

THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA



Dubbo Congregation ANNUAL REPORTS

for the period
November 2019 to October 2020



CHAIRPERSON

Dan Eaton

It has been said on more than one occasion that the least successful purchase this year would have to be a 2020 Planning Calendar. So much of what we had envisioned to be doing in our personal and church lives rather abruptly stopped, changed course, stranded us in our homes and away from each other. I stand by my earlier comment that the iconic symbol of this year may very well be a roll of toilet paper.

It is not my intention to recount our achievements in a troubled year. That is recorded in the Mission Team summaries, the Treasurer's financial advice, the events undertaken by our various social and missional operations published in this Annual Report. From the perspective of the Dubbo Uniting Church Council, the considerations of 'where to from here' has its platform.

In my mind it has been an exhausting year for our physical, mental and spiritual reserves. Without contradiction, the trifecta of drought, bushfires, a deadly and continued presence of the COVID-19 affected life, will require more of us in the months to come as we make our way forward. Honestly, there is no going back to what was our familiar way of living. Let us not look back in nostalgia or forward in fear or over worry, but around us in awareness of who we are as a *living* church. Think of our regathering in the theme of "Back to the Future".

Recently I asked us to consider that our future church life may require us to experience some new growing pains rather than recounting our ageing pains. While Annual Reports generally account for what we've done in the year, the final portion of that report should include possible answers to: 'Where do we want to go?'; 'Just who are we as a Church?'; 'What do we envision for our presence in the community and how will it become the vision of others?'. I'm not afraid of growing slowly with our Church life, but I am afraid of standing still.

This is not to say that we have been standing still. Weekly Sunday services did stop several months ago, but the innovative and now well known "Church in a Bag" has reached out to over ninety members, extending our connectiveness through individual sharing the word, prayer and study. The adaptation and extension of the internet and Zoom has become vital and essential to our processes of future planning, exchanging of ideas and developing safe ways to regather, socializing, and updating each other in ways that were ignored or felt beyond us only months ago.

Against the limitations of lockdowns, restricted travel and limits on gatherings, we completed our search for the calling of a new minister. Now we will begin the new year with Reverend Mel Graham commencing her ministry to the Dubbo Uniting Church in January ... new minister, new manse and new energy is the plan.

So, getting back to our future, I invite you to join in our loving and serving and sharing Church (in a COVID-19 safe way). As we come to the closing of this year, let us view 2021 as belonging to a community that will not return to *normal*, but will create a new NORMAL that will help each of us and others to Love God, Serve others and Share Jesus.

Let us show what it means to do those things. Let us share ideas and find the tools that are going to be put into our hands, and the resources we are going to make available, and the intentionality that we are going to bring to our progress of helping each of us to be everything that God wants us to be.

UNITING FOR BREAKFAST

Myrna Eaton



This year as with so many other occasions did not go as planned. We were organised and ready to go for the first breakfast of the year when the COVID-19 lockdown began. We now await the appropriate moment to begin again. Our goal will be to ask our 2020 speakers if they are willing to rebook for 2021. Hopefully they will be available as we had a very good line-up and we are looking forward to the chance to hear their stories.

Our format traditionally has been to provide a breakfast that is more luxurious than our guests would normally make for themselves, to enhance the morning with inspiring speakers and to provide a venue that feels inviting and looks lovely as well as encouraging social interaction. One possible change we are considering for next year is to have a lunchtime soup meal in the cold winter months.

This wonderful gathering is open to our congregation members, members of other churches and our friends.

Onward to a better and more open 2021.

See you then - Myrna Eaton, Jan Duncan and Jacqui Tooth



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS MISSION TEAM

Jacqui Tooth - Convenor

In the mission of linking Church with community, Community Connections Mission Team (CCMT) continues to deliver hospitality styled services, and community engagement activities to build relationships between Dubbo Uniting Church congregational members and people in our community. Some activities are dual purpose in that they serve a fundraising purpose as well.

The committee members of Community Connections
would like to thank all the people who have assisted us
with the delivery of the activities you are about to read about.
Without your help and support these would just be ideas.

During the 2019-20 year, CCMT delivered the following:

Uniting/Target Christmas Appeal - CCMT co-ordinates this appeal where members of the public are now encouraged to give money rather than gifts as previously requested. This money is distributed to Congregations where there is a Target to purchase Christmas presents for vulnerable children, young people and adults.

Last December we were allotted \$3000 be distributed as follows; \$1000 to purchase back to school necessities for children attending schools that were in a drought affected area. With the help of Uniting Dubbo, we sent 24 backpacks filled with pencils, textas etc to Girilambone and Hermidale Schools. The remaining \$2000 purchased 12 Angel Tree gifts and numerous gifts offered to Westhaven, Sturt House, Dubbo Base Hospital Mental Health Ward and to Uniting. For Christmas 2019, we had far more requests for gifts than we were able to supply. This was largely the result of the Target Christmas Appeal changing strategy and Uniting gift provision being included in the church allocation.

