
2020 Annual Report



BERWICK
CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on Sunday, 23rd August 2020 at 1pm on Zoom

Our constitution requires a quorum of 50 people - there were 125 people on zoom in total. These people were:

Bev Alley	Mark Hermans	Stephen Ratten
Ray Alley	Denise Holdsworth	Brigitta Rayment
Andrew Austin	Brett Hutchinson	Ken Rayment
Jenny Austin	Elise Hutchinson	Tarryn Reddan
Robyn Beeby	Glenda Hutchinson	Bronwyn Rodgers
Sally Borkowski	Jacqueline Ingham	Joy Rogers
Alan Bosch	Jean Isaacs	Michael Rojas
Braam Botha	Tony Izvekov	Rachel Rojas
Sonja Botha	Melinda Izvekov	Andrew Sidebottom
Ivan Botha	Maria James	Marry-Anne Sidebottom
Allan Buckingham	Stewart James	Alicia Simons
Christine Buckingham	Julianne Jamieson	Leonie Simons
Lia Burke	Ray Jamieson	Roger Simons
Tim Burke	Peter Jankovic	Ray Smith
Brendon Cameron	Michelle Jankovic	Christine Smith
Bronwyn Cameron	Nickolas Kapranov	Lyn Stephens
Genevieve Cameron	Catherine Kimpton	Neil Stephens
Graeme Cann	Matt Kimpton	Dean Surla
Julia Cann	John Lynch	Gabrielle Sutton
Ray Chapman	Luxmi Mahesan	John Sutton
Kathleen Cooper	Krishan Mahesan	Jaclyn Szabo
Nigel Cooper	Karen Maxwell	Steven Szabo
Alexandra Cuss	Rosemary McDonald	Paul Thomas
Mat Daniels	Karen McKenzie	Lisa Thomas
Veronique Dinanga	Stuart Mckerihan	Candice Tucker
Norm Edney	Brett Medlin	Steven Tucker
Cam Fletcher	Helen Millward	Fiona van den Acker
Jonathan Fletcher	James Millward	Nardi van Rhyn
Karen Fletcher	Greg Morris	Arlo van Rhyn
Stephen Fletcher	Stephen Mudie	Kara-lee Walker
Tanya Fletcher	Anna Nguyen	Greg Waterhouse
Denis Giroto	Nigel Nguyen	Judy Waterhouse
Leanne Giroto	Mikayla Nicholas	Jan Watt
Martin Goldup	Mitchell Nicholas	Lorraine Wilsher
Nicole Goldup	Murray Nicholls	Rob Wilson
Mark Gould	Sue Nicholls	
Sylvia Gray	Matthew Noonan	
Chali Guruswamy	Ruth Noonan	
Rajiv Guruswamy	Anne Ormiston	
Cheryl Hamilton	Matt Ormiston	
Daniel Hamilton	Christina Parker	
Rob Hamilton	Kellie Pender	
Wyley Hargraves	David Piper	
Daryl Hargreaves	Helen Piper	
Ann-Marie Hermans	Debbie Ratten	

1. WELCOME

Mat Daniels: welcomed everyone and explained how the meeting would function on zoom.

Glenda Hutchinson: welcomed everyone and officially opened the BCOC AGM and explained that our AGM and the business covered in it are a legal and government requirement and an opportunity for us to gather together to celebrate last year and reflect on all the great things that God has done. She advised that in order to run the meeting online, and to use postal voting for the appointment of Elders, we obtained approval from our partners to vary from the process specified in our constitution. Questions were required to be submitted in writing with the return of the Elder's votes, which will be answered as part of the appropriate business items and there will be an opportunity towards the end of the meeting for any further questions to be asked.

2. ELDERSHIP POSTAL VOTING RESULTS

Glenda Hutchinson: announced that the voting results for the re-appointment of Brett Medlin and Arlo van Rhyn for a further 3 year term as Elders, was an overwhelmingly yes for both of them.

