some certainty to our programmes which are all currently conducted on a year by year basis subject to funding. Uncertainty is a constant for us. Despite this, we hope you find this annual report encouraging to show what we have been able to achieve in an uncertain environment.

And a very big thanks to all the organisations and people named in this report who have encouraged us by providing funding to make it possible.

Geoffrey Court

President (from August 2019)

## **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



### Kitchen Garden

Our Kitchen Garden provides fresh local produce to support the community meal program and offers opportunities for diners and garden enthusiasts to share skills and break down social barriers. This year we purchased 2 Hungry Bin Worm Farms and ran a worm farm workshop. This has given us more ways to dispose of our organic waste matter and now harvest free organic fertiliser for the garden.

### Garden Nomads

We recruit and support volunteers to assist frail, elderly or disabled local householders who are struggling to maintain their gardens. Our gardening program enables many City of Port Phillip residents to continue to remain at home. Visits generally occur fortnightly so that a support relationship develops, decreasing loneliness and increasing community connectedness.



### Working Together

Provides mentoring opportunities for people coping with disability or mental illness who are ready to make positive changes in their lives by volunteering at our Centre as a first step towards greater engagement in the wider community. Participants receive basic training in their areas of involvement which we hope helps increase their confidence and sense of empowerment. This in turn assists them to create social connections and community networks.

### Emergency Support & the Little Pantry

We continue to provide an emergency support program with the help of South Port Uniting Church Parish Mission and the provision of food through Second Bite and Foodbank. Over the past year more than 2,000 food parcel meals were given to people encountering difficult living experiences. The interaction providing many of those who drop in with a positive social connection and assistance in accessing other means of support. Local residents are continuing to show active support of the Little Pantry on our Acland Street frontage with their involvement highlighting the positive community environment which exists in St Kilda.



### Open House

Provision of an evening meal each Wednesday by our volunteers continues to be a popular event. Through the support of the City of Port Phillip we have now been providing the free weekly community meal for over ten years. More than 3,500 meals were provided last year with diners citing the value of their attending “Open House” as not only being the nutritional sustenance of food, it is also being the positive social environment of enjoying a three-course sit-down meal. A big thank you to the wonderful volunteers who create and serve the meal each week. They help to create a smile for those who visit.

## Bringing the Community Together—Some of Our People



### Mike: Longest serving President

President of the Christ Church Community Centre's Management Committee since 2009. Mike, a quiet achiever, has contributed a great deal to identifying and achieving the strategic aims of the Centre and securing the necessary funding to make implementation of the goals possible. At the helm of the organisation, Mike has supported the staff and volunteers with kindness and generosity.



### Valerie: Volunteer from the beginning

Valerie is the longest serving volunteer of the Community Centre, with her early involvement being the President of the Committee. She has contributed a great deal to supporting all the activities in the Centre and especially to the Open House Community Meal. From her role behind the scenes at making sure the bread is presented individually in bags, to being the welcoming person at the entrance, Valerie is loved by many: if she is absent people asks where is "the Queen" (the Queen of the community centre).

### Pauline: A Foodie volunteer

Pauline is also a long serving volunteer of the Open House Community Meal program and has also been a dedicated food gatherer, collecting the bread from Baker's Delight, Hampton. Now quite at home on the "Robot coupe" food processor machine, Pauline is often heard asking "sliced or diced"? Pauline is also heard on 'the air' at her regular spot on community radio where she keeps the community informed about what's on and where. Pauline's cheerfulness makes the kitchen a happy place to volunteer.



### Robyn: Always there for others

Robyn is the amazing "all-rounder" who tirelessly gives her all to the community. She found herself being drawn into the charm of the Centre, initially to volunteer in the 'Stepping Stones' walking group. Robyn soon graduated to the Open House Meal food preparation kitchen and beyond and made frequent trips going out gathering food from generous donors. There are not many volunteers who arrive in the morning to join the Open House meal volunteers and is there until every meal is served.

### Kurtis: Open House volunteer

Kurtis became a volunteer for the Open House Meal preparation while in between studies. He contributes his time and enthusiasm and enjoys learning new cooking skills while sharing some of his favourites (especially his delicious Chocolate brownies) – he is currently doing a course in business studies and hopes to set up his own company.



## Bringing the Community Together—Some of Our People

### **Nixie: Working Together volunteer**

Nixie found the Community Centre as a place to not only connect with the local community but also to find a sense of purpose while she decided where next to place her energy. In her own words, "...the human community behind the Working Together Program is where I reconnected with my community. I felt supported, loved and valued. Here, I reconnected with myself."



### **Steve: Garden Nomads Volunteer**

Steve heard about the Garden Nomads program through a friend. With some spare time on his hands while seeking employment Steve wanted to do something worthwhile, so he joined our Garden Nomads team and is a regular contributor. "Garden Nomads is an opportunity for me to make contact with others, meet likeminded people and help others who are less fortunate than myself. Being a Garden Nomads volunteer has helped to improve my confidence and have a more positive outlook on life".