Angel Tree is organised by Prison Fellowship for children of families where parents are incarcerated. In 2019/20 Dubbo Uniting Church was assigned 12 children to purchase, wrap and deliver gifts suggested by a family member who will not be able to share Christmas at home.

Pastoral Care in the form of regular visits or phone calls are carried out by a small group of CCMT members. They keep in touch with frailer members of our Congregation and have reverted to phone contact since the onset of COVID-19 in March 2020.

Christmas Without Service - This initiative commenced many years ago for people who have suffered loss - whether it be a loved one, pet, health, livelihood or lifestyle circumstances. A Service of Remembrance followed by a light supper is organised by CCMT in the weeks leading up to Christmas.

Bereavement Care - Cards with a personal message enclosed, are sent to those members of the Congregation who have lost loved ones. In the last year approximately 19 Cards have been written in and sent.

Morning Tea at Orana Gardens – CCMT invites our friends at Orana Gardens for Morning Tea in November each year. It is an enjoyable morning catching up with friends, reminiscing past times and enjoying home-made goodies at morning tea. As our guests depart, they are always profuse in their appreciation for the time spent with them and the 'take away goodies.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS MISSION TEAM continued

Food Parcels - With the help of the generous folk from our Congregation we are able to put together parcels of basic food stuffs for those who call into the Church office requesting assistance with food. The Retiring Offering on Communion Sunday goes to The Good Samaritan Fund, allowing some of our volunteers to buy goods for our "Pantry". We have also embraced online ordering with local supermarkets, easing the need to visit the supermarket during COVID-19. The Pantry has remained open throughout COVID-19 and we extend thanks to Raelene for managing this from the Church Office.

A permanent basket is provided in the foyer of the Church for donations of non-perishable goods which has contributed to CCMT providing in excess of 147 food parcels helping to put food on the table for around 261 people.

Conversational English Group meets on the first and third Thursdays during school terms, giving those for whom English is their second language, a chance to practice speaking and reading English in a safe and inviting environment. This group was unable to gather between April and August, but has now resumed.

Other activities that have paused due to COVID-19 regulations include: Community Kitchen, Meals on Wheels, Tea and Talk Fellowship and Extended Communion.

Crossroads is a social program for adults with a disability, and is delivered monthly at the Baptist Church. Twelve denominations deliver an evening each across the year with our contribution usually taking place in September. The September event was cancelled this year because of COVID-19.

Fund Raising Activities - Some successful fundraising catering events occurred Novemebr 2019 to February 2020.

Dubbo Uniting Church received \$1000 from the Stamp Committee of the Uniting Church in their distribution of funds gained from the sale of stamps in 2019. It is planned that this will be used to further assist some those who were badly affected by the severe drought that devastated our area.

The following fundraising activities have been unable to proceed: the fete, garage sale, no bake cake stall.

About Community Connections

We are a collection of congregational members who use our gifts to serve the community. We talk with, have a cuppa with, provide fun times, give a helping hand to and generally create an atmosphere for others to share in Christ's ministry within the community. Our members are Lorraine Smith, Shirley Colless, Jack Anderson, Lesley Forward and Mavis Clarke. Jacqui Tooth is our convenor with Cathy Lambert and Marian Lee as joint Secretaries. CCMT is also supported by many other members of the congregation who contribute their gifts and skills in the delivery of activities and fund raisers. We thank you very much for all you do.

This year has been very different, we have raised very little money instead of the \$5000 - \$6000 we usually add to the Church's coffers. We are now looking at ways to make up this loss. Because of COVID-19 we have had very little contact with people of the community.

We meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month except January and December, in the Jacaranda Room at 7pm although since April we have met via Zoom - different but better than nothing. We welcome people to join this group.

CATERING TEAM

Marian Lee

Catering is part of the Community Connections Mission Team; a report is given at each monthly meeting of this Mission Team during the year.

Due to COVID-19 Catering has come to a full stop! We have done no catering since March this year. Needless to say, we will be back!

Catering can be hard work at times, but we do have fun and many close friendships have been made. There is always something for someone to do, regardless of age, skill and gender. Without the people who volunteer to help we would not be able to function, and my grateful thanks goes to you all. You may feel that you do not do much, but it all helps. Do consider joining us. It does not matter if you can only help for a short while, many of us cannot do full days now.

We said a sad good bye to our much-loved Bill Clarke just recently: "Who will put the coffee maker on now?".

Whatever we raise goes towards the running of Dubbo Uniting Church. The amount of money we have raised for Church funds has dwindled to a stop thanks to COVID-19. It is very hard to serve a cuppa on Zoom. We look forward to new opportunities in 2021.

SATURDAY SISTERS

Wendy White and Marian Lee

Even though Saturday Sisters has been affected by COVID-19, we have not been beaten and have continued to meet on Saturday mornings by Zoom for a couple of hours instead of face to face. In doing this several friends who have moved on from Dubbo have joined us too and we have also enjoyed the company of some others who have not been regular attendees of Saturday Sisters. We have sat in our homes and done all sorts of things...cleaned silverware, chopped vegetables for soup, cut out projects, worked on UFO's, done knitting and crochet or just sat and talked.