3. APOLOGIES

Glenda Hutchinson: confirmed that apologies were received from:

Matthew Barron	Johnny Galvante	Lorraine Hughes
Natalie Barron	Maria Galvante	Emily Izvekov
Paul Borkowski	Julian Hughes	David Rodgers

4. ACCEPTANCE OF 2019 AGM MINUTES

Glenda Hutchinson: advised that the 2019 Annual Report were made available to Partners from July 15 via the website and the minutes were published at the start of the Annual Report. She called for the minutes to be moved:

Moved the acceptance of the 2019 Annual General Meeting Minutes.

Moved by: Tim Burke. Seconded by: Kellie Pender. Accepted.

5. REPORTS PRESENTED

Bronwyn Cameron: Reflected on the 2019 reports, looking back at the incredible amount of activities and wonderful volunteer ministry work that happened prior to the Covid-19 season. Bronwyn thanked all the staff and volunteers who contribute, and especially thanked Braam, Ken, Michael, Mat, Charmaine and Andrew who head up these ministries. She also acknowledged the 150th celebrations of last year, 2019.

Bronwyn then invited questions to the reports, using the chat function in zoom to do this and answers will be given at the end of the meeting. She called for the Annual Reports to be moved:

Moved the acceptance of the 2019 Annual Reports.

Moved by: Lyn Stephens. Seconded by: Marry-Anne Sidebottom. Accepted.

Bronwyn then introduced Murray Nicholls to present his last report as Treasurer, acknowledging that his 20 years of incredible service as the Treasurer.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

Murray Nicholls: thanked Bronwyn and presented the financial reports online to the zoom meeting. He explained the Financial statements and informed that the church made a profit of \$42,709.00. He also advised that it was another record year in relation to tithes and offerings; having increased from \$816,000 in the 2018 year to just over \$896,000 in the 2019 financial year. The average \$17,250 per week. It was just under 10% higher than the previous year and about 9.5% higher than the budget amount. Murray informed that the main asset is the church building and that we are debt free and have continued to be debt free since 2014. He referred to the summary, where it explained that we were able to incur significant expenditure last year in relation to the 150th anniversary and make the occasion a really worthwhile affair, as well as being able to give money to local and overseas organisations. The financial reports have been audited by Rucker Financial who have given us an unqualified audit, which means they have no concerns in relation to the financial statements prepared.

Murray then called for any questions. There was one question received in the zoom chat "What was the large legal expense for 2019?" Murray advised that the expense related to legal costs connected to Braam's migration to Australia. It was a very involved process and it was appropriate to involve some external professionals.

Murray went on to thank those who assisted him in his term, for their support and stated that it was a privilege to serve. He is very pleased to hand over the responsibilities to Brett Hutchinson.

Brett Hutchinson: informed that he commenced from last year during the budget cycle, and personally thanked Murray for his help in the handover. Brett provided an update on where the church stands this year in response to the covid situation and the lock down, with the expected immediate impact on our total income to reduce by 25%. We were able to apply for Job keeper and have been receiving Job keeper payments from the Government. Brett went on to inform that many people responded positively and shifted to giving electronically, and that the really fantastic news was that our congregation has remained faithful in their giving and honouring of God and that we continue to see giving meet our budget needs. This has results are that church remains in a very healthy financial situation, and there are no concerns financially for the church moving forward at least for the foreseeable future.

Glenda Hutchinson: thanked Murray and Brett and called for the Treasurer's Report to be moved.

Moved the acceptance of the Treasurer's Report.

Moved by: Tim Burke. Seconded by: Tanya Fletcher. Accepted.

7. AUDITOR APPOINTMENT FOR 2020

Glenda Hutchinson: informed the appointment of the auditor for 2019 was Rucker Financial and called for a motion to re-appoint Rucker Financial as our auditor for 2020.

Moved to reappoint Rucker Financial as our Auditors for 2020.

Moved by: Tim Burke. Seconded by: Mat Daniels. Accepted.

8. VISION FOR THE FUTURE

Braam Botha: commended the leadership in the way that they humbly follow Christ's leading and thanked the staff for absorbing all of the changes and also being able to accommodate what covid has brought to us. Braam thanked Ken for graciously created room for him to function.

