

ANNUAL REPORT 2016



Written Reporting from December 2015 - November, 2016
 Financial reporting from July, 2015 - June, 2016

Report	Writer	Page
Team Leader	John Sharpe.....	2
Co Chair of Elders	Craig Brown/Dave Wilkins	5
Youth Minister	Adrian Sinnatt	7
Seniors Minister	Marg Goddard.....	8
Children's and Families Minister	Linda Mill.....	10
Chaplaincy	Marg Kittelty	15
Kids Hope Aus	Marg Kittelty	16
Go Art	Rebecca Murray.....	16
Timeout for Mum's	Trish Burch.....	17
Young Adults Minister	Drew Nicholls	17
Worship Minister	Chris Sharpe	19
Mentoring & Discipleship	Marion Evans	21
Op Shop - Worth Repeating	Trish Burch.....	22
Oasis Meals Ministry	Dorothy Wigney.....	23
The Ringwood Men's Shed Inc	Laurie Bird.....	24
Community Care & Wellbeing	Marg Goddard.....	28
Facilities Assets & Risk Management	Tim Allred.....	29
Outreach	Craig Brown	30
Administration	Dave Moody.....	32
Finance Governance and Audit	Finance and Audit Committee.....	34
Foundation	Foundation Trustees	39

Team Leader's Report: John Sharpe

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, dear friends!

...Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice.

And the God of peace will be with you.

Philippians 4:1-9

It is an unusual feeling to be writing a report that needs, by necessity, to hold in frame a season of transition and significant change not only for Chris and I, but for the dynamic of the Ministry Team, Eldership, Congregation and networks in the wider community.

It has been a privilege to be in lead ministry here for so long. The important thing to grasp is that my commitment, resolve and sense of Kingdom work and community connection is undiminished and unwavering. This transitional season will not be a 'steady as she goes' or a 'holding pattern while treading water' or a 'let's wait and see' period. Rather it will be proactive, conversational, prayerful and strategic. Hopefully it will enable a proactive 'treasure hunt' of what is the heart of Ringwood and the establishment of the dynamics and momentum for what lies ahead.

It has been a big year of transition already and I am indebted to Dave Moody, Chris Sharpe, Libby Murray, Noel Morley, Rachel Broadbent and Marg Kittelty (Chaplain Eastwood Primary) for their areas of mission, imagination, creativity, faithfulness, wisdom and service. Chris has brought an extraordinary capacity to encourage the heart of intergenerational worship in all of its complexity, beauty and wonder over the last 24 years and Dave has simply been my perfect leadership 'twin' who has complemented my giftings in a thousand ways as Executive Minister.

It has also been significant to see the inspirational additions to the ministry team in Marg Goddard (Seniors), Jordan Ludgater (Youth Intern), Bec Murray (Childrens Ministry Intern) and Marion Evans (Mentoring Intern). While there has been fluidity in the team with transitions of calling and family and work demands there has also been a great sense of purposeful continuity around the DNA of the church in regard to formation, mission, life groups, personal witness and the exercise of Spiritual gifting.

We have been experimenting with what I think will become a new model of leadership formation, accountability and nibble responsiveness that Eldership, HR and Ministry Team

will continue to explore particularly in the prudent wisdom needed around Interns.

I am also in awe of the significant development of life Groups that Ric and Annie Cutler have offered over the year and the countless ways that the congregation have been at work in pastoral care, leadership, practical provision, sharing faith and being a Body of witness in the community.

Ringwood Church of Christ has a dynamic, gritty, real and in many ways a unique DNA of Christ-centeredness in the midst of significant diversity of backgrounds, opinions, education, socio-economic levels, theological spread and journeys of faith. What works at Ringwood is the capacity to practise love with humility and patience and embody of the Way of Jesus' in order to put people first and allow God to unfold the sacred space of discovery, belonging and transformation, rather than allowing policies, rules, platforms and position statements force conversations, divisions, boundaries, borders and exclusions. To be honest it is not an easy walk to allow God to create the space for transformation rather than rushing to the latest arguments and debates to corral opinion.

We have seen some incredible things over the last year. My biggest concern is whether they have actually been noticed. Greatness doesn't always have to be BIG. The Christian life is often found most profoundly in magnifying the overlooked and secret places. So let's just polish up some of them up and treasure hunt: This is my list... so feel free to add your own.

A: The recent exercise of blessing, prayer and faithful presence at the Maroondah Festival was an extraordinary exercise of presence, joy and hope. I will not forget talking to the young mum in the midst of a divorce and the painful loss of her dad and brother. It is extraordinary how God creates the space for sharing between strangers.

B: The open hospitality toward people of other faith backgrounds to experience, explore, participate and ask questions has been extraordinary. Did you know that we have had a large number of people actively engaging in worship and community life who have never had any Christian experience before? Many of whom have been actively dissuaded to have anything do with Christian faith.

C: A refreshed view of Worship that we take so much for granted. Do you remember one of our Persian friend's passionate thankfulness for the nature of sung worship, for the freedom of men and women worshipping together and for the sense of welcome and the total absence of feeling interrogated?

D: The powerful acts of kindness, restoration, practical support and sheer love when tragedy has hit. I am in awe of seeing the interplay of the care of this Spiritual community that starts so often with a phone call and quickness to prayer and enter into God's tenderness to the broken.

E: The power of the KIDS HOPE celebration and the moving testimony of one of the children mentored by Geoff Clarke. It is hard to find a clearer image of the heartfelt power of our connection with local organizations like Eastwood and the deep abiding significance of relational ministry.

F: The vitality of missional passion amongst young adults and youth. The significant numbers engaged in Beach mission and the willingness to both participate and lead in key discipling opportunities like Youth Camps, SYG and Illuminate.

G: The unique church of 'Oasis Meals' The highlight for me this year (amongst many) was one of the older men who after years of diffidence about faith went to Alpha with Nigel Mann, and for the first time felt comfortable to begin to pray aloud.

H: To see a group of people head out with Marion Evans to simply (and I'm sure almost terrifyingly) wait on the Lord over at Eastland to practise discernment about who God might say; "Over to have coffee with this one" (See Marion's Report) and then to hear of the accounts of rejoicing.

I: My sense of awe in a young adult who for many years now has mentored an at risk boy for an afternoon after school every week.

J: The commitment of a new spirit of chaplaincy in the lives of many involved in sport and particularly for the inspirational modelling and encouragement of Marg Kittelty and Noel Morley.

K: The ongoing development of the Men's Shed and the incredible opportunities for connection that are there for us to inhabit. SO PLEASE INHABIT THEM !

L: The robust life of YOUTH and the surprising revelation that CHAT TRIBE is the most attended, looked forward to and core powerhouse dynamic of Youth Group along with Worship nights and that is true also amongst the large cohort of non-church youth who attend.

M: The Creative imagination of Bec Murray to utilize art for small group connection.

N: The diversity of gifts being encouraged and nurtured in a variety of internships.

O: The generosity of spirit amongst so many to bless countries in humanitarian need to respond to our supported missionaries in so many part of the world and locally.

P: The vitality, testimony and faithfulness of 7UP, 9UP and Underground Station and their leaders as they have led worship at different times over the year.

Q: The forever growing need for more PLAYGROUP times and the multi-lingual nature of the

groups in their celebration of diversity.

R: The Thanksgiving Dinner and the eclectic tables of local Govt councillors, businesses and volunteers.

S: The Gathered Prayer evenings and the strong sense of Holy Spirit indwelling and momentum.

T: The imbedding of a proactive relationship with the training of church planters in Salatiga in central Java and the work of Vana in Bangladesh through GMP (Global Mission Partners).

U: Regular home grown sermon series related Study booklets for Individual and Life Group use.

V: The Third 'Voices of Ringwood' CD offered as a rich spiritual resource for rehearsing the Parables of Jesus. Read by Primary students to the 80+ and a range of nationalities...a living witness to the power of an intergenerational, cross cultural Word!

W: The arrival of the portables and the opportunity to get a clear vision for the Kingdom purposes of the property.

And I've only just started and know that in just a moment I'll be thinking how did I forget in that!

Towards 2017:

The theme for next year is '**FAITHFUL PRESENCE**'. We don't use themes as some kind of a fancy gimmick, but rather as way of imbedding and concentrating key areas of our purpose and mission. 'Faithful Presence' was a theme that Paul Sparks from the USA shared with conference in May. This found a response with the Ministry Team and Elders as a wonderful way of pressing further into the encouragement of our key areas of DNA particularly in **MISSION, FORMATION and COMMUNITY** and to lift the generative capacity of the church for discipling and the sense that we are all in mission. Everywhere is Holy ground and the key to the question is whether we have allowed ourselves to listen, notice and get on board with what God is doing.

Craig Brown and Dave Wilkins: Co Chair Elder's report

This has been an important year in the life of Ringwood Church of Christ.