We have been small in number this year, but we are still a very active group, where we have cemented firm friendships, where everyone of any age is welcome to drop in for a chat, even if it is by Zoom!

"Uniting" were looking for people to make masks for their staff and Saturday Sisters, with the help of others and meeting social distancing guidelines took up residence in the Jacaranda Room for a week and completed the 100 masks required. We had no costs as fabrics and elastic were donated and Uniting payed us for producing them. Many thanks to those who cut out, sewed, pressed, and threaded elastic. Many hands were involved in this job and we all enjoyed the opportunity to get together, face to face.

Until we are meeting face to face again, feel free to join us on Zoom, just contact one of us for the link.

DISCIPLESHIP MISSION TEAM

Shirley Colless - Convenor

In the world of the Bible, a *disciple* was a person who followed a teacher, or rabbi, or master, or philosopher. The disciple desired to learn not only the teaching of a rabbi, but to imitate the practical details of his life. Disciples did not merely attend lectures or read books, they were required to interact with and imitate a real living person. A disciple would literally follow someone in hopes of eventually becoming what they are. Christian disciples are believers who follow Christ and then offer their own [imitation of Christ](#) as model for others to follow (1 Corinthians 11:1). Disciples are first believers who have exercised faith (Acts 2:38). This means they have experienced conversion and put Jesus at the centre of their lives and participated in rites of Christian imitation. A fully developed disciple is also a leader of others who attempts to pass on this faith.

MEMBERSHIP

The members of the team are Shirley Colless (Convenor), Anne Vail (Secretary), Jack Anderson, Elaine Drummond, Evelyn Boyle, Kay Owens, David Pattinson and Darren White. New members are always welcome.

COVID-19

In 2020 the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has had considerable impact on the work of the Discipleship Mission Team and has restricted or cancelled many programs. In spite of these restrictions, much has been achieved. COVID-19 plans were prepared in accordance with direction from the NSW/ACT Synod and submitted to the Church Council. Wherever and whenever it has been possible to hold gatherings since the lockdown and whenever and wherever future meetings will be held, these plans will be our guide.

MEETINGS

The Discipleship Mission Team has met monthly on the first Wednesday, other than in January, December and May. From April all meetings have been held via Zoom. The team mission plan and budget for 2020-21 were prepared.

SACRAMENTS

Baptism

In this year 5 Baptisms were celebrated – we were able to both satisfy the COVID-19 restrictions and celebrate the baptism of these little ones while ensuring that congregation members were present to welcome them into God's family.

OTHER SERVICES

World Day of Prayer was celebrated on March 3, 2020, with Rev Neville Naden our guest speaker and representatives from Holy Trinity, St. Brigid's and Dubbo UCA taking part. Great fellowship occurred!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Sunday school was held until the COVID-19 restrictions imposed in March 2020 meant that the meetings could no longer take place. With sadness and very deep appreciation of his long service, David Pattinson resigned as a teacher. Age appropriate resources have been distributed via CIAB for our Sunday School families.

DISCIPLESHIP MISSION TEAM continued

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Secondary

Dubbo Secondary Christian Education Association is now a subcommittee of Generate who were previously providing employment support and teaching materials but are now also handling all monetary matters. It still operates as a group selecting teachers, supporting them financially and in prayer. It had one barbeque but not a second this year with help from members of all the churches who regularly send a representative to meetings.

Primary

A commissioning of SRE teachers took place in February 2020. Dubbo Uniting Church would normally have three people doing SRE (scripture) in the local public schools. Evelyn Boyle takes two infants classes at Dubbo South, Rosemary Sykes takes two infants classes at West Dubbo and Ingrid Jackson an infants class at Wongarbron. We have half an hour each week at school, all teachers use material approved by the local ministers fraternal. COVID-19 requirements have restricted both of these programs regarding volunteers entering schools.

BIBLE STUDIES

The Advent Bible study of four weeks was held on Monday mornings only, commencing 18 November. The six-week Lenten Bible study commenced on 24 February.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH, AND PRAY EAT PLAY (PEP)

Weekly home challenges were provided to do as part of PEP. If you look at the Jacaranda tree outside the Admin building you will still see some of our youth's handicraft. We have also been fortunate to have a new PEP facilitator join our helping band.

LITTLE DUCKS

Little Ducks continued to have outdoor catch ups in the park when restrictions eased and it has been wonderful to welcome a new member into this group. It is also very pleasing to have new people offering to support the Little Ducks.

ADVENT WORKSHOP

Advent Workshops took place in December; these were planned for toddlers. Five attended with parents, and a lot of fun was had. Planning the workshops was done in conjunction with the Little Ducks mothers.

STREET LIBRARY

The Street Library is currently on hiatus until we can determine a safe way to support people to swap their books. Ideas are welcome!