Braam referred to Scripture - Ephesians 1:22 and 23, "God placed all things under his feet and appointed Him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body the fullness of Him who fills everything in every way." And lead the meeting in prayer, *Lord we thank you, that today we as Berwick Church of Christ can acknowledge that you are our head, we are your body and we are available for you to fill everything in every way. Use us Lord for your purposes, bring hope and life through us to our beautiful city and our beautiful country and this beautiful world. We thank you for that. In the name of Jesus, amen.* He went on to say, that we as a church have a purpose and that is to be His presence in every place and we would do this well if we would foresee a future where we are a movement representing Jesus Christ transforming lives and communities through the power of the gospel, that's our vision as a church and everything we do is done in this light.

Braam explained the purpose of the board, which is to raise the resources and create the mechanism for which we can fulfil this vision, and that the current structure as a board is functioning well in this season of transition especially. He further went on to explain that there is a yearly assessment of the board's functioning and adjustments are made that keep the eldership functional in the light of our vision, and that we are in the process of developing a leadership pathway for future board members.

Braam informed that we employed Michelle Jankovic as a communications intern, to ensure we promote ourselves in the community. Michelle has helped us to be on Facebook and Instagram, on YouTube and then we will be launching a new website. So in terms of promotion there's a lot of work going on and we are excited about what is lying ahead for us.

We will progress towards this vision by how we word our mission. We will raise and equip Christ followers, we will love people, we will serve our city and we will grow and plant faith communities and by doing that we will become this movement that we dream about as a church.

Braam shared regarding our services pre-covid, that we have 254 formal partners but our attendance was 600+ over a weekend, and that the first 8 weeks of the year were growing. The Pastors went to South Africa to attend the growth conference, where they specialise and help you formalising your assimilation process to move people from just attending to really become active partners in a church and we are seeing how we as a church have started to move towards that, more of that will be expressed as we engage onsite again. He also discussed what church will look like when we are able to come together onsite, with a specific reference to health and safety, kids and masks, physical distancing, etc. He informed that as we are not required by CCVT to provide details on communicants, that we are no longer keeping those records. We keep records of attendance. He shared that communion is a sacrament that we believe can be administered in life groups, in families, and many places where believers congregate and that when we do baptisms, we like to give more time to that in our services because we want the people sharing their faith to become part of an act of worship and therefore communion is not served.

The second step in our mission is that we would “love people” and our primary structure for that is Life Groups. We currently have 41 groups but it does fluctuate in seasonal changes, and some Life Groups didn't function actively during covid because of their technological challenges. We are in the process of designing the strategy for the way forward and Life Groups will become more important for our journey forward.

Third step is how we serve the city, that is where we are getting people equipped for their role in this society in establishing the kingdom and rulership of Christ. We identified the 4 Ms (minors, marriages and family, migrants and mental health). We will equip our people on these four levels, to be a great exponent of what the Kingdom of God looks like.

The next missional step is that we will grow and plant faith communities. This is where we are getting the equipped people mobilised. Which basically means we will be planting churches or growing more churches and mobilise people. The basic strategy will be to trust God for supernatural growth when we can gather again. We will reach wider in terms of our online presence, and we made Ken the online champion as that is a great opportunity to reach out and evangelise our world, and then we will multiply off site. We do foresee in the future that we will plant churches in multiple geographic sites and this cycle will repeat itself and by doing this we will move into a reality where we are a movement representing Christ, transforming lives and communities with the power of the Gospel and 'Being His presence in every place'.

Braam thanked everyone for the incredible year, and advised that he is missing everyone and can't wait to gather again.

8. QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Glenda Hutchinson: expressed her excitement for the future and how wonderful it is to see our church with positive visions of the future. She thanked everyone for the positive comments on the chat and noted that we don't get this when we have an actual meeting together. She noted that Braam had answered each of the questions that were forwarded to us ahead of time and then called for any further questions, encouraging people to contact any of the leadership about anything.

9. CONCLUSION OF MEETING

Glenda closed the meeting in prayer.

Meeting closed at 2pm.