To begin with, and in accordance with the Constitution, this has been the first full year of working with a smaller number of Elders. In practice, this has meant that the capacity for each Elder to voice their thoughts and express what God has been saying to them regarding important topics has been in evidence.

We began this reporting year with an Eldership that was asked by John Sharpe (Ministry Team Leader) to engage with the crucial decision regarding John's reappointment. John, in the interest of good process, suggested the need to do this two years before his contract was to expire, and the Elders agreed and began to consider this in earnest in late October 2015.

To say that this process was all consuming for those of us on Eldership would not be an overstatement. It was also a process that was open, prayerful, considerate of individual points of view, and sought to bring in wise and discerning 'outside' voices where appropriate. Throughout this process, the Elders remained united and sought to balance what was best for the church, what was best for John, and how God was speaking into that space.

As the church would be aware, we announced our decision in September 2016.

It was not an easy decision, and this report is not the place to air our reasons. We would encourage anyone with questions to contact us, and we will make (and have made) time to hear what people have to say. We appreciate that there are still many and varied responses to the news. We have been pleased with the widespread maturity and respect that has been shown by the congregation in processing this news. It is a remarkable congregation that we serve, that often reflects the remarkable God that we serve. John's character during this process has also reflected both the God we serve and the graciousness that has characterised John's ministry.

The Eldership this year, as it does every year, said farewell to some fine people. This year Craig Broadbent stepped down, and we valued Craig's passion, wisdom and practicality. Matthew Moore, our Chair, also stepped down to give more time to his family in a season of need. Matthew is a man of integrity. We have met few people whose moral integrity could equal Matt's, and whose heart for people beats as strong.

It was with great reluctance that – during such a critical season – Dave Wilkins and Craig Brown agreed to serve as co-Chairs. However, taking this unusual step meant that we were able to perform the role that had been entrusted to us with energy and shared wisdom.

The current Eldership consists of: Craig Brown, Dave Wilkins, Tim Allred, Trish Burch, Mark Travill, Andrea Salmon and Mitch Salmon. These are a fine and wise group of people to serve with – passionate, loving, godly and able to drag some light into difficult decisions. No matter how hard this year has been, I (Craig) will always consider it a privilege to have walked this year with such a group. Dave Moody has served us as an extraordinarily capable and efficient Secretary – reliable and wise at all times.

We acknowledge the work of the Ministry Team, which has continued on with enthusiasm, grace and hopefulness despite the changes that have occurred. This year we saw Dave Moody step down as Executive Minister due to family reasons, and Libby Murray's valued

work with Seniors also concluded.

Notably, the significant ministry of Chris Sharpe also concluded. Chris decided that after over 25 years of volunteer and paid ministry as Worship Minister that a new season was dawning for her. There is no role within the life of the church that has as many 'experts' commenting on it than the role of a Worship Minister. Chris' longevity speaks to her character and resilience, and her legacy is quite obvious to see.

We look forward to another year of serving the congregation and God as Elders, and submit ourselves and this report for your consideration and prayers.

Adrian Sinnatt Youth Minister's report

Over the last 3 years it has been such an honour and very much a privilege to be involved with the youth community here at Ringwood Church of Christ. I am so thankful that God and the leadership allowed me this opportunity to serve in and around the passion for youth that is within my heart. I would like to thank the leadership as well as the wider church community for their consistent encouragement and support of our youth. Many of you do so many things and I very much appreciate all the seen and unseen things you do. Thankyou parents for open and honest discussion around what community looks like and how best to care for your child/children.

I've been super encouraged as to how both leaders as well as youth have grown and continue to grow in their understanding, faith and relationship with God. This group of leaders serve with such humility, self-sacrificing and wholeheartedness, are a joy to serve alongside. They bring great challenge, inspiration and encouragement, not only to me but to our whole community. I very much appreciate the things they do behind the scenes that continue to encourage our youth on so many levels. Their focus has always been to direct people to Jesus, what it is to walk with him in a way that is real and meaningful for young people.

I believe our program on Friday nights and Sunday morning has been very much shaped by the leaders, it has provided great structure, consistency, freedom and a safe environment for young people to explore what it is to journey with Jesus. So thankyou to all the leaders for their ongoing support and commitment.

There are many highlights for me throughout the year. The releasing of Jordan Ludgater and Rachel Broadbent into paid areas of responsibility, has been both exciting and fulfilling. To see how God has grown and developed not only their leadership but their maturing in their walk with God has been so encouraging. They make my role so much easier and it's a delight to serve with them. I thank the church leadership for realising the funds for them to be involved in our youth community.

Easter camp continues to be a place where God especially moves, illuminate camp again inspired many, and for the sporty side of our youth community, SYG was again a success. Thank-you again to Simon Trease for his incredible encouragement and coordination of that camp. It's a big gig and he does it with excellence, humility and honouring of others, and I very much appreciate his commitment to the youth.

Another highlight is the role of Edwina Riccit his year in our youth community. She has written the majority of studies for the year which have been absolutely antastic, and the youth have responded so well to the topics that were chosen. I thank her for her consistent support, her encouragement for not only me but for the youth and that she sacri?ces so much of her precious time. She has a wonderful gift with young people and it's a privilege to work alongside her. Other highlights have been 9up and 7up services, where youth have taken on a greater role of responsibility from sharing sermons, to singing, to testimony's, it's been a joy to watch them all grow.

Part of my hope over these past three years has been to provide an environment of safety, but also of being real in the questions that youth have around their faith. To hear a young person give testimony around what God is doing in their life is very encouraging, and our youth program allows opportunity for people to share the ups and downs of their faith.

A personal highlight for me would be the marriage of Beth Campbell and Josh Taylor which was fantastic to be a part of and thank-you again John for all your support and encouragement through that time. Claire Evan's baptism was also a tremendous joy to be a part of as well.

Seniors' Ministers report Marg Goddard

During 2016 the Seniors' program has continued to provide points of connection for people in many areas.

Seniors' Bible Study

Bible study continues to be led by David, who does a great job. Thanks to Graeme who ably stepped in while David was away.

Monthly Monday Communion Service

We commenced this year with a change of time and format, as we moved to afternoon tea rather than lunch. It was quickly decided that we keep to a monthly slot rather than two-monthly for continuity. We have maintained our numbers from 8 to 18 through the year, with variations due mostly to illness. For most who attend, it is the only church service they can attend. Thank you to Julie, Gwenda, Fran and Graeme, Edwina and others who have assisted with afternoon tea and transport during the year.

Olivet service

This service continues each month, and is appreciated by the residents who attend. Thanks to Marg Robinson and Maggie Peck for their continued support, and the lifestyle staff at Olivet also, who ensure that residents who wish to attend can do so.

Friend2Friend

Our volunteer numbers at Amaroo have dwindled to two, but this time of one-to-one visiting is unique. We are able to offer friendship and conversation to people who are often not able to participate in other activities. There continues to be a need for more volunteers at Amaroo and also at other aged care facilities.

Sunday Roast

Getting together over a meal and a cuppa, enjoying connection as we catch up on others' interests and activities is an important part of our lives, whether as families or as a group of seniors. So each month we enjoy a wonderful meal prepared by Pat and Bruce, or Gail and Sue. Thank you also to those who help to serve the meal each month.

Outings

Monthly outings have been enjoyable times of getting together and visiting some different places again this year. We continue to attract new participants through the Maroondah Healthy Aging Network. These people have remarked on how welcome they feel when they join us. We had to cancel two outings where an alternative was not possible due to bad weather. During winter months we met at the church for indoor activities with speakers, armchair travel and lunch. These times were well attended also as some who are not able to join the bus trips enjoyed these times. As a response to one speaker from Equip4Life, around 30 people met together over four Friday afternoons to learn more about healthy and active lifestyles, and how to avoid diabetes and heart disease... We have another meeting in late January to see how we are all doing!

Again, thanks to Bruce who organises the outings and who, with Pat, often provides morning tea. They have also prepared lunch for the indoor activities. Thanks to Pauline and others who assisted with lunch when Pat and Bruce were away.

Dream Team

My thanks to the Dream Team who have continued to meet with me through the year, and who are a great support in this ministry. Thanks to Celia, David and Bruce for their prayerful wisdom and insight.

Many of our activities involve food in some form or another, as described above, but hospitality also involves the way we interact with people, and during this year we have connected with many people as we have enjoyed our times together. We are asked to "Love one another", and as we maintain existing connections and make new ones, we are following that command. We take that love with us when we visit those who are no longer able to attend activities. Thanks to those who faithfully visit those who are isolated in this way, whether they are at home or in care, and to all who assist in providing hospitality in every way.

Children and Families Minister's report Linda Mill

Children's & Families Ministries 2016

It's been another year of blessings, challenges, joys and struggles in Children's and Families ministry. I give thanks to the Lord for the way He has provided in the different seasons over this year, for the spiritual growth and development seen in the children in our programs and for the way families are making contact with our church and encountering Jesus in the process.

