

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

Gungahlin Uniting Church and Community Centre

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INTRODUCTION

Gungahlin Uniting Church adheres to the Basis of Union of the Uniting Church in Australia.

Our activities reflect our values, which are:

- to share the love of Christ with each other and our community
- being inclusive, accepting and welcoming to all people
- being generous and caring for others
- being informal and friendly
- being open to new ideas
- nurturing spiritual growth
- commitment to community outreach and social justice

Our Churches mission priorities are

- Providing a safe and welcoming place for worship and gathering
- Caring for each other
- Caring for our community
- Growing our church community
- Encouraging lifelong Faith Formation

FROM OUR CHURCH COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON

Matt Grudnoff

A year ago, at the end of 2020 there was hope that 2021 would see us all quickly vaccinated and life would return to some sense of normality. Instead, we faced another year of pandemic uncertainty. As 2021 comes to an end, we again hope that next year we can put the pandemic behind us and come back together in community.

The Church Council has for a second year faced the challenges brought on by the pandemic. But this year of COVID has come with a far greater level of fatigue. For me this was highlighted in the Mission and Vision Workshops that we held in March and May this year. They were helpful in shaping a direction for the congregation but there was such a level of exhaustion in the congregation that it has been challenging to take up many of the ideas that came out of the workshops.

But God has been moving in our community and new and exciting things have emerged in all sorts of places and ways. Sunday worship has seen new people taking on preaching and leadership roles. I want to thank Margaret Reeson, Darren Wright and all the Worship Team for the energy, innovation and mentoring they have brought to worship this year. Another area of the congregation that has seen excitement and growth is the ministry with young adults. It has been wonderful to see them not just grow in numbers but also take on leadership roles within the congregation. It was also great to hear their ideas and see their enthusiasm during the Missions and Vision Workshops.

An important part of the work that the Church Council has undertaken this year has been in pastoral care. In recent months we have adopted a new structure and plan for pastoral care with a focus on connecting everybody in the congregation with a group that can support them. I particularly want to thank Jenelle Martin and Elizabeth Phythian for spearheading the implementation of this new structure.

Our mission in the Mustard Seed Food Pantry has continued to thrive. Alison Tweedie and her team of volunteers have again done a great job during this difficult year. Next year will hopefully see the Food Pantry return to more normal times.

I want to thank all the members of the Church Council. Bruce Warren, Darren Wright, Elizabeth Phythian, Jack Barnard, Jemimah (JJ) Hamilton, Jenelle Martin, Katrina Maciver, Lynne Butson and Narelle Dodd. Thanks especially to JJ for stepping up and doing such a fantastic job in the secretary role and Narelle for doing such an outstanding job as Treasurer.

Finally, it is with a sense of sadness that we say goodbye to our pastor Darren. It has been a challenging time for the congregation as we grow and change. These challenges have been made all the harder by the pandemic. Throughout it all Darren has been resilient and positive. He has brought passion and creativity to his role and encouraged us to look at our place both in the Gungahlin community and beyond it. COVID has made it a difficult time to be in ministry. Particularly for a congregation that so values personal connections. I want to thank Darren on behalf of the Church Council for all the work that he has done over the last four years. We also thank his family, Holly, Theodore, and Isabelle, for their support and we wish them all God's grace for this new chapter in their lives.

Next year will be an important one for GUC as we consider who we are and the gifts and skills that we want in a new minister. I encourage you all to think and pray on this and on the gifts and skills that you can bring to GUC in 2022 and beyond.



FROM OUR MINISTER

Darren Wright

As we come close to our 2021 AGM I look back at last year's reports and realise that once more I'm writing this in a period when the church is coming out of lockdown, slowly returning to the building, and again heading towards Advent. So, if there's any sense of déjà vu it's with good reason, it's been another long year and another year marked by COVID lockdowns.

This year began with the congregation beginning to gather on site and slowly rebuilding its ministries.

• Alison and the Pantry Management Team worked really hard to get the food pantry back and running with a small and dedicated crew of volunteers bringing it back to life.

• Cass was approached by another playgroup which had found itself homeless and invited them to join the GUC playgroup, a move that brought a lot of old and new faces back into its community and forged a new partnership.

• The Boys and Girls Brigades built on what they'd managed to strengthen over COVID lockdown and saw their ministries grow.

• Worship gatherings were also beginning again and while there were still a number of people choosing to stay away, over time we saw a slow increase in numbers but a growth in new participants.

We invited Rev Terrence Corkin and Rev Elizabeth Raine to help us through some areas of conflict and to also begin to work on areas of mission and vision for the future, with a good representation from the congregation participating in both processes. The mission workshops with Elizabeth saw people in the community encouraged to share their stories of hope and loss as well as invite some of our community to think about how they might like to be involved in creating new and old opportunities for mission here in Gungahlin.

We celebrated the 25th anniversary of the congregation, as Mark Greenlees encouraged us to remember our call to be a community of Grace in the ACT. Bringing old and new faces together to remember the past but also to pray for the future. To the team that worked tirelessly to put this celebration together we give thanks.

This year we've also said goodbye to a number of friends and elders of the community, who we both grieve their loss and celebrate their lives and how they lived out their faith. Ron, Frank, Basil and Jim all join the cloud of witnesses that are a part of this congregation's story of mission and faith.

Over the last couple of years we've had to develop our online presence, in particular to learn how to stream our services to people who are joining us online, we've found a growing need for this as we connect with people who have been unable to be on site due to illness, cancer treatment, distance, or who are seeking out a new church to belong to. Chris and the team have done an amazing work figuring it all out and I believe this will be an area we will need to continue to develop over the coming years.