Elder's Report

The Board began 2020 with great excitement and anticipation for an extraordinary year ahead. Our Senior Pastor, Braam, was well settled one year into his role, and we were looking forward to further pursuing **our purpose** of being His presence in every place, **our vision** to be a movement representing Jesus Christ, transforming lives and communities through the power of the gospel, and **our mission** to raise and equip followers of Christ who love people, serve their city and grow faith communities. The year did turn out to be extraordinary but possibly not in the way we initially imagined. To state the obvious, the COVID 19 pandemic would have a significant impact on everything we did in 2020. We never imagined that words like social distancing, restrictions, curfew and Zoom would become part of our daily life.

Our church quickly experienced firsthand the devastating effect of Coronavirus. After returning in March, from The Church of the Highlands Conference in South Africa, Pastor Braam Botha, Pastor Michael Rojas and Pastor Mat Daniels and ultimately 3 family members would fall ill to the virus. Braam, Michael and Michael's mother-in-law would become dangerously ill and tragically, Michael's mother-in-law, Gely, would lose her battle with the virus. We thank everyone in our church family for their fervent prayers at this critical time. The church had just completed the Rick Warren series titled '40 Days of Love', and we certainly saw love in action as our church families rallied around our pastors to provide meals, deliver groceries and send messages of love and support. We are extremely grateful to Ken Rayment who temporarily stepped into the role of Senior Pastor during Braam's illness to begin church online and provide leadership through that very difficult period. Thanks is also due to Arlo Van Rhyn, who in Michael's absence, provided essential pastoral care and life group support.

In this COVID 19 year the Board's challenge was to provide spiritual leadership and to responsibly manage our funds and resources, in a year when for the most part, we did not physically meet as a church fellowship. We thank you for your prayers and support as we endeavoured to do this. Much was achieved in the online space and in upgrading our premises to facilitate our vision and mission. A necessary initiative was to conduct our Annual General Meeting over Zoom and we especially thank our diligent Administration team who enabled approximately 100 partners to be part of this.

As the COVID 19 crisis deepened the Board supported the moving of our Sunday services and worship, generational ministries and life groups to online platforms for as long as was necessary through 2020. There are so many people to thank for making this possible. We would like to sincerely thank our Senior Pastor, Braam, for his Godly, skilful and exceptionally positive leadership through possibly the greatest year of change and adaptation that our church has endured. At every turn, Braam would see opportunity for us to step toward our God given purpose as a church. We thank Pastors Ken, Mat, Michael, Andrew, Genny and every one of our inspiring, hardworking and dedicated staff. At a time when many of us were experiencing perhaps a slowdown in our work and activities, the team at BCOC was investing more hours and resources than before into new tasks, initiatives and activities. We especially thank Krishan Mahesan for the countless volunteer hours he contributed to our online presence. Krishan has been instrumental in growing our livestream Sunday service to the high standard we experience today. We also thank every ministry leader and life group leader for what they were able to achieve online and for the hard work and time they each put into keeping people connected.

Our new treasurer, Brett Hutchinson faced the doubly difficult task of filling long-time treasurer, Murray Nicholl's expert shoes, and also guiding us through unknown financial territory in the face of no onsite Sunday services. The Board would like to thank Brett for his meticulous and detailed work to keep us informed, and together with Melinda Izvekov, for securing essential government grants and assistance.

Despite the pandemic, we exited 2020 feeling that the church was strong and well placed to enter its next season. I write this report with the Chair of Elders, Glenda Hutchinson, taking a short well- earned break and so I would like to take the opportunity to thank her for her faithful years on this Board, always modelling humble and wise leadership. And thank you to all of the Elders for their dedication and genuine heart for this church and its purpose, vision and mission. It is a privilege to serve on such a unified team.

Thank you to everyone who is part of this church and for every good thing you contribute to Berwick Church of Christ being His presence in every place. And finally, please continue to pray for and encourage each of our pastors and staff. They really appreciate it.

Bronwyn Cameron
Deputy Chair Elders 2019/2020



Senior Pastor's Report

'But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain.'