### **Greg: All rounder on placement**

Greg is currently studying for the Diploma of Community Services at Box Hill TAFE and conducting his 180 x hours - Student Placement at the Community Centre. With his completed studies in Certificate 4 in Disability at Box Hill TAFE and a Certificate as Apprentice Cook with the William Angliss College, Greg has much to contribute while developing the skills to become a qualified Community Services Worker. So far, Greg has assisted Clients with the Emergency Food and Toiletries cupboard, been on a Garden Nomad working bee, helped in the Kitchen Garden, the Neighbour Connect and the Open House Meals programs. Greg has also started a short course in Public Speaking with the Voices Of the South Side "Speaking Out" course to further develop his confidence and broaden his working with marginalised groups experience.



## Our Volunteers

Heartfelt thanks to our amazing team of volunteers. They have covered a range of activities. We would be lost without them.

Josephine Alexander	Aheda Amro	Stefan Angeheli	Julie Armstong	Jim Arter
Lee Baird	Marie Baker	Stuart Baker	Niki Camilatos	Debbie Carmichael
Rod Carmichael	Janet Cathels	David Dawson	Luke Franceshini	Robyn Foy
Joseph Gauci	Dianne Hollis	Lindsay Jamieson	David King	Ruth Kingston
Susan Kohn	Sharon Korman	Evanna Lake	Nixi-Claire Lepore	Tony Lion
Valerie Lion	Huw Lunn	Gemma Makike	Patrick Manning	James McAlpine
Anne Murphy	Nigel Murray	Maree N'Diaye	Judy O'Brien	Pauline O'Brien
Valda O'Keefe	Joseph O'Reilly	Ally Pearl	Andrew Pope	Martin Prest
Tony Rusiano	Gregor Russakowsky		Mahsa Saadatian	Christopher Selleck
Michele Sholl	Kurtis Smith	Mark Spehr	Jen Sykes	Dianne Thomas
Peter Turner	Jonathon Usi	Steve Wichtowski		

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## Our staff

The Centre is open 3 days a week and our four staff members are employed for a total of 68 hours (1.7 full time equivalent). 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 – 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 – Natasha Belshaw, BA Business (Marketing)*

Our Centre is cared for by Jim Arter, Andrew Pope and Peter Turner.

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## Our Finances

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

Income & Expenditure for the year to 30 June 2019

	Revenue		Expenditure
Operating income (Grants, venue hire)	\$240,986	Staff Salaries (1.7 EFT)	\$138,226
Donations	\$16,097	Other staffing costs	\$21,207
Member's subscriptions	\$45	Program costs	\$32,920
Interest	<u>\$2,919</u>	Office expenses	\$2,685
	<u>\$260,047</u>	Rent	\$9,000
		Insurance	\$3,880
		Bank Charges	\$292
		Depreciation	<u>\$67,904</u>
			<u>\$276,114</u>

Surplus (loss) from ordinary activities (\$16,067)

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

## Our Supporters

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

### Individuals

Andrew Alexander	Norma Alexander	Isla Carboon	Valerie Ferguson
Caroline Hogg	Ching Ping Hui	Evanna Lake	Olivia Ng
Laraine Proctor	Dorothy Waterfield	Michael Wilson	

### Organisations

Alcoholics Anonymous	Bakers Delight Hampton
Brigidine Asylum Seekers Project	Christ Church St Kilda
Coles	Elwood St Kilda Neighbourhood Learning Centre
Feed Melbourne	Foodbank Victoria
Grill's	GIVIT
Hanes	Kadem Community
Kiwanis Port Phillip	Mt Bernard Olives
Narcotics Anonymous	Second Bite
South Melbourne Community Chest	South Port Uniting Church Mission
Springvale Gospel Singers	St Andrew's Opportunity Shop, Brighton
St John's Anglican Church, Toorak	Star Health
Toorak Ecumenical Churches Opportunity Shop	
Toyota Community Foundation	Woolworths
XTM Performance	

### Other Funders

City of Port Phillip	Flora & Frank Leith Charitable Trust
Perpetual	

## Committee of Management

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

Office Holders: Michael Wilson – President (until August 2019), Carmen Ayres – Vice-President (until January 2019), Charles Baird – Treasurer, Geoffrey Court – Secretary

Members: Father Turi Hollis, Stephen Baldwin (until February 2019), Susan Kohn (until August 2019), Mark Spehr

### 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 10am & 2 pm (Wednesdays until 7pm).
- ♦ Donating \$2.00 or 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 Owner's Corporation meeting
- ♦ Liking our Facebook and Instagram pages to stay up to date with the latest news and events

Facebook: <https://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 ...



## Parish Partnerships

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

We continue to be thankful and challenged by their support!



## 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.