Billabong has not met this year, our regular morning breakfasts and gatherings stopping mostly due to COVID, there is hope that as we come out of lockdown this year that we will be able to gather soon. Working with Melba UCA and Kippax UCA we began to plan a combined youth ministry project gathering weekly, we only had one gathering before we were forced into lockdown this year, and hope that the energy for the program will continue through to 2022.

Walking Church has also continued to be a small alternative gathering for people who were wanting to connect in an alternative way, the small supportive community that has been building around it has been a blessing to be a part of.

And then lockdown part 2 hit (and for our household and many others Quarantine part 1)

Over lockdown in 2021 it seemed our community was more willing to participate in services online than they were in 2020, it was a tough time for all, but it was a joy to worship with the community in this time as we invited you into our homes.

Again, Boys Brigade and Girls Brigade did an amazing job at connecting with their members and continue to build a mission and ministry that is one of the shining lights of Gungahlin UCA. The Brigades show us just how important it is to know and own their identity, purpose and mission, over the last couple of years they have developed and supported leaders and continue to grow.

I've continued to enjoy a number of small bible study conversations over the year and developing relationships with all who have participated. The addition of online gathering has actually improved the ability for us to join in conversation, and not just due to lockdown. And, outside of these small groups I've had a number of great faith conversations with many within the community who have been interested in exploring scripture, faith and life, through each of these interactions I've grown in understanding and faith.

As I type this we're beginning to come out of lockdown, and again our ministries are again restarting, our worship is returning to the building and our communities are starting to connect again. We also hope that we can end the year by celebrating a few baptisms as we journey towards Advent and Christmas. We ask that you continue to hold in your prayers the ministries of the church and those who lead them, in particular that of the Boys and Girls Brigades, Playgroup and TnT.

Church Council has continued to meet, pray, work and dream towards the future, leading a church through a pandemic has not been easy and we must give thanks for the way they've approached their roles within the community and how they've worked together. In particular I want to give thanks for the work of Matt, Narelle, Jack and JJ as they have taken on the roles of the executive this year. Also to Elizabeth, Lynne, Bruce, Jenelle and Katrina we give our thanks for the way you've worked together and lead the church this year. Personally, I also give thanks to their friendship and support this year.

We also should give thanks to Alison and the Food Pantry Management Team. We give thanks for the way that you've cared for the ministry of the pantry and have continued to think and dream of its future.

It's with some sadness that I come to the end of what will be my final annual report to the congregation as church council, presbytery and I have come to the conclusion that it's time for our call to the community in Gungahlin to come to an end.

There are so many people to thank, but now's not the time, and I doubt there's space in this report to do that job justice, for now let me say thank you for letting us be a part of your lives and for allowing us to share our lives with you.

We will leave Gungahlin with a lot of good memories, loving relationships and the hope & knowledge that God will continue to call the congregation of Gungahlin to follow their way, and as you do may you find yourself continuing to come face to face with the Christ who calls each and everyone of you to be people of grace and a community of grace. We will continue to hold you in our prayers and look forward to hearing how the community continues to grow and meet the challenges of God's call on your lives.





FROM OUR TREASURER

Narelle Dodd

Financial year 2020-21

The financial reports for 2020-21 have not been audited. There may be some further minor adjustments. Values in this report have been rounded up or down.

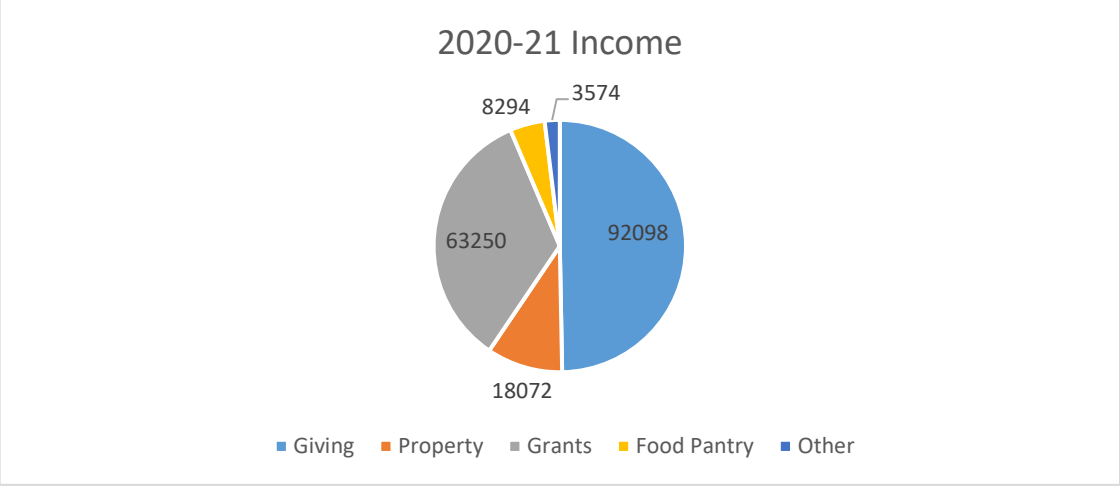
Summary

In 2020-21 GUC made a total loss of $23 294, largely due to the impact of COVID-19 restrictions on hall hire. This compares to a total loss of $6 866 in 2019-20. While the loss of income from hall hire was significant, this was partially offset by Federal governments of $60 250, provided as part of their economic stimulus response to the COVID. We were also able to contain total expenses, which were also almost 3.5% ($7 443) less than the previous financial year.

GUC continues to have significant net assets of $3 280 952.

Where did our income come from?