1 Corinthians 15:57-58 NIV

"It was the best of times; it was the worst of times...." writes Charles Dickens in his acclaimed work "a Tale of two cities". One feels you could say the same about 2020. It is a year that left humanity ambiguous towards its memory. It is in seasons like the past year that we as the church of Jesus Christ is truly tested and sifted. Seasons like this narrow down our focus and intensifies our resolve to be His Presence in Every Place! The fruit of this season for us as a church is the cry echoed in the abovementioned verse:

He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

It is inevitable that the church turns towards her prime resource in times like this:

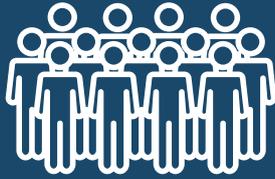
'And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.'

Ephesians 1:22-23 NIV

So, let us bow our knees in worship to The One who we belong to and The One who sustains us! In this year we overcame several big challenges. To name a few:

- The onslaught on the health of our pastors
- Economic uncertainty of the season
- Shelving much of our planning for a "normal" year
- Having to redefine our ministry delivery mechanisms
- Addressing the complexity of the Covid-19 pandemic's impact on our community
- Managing our operations amidst constantly changing guidelines
- Fighting the uncertainty of what the new normal would look like
- Taking hands with other churches to ensure the advance of the gospel
- Proposed state government bills that threaten our Gospel's advance
- A Bombardment of distrust in our political leaders as social agendas used social platforms to derail the focus on His Kingdom

It would be fitting to also thank everyone who contributed to the expression of this victorious year:



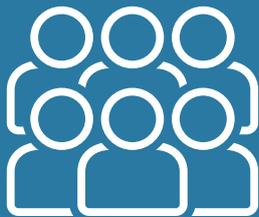
The Partners

Thank you for supporting your church and its leadership in this season. Your prayers, concerns, financial contributions and love has kept us strong. We have felt and experienced the strength of your involvement every step of the way!



The Board

The collective wisdom and consistency from the board has been very empowering for me and the staff. Many conversations, meetings and decisions were processed over the past year in the light of ever-changing realities. We would not have been able to move in the direction we did without your open-minded support you gave as we engaged unknown territory due to Covid.



The Ministry Forum

As you will read in each Pastor's report you will see how well they have adapted to the needs of the season. We have a team of pastors who has a heart for the purpose and mission of our church, and I would like to commend each one of them for their commitment and dedication to this movement.



The Admin Staff

We have a great team that supports us as a Ministry Forum in the office. Through the lock-down they stayed on course and supported in so many ways outside of their normal roles. This has spanned from appearing on camera all the way through to helping with the delivery of food to people in need.

PERSPECTIVE ON WHERE WE ARE

We have focused our attention in the first term on establishing our onsite/online presence as they would express themselves in the next season. This has led to enormous growth in terms of skills and capacity. As we celebrate the return to onsite gatherings, we appreciate the privilege of being able to give people access to our services online as well. The Transformed Campaign helped us to aligning the seven key areas in our lives with God's purposes and we are grateful for the testimonies we have received regarding the impact of this campaign. We trust that you were able to engage on this "overview" discipleship campaign and could align your life afresh with His eternal wisdom as found in scripture.

As we roll out our mission during the rest of 2021, we live with high expectations and the conviction that the best is yet to come!

OBJECTIVE

We have set out several bold objectives for the year:

1 Regaining and building momentum after the Covid season

Our Transformed Campaign has repositioned us towards being a church who do things in groups. You can read of the impact on this in Pastor Michael Rojas's report.

2 Move the pastors towards leading and supporting volunteers as their primary role while delegating ministry to the members:

This goal will run for its second year as volunteering was severely hampered by the lock-down and restrictions on gatherings.

3 Put down a second Faith budget process to address facility needs to accommodate the next growth season:

God has been faithful, and we have been able to raise faith levels to such an extent that we could accommodate all we planned for in the Faith-budget. We have prioritized spending in the light of the Covid-19 challenges and spent our finances conservatively. As we are able to read the post-Covid reality we will adjust our spending to fit the need and challenges of the season. This will be done in close consultation with the Board of Elders.