CONCERNS

Pastoral Care

The provision of pastoral care to the DUC members continues to be a concern for this team, particularly in view of the face to face contact restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 regulations. We are extremely grateful for all those who have, during this crisis, maintained contact with each other by phone or email and, as easing of restrictions has allowed, personal visits. (See Church Care Circles.)

BALLIMORE UNITING CHURCH

Nora Mines

Our only service for the year was held in February. Since then, due to COVID-19 restrictions there have been no further services.

The ongoing care of the grounds has been carried out by a small group of volunteers. Due to the small number of members in Ballimore who attend the monthly services there should be a serious discussion about the viability of continuing as a separate congregation.

STAMP REPORT

Marian Lee

We thank our collectors, sorters, trimmers and packer for a job well done. Should you know of a work place that would be happy to save their used envelopes, please let us know and we will organise collection with them. Because so many transactions are done electronically now, our supply of stamps has eased off. More trimmers are always welcome. This year we sent away more stamp albums, and some first day issues. These were sold intact.

There are collection bottles in the Office, Church and Hall for untrimmed stamps. Even just a few stamps help swell the amount we send away.

We have worked our way through many bags of envelopes collected mainly from the RMS in Dubbo, and one of the local Drs. Surgeries. These are picked up, sorted and put in green shopping bags for collection by members of our congregation and other people who like/need something to keep their hands busy by trimming stamps. When the trimmed stamps are returned to us, they are packed in 5kg post bags and sent via a collection point in Wollongong, to the Stamp Committee, of the Uniting Church NSW Synod, where they are sold.

The proceeds go to help fund missional projects of the Uniting Church in the form of grants which are applied for by various Uniting Churches throughout the state.

In excess of \$25,000.00 was distributed in the last year, and Dubbo Uniting Church, under the umbrella of the Community Connections Mission Team gratefully received \$1000.00 at the end of 2019 to further their ministry to some of those whom we had been able to assist during the worst of the drought. Rain does not buy school shoes or pay the fuel bill.

Some of our picker uppers and sorters have moved away. Is it something you could do?

LECTIONARY CAFÉ

Lectionary Café meets weekly at 9:30 on Tuesday mornings at the Grapevine Café. It is a group open to all members of the church and community. Each week we focus on the Gospel reading for the week with the help of William Loader's commentary and also William Barclay.

CHURCH CARE CIRCLES

Myrna Eaton and Jan Duncan

On 24 November 2018 a Pastoral Care workshop was conducted by the Rev Betty Stroud on ways for Dubbo Uniting Church to become a more caring community. Out of that meeting a small sub-committee of the Discipleship Mission Team was formed including Jan Duncan, Janice Monk, Anne Vail and Myrna Eaton to begin the process of forming care circles. The committee presented the idea of the Church Care Circles in church over several weeks. We also developed cards to distribute to the congregation which allowed people to sign up to the Church Care Circles and to volunteer as leaders. That turned out to be a very successful initiative with us finding ten CCC leaders and over 80 members. Since one of our leaders has moved away (Elizabeth Burke), we currently have nine leaders; Anne Vail, Jan Duncan, David and Janelle Pattinson, Kylie Field, Lyndal Cooper, Namrata Saran, Marian Lee, and Myrna Eaton.

Our initial idea was that each circle would become a small supportive community within the congregation. This happened through get togethers, sending and receiving letters, prayer support, visiting those who are not able to move about freely, helping with everyday tasks such as shopping, getting to appointments and more.

It feels that we were just getting into building useful relationships when the COVID- 19 lockdown began. While we were able to keep connected through noncontact means such as writing notes and phone calls, there could be no more gatherings.

Then along came Church in a Bag (CiaB) which offered us a chance to maintain some link with our circles. Each circle leader, who could manage, began delivering the monthly CiaB to their circle members either dropping outside doors or sending through the mail. Those who were able to deliver in person also were able to have brief doorstep chats (always at an appropriate distance) with their groups. It turned out to be a surprisingly rewarding experience.

We want to continue to grow the Church Care Circles through adding members and encouraging anyone who is interested to consider becoming a leader. Being part of a care circle has been enriching both for leaders and members. There are other possibilities of ways we can continue to enrich our service to God and to each other that we need to explore in a more relaxed COVID-19 world. We look forward to the challenge and to the rewards.

MISSION SUPPORT MISSION TEAM

Brian Smith – Convenor

The Mission Support Mission Team (MSMT) originated at a Congregational Meeting of Dubbo Uniting Church (DUC) held in October 2011. “To support the life and ministry of the Church in fulfilling its stated mission through the oversight and provision of the following services:

Administrative Services

Financial Services

Property Services”

The team this year to carry out that objective is: Raelene Burn (Office Manager), Elaine Drummond (Secretary), Marian Lee, Lorraine Smith, Dan Eaton (Church Council Liaison), Arthur Herbig, Brian Humphrys (Treasurer), Chris Owens, Brian Smith (Convenor) and David Walters.