In 2020-21 our total income was $185 288. This was $23 871 less than 2019-20. Most of our income came from three sources: congregational giving (50%); grants (34%); and income earned from the rental of the church premises (10%).



Congregational giving was $92 098. This was $5 185 less than the previous financial year.

In the past, hall hire has been a major contributor to income. Pre-pandemic, we could expect hall hire to be around $90 000 pa. COVID-19 restrictions meant that the church was closed for hall hire for the first half of 2020/21.

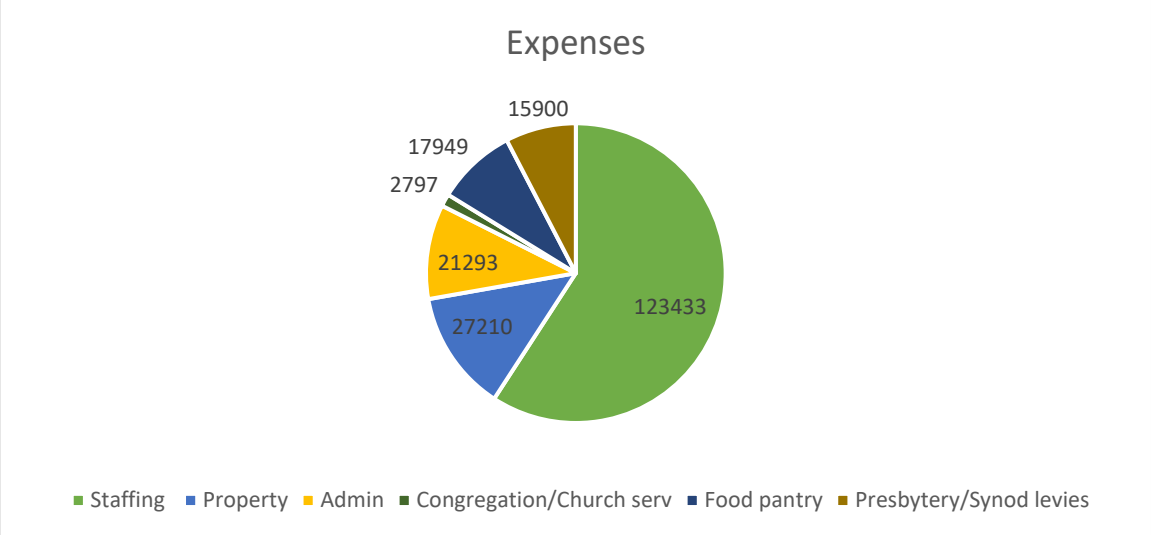
While it re-opened in the second half, it took some time to rebuild, with income reaching only $18 072. Significant federal government grants of $60 250 helped to offset some of this loss. Nevertheless, the pandemic has impacted significantly on GUC's income. Overall, GUC did well to see only a 11.4% fall in income compared to 2019-20.

The Mustard Seed Food Pantry was similarly impacted by COVID-19. It received $8 294 from providing food to people in need, as part of GUC's broader mission activity.

Income also included a Presbytery grant ($3000) to support the placement of a supply minister while our Lay Pastor was on extended leave. Other income comprised interest earned and GST that the church can claim back from the Ministers Expense Fund.

What did we spend?

We spent $208 583 in 2020-21. This was $7 743 less than 2019-20, reflected mainly in decreased spending on property and administrative and congregational costs. This is consistent with the closure of the church building and suspension of many church activities during the first half of the financial year due to COVID-19 restrictions.



Staffing costs (excluding the food pantry) remain our largest expense and comprise 65% of all GUC expenditure.

Property costs are another significant expense, comprising 14% of our budget. Property related costs were less in 2020-21 compared to the previous financial year, mostly due to the closure of the church building due to COVID. Cleaning and waste removal was $8956 compared to $10 250 the previous financial year.

Electricity and gas were also significantly lower ($3742 compared to $8490 in 2019-20) due to closure of the church building and savings realised from the installation of solar panels. Overall, property costs were lower ($27 210) compared to 2019-20 ($33 135).

Depreciation expenses ($10 511) and audit fees ($3 000) made up a significant proportion of administration costs. Depreciation will be a much smaller expense item going forward, as many of our assets (excluding buildings) have now been fully depreciated. In line with Synod policy, buildings are retained in the balance sheet at insured value.

The Mustard Seed Food Pantry spent $17 949. Almost two thirds were staffing costs, the remainder being mostly the purchase of items for sale in the pantry.

A key financial goal is to contribute at least 10% of our income to the wider work of the church. Each year GUC makes a contribution to support the work of Synod and the Canberra Presbytery. In 2020-21 we contributed $15 900, consistent with previous years ($10 600 to Presbytery and $5 300 to Synod). GUC also supports the operation of the Mustard Seed Food Pantry, a major mission activity of the church, particularly through staffing costs. This year, these costs were apportioned against the food pantry to better reflect the level of GUC financial support. Together, these financial contributions to mission represent around 14% of our total income.

What do we own?

GUC total assets are $3,295,436. The vast majority of this is the church building and manse, land and other capital assets (furniture, sheds, play equipment etc).

We held $188 228 in cash assets at 30 June 2021, compared to $210 340 for the same period in 2020. This is as a result of the financial loss incurred in 2020-21.

What do we owe?

Total liabilities at 30 June 2021 was $14,484, comprising taxation, superannuation, GST, ministers expense fund and accrued leave. GUC has no outstanding loans on property. Net assets are $3,280,952.

FROM OUR CHURCH LIFE WORKER

Alison Tweedie - Administration & Encouragement

Once again, I would like to thank the congregation of the Gungahlin Uniting Church for the opportunity to work within our community in this capacity. Thanks to all who encourage and support me in my role, I am grateful to be trusted with this role.