4 Develop human systems to fulfill the mission:

As we grow out of Covid and into our purpose, we will see a movement in the role definitions of staff and pastors to align functioning towards the mission. This will continue as growth in itself tends to introduce "mission creep". The regular pruning of this beautiful planting of the Lord will guarantee her fruitfulness and faithfulness! Another area of growth we want to pursue is the development of leaders for our ministry. There are several processes in place to help people develop their leadership potential for the Kingdom:

- A "Next Step" process that will serve as a 'discipleship framework' to take people from "attending" ministry events to "owning" the vision of our ministry.
- A Leadership Development Group that will be introduced later in the year.
- Several "Advisory Forums" that will help people engage on solution creation for our desire to reach migrants, minors, mental health challenges and marriage and family needs.

We trust that these pipelines of leadership development will eventually start to release more razor-sharp kingdom leaders for all the areas of our movement, from kid's ministry all the way to board members.

I would like to invite you to lean stronger into the most victorious project ever:

'Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."'

Matthew 16:17-19 NIV

Senior Pastor Braam Botha

Pastor Ken Rayment's Report



Successful Migrant

Early 2020, as part of the vision for church planting and serving the city, we launched a practical training course called, 'The Successful Migrant'. Unfortunately, we weren't able to complete all the sessions due to the beginnings of Covid.



South Africa

Before leaving for South Africa and the GROW conference in early March, we had heard reported that unless you were in Wuhan China you were more likely to be struck by lightning than to catch the Coronavirus! At that time there was no known cases reported in S.A. In many ways whilst there, we were largely oblivious to the rapidly deteriorating situation here in Australia.

By the time we started to comprehend what was going on, the Australian Government was already talking about closing the borders, potentially making it difficult for us to return.

When I first heard, I was quite concerned wondering about the impact on us, our families and the church. However, the next morning in prayer, I sensed God say to me 'Go from defence to offence'. In other words, stop being reactionary and become proactive to seize the opportunities that this could bring.

From that day on, despite a very turbulent season to come upon our pastors, families and the church, I kept looking in anticipation for God's way forward, knowing good could really come out of all this.



ONLINE

One of the areas that really stirred my heart was the opportunity to create online material for services and to make our evangelism and discipleship materials available online. Little by little, despite immense challenges and crazy sacrifices by a few volunteers, we were able to develop and keep improving the online experience.

We also put both the Search to Find evangelism course, and the first unit of the Growing to Maturity (GTM 1) discipleship course into an App.

Out of about 19 participants doing Search online, nearly a third were from different countries!! It's amazing to watch salvations, healing and freedom being experienced by those, sometimes thousands of Km away.

Church Planting

Covid completely halted our ability to follow up door knocking contacts and to hold physical gatherings. However, we were able, despite some technical problems, to explore the potential of using online gatherings for church planting.



Towards the end of 2020, we had to make a decision what to do with the stalled church plant. It completely needed rebooting as all momentum had been lost. As difficult as it was personally, I sensed God wanted me to lay it down and like a seed, let it die trusting that something greater would eventually emerge.

Personally, 2020 was a huge year, stepping into the Senior Pastor role again at a time when 3 of the pastors were struck down with covid. It was also a time of constant adapting to the endless change of circumstances and having to let go the church planting focus to help meet the needs of home base. A couple of times our annual leave plans were also cancelled due to lockdowns. So, by September I was quite tired and really needed a break. At that time, I also had to undergo a hernia operation. So, I added some leave time to my recovery time and was able to fully come back to strength and vitality ready to go again. God is good!

THANK YOU

One of rich aspects to this past year, is the tremendous work and ministry relationships forged deeper in the fire of adversary. It's incredible to be part of such a wonderful team of pastors, staff and volunteers.

Thank you Braam for your incredible gift of leadership and humble attitude in leading us. Thank you, Arlo, for stepping into Pastoral ministry when Michael and others were unwell. The church planting team, although largely held back in ministry, became a mighty prayer support to one another and to me, thank you. Thanks to Krishan, Michelle, Jono and others who worked wonders in helping us be on line week after week. Thanks to those pioneering with me the online evangelism and discipleship groups. And thanks to our incredible God that has repositioned us as a church in 12 months that may have normally taken multiple years to achieve! I look forward to what is ahead.

