

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

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

Jenelle Martin

Each year I am thankful to the Gungahlin Uniting Church community for the support, ministry and care we show each other. Almost everyone in the congregation can say that they have felt this support at some point, and in some way, throughout 2023 and I know this will continue in the years to come.

Throughout 2023 we have been thankful for the continued supply ministry of Rev. Dr. Bruce Stevens. We have appreciated his messages, especially where he has shared his experience as a psychologist and related it to leading a faithful life in following Jesus. Bruce will be leaving us at the end of the year to join the team at Wesley Uniting. We wish him and Ann all the best. We have also been blessed with many guest preachers, including one from our former Pastoral Care worker Christine Palmer. We continue to be blessed by lay leaders who have led services and delivered messages.

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered throughout 2023. To the people who greet others with a smile as they walk into worship each Sunday, the people who lead worship, are involved in the music, prayers, or readings, and those who make sure everyone can hear the message I thank you. Thank you to the groups of merry people who have helped at our church and manse working bees and those who are enriching the spiritual growth of our young people at Oasis and Billabong. A huge thank you to the people who have supported our mission activities. Due to the high cost of living, the Mustard Seed Food Pantry has increased its patronage; with the pantry now receiving and distributing between 2000-4000kg of food each week. Although it is sad that so many people need support with basic essentials, I am thankful to our pantry manager, the committee, and the large number of volunteers for making this possible each Thursday. Our Girls' and Boys' Brigades are continuing to be an attractive option for young people, with demand for the service often pushing the limit of our human resources. I thank the leadership teams and pray for additional leaders in 2024. Thank you also to our playgroup coordinator and grandparents. Our playgroup has been running for over 22 years, and it is wonderful to see new generations supported within our community.

We have continued to work on our Safe Church policies and compliance this year and have supported many people to complete the Safe Church training. We have been incredibly thankful to the congregation for their understanding of the need for training to meet legislative requirements and to keep our young and vulnerable people safe.

With 2024 almost upon us, my hope is that the new year brings with it new hope and continued thankfulness. Hope of a permanent minister being called. Hope of expanding and/or improving our mission and thankfulness as we continue to support each other through life's ups and downs.

Many people on the current Church Council team will come to the end of their term at the end of the year. I would like to thank Bruce Warren (secretary), John McKenzie (treasurer), Elizabeth Phythian, Lynne Butson, Bronwyn Asquith, Carina Moeller, and Jessica Marchant for their service. I wish Prince Jyubeh and the incoming Church Council all the best in 2024 as they continue to discern God's will in the Gungahlin area.

FROM OUR SUPPLY MINISTER

Rev. Dr. Bruce Stevens

"Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him, bless His name." (Psalm 100:4)

I look back on this last year with pleasure. It has been a delight to serve Gungahlin Uniting Church (GUC). There is no question that being with you has been the highlight of my ministry. Thank you.

There have been moments of great joy and considerable sadness. We have lost a number of loved members of our congregation including Keith Chia and Cameron Shelton.

The Uniting Church as a denomination is facing something of a crisis of confidence. Congregations are ageing, diminishing (average Sunday attendance is now 28), and most rely on income from property to survive financially. Ordained ministers are becoming increasingly scarce, but there are increasing numbers of lay pastors willing to take over Congregational leadership. This is an encouraging sign.

Two things are certain. One is that the Uniting Church is in a period of transition. The recent Acts 2 report, led by Mr Andrew Johnson who is a member of our congregation, outlines options for the national church. Secondly, GUC is a very different church to the norm in the UCA. We are young, growing, multicultural and mission focused. We are producing ordination candidates. In short, GUC is in a healthy place. I do not believe that JNC will have any difficulty finding a suitable minister-in-placement in the near future. He or she will be able to lead GUC into new expressions of ministry.

Over the last two years I have seen GUC benefit from excellence in lay leadership in Council, leading services, preaching, and music ministry. Things have been done well. You have been well served by the congregational leadership. We have every reason to be grateful.

As from 1 January 2024 I will be returning to Wesley Uniting Church as a supply minister. It is my home UCA church. I leave GUC with an assurance that it is in a good place. Thanks be to God.

I will leave with a final challenge. GUC is increasingly multicultural and I believe that the next steps in growth will be through integrating the richness that different cultures bring to our life together. It is essential that future leadership be drawn from people with cross-cultural experience. Naturally our growing multiculturalism will better reflect Gungahlin as a whole and the church international.

Treasurer Financial Report - FY2022-23

John McKenzie

Summary

Introduction

This report has been prepared on the basis of the financial reports for 2022-23 which have not been audited. The book of accounts is required to be audited and certified by two persons who are fit and proper persons to undertake the responsibility[1]. JS Bookkeeping and Accounting Services Pty Ltd will be approached to audit the FY2022-23 books.

Net Profit/(Loss)

1. Gungahlin Uniting Church (GUC) had an operating profit of $ $51,188.
2. Mustard Seed Food Pantry had a loss of $2,159

This resulted in a net profit of $49,029 for the financial year.

Note: While a net profit resulted, Gungahlin Uniting Church were without a full-time minister during this period. Rev. Dr Bruce Stevens was employed as a supply minister at 48% of full-time equivalent.

These figures do not include the other mission activities & groups (E.g., Boys Brigade, Girls Brigade, Playgroup etc.) that are managed by the leaders of the activities.

Observations

- The budget was conservative, acknowledging the previous year's challenges.
- The congregation was generous in their giving which was significantly higher than budgeted.
- Wage costs this year were less than expected although similar to the previous financial year.
- Hall Hire increased as the community returned to normal after many uncertain years.
- The lease of the Manse continued to supplement our income, noting this income will cease once a new minister is appointed.
- Maintenance and operating costs are increasing. It is timely that Synod released the 'proceeds of sales' funds to congregations that can be allocated to general maintenance. For FY2023-24, an increased maintenance budget was approved at the Congregational Meeting (21 May 23) to address some of the maintenance issues that have been on hold over previous years.
- For FY2023-24 I'd encourage members of the congregation to approach Church Council with recommendations for who we can support outside our community. Budget is allocated to non-Uniting Church Organisations, local and overseas missions.