Church Life Worker- Administration & Encouragement is a diverse role with three main areas.

1) Church Administration
2) Bookings & Building Manager
3) Oversight of the Mustard Seed Food Pantry

In the area of Church Administration my role is to prepare the *Bulletin* each week, prepare church rosters, create name tags for newcomers, keep our congregational database up to date, prepare and produce the *Church Contact Directory*, collate the annual *Volunteer Forms* and prepare the *Yearly Giving Envelopes.* I also attend to emails and enquiries, order supplies for the kitchen, bathrooms and office and many other day-to-day tasks as well as more seasonal tasks throughout the year. I am often the face that welcomes and greets people who drop by our building throughout the week with a range of enquiries and needs, from the simple to the more complex.

Throughout the past two years due to COVID lockdowns I have spent time working from home. I am grateful to the church and to Chris Martin, who purchased a laptop and set up our computer system so this was possible- thank you Chris. This arrangement continues to assist in making work more flexible and accessible.

As Bookings & Building Manager I liaise with our current tenants and organise any new or one-off events that happen in our facility. In this role I liaise with our church cleaner and with the Church Property Group on maintenance issues.

My role as Mustard Seed Food Pantry Co-Ordinator involves preparing and managing the rosters, orientating and training new volunteers and enabling and encouraging our team.

Each week I place a food order with Foodbank, update our customer database and make Membership Cards for new customers. Throughout the year I attend Foodbank Forums, speak with community groups about the work of the pantry, liaise with our donors and supporters and each Friday I send out an email updating our team on the happenings from the past week.

My days of work are spread over Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, totaling 14.5 hours per week.



This is My commandment, that you love one another that your joy may be full.

John 15:11-12

MINISTRY REPORTS



Worship Team

Margaret Reeson - Convenor

This has been a year of many stops and starts, with the things that we had not expected to need to do and plans that we could not complete as we intended. Given the circumstances, we have all needed to be forgiving as we have all blundered along doing the best we could.

Worship Team met formally on six occasions, and once with representatives of Church Council and twice with contributions from others, following the Vision and Mission workshops.

Despite COVID uncertainties, a lockdown, health problems and a sequence of bereavements affecting several of our members, we managed to achieve:

- Services for Advent, including a Blue Christmas service on 20 December 2020
- Arranged for a very acceptable series of local preachers and leaders for Sundays in January/February while Darren was on leave
- Contributed to the 25 Anniversary event in February through celebration service planning (Chris Dodd), special wall hanging (Ranjini), memories booklet (Margaret and Ron)
- Preparation for Lent and Easter with Ash Wednesday service (Margaret), Lenten Reflections (Ranjini), hanging (Pauline)
- Active participation in Mission and Vision Workshops, with plans for action on broadening ministry to children and youth (Jess, Chris), and investing effort into more diversity of leadership and style in services (Margaret, Pauline, Ranjini). When possible, we will follow up these visions.

Plans worked out in early August for a calendar of special services were upended with the ACT lockdown and revised plans have been made, for example, the service for Food Pantry will now happen in March 2022. (We hope).

We are very happy to welcome Patsy Coleman and Caroline Wallace to the Worship Team for the next period and look forward to their contribution.

Playgroup

Cassandra Nokham – Coordinator



Playgroup started back in February 2021 when school started. This year we combined with another Playgroup who's building was being knocked down and they were looking for a place to continue their Playgroup.

The year started off well and we started off with 15 families and each week we grew as well as some families dropped off along the way. We had to keep in check with the square metre rule inside, but luckily the weather was good so we were outside a lot.

Playgroup changed in that we kept it quite simple with free play both inside and outside. In the past we have packed up and had stories and singing and an organised craft activity, but because of Covid we didn't start this back up until later in the year. We started off with a group story and some singing. Instead of rosters to do craft we put some craft on the tables for children to do if they wished. All toys were cleaned at the end of the session.

Once again there was no morning tea rosters and no tea or coffee made by our lovely 'grandparent' helpers that we have had in the past.

As the year went on and winter came our numbers lowered for various reasons, but we also had a waitlist and we were able to offer places to some families, still keeping in mind the room numbers allowed.

Sadly, we went into lockdown with the ACT in mid -August and have not yet resumed. Hopefully we can before the end of the year if we are able to.

Girls' Brigade

Liz Warren - Captain

Today as I caught up on some long overdue administration (I blame COVID), I came across the names of girls who have been associated with Gungahlin Girls' Brigade, and 16th Canberra, as it was before GUC took it on as a ministry at the end of 2016. There are a lot of names. Some I recognised, and some I didn't. But I know that for these girls and their families, Girls' Brigade was a part of their lives for a season.

Girls' Brigade continues to be a part of 28 girls' and 7 leaders' lives. Some girls go to church somewhere, either GUC or somewhere else, while for other girls, Brigade is their only contact with a Christian organisation. We are in a somewhat privileged position of working with these young people.

Girls' Brigade is more than a youth group. As we were reminded at our National Conference not too long ago, we are an informal educational institution that needs a church to take it on as a ministry. Our girls are in a space where they learn so much about God, others, and themselves, as well as… well the list is almost endless. Our Cadets (Kinder to Year 2) have spent some time cooking for others and made biscuits for the food pantry clients, and bird seed balls for their back yard buddies. The Juniors (Years 3 to 5) have been doing Astronomy and we all spent time together watch the Lunar Eclipse earlier in the year. Our Seniors (Years 6 to 8) are currently Walking With Purpose virtually, exploring what different types of pilgrimages and the affect they have on peoples' lives. Last week we "walked" some of the Camino de Santiago. Our Pioneers (Years 9 to 12) are looking at different forms of communication and have put together an Instagram page and have designed brochures for Brigade. Everything we do has Christ at the centre.