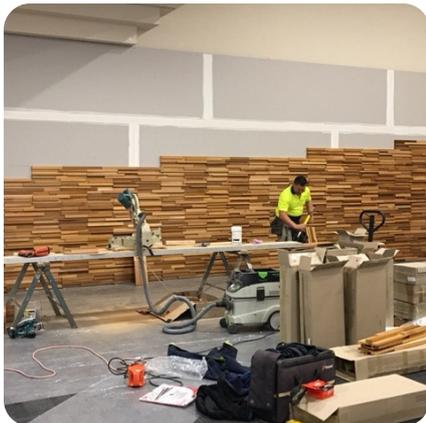


Pastor Ken Rayment

Administration Report

The admin team had a very challenging year in 2020 with the Covid19 lockdowns and restrictions. We had minimal staff at certain times during the year and complete lockdown for many months issuing work permits for those who needed to be on site. There was still much to do to keep up with maintenance so we took the opportunity during some of the quiet months to redo the whole roof of the main church building and also the counselling centre which was leaking. We replaced the rotten posts around the perimeter of the church and finished off the roof by having the external ceiling of the entrance where the glass used to be repaired and lined with cement sheet and painted. Our trees were professionally trimmed and an incredible 30kw 100 panel solar system was installed on the new roof. We started the counselling centre renovation which meant a wall coming down to open up the waiting room area, new carpet and paint, all new blinds, furniture and incredible photography prints by Mal Austin – I encourage you to come and have a walk thru if you haven't already!

Internally we installed a stacker wall in the foyer made from Western Red Cedar and turned the old bookshop into a studio so we could do recording for our online content. Updated the kitchen area of the connect lounge and some plastering was done to cover the glass bricks. Accoustic panels were installed in the FLC rooms 5 and 6 as well as in the auditorium and the old stained ceiling tiles replaced.



That is just a snapshot of some of the projects completed that come under the admin banner, we didn't have any large functions in 2020 and unfortunately our regular school presentations all had to be cancelled due to the restrictions.

We didn't make any changes to the admin staff in 2020 who still consists of the incredible ladies who all packed up their files and relocated to various parts of their respective homes which became their office! I want to commend each one of them for their grace under pressure and working so hard to maintain excellent service to our pastors and ministries.



Karen Fletcher

Tuesday-Friday. Karen is our Compliance Administrator and works tirelessly on all things that relate to policy, process and compliance. Karen works with the staff, elders and ministry leaders to ensure all our volunteers are up-to-date with the necessary paperwork and working with children's checks, she also manages the process of Child Safe training. Karen works hard to maintain the church database so our

communications are streamlined and she trains the other staff to do reports for their different ministries making their jobs easier. Karen is an absolute joy to work with and is constantly on the lookout for ways to improve our efficiencies.



Lorraine Wilsher

Thursday & Friday. Lorraine is our receptionist for these 2 days as well as taking care of the roles and registrations for Kids Ministry and Youth. Lorraine is hardworking and diligent in everything she puts her hands to and takes great initiative especially when it comes to improving the check-in process for Kids Church.



Alex Cuss and Jaclyn Szabo

Monday and Tuesday (one day each) shared roll. Alex and Jac are responsible for the reception area and taking care of the admin needs of food pantry, printing for Boys Brigade and general assistance for the pastors, ministry leaders and myself.



Michelle Jankovic

Monday-Friday. Michelle is our design expert and social media Wizz. She helps with editing and is the one who creates all the amazing videos we see on a Sunday. Michelle is working with Braam on branding and has upgraded our website. We are absolutely delighted to have Michelle on board.



Melinda Izvekov

Monday- Thursday. I am responsible for Managing the administration team and all things 'Operational' That includes all the finances, payroll and budget. All things related to the facilities including the bookings, keys and security, maintenance and repairs which is a huge task. With the new Living Springs Counselling Centre open after the renovations I have taken on the bookings of rooms and invoicing for the counsellors.