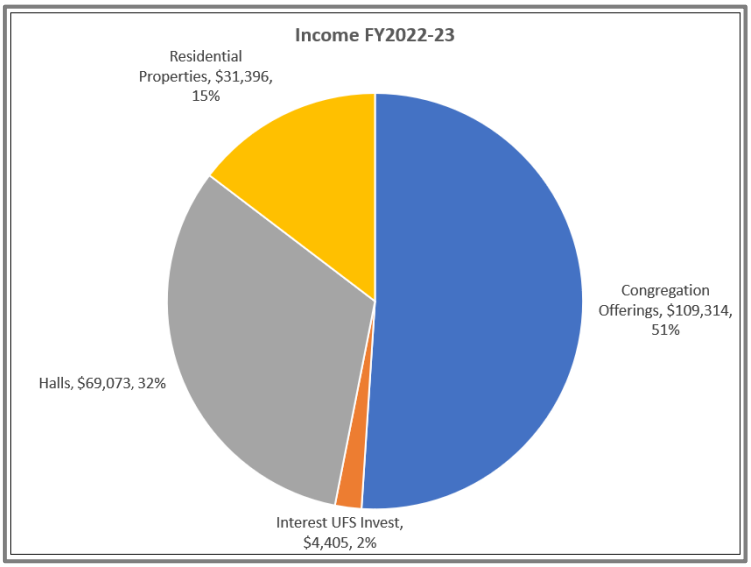
[1] The Synod Chief Financial Officer advised that accounts for small charities (annual revenue under $500,000) registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) do not require to be audited and certified by an independent auditor.

Income

In 2022-23 our total income was **$214,539** (does not include Food Pantry).

Main income sources:

1. Congregational offerings (51%).
2. Hall Hire (32%)
3. Income generated from the rental of the manse (15%).

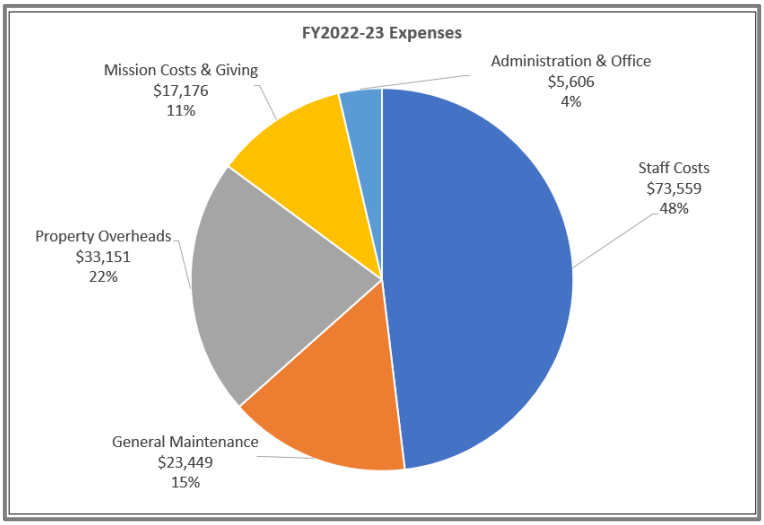


Expenses

In 2022-23 total expenses were **$161,460** (does not include Food Pantry).

Main expenses:

1. Staff costs (48%).
2. Property related costs (22%).
3. General Maintenance (15%)
4. Mission Costs & Giving (11%)

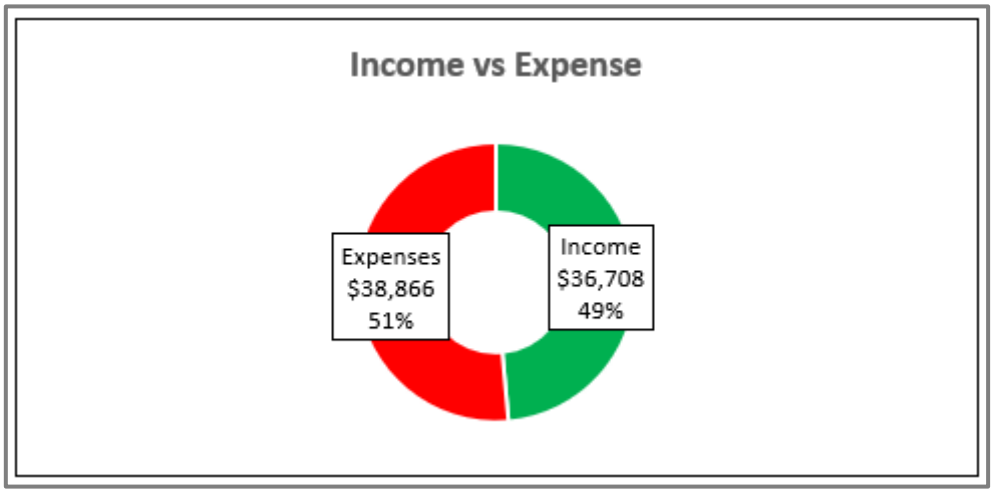


Mustard Seed Food Pantry

Please refer to the Mustard Seed Food Pantry entry in the Annual Report for the great work supporting those in need in our community.

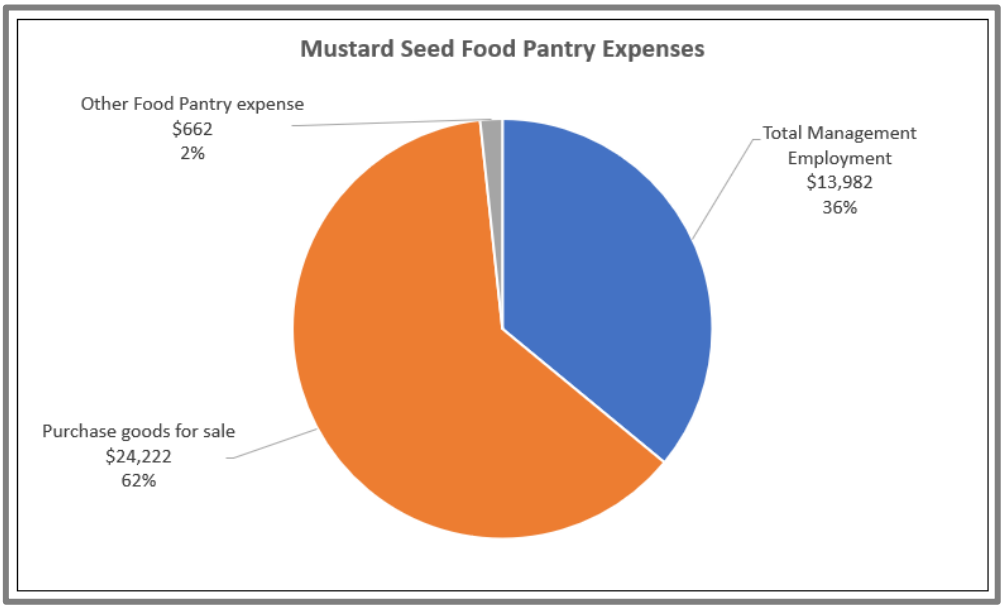
Income

The Mustard Seed Food Pantry received **$36,708** from providing food to people in need, as part of GUC's broader mission activity.



Expenses

Expenditure for purchase of goods through Foodbank has doubled since last year.