Two of our young women continue their work towards gaining their Queen's Award, an arduous journey over 3 to 4 years. They undertake Bible study, community and church service, service to Girls' Brigade, an oral presentation of their choice, a major project of their choice, initiative tasks, as well as leadership training. They are also expected to attend State and National Girls' Brigade events. COVID has slowed their progress down, but we are hoping they'll be finished by the middle of next year. Another one of our young women has started her leadership training, learning how to lead games and crafts, as well as how to put together risk assessments, a dreaded but necessary task for all that we do.

One of our Pioneers is also learning more about taking on a leadership role in the company and has been working with the Cadets and Juniors.

As we continue to do Brigade during COVID, we are thankful that, with the help of Darren and UCA, we have been able to move it online. As with everything, it's nowhere near as easy, and our numbers are low as girls and their families deal with screen fatigue, but we are committed to stay the course. We are thankful that when we aren't in lockdown, we can meet at the Salvos next door and are thankful to everyone at church who gives us their old cans as fundraising to help us pay the weekly rent. We are thankful to those at church, who, over the years have given us a hand in so many different ways, and of course, we are thankful for your continued prayers.

Boys' Brigade

Bruce Warren - Captain

Vibe is an informal term used to describe the mood or character of a place, situation, or piece of music. It can describe the type of character or mood that a place has; it can be an approving word that means the character of that place that is exciting and interesting. On numerous occasions people have told me that our Boys' Brigade group has its own unique vibe. It is why they chose to come along, why they stay, and why they want to be part of it.

Attendance at Boys' Brigade have been very encouraging with numbers returning to pre-pandemic numbers. We have 35 boys who have attended Brigade activities with 11 leaders.
Cameron Shelton, one of our leaders has not been available due to his cancer treatment.

We started the year with our Boys' Brigade and Girls' Brigade Church service. It has been a busy year with a Nerf Gun night, twilight bike ride, canoeing, Juniors' and Seniors' sleep overs, a board games night, outdoor fire, indoor rock climbing, and a night hike around Mulligans Flat.

The Juniors have been working through a four-sided achievement scheme of Spiritual, Physical, Educational and Social Activities. Our Seniors did a hike to Square Rock in Namadgi National Park and rode the Corin Forest Bobsled. They completed a Navigation and compass reading course and knot tying.

A Federal Government grant allowed us to fund First Aid Training Canoe Skills Training for our leaders and older seniors

The Seniors have been doing a NUA, Fresh perspective on faith devotional series from Scripture Union Ireland. Juniors have been doing Bible character devotions.

When the ACT went into lockdown in August, our Boys' Brigade group swapped to online Zoom sessions. We are currently running two Zoom sessions. The Juniors have 45 minutes with an introductory game (battleship/minesweeper), a short devotion, squad time and closing game. Seniors have a one-hour session with an icebreaker discussion, devotion, badgework and online games to close. We have had about 20 boys attend these Zoom meetings

Covid Restrictions did not allow for our annual ACT coast camp to proceed or our participation in the Anzac Day Service. It prevented one of our Seniors attending the Queensland Leadership Course and postponed a Queen's Badge Presentation at Government House.

I am grateful to our leaders, Thomas, Chris, Cameron, Wayne, Mark, Alistair, Billy, Tyler, Max and Phil, as well as Darren who serves as our Company Chaplain. Without their commitment and energy Boys' Brigade at GUC would not happen. I am thankful for supportive parents who bring their boys to Brigade. I am also thankful to the church for their support. I am most thankful to the boys who regularly turn up and joined in the adventure.

COMMUNITY AND MISSION

Mustard Seed Food Pantry

Alison Tweedie

The Mustard Seed Food Pantry creates a space for friendship and community to happen and thrive. It is the tool that allows us to incorporate our surrounding community by building relationships with many.

In June 2021 we recognised eight years since we first opened our doors and we continue to remember and are thankful to all who were involved in the establishment phase, who cemented a solid foundation for what was to come. We continue to open between 11am-1pm and 6pm-7pm on Thursdays to provide low-cost nutritional food to people who need a helping hand.

This past twelve months has seen the pantry operate with new COVID protocols in place and a team of new volunteers and new initiatives. On Thursday 1st October 2020 Mustard Seed resumed service and operated until August 2021 when we again closed while we reassessed the COVID lockdown situation. The ACT government responded to this crisis by once again providing free food hampers to any Canberran in need, calling upon the SES to provide free delivery to customers doors. Mustard Seed plans to re-open in November 2021.

We have a committed and dedicated team of fourteen volunteers who spend time each Thursday assisting and serving customers. Each volunteer seems to enjoy the experience and adds their mark on what we do. I am grateful to this team of wonderful people who I enjoy working alongside.

It's been a challenging 12 months. It's a challenge each week to really 'see' the people who come to shop. These days there is not a lot of time to give space to conversations. Conversations are being lost, interactions are brief and are based more on needs and being functional. Balancing moving people through quickly, safely and without undue lingering but at the same time making sure we connect with people is far more challenging during these COVID times. We miss the Café and the opportunity this afforded to just be with people.