Should any member of the Congregation wish to know more about the work of MSMT, please speak to one of the team members. MSMT is always seeking to have its membership expanded. The Team meets the third Tuesday of the month at 7.00 pm.

ADMINISTRATION SERVICES

The work of this section is capably led by Raelene Burn and her band of merry volunteers as they seek to carry out the duties outlined in the New Leadership Structure. Extra work has been caused by the Pandemic and carrying out the edicts from Synod. In this context, ‘Church in a Bag’ had its beginnings and has now spread its wings to cover in excess of 90 packs of reflections per month being delivered, and will continue for the immediate future. ‘Saltbush on Sunday’ has been a Zoom meeting where the CiaB has been promoted and the ultimate has been an article and photos in the latest quarterly edition of ‘Insights’.

The Admin Office has been re-arranged with furniture donated by Uniting, excess to their requirements on their move to newly-leased premises. Other minor and not so minor alterations have been made to the presentation of the Admin building to make it a far more pleasant place.

FINANCIAL SERVICES

Each MSMT meeting a monthly report is presented to the mission team and results printed in the Church newsletter. Our Treasurer and Office Manager keep the team up to date with accurate and meaningful figures, and we thank them for their efforts.

A budget is prepared and presented each year approved by the MSMT for presentation to Church Council who then take it to a Congregational Meeting for discussion and approval – NOT THIS YEAR. A Pandemic has intervened but the budget for 2020/2021 has taken situations into account including the placement of a Ministerial Agent from 1st January 2021.

The Treasurer has prepared a paper outlining his thoughts on our financial situation and is included as part of the Mission Team Annual Report.

PROPERTY SERVICES

A Big Thank You to those volunteers who keep the property and buildings in ship-shape condition. The cleaning team do a fantastic job keeping everything sparkling even if a dust storm does threaten to undo their work!

Our grounds are kept in fine condition by the diligent work of Arthur Herbig, David Pattinson and Darren White. The work also includes the mowing of grass, etc at Ballimore Church.

'General maintenance', words frequently used at the MSMT meetings by Arthur Herbig, extend from leaking taps and gutters, to inspection of fire extinguishers and exit signs, upkeep of air conditioning units and other items too many to list.

Rising damp, a problem that has exercised the mind of MSMT for a long time and was put on hold when discussions on a collaboration with Uniting to use the Church site to build an office to bring together some of the sections of Uniting's work in leased premises around the city occurred.

An Amphitheatre Project originally part of an expanded program of buildings by DUC has now been revisited with a number of proposals having been discussed. Approval by Dubbo Regional Council is required to adjust the Construction Certificate previously obtained. With the adjustment to the seating capacity of the Church buildings due to Covid-19 the sight of the damage to the eastern wall has become very clear. Most certainly a work in progress.

As reported, a residence to be settled on 11 November 2020 has been purchased for our new Ministerial Placement. Work is underway to prepare the property to manse standard.

CO-LOCATION TASK GROUP

Brian Humphrys - Convenor

The Co-location Task Group was formed as part of Council's plan to implement the Mission Plan. It has Section 4.2.3 (Undertake consultations with Uniting and other key stakeholders to identify a viable plan forward) and part of Section 4.2.4 (Explore design possibilities for each stage of the new build – particularly in relation to the Admin Building and Wesley Hall) as its principal focus.

The group is made up of Brian Humphrys as convenor, Anne Vail as secretary, and Arthur Herbig, Jan Duncan and Ross Graham as general members.

Early in the year Ross Graham prepared an alternative concept plan for the proposed build and this was submitted to Uniting for their consideration. The onset of COVID-19 and the fact that Uniting leased some new office space for a period of 3 years has meant that discussions have been placed on hold for the time being. This does not mean that the concept is dead, both parties are prepared to pursue the idea in the future. We would hope that discussions will resume in the near future. In the meantime, we continue to strengthen our relationship with Uniting.

All members of the team are available to hear your thoughts and suggestions

EXTENDED COMMUNION

Jan Duncan - Convenor

Extended Communion is received by members of our church on the first Sunday of each month (except for January 2020). After our Communion Service teams of two, or sometimes three take a small box with the elements (these are blessed as part of our church service or by a minister or lay presider).

Due to COVID-19 no services have taken place so no extended communion has been delivered for months of April, May, June, July, August, September, October of 2020. Each of the members who are on the list have received Church in the Bag through the care circle teams

The people we visit are members of our church who are unable to attend church and who would like to receive communion in their home or at age care facilities or hospitals.



I would like to thank office staff members and especially Marian Lee who ring each month the people who are on the list and follow up other members of whom they know are unwell or in hospital and may wish to receive communion on this Sunday.

We have a team of inspiring church members, Jack Anderson, Kirrily Brooks, Elaine Drummond, Dan Eaton, Myrna Eaton, Lesley Forward, Chris Owens, Kay Owens, Brain Smith, Lorraine Smith and Jacqui Tooth who on a regular basis carry out this rewarding pastoral care. I would like to thank the team of volunteers for their support of this program. Anyone who feels this is something they would like to do please see myself or let the church office know.