COMMUNITY

Holiday Program: As it was an Olympic year we decided revamp the Champion's Challenge program that was used in 2008. Again it was a fantastic team with a diversity of ages and backgrounds and this year it was a pleasure to be able to include two leaders from Emmanuel Christian Church. All up there were 40 leaders including the band, first aid and catering and 74 children who were ministered to over the course of the week. We kicked the week off with the team taking over the service the Sunday before. This was a great way to include the congregation and I really believe that the power of prayer was evident over that week. So thank you to everyone who prayed and contributed to the running of this week. My core leadership team, who were vital in planning and preparing for this year's program included Bec Murray, Rachael Moore, Mitchell Salmon, Lachlan Salmon and Lauren Devenish.

This year we introduced two new elements to the week and both were coordinated by Bec Murray, our Children's Ministry Intern for this year. The first was the introduction of a Parents Café operating out of the kitchen with tables and chairs set up in the foyer for half an hour or so either side of the program. This was a huge success with many parents either staying after they had dropped their children off or coming early for pick up to indulge in some great coffee and home-made goodies. This became a hub area for parents and it was great to see families getting to know each other and/ or using it as a place to meet up and catch up with friends. We will definitely be including this as a vital part of the ministry for next year.



The second was the introduction of a separate program for the Grade 5/6's. Their base was downstairs in Underground Station and the Grade 1's and 2's came upstairs into the chapel. This allowed the Grade 5/6's to have their own space and a bit more time to really dig deep into the stories and to pray for each other. Again this was hugely successful and we will be including this in next year's program.

The final highlight for me was to see so many families coming to the Friday Night Concert. There was a much greater take up for this than in previous years and there was a real buzz

in the room. We had to bring in more chairs for parents and there was real engagement with the stories, songs and activities over the night.

As a follow up to Holiday Program we opened the doors of the church to host a live screening of the Opening Ceremony of the Rio Olympics. There was a yummy breakfast of cereal, toast, bacon and eggs, tea, coffee and juice and about 30 or so people attended over the course of the morning. One highlight was a couple who saw the ad in the local newspaper and came along for the first time. It was a fantastic way to connect with the people in our community.

Kids Activity Arvo: We held one Kids Activity Arvo in April this year. There were 30 or so children and parents who came to enjoy some activities centred around a screening of the Australian movie "Oddball". It was a great afternoon to connect with children and families in our community. It was so good to see families from our playgroups and Time Out for Mum's attending this afternoon as well. Again there was a great team of people to help with the games and activities and the afternoon tea. These days couldn't run without the amazing team of volunteers who come along and engage with the families and I thank you all for your help, care and commitment to these events.

Playgroups: Playgroups have been going very well this year. We have been able to hold consistent numbers for most of this year with between 10 and 12 families attending both the Wednesday and Thursday groups. Each week I field between 2 and 3 enquiries about coming to playgroup and over this last term I've had to turn away over a dozen families as we cannot safely accommodate any more people in the space we have.

A big thank you goes to Belinda Carter, Trish Burch and Liz Grayden who work with the families at the Wednesday group and to Barb Cheal and Andrea Cowen who work with the Thursday group. Sadly, Barb Cheal finished up her time at playgroup just recently after 5 years of amazing service. Barb will be greatly missed by the families and the team and we wish her well for what the future might hold. Sandy Hayward has joined the team to fill the gap left by Barb and I look forward to working with her over the next 12 months. It's also been great having Sue Kay prepare a craft each week for the children and parents to do during playgroup. Sue is very creative and has a fantastic knowledge of children in this age group. The craft each week is always something to look forward to.

For next year, Belinda Carter has indicated she would like to finish as the Wednesday morning coordinator for personal reasons and instead, start a new group on Thursday afternoons. This means I will be looking for someone to take over the Wednesday group in 2017. I would value prayer around this as it's a great area of ministry and if anyone reading this is feeling prompted by God, I'd love to hear from you.

Family Fun Nights: By the end of this year, we will have run 3 Family Fun Nights. Bec Murray and her team of young adults and youth have prepared and planned these events extremely well. There is a lot of thought that goes into them and it's been great to see community

families coming along and meeting church families and vice versa.

Our first night was in April and was titled "101 uses for an egg." This was an Easter themed night with lots of games and activities around eggs (chocolate ones mainly) culminating in Bec telling the Easter story. Our second was an ABC night where families came dressed as something beginning with the first letter of their name. Our final one will be in November based around The Ultimate Birthday Party. It's a Christmas theme and will include a retelling of the Christmas story.

Attendance at these events has been the same as last year – between 50 and 60 people attending each event. What we haven't seen is a growth in attendance so in the next few weeks we'll be sending out evaluations to all families who attend our church and to those in the community who have attended, to evaluate what they think of these nights and also pose some different options for next year.

Christmas Events: The Children's Ministry Christmas event for families will be on 21st December in the afternoon. Planning is under way and it's hoped it will attract families from all our connection points in the community – Playgroup, Time Out for Mums, Op Shop and Sunday ministries. Please pray for this ministry that it will encourage families to be intentional about the spirituality of their children.

CHURCH

All Stars: This group runs during our Sunday morning service for children 3 years old – Prep (6 years). There are 9 children on the roll with between 3 - 4 children attending regularly. Throughout 2017 there will be another three children who will be eligible to attend that group.

Our leaders for this year have been Rachael Moore, Andrea Salmon and Cassie Taylor with Wendy Twining ?lling in as needed. This year Carolyn Burnett has not been involved and I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for her years of service in this area of ministry. These leaders have been ably assisted by a faithful group of rostered assistants each week. They work very hard each week to create a space that is safe and comfortable with some fantastic activities that engage the children with God's word.



An ongoing matter for prayer is that we are reaching a stage where the gaps in our family ministries are very obvious and we need to continue to pray that our playgroup and Time Out for Mums ministries and the personal individual mission of families in the church will bear fruit over the next few years.

Underground Station: This year has been a year for change and experimentation in Underground Station. At the beginning of the year we moved the children back into the service for the ?rst half an hour and I've been working with Chris Sharpe and the worship teams to ?nd our way to focus on that ?rst half of the service as a place that encourages

engagement for the children and their families while they are in the service and prepares them to go to their programs. It's been quite a successful transition and it has been a great way to encourage our children as worshipping members of this community as they see worship modelled by their families and the congregation at large.



I've had a fantastic team this year and it's been great to see some continuity with many leaders choosing to lead for 2 or more terms rather than just one term. The relationships that have been built between the children and leaders and with each other has been such a great blessing and I pray that this will continue into 2017.

Another experiment was to have the 7Up and 9Up lead Underground Station for a couple of Sunday's in term 2 and 3. Under Adrian and Jordie's leadership these groups put together a great program based around themes like friendship to add another dimension to our program. It also helped create a bit more cohesion between the youth and children's ministry. Due to its success we plan to include another couple of these Sunday's in next year's program.

Our annual Kids Production will be performed in the morning service on Sunday 11th December. Our production team includes Mitch Salmon, Monica O'Gorman, Leah Nicholls, Natalie Palmer and Neal Glover. We hope to expand the chorus to include people from all ages with the production itself weaving its' way through the service. The team is really excited and quite enthusiastic and I look forward to seeing how it all comes together. We are currently in rehearsals and so far it's looking like another great year.

Grade 6 Group: As with every year, our Grade 6 group had a personality all of its own. They chose to call themselves the 7Down's and due to scheduling issues we only met once a month on a Saturday afternoon during term 2 and 3. We had a great time delving into some of the big faith questions like "Why do bad things happen to God people?" as well as getting to know each other better and having a meal together. Each time we met one of the parents would provide the meal and stay to help out as needed. Amy Moore and Amelie Fraser also assisted when their studies would allow. I look forward to seeing these young people move into 7Up and watching them continue to grow and develop in their faith.

Bec Murray is also planning to have a weekend transition camp in December. The aims are to further develop these relationships and introduce them to the youth group program that they will be eligible to attend on Friday nights and Sunday morning's next year.



Intern: This year has seen Bec Murray come on board half a day a week as a children's ministry intern. Bec brings some fantastic gifts and skills which she has used to grow and develop children and young people in our church. Her role included helping to further

develop aspects of the Holiday Program outreach, to continue to develop and grow the Family Fun Nights and to commence the GO Art ministry on Wednesday afternoons (see her report for details). It's been an absolute pleasure working with Bec this year. She has certainly been a great support to me and I've loved mentoring her and helping her to grow and develop her own areas of ministry. It is my prayer for next year that Bec will continue in this role and that we can expand it to one day a week as a paid ministry role. Both Bec and I would value your prayers around making this role a reality for next year.

Future Church & Community

Church Camp: Bec Murray and myself are currently working on a church camp for next year. This is not meant to be just for families with children but a camp for everyone in the congregation. It is tentatively planned for September next year. More details will follow soon.