We continue to source most of our food from Foodbank NSW/ACT based in Sydney. Every Wednesday we receive pallets of food from Foodbank via Roadmaster delivery trucks. On Wednesdays Ozharvest also deliver fresh fruit, vegetables, milk, bread and sometimes meat they have collected from local supermarkets. The Crace Organic Community Garden continues to deliver vegetables weekly on a Thursday morning. This past year has seen a new partnership formed with Canberra City Care, based in Charnwood. Canberra City Care's Second Bite program provides our pantry with bread, pastries and fruit and vegetables. As well as providing the 'Second Bite' food donations we have another new initiative with Canberra City Care. Together we provide an Op Shop style clothing offering to our customers. Each week we have two clothes racks of men's, women's and children's clothing available for a gold coin donation. There has been interest in this offering and as this has not been labour intensive, we will continue to offer seasonal clothing on a Thursday morning alongside the opening of the food pantry.

The generosity from the greater Gungahlin community never ceases to amaze. The pantry has received donations from over fourteen different groups in this past twelve months. We receive regular donations from the Saint Ninian's Uniting Church throughout the year, but especially in the lead up to Christmas. We received donations all the way from the Uniting Church in Yass and from many regional farmers. A local childcare centre has provided nappies and toiletries, the local Scout group donated large amounts of food from a special Christmas Appeal which exclusively supported our pantry, and periodically the local Muslim community have also donated essential items. Our own church community continues to provide donations through the *Giving Basket,* which is part of our weekly Sunday offering. Whether donating time through volunteering, donating food items through the *Giving Basket* or dropping off donations on a Thursday morning, providing financial assistance, or keeping the work of the pantry in thoughts and prayers the pantry is what our Sunday church community does, it belongs to us all.

The Food Pantry Management Committee has continued to provide leadership and oversight to the work of the pantry. The committee consists of Elizabeth Phythian (Chair), Ngaire Hosking, Sue Lloyd and Alison Tweedie. I am grateful for the guidance from this group in decision making and taking the pantry forward. Earlier this year the committee made the decision to implement a new pricing system to keep the pantry financially viable. From its inception in June 2013 our pricing system was based on a price per kilogram of food. When we re-open in November 2021 we will implement a new 'points based' pricing system to aid in cost recovery.

In June 2021 Ngaire, Sue and I attended the annual Foodbank Forum held here in Canberra. Each year Foodbank, based in Sydney, create the opportunity to connect with their food pantry partners in Canberra. It allows for the sharing of information and ideas. Some of these ideas give us food for thought and are often the start or basis for the continual improvements made to Mustard Seed. It's also reassuring to know we are doing a good job here at the Mustard Seed.

At the end of June 2021, Ngaire and I also attended a luncheon to acknowledge the closure of the Canberra Relief Network (CRN) that had been operating since March 2020, when COVID first emerged, and which Mustard Seed was a part of. At the luncheon there was acknowledgement of the many volunteers- individuals and community groups, that banded together to provide food assistance to Canberrans during this time.

With the CRN coming to an end there was surplus food stock and other equipment that needed dispersing. We received some food which we have been able to add to the emergency hampers we give away. We also received a large solid workbench which has been a helpful addition to the pantry storeroom for the sorting and storing of food.

The work of the pantry is far reaching, it's *more* than just about food, customers and volunteers. It's about *all* the faces we see week-in, week-out as we go about the work. The pantry is the tool that allows us to incorporate our surrounding community by building relationships with *so* many. These people include our Roadmaster truck drivers, the farmer who picks up our squishy fruit and vegetables, our friends from the Crace Garden- John, Elizabeth, Phil, our OzHarvest drivers, our friends at Canberra City Care and the many people who come by with donations. It's not just about working or partnering together to provide mutual benefits but in supporting each other on life's journey. It's about the welcoming smiling faces we see each week as we say, 'Hello, how're you going?' and the support and encouragement we offer each other. It's about the joy of being together and making room for others.

Most weeks we see people and hear stories that remind us that what we are doing each Thursday makes a difference. It is always lovely to hear the difference we make in the lives of those we meet each week. We always need to be on the look-out for signs of life and ways to connect. What a privilege to be a part of our Gungahlin community in this way. Thank you to everyone who participated in the life of the pantry this year.

Lastly, here is a short story I shared in my weekly email earlier this year. For me this experience was a reminder to see the beauty in people, and the importance of creating a welcoming and safe space to all-comers.

I shared a moment yesterday with a lady who paid for her food in 5 cent pieces. She came jingling into the pantry with a tin of loose change that her brother had given her. She told us she had used all the $2, $1 and 50c coins and was now down to the 20, 10 and 5 cent pieces and hoped we didn't mind her paying for her food with lots of coins. As I engaged her in conversation, she shared a bit more of her story and it gave Aurora, Liz and myself an insight into some of the struggles she faces. She is a regular customer and we have had many light-hearted conversations with her, she shares her tips on how she prepares and uses the food she finds at our pantry to create meals for herself and three children. She is careful with her money and the budget is always tight. When she came to pay, she knelt on the ground in front of the cash register table to take time to count the coins into $1 piles. There was no rush, but I shared this moment with her by kneeling and joined in the counting of the coins. We found she had enough silver coins to contribute to paying for her food. To do this in any other shop could have been an embarrassing, humiliating and time-consuming experience. I hope we were able to preserve her dignity. We were also able to give this lady a gift card to help her make ends meet this week.



PASTORAL CARE AND SMALL GROUPS

Spice Kids

Jean Terbeth

In normal times we meet after church for an informal lunch on the fifth Sunday of the month. Hopefully we can resume this fellowship very soon.

Pub Group

Matt Grudnoff

Pub group is a social gathering where we share a meal at the *District* pub in Crace. We meet every second Wednesday. Please contact Matt on 0402 483 782 if you would like to know more.

Tea and Talk

Elizabeth Phythian

T&T is an opportunity for catching up with, and getting to know, other GUC community members over a cuppa at Gungahlin Lakes Club coffee shop. Meeting on the first Friday of the month, a group of 15 – 30 people have been coming together for a number of years now and resumed in February this year.