Over the last 12 months our team have delivered communion to 33 members of the church.

After everyone has been visited many of the team enjoy fellowship by having lunch at a different place around Dubbo.

If you do know of any members of the church who would like to have extended communion please contact the church office or Jan Duncan.

TEA AND TALK FELLOWSHIP

Joyce and Ian Bouchier

Owing to COVID-19 our group has not met since March. The number attending has been gradually dropping owing to age, frailty and death. At the last meeting only five attended and sadly two were Bert and Sylvia who have since left Dubbo and Jean Frost who died shortly before her 100th birthday. Jean was a regular member and it was sad to see her pass and Bert and Sylvia were also regular members and will be missed.

We also lost another regular member in Bill Clark and we pass on our love to Mavis and her family at this sad time.

It is with regret that Ian and I have found it necessary to bring an end to our own Tea & Talk meetings.

We have enjoyed hosting our meetings and acknowledge the great effort Mavis and Bill have put in over the years. Without their support Tea & Talk would not have been so successful.

CHURCH IN A BAG

Raelene Burn

It has been a year of change and a year of doing things differently. Church in a Bag (CiaB) came to fruition with thanks to our friends at the Salvation Army. It certainly was not our idea originally, but an idea shared and shared and shared.

Since the end of March 2020, we have provided 96 CiaB to members of the DUC congregation, past and present – some bags going (by post) to regional NSW, Sydney and beyond.

There is a small dedicated team who, on a monthly basis, prepare a time of worship to 'share' at home. The worship includes prayers, a reflection and a song. The reflections are then formatted at the DUC office. As well, a tangible item of craft or something sweet, a puzzle to keep our mind on the message, and resources for families with kids are included. All of this delivered in a cloth bag – again made by a volunteer.

CiaB has been so well received, and we are truly blessed by the generosity of the team, and grateful for the Care Circle leaders who deliver bags to their groups every month. CiaB is available on the DUC website, and we have been sharing the resources personally with two other congregations: Wauchope Uniting Church and Sugarloaf Community Uniting Church. It is such a privilege to serve God and share the message of love, hope, and togetherness with the DUC and the wider community.



WORSHIP MISSION TEAM

Jan Duncan and Janice Monk - Convenors

The Worship Mission Team met in person on the second Wednesday of each month during the months of November, December, February and March. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, no meetings were held during April, May and September and via Zoom in June, July, August and October. Records of these meetings are archived in the DUC office. This year the members of WMT have been Janice Monk -Convenor (November - February) then Secretary (March- October); Jan Duncan – Convenor (March-October), Myrna Eaton – Secretary (November- February); Elaine Drummond (acting Secretary); Shirley Colless, Glenys McKinnon, Marian Lee, and Brian Smith. The representatives responsible for reporting back from Church Council are Myrna Eaton and Margaret Shelly. The WMT reports to Church Council are sent to DUCC via an email report after each monthly meeting.

Due to ongoing health challenges, Glenys McKinnon has taken indefinite leave of absence from August 2020. Her thoughtful and considered contribution to WMT is acknowledged. The numbers in parentheses, at the end of each paragraph below, indicate where The Worship Mission Team has particular responsibility and how these responsibilities are being addressed).

Until gathering for all Services of Worship was suspended on 22 March 2020, Worship Services were conducted each Sunday at 9.30am and 7.00pm at Dubbo. Except for January, monthly services were held at Ballimore on the fourth Sunday of the month. Special services conducted during the year were, Christmas Eve Carol Service and Christmas Day Service. An Ash Wednesday service was held but, due to COVID-19 restrictions, no further services were held over Easter. Regathering for Worship in Dubbo commenced on 25 October 2020 (Faith Life: strategy 1.1 initiative 1.

Referencing COVID-19 Safety Plans (General and Places of Worship) issued by NSW Synod, WMT has prepared the following COVID-19 documentation, specific to Dubbo Uniting Church, to be implemented once we are able to regather.

Dubbo Uniting Church – Worship Services – COVID-19 Meeting Plan - Dubbo Uniting Church

Dubbo Uniting Church – Worship Services – COVID-19 Meeting Plan – Wesley Community Centre

Dubbo Uniting Church – Worship Services – COVID-19 Meeting Plan – Holy Communion

Dubbo Uniting Church – Worship Services – COVID-19 Meeting Plan – Worship Leaders

Dubbo Uniting Church – Worship Services – COVID-19 Meeting Plan – Worship Mission Team

Dubbo Uniting Church – Worship Services – COVID-19 Meeting Plan – Information for Attendees

WMT again jointly sponsored a Christmas Flyer – Jan Duncan and Raelene Burn designed a Christmas Flyer which included details of Christmas Services on one side and dates of regular services on the other. (Faith Life: strategy 1.3)

DUC Congregation again planned to combine with the Dubbo Salvation Army Congregation to hold a Palm Sunday Service in the grounds at Wesley Centre. Due to COVID-19 restrictions this service did not proceed. WMT continued to support 'Pray for Rain' until it went into recess in March 2020 due to COVID-19 and plans to continue to support this initiative, which may have a different focus when it resumes. (Faith Life: strategy 1.4 initiative 2.)