FY2022-23 Profit & Loss

	Accrual mode	Total			
	01 Jul 2022 - 30 Jun 2023	Actual	Budget	Variance $	Variance %
4-0000	**INCOME**				
4-1000	**Ministry & Missions Income**				
4-1100	**Congregation Offerings [R1]**				
4-1110	Congregation plate giving	$10,441	$4,773	$5,668	118.8
4-1120	Congregation direct giving	$98,873	$85,227	$13,646	16
	Total Congregation Offerings [R1]	**$109,314**	**$90,000**	**$19,314**	**21.5**
	Total Ministry & Missions Income	**$109,314**	**$90,000**	**$19,314**	**21.5**
4-2000	**Other M&M Receipts**				
4-2310	Donations Non-UCA [R8]	$352	$0	$352	-
	Total Other M&M Receipts	**$352**	**$0**	**$352**	**-**
4-3000	**Interest Income**				
4-3200	Interest UFS Invest [R7]	$4,405	$1,496	$2,909	194.4
	Total Interest Income	**$4,405**	**$1,496**	**$2,909**	**194.4**
4-4000	**Property Leasing Income**				
4-4200	**Property Income [R10]**				
4-4220	Halls	$69,073	$40,000	$29,073	72.7
4-4240	Residential Properties	$31,396	$32,400	-$1,004	-3.1
	Total Property Income [R10]	**$100,469**	**$72,400**	**$28,069**	**38.8**
	Total Property Leasing Income	**$100,469**	**$72,400**	**$28,069**	**38.8**
	Total INCOME	**$214,539**	**$163,896**	**$50,643**	**30.9**
6-0000	**EXPENSES**				
6-1000	**Staff Costs**				
6-1100	**Ministry Stipends Payroll [P1]**				
6-1110	Ministry Stipends & Allowances	$40,155	$49,632	-$9,477	-19.1
6-1111	Ministry Superannuation	$4,473	$4,476	-$3	-0.1
6-1116	NonPayrollVisitPreacherSpeaker	$100	$0	$100	-
6-1120	UCA Payroll Funds Exp	$1,542	$0	$1,542	-
	Total Ministry Stipends Payroll [P1]	**$46,269**	**$54,108**	**-$7,839**	**-14.5**
6-1150	**Support Staff Salaries [P2]**				
6-1151	Support Staff Salaries & Wages	$23,880	$23,028	$852	3.7
6-1160	Support Staff Superann [P2A]	$2,567	$2,424	$143	5.9
6-1170	Workers Compensation [P2B]	$842	$1,041	-$199	-19.1
	Total Support Staff Salaries [P2]	**$27,290**	**$26,493**	**$797**	**3**
6-1299	**Provisions**				
6-1300	Provn for Annual Leave	$3,110	$516	$2,594	502.8
6-1302	Provn for LSL	$2,931	$2,922	$9	0.3
	Total Provisions	**$6,041**	**$3,438**	**$2,603**	**75.7**
6-2200	**General Maintenance [P6]**				
6-2210	'Handyman' repairs	$1,450	$2,700	-$1,250	-46.3
		Actual	Budget	Variance $	Variance %
6-2230	Electrical Repairs	$3,597	$2,496	$1,101	44.1
6-2240	Plumbing Repairs	$2,447	$996	$1,451	145.7
6-2250	Cleaning & Waste Removal	$13,092	$12,000	$1,092	9.1

6-2260	Replacement Fittings	$1,018	$504	$514	102
6-2280	Grounds Maintenance	$18	$96	-$78	-81
6-2290	Fire and Security Systems	$1,827	$2,700	-$873	-32.3
	Total General Maintenance [P6]	**$23,449**	**$21,492**	**$1,957**	**9.1**
6-2299	**Property Overheads**				
6-2301	Property Insurance [P8]	$5,457	$7,649	-$2,192	-28.7
6-2410	Electricity & Gas [P9]	$7,911	$5,156	$2,755	53.4
6-2420	Water Rates [P10]	$2,027	$2,000	$27	1.3
6-2430	Council Rates [P11]	$9,115	$2,564	$6,551	255.5
6-2440	Property Management [P11A]	$3,986	$3,480	$506	14.6
6-2450	Land Tax	$4,654	$0	$4,654	-
	Total Property Overheads	**$33,151**	**$20,849**	**$12,302**	**59**
6-3000	**Mission Costs & Giving**				
6-3100	UCA Living is Giving [P12]	$3,975	$3,972	$3	0.1
6-3300	Presbytery Levies [P14]	$11,925	$11,928	-$3	0
6-3400	Non UCA Organisations [P15]	$0	$500	-$500	-100
6-3500	Local Mission Support [P15A]	$1,276	$1,500	-$224	-14.9
6-3600	Overseas Mission Support [P15B	$0	$500	-$500	-100
	Total Mission Costs & Giving	**$17,176**	**$18,400**	**-$1,224**	**-6.7**
	Total Staff Costs	**$153,376**	**$144,780**	**$8,596**	**5.9**
6-4000	**Administration & Congregation**				
6-4009	**Admin & Office**				
6-4010	Audit Fees [P16]	$0	$3,300	-$3,300	-100
6-4015	Professional Services [P16A)	$750	$1,000	-$250	-25
6-4035	Depreciation Expense	$2,655	$2,309	$346	15
6-4070	Stationery & Printing [P22]	$1,853	$2,004	-$151	-7.6
6-4080	Telecommunications [P23]	$1,200	$1,308	-$108	-8.3
6-4090	Postage & Courier [P24]	$139	$504	-$365	-72.4
	Total Admin & Office	**$6,596**	**$10,425**	**-$3,829**	**-36.7**
6-4100	Licences	$1,501	$1,700	-$199	-11.7
6-4500	**Other Expenses [P25]**				
6-4510	Edu Materials (excl mission)	$164	$288	-$124	-43.2
	Total Other Expenses [P25]	**$164**	**$288**	**-$124**	**-43.2**
	Total Administration & Congregation	**$8,261**	**$12,413**	**-$4,152**	**-33.5**
6-5000	**Congregation/Church Services**				
6-5100	**Fellowship Expenses [P26]**				
6-5110	Worship & Music	$967	$1,206	-$239	-19.8
6-5120	Hospitality	$15	$504	-$489	-97
6-5300	Members' Training/confs [P28]	$733	$3,000	-$2,267	-75.6
	Total Fellowship Expenses [P26]	**$1,714**	**$4,710**	**-$2,996**	**-63.6**
		Actual	**Budget**	**Variance $**	**Variance %**
	Total Congregation/Church Services	**$1,714**	**$4,710**	**-$2,996**	**-63.6**
	Total EXPENSES	**$163,351**	**$161,903**	**$1,448**	**0.9**
8-0000	**Income Generation Activity Income**				
8-2030	Donations - miscellaneous	$25	$0	$25	-
8-7100	**Mustard Seed Food Pantry Income**				
8-7110	FP - Sales/Income/Donations	$36,683	$17,112	$19,571	114.4