Leadership Development, Training, Resources, Support

Team training and development has continued to be part of our meetings for the Kids Zone and Holiday Program team meetings. As well as training, these continue to be a time for leaders to get to know each other and bond as a team.

I've also introduced more intentional times for spiritual input around the programs at the weekly Underground Station team meetings. This has allowed the team time over the course of the week to think through the key aims and be very intentional about the focus for their small group times.

I also introduced an Orientation Day for Holiday Program to brief new leaders on various aspects of the program. This allowed our team meetings to focus more on training and development, program planning and prayer than was possible in previous years.

With the introduction of ChildSafe Policies from Conference and the changing laws around churches compliance with Child Protection, Adrian, Drew myself and have been reviewing our internal policies and procedures to ensure that we will be compliant by the time these laws are introduced in January 2017.

We worked with Boronia Church of Christ to hold two specific Child Protection training nights in April this year. Edwina Ricci and myself were the facilitators for these two nights. This was a great success and it has also opened the doors for more collaboration with Boronia.

My leadership team this year has been Pete Alsop, Karen Trease and Geo? Roberts-Thomson. They have continued to support me in my role. It has been great having these people to keep me accountable, offer practical support and ask great questions throughout this year. I am currently working towards adding another couple of people to this team for 2017.

EASTWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL:

2016 has been an amazing year at Eastwood, and it is a privilege to be a part of this wonderful community, watching the children grow and learn in their beautiful environment. Stage 2 of the Building Programme is now completed, and Eastwood now boasts well-resourced open learning spaces for all levels; specialist spaces; an indoor/outdoor kitchen with a wood fired pizza oven; palatial chook pen; outstanding gardens, and a river running through the centre of the play area!

Many memories and highlights flow into my mind and heart as I reflect on the past year.

The Port of Echuca was the venue for the Grade 5/6 Camp, and the sun shone as the students and staff were introduced to the busy life of the Port, and experienced a leisurely paddle steamer ride on the Murray River. This year the Grade 3/4's Camp was held at Adanac at Yarra Junction. The students were able to choose from a variety of activities, including canoeing; damper making; archery; hut building; flying fox and a low ropes course. The rain did not dampen our enthusiastic participation in these activities where students were able to consolidate and form new friendships in this wonderful safe atmosphere.

Back at school, the senior Table Tennis Club thrived with new students attending. Special thanks to Gwen Thomas for her long standing commitment as a volunteer each Thursday lunchtime.

The Stillness sessions have continued to be fruitful, with staff and students responding positively to the ongoing benefits of taking time to reflect, relax and find stillness and purpose amidst our ever increasing rich and full lifestyles.

It was very exciting to be backstage for the Production, and there is no doubt the enjoyment and sense of achievement the children felt after the final curtain closed.

I have been privileged to spend time playing, talking and listening to children from Foundation to Grade 6, as well as their families and teachers.

This term a Prayer Group has formed, consisting of Mums of students. At this stage there have already been two meetings as well as an opportunity to gather together with children after school.

As my time comes to a close at Eastwood and I transition into "retirement", I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff; parents and students for embracing and including me in this wonderful community in Chaplaincy. Many friendships have been formed and many journeys shared. I would also like to thank the people who have made the Chaplaincy

position feasible in terms of funding over the past eight years. These include the Federal Government; generous people from Ringwood Church of Christ and our Eastwood community, and over the past two years CCCV&T (Community Christian Churches of Victoria and Tasmania).

Thank you to everyone in our Church Community for your prayers, encouragement, wisdom and generous financial assistance over the past eight years. We are so blessed that Eastwood values and supports present and future Chaplaincy in their school.

KIDSHOPEAUS:

One Church, One School, One Child, One Hour

The KidsHope Programme continues to grow, and it wonderful to see the relationships that have formed with the students and their mentors; Ronda, Jay, Liz, Stephen, Chris, Linda, Pat and Bruce. Your commitment and care are exceptional and we thank you for the joy you bring into these children's lives.

The 10 years plus Anniversary of the partnership between Eastwood and Ringwood Church of Christ at a Service in September where we celebrated and honoured past and present coordinators and mentors. Over this time 36 mentors have been trained and 51 children mentored, many of them for a period of seven years, from Foundation to Grade 6!

At this Service we had the privilege of hearing Roderick Norman passionately speak about the love and times he shared with his mentor Geoff Clarke.

This was followed by a lunch together at Marg's, where we had the opportunity to share more memories and look at photos. A photo book has been compiled and presented to Ringwood Church of Christ.

We look forward to our Annual Christmas party and break up at Pat and Bruce's, who have once again kindly offered their home for this occasion.

In 2017, it is planned that more mentors will be trained and matched with students at Eastwood as there are now many suitable spaces which are available for mentors to meet with students.

We invite interested people from our Church community to consider this valued ministry.

GO Art – Rebecca Murray

GO art (Girls Only Art Group) started up at the beginning of term two 2016. We have had 2ve consistent attendees on Wednesday nights and have done a range of fun art projects. We have built toy trucks, made cards, made paper, tie dyed, made jewellery and grown to know each other. It has been a privilege to watch these young girls form friendships and bond over

art. We hope that it will grow into a great space for ongoing mentoring, fun and community in the future. Special thanks to Marion Evans, Andrea Salmon, Kevin Murray and Hayley Sinnatt for coming in and being our guest artists.

Trish Burch (for the Committee) - Time Out Report

Numbers have continued to fluctuate this year with 8-15 mums meeting twice a month for two hours of yummy food, great speakers and awesome crafts.

We are always so blessed to have enough helpers, beautiful egg sandwiches from Mary, a lovely sweet something from one of our home groups and morning tea presided over by our smiling Belinda. Although it seems like I am obsessed by food, I have to tell you that the mums see this as being really cared about, as they rarely have time to sit and eat, let alone something beautifully presented.

Our speakers range from older wiser ladies sharing their experiences, nutritional ideas for picky kids, words of wisdom from our own psychologists and words of faith from our ministry team. Occasionally the mums prepare quick meals that can be given away or popped in the freezer, the buzz of laughter and conversation as the chopping gets done is balm to my ears.

Although craft is not one of my "spiritual gifts" most of the mums just love it, and again we have been blessed with ladies who have such brilliant ideas, and can actually put them into practice

I would like to appeal to any of our church mums to get behind this great outreach, I realise that you too, often have to get back to work, or feel you have plenty of support from your families but this is a great ministry to other mums in the community, many of whom know nothing of the joy of having Christ in their lives.

Drew Nicholls - Young Adults report

This year has been a wonderful year with new ideas, a renewed sense of community and some fresh perspectives on what it means to be in community in this church. My role this year has continued to focus primarily on the Young Adult community and their continued spiritual formation, social and missional engagement. A significant part of this has been on the development and continued support of healthy, energetic small groups that are at the heart of our church community.

I have also begun to engage and support both the Youth and Children's ministries in more intentional ways; specifically around program development, cross community engagement and support as well as reviewing how we are working together generationally rather than

separately.

The 6pm community has been on steady trajectory of growth, increase in faithfulness and continued sense of anticipation for what God is doing in our community. Earlier this year, we made some significant adjustments to the structure, the various roles and the way in which we worship together. Being a smaller community, we have attempted to remove the visual space between the stage and the congregation and have begun meeting in a circular structure in the middle of the chapel as a way of engaging in a deeper, more personal and holistic way.

Throughout this year, my overall aim was to begin fostering community development and hospitality from a generational span. This is taken a variety of forms and has allowed the community to find various clear ways into which to grow holistic support, care and prayerful presence with one another. Over the next 18 months it will be beneficial to continue with this but step deeper into developing formation and discipleship, and renewed perspectives on mission both in a personal context as well as within our neighbourhood.

The Young Adult program as existed far more intentionally this year and has allowed the 6pm community to work cohesively with the Young Adult program. This year we have seen social gatherings on Saturday nights and dinners after church at various homes throughout the community. This was an intentional step to grow in cross-generational hospitality and pastoral support, which is one of the cornerstones of any healthy faith community. Through a revitalisation of our annual spiritual retreats to being far more intentional but flexible as a one day event, we have begun to see some fruitful rhythms and patterns emerge as our community continues to create deeper spaces of faithful spiritual movements.

Small Groups continue to be the centre point of our young adult discipleship and formation. Over the past 12 months there have been some attendance and leadership changes, specifically with Keir Fowler stepping down from leadership. However the great joy has been watching some key young people step up into leadership.

Over the next 18 months, we will continue to seek to grow these groups particularly in the areas of *self leading*. Increasingly, we see more groups opening up for single gender groups and couples groups that are self lead and organised as there is and ever present need for young people to be cared for more intentionally and more creative ways.