The invitation to attend T&T is extended to all who attend GUC. Reminder emails are sent to those who have previously attended, and details of upcoming T&T's are included in the weekly bulletin and GUC Community Email.

When COVID-19 restrictions were introduced in August, T&T switched to virtual morning tea catchups via Zoom in September and October. While attendance numbers were much smaller, the conversation and companionship were not diminished at all.

Understandably, Zoom does not suit (or is accessible to) everybody, so we look forward to resuming our in-person T&T catchups when possible.



PROPERTY, MAINTENANCE AND BOOKINGS

Property Team

Mark Butson & Alison Tweedie

The Property Team deals with matters relating to property management and maintenance of the building and grounds of the GUCCC facility and the manse.

The Property Team consists of:
Mark Butson, Mark Phythian and Alison Tweedie.

The Property Team is responsible for:
- Removal of green waste
- Managing fire protection and alarm systems
- Managing annual inspection of roof anchors
- Managing repairs

In late 2020 and early 2021 Mark & Elizabeth Phythian organized two church working bees, one of which happened leading up to the special GUC 25th Anniversary Service we celebrated in February. A small number of people attended these working bees. Thank you to Mark Phythian who organised and ordered the delivery of two different mulches, one for the soft-fall playground area and the other for the garden. Mark Phythian has also made multiple trips to the Green Waste Recycling Centre disposing of the accumulation of garden waste from around the property. When needed Mark also takes the time to mow the church lawns.

In January 2021 the team organised for the feature timber windows in the Main Auditorium to be sanded and re-varnished by our painter. Work was carried out on both the inside and outside.

Just before we went into lockdown in August, Mark Butson was able to source a difficult to find part that was needed to fix the automated windows high up in the Main Auditorium. Mark spent a couple of hours installing the part, so the automated window system is now functional.

Mark Butson and Mark Phythian have also been helpful with several jobs maintaining the food pantry- grinding down the exposed bolts in the floor of the pantry and fixing problem door handles and locks. It's easy to overlook these small but important jobs that keep our facility safe and well maintained.

There has also been much time and effort put into having several roof leaks identified and fixed. This has been an ongoing issue.

Throughout 2021 Riyadh has continued his work in maintaining the vegetable garden, church property gardens and often does additional cleaning in and around the building. Thank you Riyadh for your dedication and often unrecognised weekly work.

Bookings, Building Hire and Cleaning

Alison Tweedie

Throughout most of 2021 GUCCC has had two regular tenants hire the building- Navitas and Girl Guides. We have good relationships with our tenants, and they are very happy with the high standard that our facility offers.

Navitas had progressively returned over the course of 2021 to full time usage by August, when once again due to COVID lockdowns they have returned to online classes and will not return for the remainder of 2021. We hope to see them again in 2022.

Girl Guides use the building on a Monday evening for their meetings and activities.

In November 2021 there will be a new group hiring the facility three times a week. We welcome the Steps Dance Studio.

The Salim Congregation, a Korean Uniting Church, also use the facility on a Sunday afternoon for their worship gathering.

As well as these groups, there are several other regular users of the building including Boys' Brigade, Playgroup, Gamblers Anonymous and the Mustard Seed Food Pantry.

We continue to host special one-off events for our church members, including birthday parties, weddings and funerals. We also continue to host workshops and events run by Presbytery when needed.

It can be challenging at times keeping the building clean, in good order and ready for each use. There are many people who come and go through our doors each week. There is equipment that requires on-going maintenance and attention. Some of these include servicing the instant hot water dispensers, dishwasher, microwaves, bathroom hand dryers and air conditioner units. Other providers that attend our site regularly are our fire maintenance company, our waste removal provider, sanitary bins provider and other services that go along with the maintenance and legal obligations of owning a building. We also engage the services of a security company to monitor the alarm security system and regularly call upon our plumber, painter and electrician. In January 2021 the feature timber windows in the Main Auditorium were sanded and re-varnished by the painter.

We continue to engage a professional cleaning company to keep our building clean. At present cleaning is done twice a week. During the months of August-October 2021 we were able to suspend our cleaning contract for this period to save on costs as the building was not in use during this time.

Kelly Dodd continues in her role as *Accounts Manager.* Kelly is responsible for paying our many invoices and keeping on top of all things financial and works alongside the church Treasurer.



FINANCIAL REPORTS

Balance Sheet

Gungahlin Uniting Church
108 Valley Avenue
Gungahlin ACT 2912
PO Box 84, Gungahlin ACT 2912

Balance Sheet
As of June 2021

ASSETS				
Current Account non-UFS [A1A]				
Westpac main account		$9,258.82		
Petty Cash Acct		$283.59		
Food Pantry Acct		$9,389.24		
Food Pantry Vouchers		$121.00		
Gardener's Account		$10.31		
Total Current Account non-UFS			*$19,062.96*	
Ministers' Benefit Accs [A2]				
MEA account 182980		*$8,841.79*		
Fixed Assets				
Land [A3]				
Church Grounds	$400,000.00			
Total Land [A3]		$400,000.00		
Building & Contents [A4]				
Church Sanctuary	$1,893,431.06			
Manse #2 Land	$301,000.00			
Manse 2 Building	$450,000.00			
White Shed	$5,000.00			
Food Pantry Building	$36,900.00			
Food Garden	$7,058.73			
Food Garden Accum Deprec.	($6,842.23)			
Contents Church Sanct	$37,319.39			
ContentsChurch Accum Deprec.	($36,876.05)			
Contents Halls	$18,423.65			
Contents Hall Accum Deprec.	($16,833.83)			
Contents Office	$11,659.58			
Contents Office Accum Deprec.	($11,659.59)			
Total Building & Contents		*$2,688,580.71*		
Investments				
UFS Accounts				
UFS #39	$4,618.10			
UFS #36	$2,033.63			
UFS #44	$93,830.31			
UFS Fix Term #2	$17,628.94			
UFS Fix Term #3	$17,823.48			
UFS Fix Term #4	$17,697.99			
Total UFS Accounts		$153,632.45		
Invest Sale Proceeds				
Sale Proceeds UFS	$15,533.05			