	Mustard Seed Total Food Pantry Income	**$36,683**	**$17,112**	**$19,571**	**114.4**
	Total Income Generation Activity Income	**$36,708**	**$17,112**	**$19,596**	**114.5**
9-0000	**Income Generation Activity Expenses**				
9-3000	**Management Employment**				
9-3100	Salaries & Wages [P34]	$12,654	$13,872	-$1,218	-8.8
9-3200	Superannuation [P34A]	$1,329	$1,452	-$123	-8.5
	Total Management Employment	**$13,982**	**$15,324**	**-$1,342**	**-8.8**
9-7000	**Mustard Seed Food Pantry Expenses**				
9-7110	FP - Purchase goods for sale	$24,222	$11,256	$12,966	115.2
9-7120	FP - Other Food Pantry expense	$662	$996	-$334	-33.6
	Total Mustard Food Pantry Seed Expenses	**$24,884**	**$12,252**	**$12,632**	**103.1**
	Total Income Generation Activity Expenses	**$38,866**	**$27,576**	**$11,290**	**40.9**
	Net Profit	**$49,029**	**-$8,471**	**$57,500**	**678.8**

FY2022-23 Balance Sheet

1-0000	ASSETS	Total
1-1170	**Current Account non-UFS [A1A]**	
1-1171	Westpac #182411	$24,217
1-1176	Petty Cash Acct #444629	$240
1-1177	Food Pantry Acct #147970	$20,502
	Total Current Account non-UFS [A1A]	**$44,959**
1-2000	**Fixed Assets**	
1-2100	**Land [A3]**	
1-2110	Church Grounds	$400,000
	Total Land [A3]	**$400,000**
1-2200	**Building & Contents [A4]**	
1-2210	Church Sanctuary	$1,893,431
1-2240	Manse #2 Land	$371,000
1-2245	Manse 2 Building	$450,271
1-2248	White Shed	$5,000
1-2250	Food Pantry Building	$36,900
1-2260	Food Garden	$7,059
1-2269	Food Garden Accum Deprec.	-$7,087
1-2310	Contents Church Sanct	$37,319
1-2319	ContentsChurch Accum Deprec.	-$37,175
1-2320	Contents Halls	$18,424
1-2329	Contents Hall Accum Deprec.	-$17,379
1-2350	Contents Office	$11,786
1-2359	Contents Office Accum Deprec.	-$11,660
	Total Building & Contents [A4]	**$2,757,890**
	Total Fixed Assets	**$3,157,890**
1-4000	**Investments**	
1-4100	**UFS Accounts [A5]**	
1-4120	UFS 100037339	$4,655
1-4140	UFS 100037436	$2,078
1-4150	UFS 100034744	$121,389
1-4170	UFS Fix Term #2 - 100044182	$18,163
1-4180	UFS Fix Term #3 - 100044516	$18,074
1-4190	UFS Fix Term #4 - 100044517	$18,018
	Total UFS Accounts [A5]	**$182,378**
1-4500	**Invest Sale Proceeds [A9]**	
1-4510	Sale Proceeds UFS	$16,045
	Total Invest Sale Proceeds [A9]	**$16,045**
	Total Investments	**$198,423**
1-5100	**Debtors [A11]**	
1-5110	Accounts Receivable	$8,809
	Total Debtors [A11]	**$8,809**
1-6000	**Other Assets [A12]**	
1-6200	Play Equipment/ground	$14,461
1-6209	Play Equipment Accum Deprec.	-$14,461
1-6300	Furniture	$45,026

1-6309	Furniture Accum Deprec.	-$44,719
1-6400	Computers	$10,605
1-6409	Computers Accum Deprec.	-$7,539
1-6500	Audio Visual	$1,000
1-6509	Audio Visual Accum Deprec.	-$378
	Total Other Assets [A12]	**$3,995**
	Total ASSETS	**$3,414,076**
2-0000	**LIABILITIES**	
2-1500	**Minister BExp Liability [L3]**	
2-1511	Min. Wright Benefit Liability	$0
	Total Minister BExp Liability [L3]	**$0**
2-2000	**Provision Staff Entitlmts [L4]**	
2-2110	Provn for Annual Leave	$3,576
2-2120	Provn for LSL	$2,931
	Total Provision Staff Entitlmts [L4]	**$6,507**
2-5000	**Other Liabilities [L6]**	
2-5100	**Tax Summary**	
2-5110	GST Collected	$1,844
2-5120	GST Paid	-$1,386
2-5140	PAYG Payable	$3,667
	Total Tax Summary	**$4,124**
2-5200	**UCA Payroll Funds Payable**	
2-5300	Superannuation Payable	$1,978
	Total UCA Payroll Funds Payable	**$1,978**
	Total Other Liabilities [L6]	**$6,103**
	Total LIABILITIES	**$12,610**
	Net Assets	**$3,401,465**
3-0000	**RETAINED FUNDS**	
3-1100	**Accumulated Funds [RF1]**	
3-1130	Asset Revaluation Reserve	$628,754
3-1140	Accum General Funds	$2,729,545
3-1150	Prior Period adjustments	-$5,862
3-1200	Current Surplus/deficit (RF2)	$49,029
	Total Accumulated Funds [RF1]	**$3,401,465**
	Total RETAINED FUNDS	**$3,401,465**

FROM OUR CHURCH LIFE WORKER

Alison Tweedie - Administration & Encouragement

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, create the *Church Contact Directory* and collate the annual *Volunteer Forms.* 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.

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 Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, totaling 20 hours per week.

MINISTRY REPORTS

Worship Team

Chris Dodd- Convenor

This year we have returned to a more 'business as usual' approach after the disruptions of Covid and Darren and Holly Wright moving on in early 2022.

The Worship Team this year welcomed Rose-Mary Faulkner-Schwartz and Yoo-Mi Kim although Yoo-Mi was unable to continue due to her very busy life. Rose joined Margaret Reeson, Patsy Coleman, Jessica Marchant and I. Margaret passed on the role of Convenor to me after many years of faithful and enthusiastic service. We are deeply grateful for her service over the years. However, she has not taken a back seat in her new role, she still contributes and has been a great support for me as I find my feet. Thank you to all members of the Worship Team for their involvement and creativity.

Margaret and Patsy undertook an inventory of all hangings, cloths and other worship aids and has compiled a folder listing all these. This was a significant project and we thank them for it.

Rev Dr Bruce Stevens as our Supply Minister has been greatly appreciated, but as his role has been part-time the Worship Team has needed to find people from our congregation, as well as a few guest preachers, to take responsibility for leading and preaching on a regular basis. This has proved as in 2022 to be both a challenge and a gift for our congregation. This combined effort has kept 'the show on the road', well, to be honest, has presented wonderfully talented and diverse people and approaches to worship, as we await the arrival of a new minister hopefully sometime in 2024. Thank you to everyone who contributed to our services.