It is planned that Outreach Services in Aged Care Facilities which, had been conducted until March, at Bracken House (2nd Tuesday); Holy Spirit (2nd Wednesday); Opal Dubbo (2nd Thursday) will resume when considered appropriate. (Faith Life: strategy 1.1 initiative 2) Worship Services have been led by lay leaders/preachers Raelene Burn, Shirley Colless, Dan Eaton, Kylie Field, Kay Owens, David Pattinson, Brian Smith and Lorraine Smith, Brian Turrell and Anne Vail. Rev John Mason has

also led services. Once per quarter, the evening worship group lead their own service which is coordinated by Janice Monk. Rev Neville Naden led a service in December. (Faith Life: strategy 1.1 initiative 1 and initiative 4)

Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of the month at the morning service and the third Sunday of the month at the evening service. Communion services have been conducted by Rev John Mason and lay presiders Jack Anderson, Myrna Eaton and Kylie Field. Following the morning service extended communion is taken to local aged care facilities and to those congregants who are unable to attend the worship service. Young children are acknowledged either by blessing or, with parental consent, served Communion. A recommendation, 'That authorisation for Jack Anderson to conduct the Sacraments in the Dubbo Uniting Church be extended until the end of 2023', has been accepted. (Faith Life: strategy 1.1 initiative 1)

Quarterly Preaching Plan Meetings, convened by Marian Lee, and attended by lay preachers, lay presiders and congregation members who facilitate worship services, are normally held in January, April, July and October. Since January these meetings, which have also acted as a conduit between WMT and those involved in worship planning, have been suspended due to COVID-19 restrictions precluding services of worship. (Faith Life: strategy 1.1 initiative 1)

Prior to COVID-19 restrictions, Worship Planning Meetings, to choose liturgical themes, were convened by Shirley Colless, Dan Eaton, Kylie Field and Anne Vail (Faith Life: strategy 1.1 initiative 1)

The 2020/2021 print + DVD version of the resource material 'Seasons of the Spirit' has purchased and is available in the office for anyone who is preparing to lead or participate in, a service. (Faith Life: strategy 1.5 initiative 2)

We are a diverse congregation who enjoy a variety of worship styles. We have attempted to meet these needs by conducting services that are as inclusive and engaging as possible.

WMT strongly supports the Church in a Bag Initiative. Marian Lee has been part of the team through co-ordination of contributors to the weekly reflection. (Faith Life: strategy 1.1 initiative 1)

WMT acknowledges the members of our congregation who enhance our worship in various ways through their roles as worship leaders, mentors, stewards; Bible readers; leaders of prayers; presentation of the life of the church and Communion stewards. We thank those members who have enriched our worship space with beautifully thought out seasonal adornments. We thank those members who have shared their musical gifts to uplift us as we share praise. The faithful service of musician Sylvia Sanson is acknowledged. Our best wishes to she and Bert as they settle into their new home.

WMT recognises our audio-visual technicians who ensure our services proceed smoothly; the dedicated people who keep the church clean - despite the challenging dust storms; and those who organise and prepare morning tea each week.

Thank you to all the members of the WMT who have worked so faithfully to endeavour to provide DUC worship services which are full of the life - giving joy that we experience as followers of Jesus.



TREASURER'S REPORT - FINANCES AND THE FUTURE

Brian Humphrys - Treasurer

For some time now we have been saving for the purposes of being self-sufficient once a placement of a ministry agent was achieved. To that end projections were made as to our anticipated reserves needed for such an appointment and we achieved our target and were ready to go. No doubt we are all looking forward to the commencement of that placement on 1 January and the hope that offers for the future of our church.

Unfortunately the combined effect of severe reductions in interest rates (it is looking increasingly likely they will fall even further yet) and COVID-19, which has led to falls in offerings and hall rentals and other items such as fetes, garage sales, catering etc., has resulted in large reductions in our income and we find the future income increasingly difficult to anticipate. Currently we are being propped up by Government subsidies. We do not know how long the subsidies will last but I feel we must anticipate that there will be a limit to how long they will continue.

Many of you have continued your offerings by direct debit, envelopes and cash and some have elected to make offerings via direct deposit to our working account and we thank you for that, however if reduced interest rates and a lack of hall rentals etc. continue for an extended period, which seems likely, then reserves that we originally thought would last for five years may now only last for three to four years.

Some new ideas for fund raising or a revival of our church will be needed to plug the gap. At least we have a little time to make it happen but please do not leave it to the last minute.

I would like to conclude by presenting some selective quotes from an article by Warren Bird that appeared in the Autumn edition of Insights: The Economist magazine originally reported a study that allegedly had found that people with a religious upbringing were less likely to be generous than those with no such upbringing. A provocative finding, to say the least. It was reported in dozens of other media outlets around the world at the time. As it turns out, the study that was so widely and enthusiastically reported was completely wrong. Furthermore, most other studies that have been done around the world show a positive relationship between being brought up on Christian values and a person's level of generosity. Phew!