Total Invest Sale Proceeds		$15,533.05		
Total Investments			*$169,165.50*	
Debtors [A11]				
Accounts Receivable		$6,908.24		
Total Debtors			*$6,908.24*	
Other Assets				
Play Equipment/ground		$14,460.65		
Play Equipment Accum Deprec.		($14,460.70)		
Furniture		$45,025.83		
Furniture Accum Deprec.		($42,518.61)		
Computers		$6,543.17		
Computers Accum Deprec.		($6,173.25)		
Total Other Assets			*$2,877.09*	
Total ASSETS				**$3,295,436.29**
LIABILITIES				
Minister BExp Liability				
Min. Wright Benefit Liability		$9,334.35		
Total Minister BExp Liability			*$9,334.35*	
Provision Staff Entitlmts				
Provn for Annual Leave		($1,778.04)		
Other Liabilities				
Tax Summary				
GST Collected	$1,385.07			
GST Paid	($360.54)			
PAYG Payable	$2,125.01			
Total Tax Summary		*$3,149.54*		
UCA Payroll Funds Payable				
Superannuation Payable	$3,778.18			
Total UCA Payroll Funds Payable		*$3,778.18*		
Total LIABILITIES				**$14,484.03**
Net Assets				**$3,280,952.26**
RETAINED FUNDS				
Accumulated Funds				
Asset Revaluation Reserve		$558,753.59		
Accum General Funds		$2,745,493.08		
Current Surplus/deficit		($23,294.41)		
Total Accumulated Funds			$3,281,252.26	
Total RETAINED FUNDS				**$3,280,952.26**

Profit and Loss Statement

Gungahlin Uniting Church
108 Valley Avenue
Gungahlin ACT 2912
PO Box 84, Gungahlin ACT 2912

Profit & Loss Statement

July 2020 To June 2021

INCOME			
Congregation Offerings			
Congregation direct giving	$92,098.00		
Total Congregation Offerings		*$92,098.00*	
Grants			
Synod Grants/Reimburs	$3,000.00		
Government Grants	$60,250.00		
Total Grants		$63,250.00	
Interest Income			
Interest Non-UCA sources	$11.32		
Interest UFS Invest	$995.71		
Total Interest Income		*$1,007.03*	
Property Income			
Halls	$17,629.54		
Residential Properties	$442.80		
Total Property Income		*$18,072.34*	
Other Income			
GST Recovered on MEA	$2,567.34		
Total Other Income		*$2,567.34*	
Total INCOME			**$176,994.71**
EXPENSES			
Staff Costs			
Ministry Stipends & Allowances	$82,803.82		
Ministry Superannuation	$6,680.71		
Support Staff Salaries & Wages	$21,804.60		
Support Staff Superann	$1,432.82		
Workers Compensation	$6,316.53		
Provn for Annual Leave	$4,394.45		
Total Staff Costs		*$123,432.93*	
Property Related Costs			
Handyman' repairs	$1,490.00		

Electrical Repairs	$409.00		
Plumbing Repairs	$331.82		
Cleaning & Waste Removal	$8,956.18		
Replacement Fittings	$393.00		
Fire and Security Systems	$2,291.76		
Property Insurance [P8]	$5,253.00		
Electricity & Gas [P9]	$3,742.32		
Water Rates [P10]	$2,045.65		
Council Rates [P11]	$2,297.44		
Total Property Related Costs		*$27,210.17*	
Mission Costs & Giving			
UCA Living is Giving [P12]	$3,975.00		
Presbytery Levies [P14]	$11,925.00		
Total Mission Costs & Giving		*$15,900.00*	
Administration & Congregation			
Admin & Office			
Audit Fees [P16]	$3,000.00		
Professional Services [P16A)	$4,060.73		
Depreciation Expense	$10,511.22		
Interest Expense [P21]	$0.09		
Stationery & Printing [P22]	$1,814.79		
Telecommunications [P23]	$1,151.34		
Postage & Courier [P24]	$351.82		
Licences	$239.88		
Edu Materials (excl mission)	$163.65		
Total Administration & Congregation		*$21,293.52*	
Congregation/Church Services			
Worship & Music	$1,292.51		
Hospitality	$424.66		
Members' Training/confs [P28]	$1,080.00		
Total Congregation/Church Services		*$2,797.17*	
Total EXPENSES			**$190,633.79**
Operating Profit/(Loss)			**($13,639.08)**
Food Pantry			
Food Pantry Income			
FP - Sales/Income/Donations	$8,293.75		
Total Food Pantry Income			**$8,293.75**
Food Pantry Expenses			
Salaries & Wages [P34]	$10,026.89		
Superannuation [P34A]	$1,204.08		
FP - Purchase goods for sale	$6,578.55		
FP - Other Food Pantry expense	$139.56		
Total Food Pantry Expenses			**$17,949.08**
Food Pantry Profit/(Loss)			**($9,655.33)**
Total GUC Profit/(Loss)			**($23,294.41)**


HOPE
PEACE
JOY
LOVE





