We have also been blessed to having visiting preachers join us in worship, including Rev Christine Palmer who returned to us to speak about her work in southwest Sydney, the Rev Andrew Smith who spoke on the UCA Act2 Project and Steve Molkentin from the UCA Pulse Team.

And of course, we could not do without the faithful ministry of the musicians and the IT team, particularly Chris Martin, who provide support with preparation of all the elements of music and technical components of the service. Hours of work go into all these preparations each week.

A number of “special” services occurred or will occur in 2023:

- The Food Pantry service told the story of 10 years of service to the people of Gungahlin and celebrated this important mission work.
- The Brigades service also celebrated the important work this church does with young people in the area.
- Easter was celebrated with a very moving Maundy Thursday service, a Good Friday service and Easter Day service.
- Pentecost too was an important celebratory service.
- Upcoming before the end of the year is the second Snags and Singalong gathering, a Blue Christmas service for those who struggle during Christmas time and of course our Christmas services.

Easter and the upcoming Advent season were both supported by devotional material designed to further focus us on the importance of these important seasons of the Christian year.

We continued with the ‘Getting to Know You’ segment which we tried to do once a month. We were privileged to hear from congregation members about their lives and their faith. We appreciate each one who shared with us this year.

We also continue with our practice of hearing Scripture read in the first language of one of members each Sunday. This has been reported as one of the most appreciated features of our weekly worship and is a true celebration of our cultural diversity.

This year I became accredited to celebrate Holy Communion. This is a moving experience for me and I’m honoured that I can support our ministry by having me available to do this.

So that’s it for a very full year. Hopefully next year I can start this report with “The Worship Team supported the Minister…….” Anyway, we’ll see. If not, we know how to do this.

Playgroup

Cassandra Nokham – Coordinator



Playgroup started back in February 2023 when school started back.
The year started off slowly (lower numbers) and continued that way most of the year. In the middle of the year I opened it up to the Playgroup association as our status has been 'waitlist'.
We have continued with free play both inside and outside, singing and a story for those who want to join in. Parents who wished to provide a craft activity or make playdough did so.
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, until term 2 when finally this happened!! What a joy to have them back!! We welcomed Lily to the team. Shirley and Margaret continued to help.
At the end of term 2 and term 3 we went on an outing to the indoor play centre in Mitchell. We had enough money to pay for the children (term 2/3) and adults (term 2) .
We have charged $10 per family per term which has helped to pay for these excursions and will help pay for end of year celebrations. At the end of 2022 we held a Christmas party where I provided food using funds and gave a gift of a book to each child using the funds.
2023 has been another great year for Playgroup. I was so grateful that our Grandparent helpers were back and we could have morning tea!(provided by parents).
Once again it has been wonderful to see the friendships that have come out of Playgroup – both children and parents. Playgroup continues to be a great community service and is a place where people are welcomed and included in line with GUC's values.

Oasis

Liz Warren

Caroline and Liz have been leading Oasis this year, with Liz leading during Terms 1 and 3, and Caroline Terms 2 and 4. We are so grateful to Caroline for being brave enough to give being an Oasis leader a go. We're also grateful to Sung for coming every week to support the leaders and children, and also to the other parents who pop in to give us a hand.
This year we have had twenty-four children attend Oasis, with a core group of around seven children. We've been continuing to use the Faithbox material. We have discovered some of Jesus' miracles, found out about David and Jonathon's friendship, explored Easter and Pentecost, and what these events mean for us, and now Christmas is fast upon us. The addition of a tv on a stand means we are now able to make use of videos to enhance our lessons. We are also in contact with Logosdor, the organisation who put together the materials that we used when the church first started. The material has held up over the years, but the technologies associated with the material are no longer used. Logosdor is gradually converting the material to digital files, so that will give us more options to use in this important work with our children.

Billabong

Elizabeth Phythian & Sue Lloyd

Billabong has continued to meet on a fortnightly basis during term time throughout 2023. This group is for our young people who are in years 6 to 8 at school. There are 6 young people in our congregation who fall into this age category: Lanna, Esther, Natalie, Tamara, Sophia and Matthew.

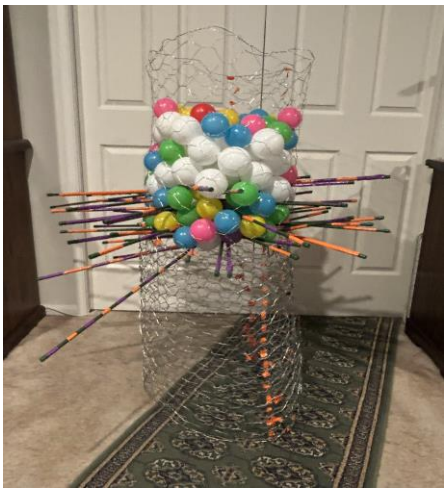
This year, our activities have included:

- Tending to our Billabong garden bed in the warmer months
- Creating an Easter banner
- Building a giant 'Kerplunk' game to use at the GUC Community Social Event
- Coordinating the collation and collection of Operation Christmas Child boxes
- Creating a Christmas banner
- Created thank you cards for nurses at Calvary Hospital for International Nurse's Day

Underpinning our activities is the theme of 'how can we be God's hands here on earth?' and putting the Fruit of the Spirit into action.







Girls' Brigade

Liz Warren - Captain

Gungahlin Girls' Brigade, a ministry of Gungahlin Uniting Church.
Girls' Brigade is all about relationships, building a relationship with Jesus, and building relationships with the other girls and leaders, as well as learning life skills.
Friends are critical to enjoying life. Often it is a friend who brings a girl to Girls' Brigade and friendships are one of the main reason's girls stay. Last week we had two new girls start. This week, one of them brought a friend. We have a group of girls who look forward to spending time together each week. Conversations are picked up from where they left off the week before. Girls organise games to play while waiting for Brigade to start. Friendships are made across all the ages of the girls. Girls' Brigade Australia has built a new framework for what we do. With Faith and Friendships at the core of our program, our program material covers four themes: SELF; LIFE; PURPOSE; COMMUNITY.

SELF	Understanding who they are and developing resilience. Exploring belonging, fellowship & connection.
LIFE	Developing skills for life & a sense of responsibility. Developing Godly character.
COMMUNITY	Learning how to be part of a community & relate to others. Developing a heart for God's people and the world.
PURPOSE	Explore their talents, gifts and find their passion. Learning ways to draw close to God.



With those in mind, some of the topics we have covered this year are Food Management, Girls' Brigade Around The World, Our Environment, and Gardening. We've also had a party to celebrate Girls' Brigade Worldwide's 130th anniversary. This was organised by our oldest girls as part of their Food Handling Work. The Seniors (Years 6-8) organised a night to learn about Girls' Brigade's work in Asia. It's very different to Girls' Brigade in Australia. The Juniors built a hanging garden from recycled containers and watched plants grow over the course of the year. As I write this, one of our oldest girls is organising

our annual sleepover, as part of her Pioneer Leadership Training, an important part of Brigade for our Pioneer girls.