It is important for me at this point to make special mention of the sensational, hardworking and tireless, faithful and Christlike presence and energy that the leadership team, volunteers and helpers give to the 6pm and the Young Adults communities. I am continually overwhelmed at the variety of ways that people in our broader community continue to give time, support and overall care for those in our local community as well as our broader connections. Please continue to pray, encourage and lift up all our leaders

that God may continue to bless, anoint and grow them.

It is also important to continue to lift up, encourage and highlight the fantastic work of Linda Mill, Bec Murray, Adrian Sinnatt and Jordan Ludgater who it is such a joy watch as they grow, shape and lead the Children's and Youth ministries. It is also important that I note the significant contribution and leadership that Rach Broadbent has made to the 6pm and Young adults communities over the last two years as our Creative Worship intern. Rach has been at this church for 17 years where she has not only grown enormously in her leadership, vision and clarity of her own gifts, but she has continued to seek Gods heart and be a very significant and respected person in worship development. Sadly she will be concluding her internship at the end of 2016 and at this point will take a break from any further leadership for the foreseeable future. Please continue to lift her up as she seeks to find the next step in her formation and community engagement.

As we begin to look forward prayerfully and faithfully, I would strongly encourage you continue to prayer God prophetic plans and visions for us to be faithfully discerned and welcomed. I would also encourage you to continue to wait in eagerness for what God as done, continues to do and will do within us and with us over the next few years. Please also continue to pray for the sensational leadership team and the work behind the scenes. For the Young Adult community, the next step for is to be faithful in all things, pray continuously for everything and to seek first His kingdom in this church, in our hearts, and in our families.

Chris Sharpe Worship Minister's Report

It is with somewhat mixed feelings that I present this, my 25th annual report. The past 25 years have been a journey of extraordinary celebration of the activity of God in the lives of the people who form Ringwood Church of Christ. Twenty-five years is only a snapshot in time, of course. Ringwood Church of Christ was birthed nearly 100 years ago, and continues to be a light in the neighbourhood because of God's blessing and the faithful people who serve Him. Christ is our centre and we are renewed by the Spirit. It's not unusual for any church to experience periods of growth, excitement, renewal; and at other times, to feel dry and weary. The test of God's people in any of these times is whether we can persevere: to praise, worship and serve God, in all His fullness, no matter what; to continue to grow in the fruits and gifts of the Spirit, often finding refining in the difficult times, and to continue to reach out, making new disciples. At any given time, there will be those in our fellowship and their wider networks experiencing exceptional joy and inspiration, while others are enduring hardship with relationships, work, illness and death, to name a few. Even in grief, so many people experience and share the overwhelming, profound peace and joy of the Holy Spirit. Extraordinary joy, inspiration and peace as against hardship, do not have to be mutually exclusive. God endures. He gives us strength to endure too...and more.

In part, the prophetic role of the church, and more specifically, the church in worship, is to swim against the tide of cultural mores that are not pleasing to God and certainly, unhealthy for growing into God's grace and love. So:

We have a highly individualistic culture that gives rise to a younger generation raised in the sea of "entitlement". It's a ME focus that comes with a need to be entertained. **BUT WORSHIP IS GOD-FOCUSED. WE TOGETHER TURN OUR EYES TO GOD AND REMIND EACH OTHER ABOUT HOW IMPORTANT THAT IS. WE GIVE UP OUR NEED TO BE ENTERTAINED AND BRING A SACRIFICE OF PRAISE. IT'S NOT EASY TO DO. IT NEVER HAS BEEN. IN GOD'S ECONOMY, WE RE-FOCUS BETTER TOGETHER IF IT'S WEEKLY. WHAT IS GOOD FOR GOOD IS GOOD FOR US. WHO KNEW?!!!**

Every culture has and does sing. Music-making is a higher order activity that the Bible clearly articulates to be involved in the process of praising and worshipping God. The global culture has much to offer in music. Yes, we are aware that our culture does not encourage (group) singing, but rather, listening and entertainment. Never before have so many songs been available as a resource. The worship team works together to do our best to provide songs for the whole church, as diverse as it is. So what?! **WE WORSHIP GOD IN SONG BECAUSE IT'S THE ONLY INSTRUMENT WE SHARE. GOD, OUR AUDIENCE, IS MUCH MORE INTERESTED IN OUR HEARTS AS WE DO THAT, THAN THE QUALITY OF OUR NOTES (though I'm sure He doesn't mind if we sound harmonious and beautiful.**

A fragmentation of families in our community leaves us all with a community burdened by fractured relationships and broadly perceived ramifications at all levels of human experience. What does that have to do with worship? As a church, we have families of all shapes and sizes. We bring who we are to worship – the good, the great, the baggage, the current lived experience, within an increasingly global culture that asks good questions about the realities of family. In worship, we can choose to offer God things of beauty, things of passion, words and hearts that speak truth. The 2016 season of our worship life in morning worship, has therefore been more focussed on bringing children back into All-Age worship. **A MAJOR SHIFT THIS YEAR HAS BROUGHT SOME NEW LIFE TO MORNING WORSHIP SERVICES. WORSHIP LEADERS HAVE STEPPED UP TO ENGAGE AND INVOLVE EVERYONE, WITH A SPECIAL FOCUS ON YOUTH AND CHILDREN IN THE FIRST 30 MINUTES. THEY HAVE BEEN ASKED TO ENSURE THAT OVER TIME, OUR YOUTH ENGAGE AND INVOLVE WITH COMMUNION, SCRIPTURE AND PRAYER. THE FEEDBACK HAS BEEN POSITIVE AROUND THIS CHANGE. I THANK THE WORSHIP LEADERS FOR THEIR CONTINUED PRAYERFULNESS, CREATIVITY AND HUMBLE SERVANTHOOD. I THANK THE LEADERS AND MINISTRY TEAM MEMBERS WHO HAVE DISCUSSED, PRAYED, ACTED AND SUPPORTED TO BRING THIS ABOUT.**

It may be only a trickle, but it is astounding how many people from "other cultures and religions" come seeking after God and find peace, joy and freedom in our worship services and in the worship life of our community. That's exciting.

There is so much more to the practice of worship than the handful of items mentioned already. This is a brief snapshot.

ON A PERSONAL NOTE OF GRATITUDE FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART :

What I am left with is thankfulness for God at work through so many gifted, quirky, talented, humble, not-so-humble, thoughtful, enthusiastic, faithful, prayerful people who have exhibited the fruits and gifts of the Holy Spirit.

I am thankful for all the fun of team rehearsing and performing amazing musical items, dramas, puppetry, dances and more; for the many special fund-raising nights so generously contributed to. For those who have support roles in the tech team, office and beyond.

I am thankful for the hundreds of people who have been part of worship teams, many who have gone on to serve in other churches, and many whose experience in other churches, we benefit from.

There are a handful of people who have been in the worship team as leaders, musicians, singers or tech team, since I was first asked to take up co-ordinating worship here. They know who they are – they are shining lights of faithfulness, patience and growth.

A special word of thanks and gratitude for my prayer partner for the Worship team, Marion Evans – faithful, patient, wise, trusting and ever a support.

My husband John has been more of a support to me personally and to the whole team than anyone will ever know.

Thanks God – “it’s all about You...”

“Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable— if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.”

Philippians 4:8

Marion Evans (Intern): Mentoring and Discipleship

2016 has been a year of discovery, finding out how and where mentoring fits in the life and ministry of Ringwood Church of Christ and then laying some foundations on which to build for the future. I know there is much more to find out particularly with respect to who is involved in mentoring and with whom they are working. So I ask again for people please to let me know – not for me to interfere, but to enable me to first gain a fuller picture and second be able to support and equip them.

To this end, I have recently run mentor training over two nights, with a small but well-engaged response. I propose repeating, and possibly extending this next year.

I've also instigated a new life group with the specific aim of teaching and encouraging new and inexperienced believers to grow in their discipleship. We meet fortnightly to share lunch and Bible study on Sunday afternoons, and currently have 6 members (besides me). The matter of spiritual gifts is another area for further exploration and development in 2017, both to discern what gifts people have and to assist in the growth and operation of those gifts for the sake of the church and the community around us.

Following the model of Jesus in Luke 10:1-20, I organised a small team to go into Eastland one Saturday morning as a seed-sowing evangelistic exercise*. I offered initial encouragement in listening and discerning Holy Spirit's guidance, and we met together afterwards to share our experiences (successes and "failures") and to pray for those seeds we had sown and the people with whom we had spoken. This too is something to re?ne, develop and repeat in 2017, both for our own growth in discipleship (evangelism being one aspect of that, one of the spiritual gifts) and as an element of our new theme of Faithful Presence.

I therefore look forward to continuing in this role in 2017 and to developing these ideas and any others that the ministry team, the elders or God proposes.

- ◆ *Details were provided in my report in the Breaking News of 18th October, and I would be delighted to explain it further to anyone interested.*

Worth Repeating Op Shop report -Trish Burch for the Op Shop Team

What to tell you about op shop? For those of you who read the reports each year, you will know of the wonderful outreach program that it is.