That said, generosity is not a natural thing for people is it? At times of crisis, such as this summer's bushfires, many people dig deep, but not in the normal course of life. It seems to me that we always have to be reminded and cajoled and urged and encouraged to switch on this particular spirit.

For the followers of Jesus in the early Church it was a binary situation. You either overflowed with generosity or you were a bit reluctant; your eye was bountiful, or it was cloudy. The great example is found in chapters 8 and 9 of Paul's second letter to the Corinthians. Although the apostle starts this passage with a statement of confidence in their generosity, he then delivers 2 chapters that add up to a profound piece of reminding, cajoling, urging and encouraging.

Finally, look at the grace of God, which overflows for you. In that light, weigh up your own hearts – there's no compulsion here – but God loves a cheerful giver.

The reality is that it's up to us, as individuals and in our church communities, to decide what we're going to do. Do we reinforce the positive conclusion and act generously?

When we look at the grace of God, at the Lord's astounding generosity to us, how can we choose other than to be cheerfully generous?



INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE DUBBO UNITING CHURCH

Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

Auditor's Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of the Dubbo Uniting Church for the year ended 30 June, 2020. It comprises the Income Statement, the Balance Sheet, the accompanying Notes to the financial statements and the Statement by Management Committee.

In our opinion, the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Dubbo Uniting Church as at 30 June, 2020 and its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements.

Basis for Opinion

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used are appropriate to the needs of the members. We have conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the management committee, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The management committee of the Dubbo Uniting Church is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report and has determined that the accounting policies used and described in Note 1 to the financial statements, which form part of the financial report, are appropriate to meet the requirements of the unincorporated association's committee and



**INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT
TO THE MEMBERS OF THE
DUBBO UNITING CHURCH (CONTINUED)**

members. The management committee's responsibilities also include establishing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entities internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the committee members.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the committees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entities ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- Obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information of the entities or business activities within the company to express an opinion on the financial report. We are responsible for the direction, supervision and performance of the entity audit. We remain solely responsible for our audit opinion.

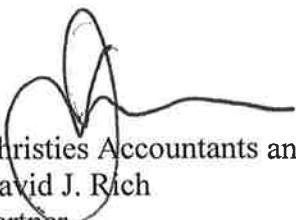
**INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT
TO THE MEMBERS OF THE
DUBBO UNITING CHURCH (CONTINUED)**

We communicate with the committee members regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Independence

In conducting our audit, we have complied with the independence requirements of Australian professional ethical pronouncements.

Date 27th October 2020
DUBBO NSW 2830


Christies Accountants and Advisors
David J. Rich
Partner

DUBBO UNITING CHURCH
ABN 36 069 358 094

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

DETAILED PROFIT & LOSS STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

	Note	2020 \$	2019 \$
INCOME			
Donations Received		27,179	23,362
COVID 19 – Cashflow Boost		15,000	-
COVID 19 – Jobkeeper		9,000	-
Insurance Proceeds		1,829	
Interest Received – Uniting Financial Services		24,027	40,571
Offerings		100,342	112,980
Rents Received			
Wesley House		15,954	19,308
Wesley Office / Old Hall		1,052	1,288
Car Parking Lease		709	945
Wesley Church		102	-
Sundry Income			
Banner Centre Sales		64	-
Miscellaneous		139	613
		195,397	199,667
EXPENSES			
Audit & Accountancy Fees		4,550	4,530
Bank Fees		35	35
Catering		1,124	1,948
Cleaning		1,793	1,239
Depreciation			
Leasehold Improvements		3,576	4,274
Plant & Equipment		1,480	786
Donations		5,000	4,500
Electricity & Gas		12,240	11,244
Employee Benefits		3,493	(249)
Gifts, Hospitality and Flowers		145	392
Giving and Growing		101	95
Insurances		16,143	14,532
Leasing		-	59
Licenses – Copyright		844	913
Loss on sale of P & E		829	-
Living is Giving		5,000	4,583
Mission Team		472	1,759
Postage, Printing & Stationery		3,534	1,975
Presbytery Levy		3,799	3,662

DUBBO UNITING CHURCH
ABN 36 069 358 094

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

DETAILED PROFIT & LOSS STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

	Note	2020 \$	2019 \$
EXPENSES (cont.)			
Rates		4,068	5,747
Rent – Photocopier		2,580	3,029
Repairs and Maintenance		3,011	3,328
School Education		1,650	3,150
Security		559	1,560
Subscriptions & Journals		1,219	517
Superannuation		2,956	1,637
Supply Ministry		-	380
Telephone		1,412	1,377
Travel		-	116
Wages		31,120	16,972
		<u>112,733</u>	<u>94,090</u>
NET PROFIT/(LOSS)		<u><u>82,664</u></u>	<u><u>105,577</u></u>