I've been privileged to work with amazing and committed women, most of whom worship elsewhere, but all of whom give so much to Gungahlin Girls' Brigade. To Lorelle, Barbara, Fiona, Jordanna and Carrie, thanks for all you do for our girls. To Lily, who is undertaking community service for her Gold Duke of Edinburgh at Brigade, your enthusiasm and patience is a joy to see.

Girls' Brigade has been supported by Bruce Stevens, providing devotions for the younger girls most weeks, as well as spending time with the older girls, supporting their work. We'll miss him coming to Brigade.

Carrie has been recommended for the Queen's Award, the highest international award in Girls' Brigade and not easy to achieve. It's been four years of hard work. We are just waiting for confirmation from the Queen's Award national committee. Carrie joined Girls' Brigade in 2006, when she was in Kinder. After seventeen years in Girls' Brigade, she's ready for a break. She will move away from Brigade after we have found a leader to take over from her.

Most of our leaders are mothers of girls who attend or have attended Brigade, one is a Boys' Brigade mother, while another, like Carrie, has come up through Brigade and is undergoing assistant leader training, while doing university and uni placements, and work. It would be wonderful if a woman from our own congregation would be willing to take on a leadership role in this ministry to girls from our Gungahlin community and their families.

Boys' Brigade

Bruce Warren - Captain

One of the frustrations I have had at Gungahlin Uniting, and I know I'm not the only one who feels it, is that somehow young people when they get to their early teens leave the church for one reason or another. Questions swirl around my head. Why do they leave? What could we do to better engage them? Is the church, or indeed Christianity not relevant to young people these days? I came to faith at that age and being part of a youth group played a key part in it. It was also the time I rejoined my church's Boys' Brigade group after a few years absence. Both groups had a core group of people that formed a critical mass. That critical mass allowed the group to function if a few members were away. The groups also had dedicated leaders. Leaders who were willing to share their lives with those attending, leaders who took the time to introduce us to Jesus. Those leaders who liked us trusted us and were forgiving of our youthful enthusiasm, our mistakes, and turned a blind

eye, or maybe they were praying for our safety, at some of the games we played. Relationships were formed in those groups, adventures had, faith was found and nurtured and legends formed.

Fast forward about forty years and I now find myself as one of those leaders, a leader in a Boys' Brigade group about three times the size of one I was part of in my youth. We also have a critical mass of boys, and especially encouraging to me is that we have a core group of ten Senior boys aged between 13 and 18. These young men having been with us for several years, know each other and have formed friendships. This year, that Senior group has been going through the Gospel of Mark and being introduced to Jesus. Thomas Bielenberg and I have known most of the Senior boys for several years now; they are good young men, we like them! They are fun to be around. I am willing to let them make mistakes, let them go off on adventures and let them burn off some of that youthful enthusiasm. I should also mention that my prayers for their safety have also been answered.

One of the things we have been concentrating on this year is leadership, in the July school holidays four of our young men attended the Boys' Brigade leadership camp in Queensland. Attendees get to learn and to put in to practice leadership skills, working as a team, serving others and identifying their own gifts and talents. We have also had two of our Seniors- Caleb Warren and Lyle McCormick- willing to take on leadership roles within our group, joining Matthew Beilenberg.

We have had a large number of new starters (more than 10) join us this year. It is interesting that many, but not all come from Korean or Chinese families.
Alistair Buchannan, Billy Cook, Phil Monley and Johan Swanepoel who ably lead our Anchors and Junior Program have had their hands full. It is particularly challenging as several boys are either on the Autism Spectrum or have any number of the alphabet soup of mental health conditions. I have been impressed by their engagement, their enthusiasm, and their willingness to be a part of our group.

We started the year of with our annual church service, my challenge to the boys and girls was for Brigade families to outnumber the GUC Congregation. The Result: BB + GB 1, GUC 0. I think I may need to challenge the GUC Congregation to lift its game next year. It was great to see a church service full of young people with several of them leading parts of the service. The easing of Covid restrictions allowed BB ACT to return to running its Coast Camp in March. We had twelve boys, four leaders and one parent attend that camp.

We held a combined BB & GB swimming night at the Gungahlin Pool. We held a fundraising sausage sizzle at Bunnings with GB, and were guests of the Rural Fire Service for a night at the Emergency Services Centre. Other Boys' Brigade activities like bike rides, scavenger hunts and a night hike were also run.

It is said that Boys' Brigade groups don't fail due to lack of boys. Boys' Brigade groups falter due to lack of leaders. I can agree with that one. I don't know how it happens but parents with boys somehow manage to find us. Our biggest challenge is leaders! Recruiting leaders from within the GUC Congregation has proved difficult. My solution, we make our own! Two of our current leaders graduated from our Boys' Brigade group and came back as leaders, with another one graduating this year and coming back next year. My thanks to the BB leaders. Without them BB would not happen, also to Bruce Stevens who has stepped in as Boys' Brigade chaplain this year. My thanks also to the parents and carers who support us and help out when needed. I also appreciate the support of Gungahlin Uniting, the encouragement of the congregation and for providing the facility that we meet in. I cannot forget to thank my wife who is also the GB Captain. But most of all my thanks to the special group of boys who meet every Wednesday evening during school term.

P.S. Is Christianity relevant to young people? Boys' Brigades answer is Yes.

COMMUNITY AND MISSION



Mustard Seed Food Pantry

Alison Tweedie

This year in June we celebrated ten years of the Mustard Seed Uniting Food Pantry's work. We acknowledged this with a special Sunday worship service that was well attended by both current and past volunteers. It was a time of reflection as we were reminded of just how far we had come and what had been achieved with the aim to encourage and spur us on.

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.

We have a committed and dedicated team of 18 volunteers who spend time each Wednesday and Thursday assisting and serving. Each volunteer seems to enjoy the experience and adds their mark on what we do. All our volunteers have a spirit of generosity to make our pantry an enjoyable and helpful service to the people who seek assistance and support. Our volunteers engage in bubbly, light-hearted conversations through to the more serious and heavy-ladened conversations with people who came by each week. Our generosity is on display in more ways than just our food offerings. There are always good connections and conversations, information provided, and practical assistance given to those we encounter. We all sense that even though we only see people for a short period of time and can only assist in a small way we are making a difference to those with whom we journey.

We continue to source most of our food from Foodbank NSW/ACT based in Sydney. Most Wednesday's we receive pallets of food delivered by Roadmaster.

We also receive an abundance of fruit, vegetables and bread through our Ozharvest and Canberra City Care Second Bite deliveries which pick up from local supermarkets. As the workload increases there have been small adjustments and continual improvements made to how our Wednesday team operate. The range and amount vary from week to week but most weeks our customers receive a good amount of free fresh produce.