Only open on a Wednesday and Thursday it provides a safe haven for people to come and rest a while, look for some bargains, and exchange laughter, stories and togetherness.

It's the stories that we share that make the op shop such a treasured place. To be trusted with folks inner thoughts, to share and sometimes pray for one another, to try to understand when it's a newcomer to Australia, and then to try to put all of that into a paragraph or two is impossible.

Perhaps I should just say, that we all love to be here, sometimes we take lots of money, sometimes almost nothing, but we are here and ready to be used by God- good isn't it?

We raised somewhere around eight to nine thousand this year, and \$860 on the freezing cold and wet day of the fete.

Dorothy Wigney - Oasis Meals Ministry Report

Oasis, (noun)

A fertile spot in a desert where water is found.

A pleasant or peaceful area or period in the midst of a difficult, troubled, or hectic place or situation.

A fertile or green area in an arid region (as a desert)²

Something that provides refuge, relief, or pleasant contrast.

Not everyone enjoys the security and comfort of a stable happy home life.

Not everyone has had the benefit of a happy up bringing.

Not everyone has been blessed with a good education and regular employment.

Not everyone has a trusted friend to whom they can turn in times of crisis.

Not everyone enjoys a life of privilege. Not everyone enjoys good health.

Not everyone is physically fit. Not everyone is emotionally stable.

Not everyone has a healthy sense of self.

There are countless numbers of people in society who need support.

The Oasis Meals Ministry is a point of connection between the church and the community. It aims to provide a haven of rest and refreshment for members of our community who are in need of a nourishing meal, wise counsel and friendship in a welcoming, loving environment.

We offer a simple but satisfying meal of bread and jam, nourishing soup and sweets, blessed and served with grace.

Anyone is welcome. People of all ages join us: young mothers with little children right through to the elderly. Our average attendance this year has been 44. The growing numbers during the last six months is becoming a challenge. Last year 70 people came for the Christmas Lunch.

We seek to let the light of God's countenance shine through us and radiate into the lives of our guests as we join in conversation with them.

Over the years we have gained the trust of many of our guests who have expressed their thanks for the ministry we share, recognizing that we serve them in the name of Christ. On occasions this has led to hospital and home visits and phone calls to provide pastoral and practical support.

Many of our guests acknowledge John Sharpe as their minister and seek him out for spiritual and practical guidance and many find the prayer meeting that follows the meal a source of blessing.

Many guests take the colourful cards containing Scripture texts that are placed on the tables.

They provide inspiration, encouragement and challenge.

At strategic points in the year opportunities are taken to share the Christian faith. Several of our guests have attended the Alpha Course and a number attend our Easter and Christmas services.

But none of this ministry would be possible without the faithfulness and generosity of those who make the soup and sweets and the loyal team of helpers who set up the room and prepare the meals, wash the dishes and stack away the tables and chairs. We work together in a spirit of happy co-operation, knowing that our small contribution adds to the outreach of our church.

We are grateful for the many who support us in prayer and trust the Lord to guide us as we minister in His name.

Finances:

Balance from last year	\$ 285.00	
Donations Received	<u>\$1423.20</u>	\$1708.20
Expenses	\$ 955.20	
Donation to Church	<u>\$ 300.00</u>	<u>\$1255.20</u>
Balance in hand		<u>\$ 453.00</u>

Ringwood Men's Shed Inc Report: Laurie Bird

It is hard to believe that it is over a year since our "official" opening in August last year. We have achieved quite a lot over that time but the workshop spaces will always be "a work in progress". As new machines and equipment are obtained and new ideas come along it will be an ever evolving space.

The increase in membership is very encouraging, especially as it would appear that it is really by word of mouth that this has happened. Our exposure at farmers' markets, barbecues and Bunnings Ringwood will certainly help us grow a lot more.

The Parkwood site: *North Ringwood Community house, U3A, Penumbra, The Maroondah Toy Library and the Maroondah Historical society.*

All the groups have settled in very well and RMS has developed great relationships with all groups. Also we have been able to help three of the groups with much needed projects. We have constructed shelving for the Historical society, repairs and assembly of toys for the Toy library and constructed 6 raised garden beds for the Penumbra group. The success shown so far bodes well for the future.

Priorities 2016 – 2017: I believe that the main priorities should be the following:

- ◆ Positioning of the smaller static machines in the main workshop. When this is completed it will enable the committee to engage the MCC electrician to finally finish off all the electrical work. It will also enable the final design of the proposed dust extraction system to take place. (see below)
- ◆ Tool display cabinet in the main workshop. Thanks to all members involved with this, especially Peter Michelson, John Burch and Max Moody for their early work. More work needs to be done in an attempt to get all of the necessary hand tools out on display. This will not only make the use of the workshop more efficient but it will free up valuable space in the equipment store.
- ◆ Equipment store. This will also be an ever evolving space as we upgrade with new equipment and get more donations. Thank you to those members who have helped with sorting out and racking the equipment, especially member Ron Johnston. He has used his computer skills to re-tune the database giving a better picture of what we have.
- ◆ Construction of benches. There is nothing better than to work on a good solid bench with a decent vice attached. We now have a reasonable amount of material to construct these.
- ◆ Spaces within the workshop areas for daily consumables: Glues, nails, screws, abrasive paper, etc. These items should be where you need them and not buried in a store or cupboard. Careful consideration needs to be given to the best spots for these spaces.
- ◆ Storage of materials will always be an ongoing problem and as donations and memberships increase so the problem will increase (see below)

Projects 2015 – 16: A big thank you to the members who have helped out with projects. The list of projects that have been made by the members over the last year is very impressive. Although I must stress it is not about the quantity of projects, it is more about what happens with the making of the project i.e. friendships formed, members learning new skills, and just the conversations that are had while producing or fixing up something. There were a few stand out projects that really expressed what I would call a team effort and ticked all the boxes of a Men's Shed project. They were the restoration of the little Train and

the construction of the horse jumps and seats for the pony club. In both cases the essential elements were following our set procedure, careful planning and leadership. I would like to thank Vin Johnston (Train project) and Jim Hurley (Horse jumps and seats) for their fantastic efforts in organising and following through with these two projects. Not only did the projects provide interesting work but also returned a significant amount of funds to our group. The display cabinet for the hand knitted poppies for the Mt Evelyn RSL was another stand out project.

Max Vincent memorial – Dust extraction system: As most of you are aware, Max Vincent who passed away last year donated the large panel saw to us. It has predictably become one of our key pieces of equipment. I have suggested to the committee that one of the next major pieces of equipment needed will be a Dust Extraction system and that we purchase and install this as a memorial to Max Vincent. It is estimated that this will cost up to \$15,000. We already have some money allocated in the DHS grant and also we have fundraised and allocated \$1,100 towards this project. We have had early discussions as to how we may raise the remainder and one idea is to look at joint donations from MCC, Ringwood businesses and the Bendigo Bank.

Noise and nuisance dust: The enemies of any workshop are noise and dust. Apart from the purchase of the main dust extraction system there is a need for smaller units that filter the air for nuisance dust. This is dust that comes from small portable machines and dust that the main extraction system has not picked up. We have one small filter system that was donated and it would be prudent to have at least 3 in the main workshop and one in the metal shop. Noise suppression is another area that needs to be looked at. One idea is to mount noise absorbing panels on the walls and also hanging from the ceiling.

Metal/Maintenance shop: This area is starting to take shape and it was the donation of the Metal Lath and other equipment from member Bill Neagle's father in-law Jack Chivers and Bill's efforts to pick them up from Perth that was the catalyst in getting this underway. I am very pleased with the outcome of this space as it was always planned that we have separate metal and woodworking areas. Metalwork and Woodwork really don't go together very well. When fully equipped and operational, it will be a great asset for our shed members.

Storage: I mentioned in last year's report that the issue of storage of materials is and will be an ongoing problem, I am suggesting that the new incoming committee again take this issue up with the Maroondah City Council and investigate the possibility of a storage container/s either on the Parkwood site or at another convenient location. In the meantime when the benches are built, cupboards could easily be made under the benches. This would help with some of the smaller materials and overflow of small equipment and hardware.

Final spending of the DHS grant monies: Although we have until June 2017 to spend the remainder of this grant, it would be prudent to try and finalise the payments by the end of this year. Two major things remain to be purchased from the grant: the installation of the ducting for the dust extraction system (not the unit) and the final electrical work in the main workshop and metal shop.

Donations money tools & equipment: Again we have been blessed with an outstanding lot of donations. Because we have a responsibility to the people or organisations that have donated materials, money or equipment, the committee has developed a procedure for picking up donations. We need to acknowledge and honour their contributions to RMS. I would like to thank member Vin Johnston for undertaking this task of picking up these donations.

Thanks to Doug Goddard's early work in sorting out our vast amount of "stuff". We have now gathered a large number of unique and in some cases valuable antique tools. These need to be out on display.