The Crace Organic Community Garden continues to deliver vegetables regularly on a Thursday morning.

Our own church community continues to provide donations through the *Giving Basket* which is part of our weekly Sunday offering. The Mustard Seed is indeed blessed to have the backing and support of the Gungahlin Uniting Church and its congregation. Thank you

to the GUC community for gifts of money, food, time, prayer, clean egg cartons and shopping bags.

The generosity from the greater Gungahlin community never ceases to amaze too. The pantry has also received donations from many different community groups in the past twelve months. The St. Ninian's Uniting Church in Lyneham continue to support our ministry by regularly collecting and dropping off large amounts of food. We have been supported by this congregation from the beginning. The St. Andrew's Presbyterian continue to contribute each year in May. I have also spent time this year with two different Scout groups talking with them about the work of the pantry. They have been very attentive and asked some good questions. Before they arrived one evening they spent time shopping at Coles for items to donate. They then explained to me what and why they had chosen each item, they were all very thoughtful reasons. These were lovely evenings together. As one of the nights came to an end one of their leaders asked if anyone had learnt anything. Some put up their hands and made comments including one girl who said along with learning something she had also felt something too, and she put her hand to her heart to indicate that she had been quite moved by the experience. Their excitement, level of engagement and their understanding, along with their reasons for their purchases also brought a tear or two to my eyes as I saw the beauty and goodness in these young people.

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. Below is a story I wrote one Friday to the team about an encounter recently.

"On Wednesday I met a family of five who are new to Australia. They are living in the Belconnen area but had travelled to Gungahlin after being given information about accessing food from Mustard Seed. I was able to sit and talk with them for a while and then provide them with information about two other pantries in the Belconnen area that may be more accessible to them, along with information about the Navitas English classes and our own Playgroup. To my surprise they came back on Thursday morning to join and do a shop. They purchased a good amount of healthy food and staples to get their family through this week. After they had finished packing their things into the car the man came back specifically to give me the sincerest of thanks. It was not only his words that made it sincere but the look on his face as he approached me. I could see he was not only thanking me for the food we had been able to provide him but for my kindness and

welcome- for the time spent with them. It was a touching moment for me and reminded me of the good and impactful work that our community can offer. It is very satisfying to be a part of this work".

It is a privilege to co-ordinate the Mustard Seed Pantry and be around every Thursday to spend time with volunteers, visitors and donors. It takes many willing people to support and contribute to making the pantry a wonderful community. Thank you to everyone who participated in the life of the pantry this year.

Vegetable Garden Group

Mark Phythian

We have been having our vegie garden get togethers for just over a year now and have planted out all the garden beds – as well as creating a new garden bed. Our three regulars from the wider community have now grown to four with another person recently coming along. We have had eight people from the church community come along one or more times over the past 12 months. The Billabong garden bed produced a lovely crop last season and has been planted out with peas. The strawberries have multiplied, so expect a larger crop this summer.

Thank you to the generosity and support of our church community, we have been able to purchase fertiliser and manures to help condition the soil, and received seedling/plants to put into the garden.

Anyone is welcome to come along, so if you are free on one of our Saturday get togethers (happens the first Saturday of each month), please come along!

PASTORAL CARE AND SMALL GROUPS

Pastoral Care

Shirley Williams, Jenelle Martin, Elizabeth Phythian

Day by Day, as they spent time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being made whole. ***Acts 2:46-47***

Pastoral care at Gungahlin Uniting Church encompasses the spiritual, physical, social, emotional, and mental support for all. Through providing a network of care, we ensure that the expressed needs of each individual and families are supported by a team of people.

The Pastoral Care model that was established following the review that Church Council undertook at the end of 2021 continues to be reviewed with the intention to reflect on how worthwhile the new structure has proven to be and of how the process of care can grow and strengthen.

The ministry of Gungahlin Uniting Church encompasses a variety of things and Pastoral Care is one of our church's ministries. It is a caring response to individuals, families and groups who may be in the middle of crises, life changing experiences and decisions as well as times of celebrations, pastoral care however is the ministry of the whole Congregation.

This ministry by the members of the Congregation has been apparent in a myriad of ways over the past year as individual members and groups have reached out to others through very concrete acts of compassion, hospitality, love and care to those in need.

There appears to be general affirmation of the wide range of caring and support that is ongoing at GUCCC through the Home Groups, Girls and Boys Brigade, Tea and Talk, Women and Men's Breakfast, Spice Kids, Playgroup, Food Pantry & Café, and a number of other social and fun gatherings and friendship groups. In addition, the care teams that were set up following the Pastoral Care Review continue to support members when the

need arises. These groups include:

- Assisting with transport
- Visiting people in Hospital and Aged care Facilities
- Home Visiting
- Phoning People
- Providing occasional meals
- Being part of a prayer chain
- Being part of a home group

Home Groups

Currently we have a total of five home groups and as a general rule people have volunteered to lead and co-lead each group. Their activities are many and varied, they may be social, creative, spiritual etc depending on the interests of group members and are designed to help each adult or child share and contribute in fellowship in any way that they are able. Each group plan and organize their own activities, and leaders can receive any support they need from the Pastoral Care team. The following information has generously been shared by the leaders of each group.

Group 1- Renee Buchanan

This year I've taken on a home group's coordinator role. For me it's about sharing my family with other families to build connection and community. We have busy kids so look to organise a range of outings that are economical, family friendly, and fun. Our group chose to meet every 6-8 weeks but of course there is no obligation if life happens. We use WhatsApp to communicate and it has the option for multi pile conversations, individually if you want a more in-depth conversation or your seeking a private word. So far we have done a hike in the arboretum followed by morning tea; a visit to the Canberra Museum and Gallery with coffees! and lunch at Dumpling House; morning tea at the National Botanic Gardens with a lovely walk through; and a picnic BBQ at Yerrabi ponds. We are looking forward to coming together for GUC summer evening with everyone in our wider GUC community! If you want to join our group we'd love to have you

Group 2- Christine Walmsley

We seem to be people with lots of commitments, and so decided that we would meet every 6 weeks, and that each family/unit in the group would have a turn to organise each meeting. All the activities have been very enjoyable and have always involved time for a chat, a laugh and often a hug. 💟

Stuff we have done over the year have been:
* Crazy golf, no skill needed thank goodness!
* Lawn bowls in a hurricane!
* Scavenger Hunt at the Botanic Gardens. (No scavengers were harmed in this hunt in fact we never did find any scavengers.)
* Swimming, in the rain. Well ok not much swimming was done but when has a bit of rain stopped us eating and chatting?
* Royal Wedding BBQ. We were happy not to get stopped by the police on our way to the venue, dressed up to the nines as aristocracy.
* Ten Pin Bowling. We found out who had lived a misspent youth!!
* Christmas Crazy Whist, where things were never as you think they should be.
* Hike/walk/stagger for hundreds of miles from somewhere far away from where we were ending up!!! 😳
* Christmas in July, including hilarious team games and too much food.
* Spring BBQ. Where we were able to catch up over delicious food and relieve Suzie and Rob of some of Cameron's liquid stash!!
Our group has endured much stress and heartache this year, and it has been good to have great friends who we know we can turn to and trust. We have a lovely group of fun loving but caring people.