Also thanks to the members who have a keen eye and saw a bargain out the front of somebody's house. We are amazed at what has come in, especially the Pallet trolley, various chairs and projects to repair and sell and a large number of very useful items.

Fundraising: Brian Tanfield has done a great job again with his role as the Fundraising coordinator.

It's the reality of any community group that in order to survive they have to fundraise. Over the past year the car boot sales and barbecues have raised some significant much needed funds. The relationship with the new Ringwood Bunnings store looks really promising and I am looking forward to the planned Festival/Open Day/Car boot sale that is planned for 2017. With the assistance of Ringwood Rotary I think this will become an annual event and get bigger and bigger.

We trialed a number of things this year, the Open day sales being one of them. It was very successful in helping out a number of sheds that were starting out and we also raised a reasonable amount from the sales. Next year we may conduct this again but have it only on one day.

Also thanks to member Ken Keleher for taking on the role of all things eBay. This will be an essential way of “passing on” surplus to stock equipment and raising some funds along the way.

The committee can't do and should not do all the work necessary for fundraising. I encourage all members to please help out as much as they can.

Committee: As indicated in my 2015 report I will be stepping aside from my current roles as President and Chairman/Secretary on the committee. I see my next role as giving advice on the setting up of the main workshop, bench construction and equipment purchases. Also there are two things I would like to see introduced to RMS

1. The installation of a CNC router. We have all seen the potential of this machine from the plaque that member Graeme Parrott has produced. The RMS plaque will look excellent in the foyer.
2. The construction of the RMS web site. This needs to be finalised sooner rather than later. I also have a number of other ideas that I believe will make RMS a unique place to be.

I trust that the new committee under the leadership of member Barry Moncur (a Ringwood Rotarian) will carry forward the established ethos of an inclusive club that involves all members in the decision making process and cares very much about men's health and mental issues. I wish them all the best for the future of RMS.

Again I would like to sincerely thank the committee most of whom have been with me for over 6 years. It's essential that for any organisation to flourish, a good cohesive team at the top is needed. Again thanks to Joan Beard (Belinda Tan's mother) who has consistently provided morning teas on a Monday. And not lastly by any mean, to my wife Bev who has greatly supported me through this journey, especially checking all the copious amount of documents that have been produced over the last 6 years, correcting my appalling (sorry) appalling spelling and grammar!

Community Care and Well Being Committee - Marg Goddard for the Committee

During this past year, the committee has continued met 5 times, continuing to focus on areas identified in 2015.

Retreat Day at Templestowe is planned for 25 March 2017 having been postponed from September 2016. This is again focusing on those who care for others in a range of areas.

Some venues which may be suitable for small group retreats over a night or weekend have been explored.

Random Acts of Kindness have continued, with a number of people being thanked for their contribution to the life of the church community.

English language classes have commenced with a small group of people. These have potential to grow, meeting needs of various language groups.

There has been discussion as to how the church might work with council regarding Ringwood as a City of Wellbeing.

The committee, who were appointed for a two year term, have indicated their willingness to continue, to be ratified by the elders.

Tim Allred—The Facilities, Assets and Risk Management (FARM)

The Facilities, Assets and Risk Management (FARM) Committee consists of Peter Alsop, Brian Tan?eld, Max Moody, Steve Marek and Tim Allred, and has been charged with ensuring its facilities and assets are of the standard required to enable the Church to deliver its ministry and services to our community. The FARM Committee is accountable to the Council of Elders.

The main achievement made by FARM during 2016 include:

- ◆ Assisted in facilitating two working bees with both the Ringwood and Chin Burmese communities.
- ◆ Conducted surface repairs to the front car park.
- ◆ Established a point of escalation for maintenance issues to ensure timely response to priority matters ensuring the Admin and Ministry staff can do what they do best.
- ◆ Extended the sound booth at the rear of the chapel to provide more space for the tech crew and their equipment.
- ◆ Replaced some audio/visual equipment and computers in the sound booth enabling continued improvements in our worship programs.
- ◆ Replaced window frames and doors to the northern side of the building, both upstairs and in underground station.

- ◆ Portables – let’s not forget the portables! It’s taken a great amount of expertise and negotiating, however we’ve been able to jump through the appropriate hurdles to get the portables on the ground. This will greatly enable the children’s and families and youth ministries throughout the week and give us space to consider what we want to do with the Pitt Street house.

The FARM Committee doesn’t work in isolation, and regularly work with members of the congregation to be able to achieve what we have to date. We would like to thank the following individuals for their support, initiatives and efforts over the year:

Anne Morley

Gina Herft

Drew Nichols

Kathryn Moss

Neal Glover

Sue Sinnatt

Gracedale Construction

We also acknowledge the contributions and insights that Foster Hayward made in the audio/visual space during his time here at Ringwood.

Outreach Committee - Craig Brown (Interim Chair)

Members during the reporting year: Bruce Grieg, Natalie Palmer, Matthew Moore, David Stanhope, John Sharpe, Craig Brown, Ian and Coralie Hughes.

The Outreach Committee has changed its name from the Mission and Evangelism Committee which, albeit a minor change, has served to remind us that all the forms of mission and evangelism that we support are *reaching out* to people in many different places, in different ways to show them the same God who loves all people passionately.

Over this year we have had a number of personnel changes, saying goodbye in 2016 to Matthew Moore, David Stanhope and Ian and Coralie Hughes. These are significant losses that have left us short handed. This year has been a year of holding the fort, but still with significant impact stemming from generous people at Ringwood.

We are pleased to report that the partnership with the Churches of Christ Theological School Indonesia (STJJKI – CCTSI [in English]) has continued to grow, with Ringwood Church of Christ earmarking \$5,000 from our Celebration Sunday giving to go to the support of

STTJKI. We have recently learned that STTJKI are engaging in building a new dormitory on site in Salatiga (Java) that will help house church planting students as they study, and will also be used as a rental facility to further sustain the ongoing work in Indonesia. Our funds will go to help that initiative, further increasing the capacity of STTJKI to train students and plan for the future.

An invitation to visit STTJKI has been extended to Ringwood, with a tentative date of late June 2017 being proposed. Please keep praying for the students at STTJKI – they are determined and young, keen to bless their communities for Christ.

We were also encouraged by the visit of Vana Bawm from the Chittagong Hill Tracts (Bangladesh), who we support through our monthly giving to Global Mission Partners. Vana shared what it means to be a Christian in a predominantly Muslim context, and an ethnic minority in a majority Bengali setting. He made a broad impact on us despite limited time. Continue to pray for Vana and his family, and the small churches that he oversees.

Over the course of this year we have seen some changes regarding our financial support, ceasing support when Natalie Palmer left OM in Melbourne, and giving an annual payment to support Cassie Taylor (Scripture Union). We also supported the church's annual Thanksgiving dinner in 2016 (approximately \$800).

Currently as a church we are supporting on a monthly basis:

Stephensons (YWAM Newcastle)	\$250
Matt & Tash Sharpe (Global Interaction Indonesia)	\$125
Stephen & Ruth Devenish (YWAM Thailand)	\$125
Trish Sonsie (Operation Mobilisation)	\$125
Christians Against Poverty (CAP)	\$50
Global Mission Partners (GMP)	\$250 (Indonesia & Bangladesh)
Martin Reilly and Margaret Nixon	\$200 (GMP – Nicaragua)

As I have mentioned, this has been a reasonably difficult year for the Outreach Committee, but over the last few months there have been some positive signs and encouraging actions that we will be able to report next year.

Please continue to uplift the people our funds support through your prayers and encouragement.

Administration Report - Dave Moody

The Purpose of Administration

The purpose of the ministry of administration within Ringwood Church of Christ is to support, assist and enable the work of ministry and mission through the provision of financial, property and ancillary systems and resources.

The Administration Team

We thank God for the opportunity to support the vision of Ringwood Church of Christ. We are very thankful to the ministry team and we greatly value their prayerful and practical encouragement as we work together to achieve what God has inspired us to be and to do.

We have a wonderful team of volunteers who regularly give of their time, their heart, mind and spirit, experience and skills to strengthen the Administration Team. Julie Lanaway, John Lanaway, Sue Rosel, and Sandra Hayward provided excellent assistance to Gina Herft and Anne Morley in the office. We give thanks for Gwenda Hart who has now “retired” from the office, for her consistent and dedicated assistance over at least 10 years. There are so many faithful people who provide property maintenance and other wonderful support. We wish to thank all our amazing volunteers and staff who contribute so much toward making church-life as efficient as possible. It is very special to celebrate the gifts that God has called together in the Body of Christ here at Ringwood.

Our Focus

At Ringwood Church of Christ, it is exciting that people are continuing to discover the ways that God is calling us all to be fruitful on the journey that he has for us individually and as a Body. During the coming year we will continue support the vital ministry for which God calls us as a community.

We will continue to review of our church governance as we seek to embed the necessary adjustments stimulated by our constitution. We will continue to provide financial information for the Finance Governance and Audit Committee and Eldership to enable our leadership to be fully informed as we seek God for his guidance in making decisions.

We commit to review and adjust our finance and administration procedures including feedback from our external auditors to ensure that we maximise the efficiency of our bookkeeping system and the church database.

We will continue to manage the increasing scale and complexity of legislative requirements in the areas of risk management, employment and governance.

We continue to have challenges with our buildings. Our current facilities are limiting our ability to provide some activities to fullest sense of the vision we have. Maintenance of our facilities is becoming important and in some cases urgent. This is especially the case with some key parts of the Pitt St house. Through ongoing assistance from incredibly sacrificial volunteers and through the scheduled working bees, our aim is to have appropriate, safe, clean, smart and well maintained buildings. As can be seen with the recently installed portables, we will continue to manage the facility providing a venue for a growing number of users, both from within this congregation and from the surrounding community.

Other Statistics

Baptism: It is with great joy we celebrate the baptisms of Tahlia Van Der Meer, Nic Aspinall, Abby and Josh Allred, and Claire Evans.

Deaths: It is with great sadness we record the death of Steve Hoysted and Foster Hayward

Membership Details

	30.11.15	30.11.16	
Active Members	329	318	People of all ages who are in active membership with the church
Isolated Members	8	9	People who are no longer able to attend church
Inactive Members	4	14	People who no longer attend church
Total Members	341	341	
Regular Attenders	241	190	People who call Ringwood their church are not members
Contacts	15	32	People who do not yet have a regular active involvement in, but are associated with the church.
Children Ministry, Youth, Young Adults & Seniors contacts	218	249	Contacts through Holiday Program, Playgroups, Timeout, Youth, YoungAds, Seniors
Total Number	815	812	

Finance Governance and Audit Committee - Dave Moody

Introduction

The Finance, Governance and Audit Committee is set aside by the eldership to oversee the finances of the church. Our goal is to support the vision of Ringwood Church of Christ to “Harvest” – to be fruitful as a healthy community who know Jesus and seek to make him known. We meet monthly to develop and review key accounting documents to monitor the financial health of the church. We report monthly and make recommendations to the eldership. We also ensure that key policies and procedures are developed and enacted in a timely fashion. We thank God for and celebrate the

fact the committee and the eldership have continued to enjoy an excellent collaborative working relationship.

The committee includes Ken Morton (Chair), Dave Moody (Secretary), Mark Travill (Eldership representative), Russell Cheal, Anne Morley (Bookkeeper) Mark Nettelbeck, Drew Nicholls and Andrea Salmon. We thank Michael Campbell and Sandra Punithan for their time on the committee this last year. Sandra continues to help with the preparation for the financial audit conducted each year by Saward Dawson. We also thank Ken for his inspired leadership again this year as our Chair.

Highlights

We are so very thankful for the generous weekly tithes and offerings and other gifts that have supported the mission work of the church through this last year. Especially through our Celebration Sunday season, incredibly sacrificial additional donations have been given.

As a church this year we have been able to cover all our expenses. Let's celebrate that our total mortgage debt has been reduced to \$243,589 (debt levels as at 30/10/16).

We have continued to work with the Churches of Christ Conference Prop Corp organisation exploring ways in which we can be efficient and effective in the way we manage our accounts. This year we commenced using some of the new products offered by Churches of Christ Financial Services (CCFS) including Pushpay for credit card giving.

We are thankful to the ministry team for the spiritual and practical input they provide through various sermon series where we all can reflect on the unique and individual gifts we are called to exercise as we support the Body of Christ here at Ringwood. The Breaking News has included concise financial statements to keep the congregation informed of income, expenses and how we are tracking to budget. The 2015/16 financial accounts were again audited by Saward Dawson with no significant issues raised.

We are thankful to the eldership for their prayerful support and wisdom as together we developed the budget for 2016/17.

Budget July 1st, 2016 - June 30th, 2017		2016/2017
Income		
Tithes and Offerings	Based on the 2015/16 actual income and the increase to weekly tithes and offerings pledged at Celebration Sunday with a 1.6% increase required to balance the budget	550,236
Other Income	Includes interest from Cashflow Buffer Account, income from fundraising events and ministry activities	67,800
Total Income		618,036
Expenses		
Church Mission	Includes ministry staff salaries and expenses for Ministry activities.	385,774
Giving to Others	Includes pastoral assistance, missions giving and direct giving to others ie. cocoa etc...	23,158
Support Ministries	Includes office supplies, communications, photocopying, salaries for the Office Manager and Bookkeeper, Churches of Christ Conference affiliation fees, auditing fees.	100,984
Property	Includes property expenses (such as cleaning, insurance, utilities, council charges, maintenance and repairs).	57,240
Mortgage	20 Pitt St mortgage principal and interest payments.	23,774
Repay Internal Loan	In recent months we have paid off the majority of the 15 Bedford Rd mortgage. This was funded by utilising funds from our own accounts. We are rebuilding these accounts up again - essentially repaying an internal loan	27,106
Total Expenses		618,036
Net Income		0
Notes:		
Celebration Sunday Gifts are excluded from the budget		

Statement of Financial Position		2014/15	2015/16
Assets			
Current Assets	What we have in the bank	393,448	200,551
Fixed Assets	What we own in Land and Buildings	4,603,553	4,601,791
Total Assets		4,997,001	4,802,342
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities	What we owe in the short term, inc designated income from Celebration Sunday & Renos and Maintenance	139,087	163,900
Long Term Liabilities	Mortgages	461,501	212,346
Total Liabilities		600,588	376,246
Total Equity		\$ 4,396,413	\$ 4,426,096

Statement of Income and Expenditure (cash basis)		2014/15	2015/16
Income			
Tithes and Offerings	This represents a 5.6% increase on 2012/13.	527,225	551,376
Other Income	Includes interest, fundraising events and ministry activities, pastoral assistance and direct giving to others	\$108,237	\$115,942
Total Income		635,462	667,318
Expenses			
Church Mission	Includes ministry staff salaries (including Chaplain) and expenses for Ministry activities.	402,976	420,580
Giving to Others	Includes pastoral assistance such as hampers, missions giving and direct giving to others ie. cocoa etc...	37,701	36,587
Support Ministries	Includes office supplies, communications, photocopying, salaries for the Office Manager and Bookkeeper, Churches of Christ Conference affiliation fees, auditing fees.	91,154	94,725
Property	Includes property expenses (such as cleaning, insurance, utilities, council charges, maintenance and repairs).	65,372	56,696
Mortgage	20 Pitt St and 15 Bedford Rd mortgage principal and interest payments.	52,924	49,920
Total Expenses		650,127	658,508
Net Income		- 14,665.00	8,810.00
Notes: Not included in the above amounts for 2015/16			
1. Celebration Sunday gifts - \$29,992.70			
2. Payment of 15 Bedford Rd Mortgage \$213,907.44			

Foundation Closure – K. Morton (for Trustees)

In 2003 there was a decision made, with the church's approval, to provide a level of tax deductibility for people's donations to the church.

This decision led to the formation of a set of Trusts under the banner most of us know as The Foundation.

Malcolm Lowe was the instigator and visionary in the Foundation's development. The Trustees of the foundation have been: Ian Henry, Bruce Armstrong and Ken Morton. Anne Morley has been the Fund Manager of the Foundation and has to be greatly thanked for her commitment to ensuring we have complied with the regulations and that all monies were dispersed correctly. She has certainly made the job of the trustees easier. The benefit of the Foundation was that people were able to make tax-deductible donations to the Foundation that were able, according to strict guidelines, to be donated to the church and other approved organisations. The amount of tax deductibility was then able to be donated to the church. This meant that there were potentially additional ?nances to run some of the church's programs.

The purpose of the fund was always to ensure the church was able to access additional funds in order to expand our mission.

The Foundation was able to allocate funds to three Trusts that were developed. These were: Welfare, Education and RE in Schools

The rules for tax deductibility are quite strict and when The Foundation was initiated it was able to comply with the rules for the formation and ongoing management of Trusts. As time went by, church programs and rule changes, made by those who decide the Trust rules, meant that we were unable to continue to comply with the very strict regulations. Consequently we wound up two of the Trusts (Education and Welfare) but maintained our RE in schools Trust.

The trustees have decided to wind up the Foundation and the RE in Schools Fund as the regulations and church programs no longer suit the benefits that the Foundation was initially able to provide

Over the life of the Foundation the church has received \$1,585,925.55
Other organisations, such as COCOA and Access Ministries have benefited to the amount of \$6,800
Chaplaincy and RE salaries have also received \$56,138

You can see that whilst the Foundation was in operation there were wonderful things able to be done through the donations the Foundation was able to provide to the church and other organisations.