Group 3- Heather Lamb

Our Home Group currently includes fifteen people from nine households with a mix of ages, mostly adults. Sadly, this year we farewelled Keith who passed away in April. Originally our Home Group aimed to meet about once per month, but life does get busy and there were a few months in the middle of this year where we did not meet at all. However, since last year's Annual Report we have gathered on five occasions. Twice we joined with another Home Group for a combined event; a pre-Christmas BBQ at The Grove (thank you Marion, Rose and Steve) and a lively Quiz Night with a bring and share meal in the church multipurpose room. We have also enjoyed a lovely summertime high tea in Bronwyn's Garden (with an emoji quiz this time), a picnic at Cotter River and most recently lunch at a local club. Thank you to everyone for your contributions; good conversation, beautiful home-cooked food, hosting a gathering. Not everyone can make it every time, but it is good to know we have a small group to be part of who can keep in touch and support each other.

Group 4- Margaret Reeson and Yin Ku

When our Home Group was trying to think of a name, we tried words like 'International Family' or 'Global Group'. In the end we couldn't decide on a good name but we all like the way we come from so many different places and heritages. One day, we put a globe in the middle of the table and then showed each other where on the globe we were born. Seven different countries of birth, plus others in the group who have spent a lot of time outside Australia, as well! We will never run out of interesting stories to share with each other. Because some of our group have problems with mobility, we have decided to meet for lunch or afternoon tea somewhere that has easy access. Sometimes we meet in one of our homes, or at the church, or in a club with a lift. We often share something delicious to eat and we take turns in being 'host'. The host for each gathering sends out the invitations, makes sure that we have a selection of things to drink and will often suggest a theme for our conversation. Sometimes we have been invited to bring an object to show to help us share something about our life.

It has been good to get to know each other better. Even though it is not possible for everyone to be present every time we meet – our group does an amazing amount of travel – we still try to meet once each month with whoever is available and this helps us to be aware of each other and offer mutual support.

Group 5- Elizabeth Phythian

Our Home Group, which calls itself Synergy, has based our get-togethers around food and conversation. We adopt a 'potluck' style of meal – each family unit or person brings along whatever main, side or dessert (or a combination of any of these) that they want - and meet at someone's house. We ALWAYS over-cater (so never go hungry!), and the home settings offer an environment that is not impacted by the weather (after all, we live in a climate that can be terribly hot, viciously cold or anywhere in between). The home-based gatherings also provide a relaxed environment for conversations, laughter and support if needed – all vital for relationship building.

The Pastoral Care coordinating team would like to thank the involvement of all the leaders, volunteers, and each member of the GUCC congregation during this recovery year following the COVID challenges. The commitment of a wide range of members reminds us of the importance of activating the whole community in the tasks of Pastoral Care. There is a sense that Pastoral Care is not just something that we do, it is an expression of who we are. Exchanging hospitality, responding compassionately to one another and enjoying the experience of belonging to this Christian community.

Spice Kids

Jean Terbeth

Spice Kids, a meal gathering for adults, has had four lunches this year. Spice Kids meet on the 5th Sunday of the month. The first gathering for the year was held at the Raiders Club, Gungahlin and a small group attended. In April we met at the East Lakes Club, and in July we had a large gathering at the Singaporean restaurant in Franklin to remember our friend Keith. It had been his favourite restaurant and he wanted to introduce it to us. We invited Keith's daughter and son to this occasion. Keith's large collection of religious books was brought and donated to our church library as Keith had wished. Our latest gathering found us back at the East Lakes Club and we hope to have one final gathering in December to farewell 2023 and welcome in the new year.

Pub Group

Pub group is a social gathering where we share a meal at a local pub. We meet every second Wednesday.

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. This group meets on the first Friday of the month at the Gungahlin Lakes Club coffee shop.

The invitation to attend T&T is extended to all who attend GUC – anyone is welcome to join us! Reminder emails are sent to those who attend the group, and details of upcoming T&T's are included in the weekly bulletin.

This year, our attendance numbers ranged from 10 to 18 each month, and the Lakes Club provides us with the flexibility to arrange as many chairs and tables as we need. The venue also provides a great setting for the conversations, laughs and catch-ups that T&T is well known for. (PS The morning tea menu is also pretty great!)

If you have not previously joined us, and would like to, please keep an eye on the bulletin for details of our next T&T gathering.

PROPERTY, MAINTENANCE AND BOOKINGS

Property Team

Mark Butson

The team deals with matters relating to property management and maintenance of the building and grounds of the GUCCC facility and also the manse. The Property Team consists of Mark Butson, Alison Tweedie, Mark Phythian and Colin Christian.
The Property Team is responsible for :

• Removal of green waste - Mark Phythian has made multiple trips to the Green Waste Recycling Centre disposing of the accumulation of garden waste from around the GUCCC property.

• Managing fire protection and alarm systems – thanks Alison for coordinating the repair of the faulty fire alarm panel

• Managing annual inspection of roof anchors

• Managing repairs/improvements, including :

- repair of roof-leaks and faulty external lights
- replacement of fence gate lock
- multi-purpose room re-painting, repair of plaster cracks and installation of wall-paneling (for protection against damage from chairs)
- installation of front-door stopper
- replacement of globes
- rodent bait stations
- food pantry repairs

Bookings, Building Hire and Cleaning

Alison Tweedie

Throughout 2023 GUC has had three regular tenants hire the building- Navitas, Girl Guides and Canberra Korean Church. We have good relationships with our tenants and they are very happy with the high standard that our facility offers.

As well as these groups, there are several other regular users of the building including Boys' Brigade, Playgroup, Mustard Seed Café, Gamblers Anonymous and the mental health group- GROW.

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 painter, plumber and electrician.

We continue to engage a professional cleaning company to keep our building clean. At present cleaning is done twice a week.

Mark Butson, Mark Phythian and Colin Christian have attended to many maintenance and repair jobs around the GUC building, spending time on practical fixes as well as administrative tasks such as engaging service providers. They have also regularly kept up with the mowing that needs doing on a regular basis. It should also be mentioned that since the departure of Riyadh in his gardening role the Salvation Army maintenance man has also mown and edged the large nature strip at the front of the property. Working Bees have also contributed to some of the gardening needs.

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. I would like to acknowledge Kelly and thank her for her dedication behind the scenes to keep things moving smoothly.