I would like to say a big Thank You to Stephen Fletcher who serves faithfully as our Cleaner and Grounds Maintenance contractor and works hard at maintaining all our facilities on a weekly basis, Stephen is also a very willing hand for any odd set up and pack up jobs that need doing and the sometimes the last minute run to Bunnings for Supplies..

We were blessed to have Geoff Brooke and John Lynch take on some much needed maintenance work around the church including the big new signs around the property with assistance from Ivan Botha, Tony and James Izvekov.

What a blessing it is to have the honour of working with a group of amazing people, we are a wonderful team who works well together and cares for each other united in our desire to serve our Lord Jesus in the church office.

Melinda Izvekov

Executive Pastor's Report

I would like begin by thanking God for His call on my life to use my gifts for Kingdom purposes. I would also like to thank Braam and the Elders for your ongoing support and encouragement for myself and the ministry team.

2020 began with me handing over some key ministry areas in Forge Young Adults and Creative Arts to Braam for oversight and handing FUSE Youth to Genny as our youth intern while picking up Prayer Ministry from Charmaine, and moving into an Executive role, to be more closely supporting Braam.

As part of my new functioning I still give oversight to our ministries to minors, one of our 4 M's of Mission. This is such a passion of mine to see us raise the next generation of Christ followers, among them our future leaders, who will build on what we do now.

I am so proud of the way Pastor Genny and Andrew lead their teams during the lock downs and created online content for our community. Well done to all the teams who supported this and help make it all happen. Genny has done so well, we have appointed her to the position of Youth Pastor for 2021, a wonderful recognition of the call on her life.

Our amazing Admin team did so well having to work remotely for much of 2020 and keep things moving forward. Melinda achieved an enormous amount of work on our facility as the restrictions allowed. Karen keeps moving us forward in our compliance and this is critical to allowing our Pastors to focus on their main responsibilities. Michelle has had an incredible job developing our media, both in social media and within services, our website and with our onsite communication. Our wonderful receptionists, Alex, Jaclyn and Lorraine are such a blessing to us all, and are doing a great job.

To Stuart and Pete who run our men's ministry, thank you for all of your efforts, 2020 did not turn out as we hoped, but we know God will do mighty things for our men going forward.

Statistics	2019	2020
New Partners	27	21
Total Partners (as at end of year)	235	252
Baptisms	37	18
FUSE Youth - Average Attendance	46	47
Adults - Average Attendance	437	429
Nitrokids (Grade Prep-6) - Average Attendance	66	65
Little Sparks/Wonderkids - Average Attendance	31	27
Total Average Attendance	534	521

Executive Pastor Mat Daniels

Prayer Ministry Report

The Thursday night prayer ministry team started off the year well. We ministered to 6 people before being closed down due to Covid. A couple of us ministered over Zoom to those who still wanted some ministry. The people who received ministry experienced freedom and breakthroughs.

The Call to Prayer Team have been kept busy with prayers coming in on a regular basis. We have prayed for healing for those who were sick and in hospital in need of surgery. We have prayed for healing of relationships, for those going through difficult times and have seen many answers to prayer. To God be the Glory!

The Prayer Team are always ready to pray for people's needs when the Altar call is given. We have 15 members on the team who are well able to minister to those who come forward for prayer. After the church was closed due to Covid a small team of 4 or 5 of us were on standby for up to an hour to pray after the YouTube church service. At the times when no-one came on for prayer we took advantage of the time and prayed & prophesied over each other.

One of our team spent some time in hospital throughout the year and went through some very painful procedures. She asked Jesus to help her not to feel the pain on the basis that He took it on the Cross. The nurses were amazed that she remained peaceful and calm throughout. Isn't it wonderful how our amazing God responds to believing prayer.

Jan Watt

Prophetic Ministry Report

Following the format established for prophetic presbyteries in 2019, our first presbytery for 2020 was held on February 2nd, before the Sunday service from 9am to 9:45am, in the counselling centre. On this occasion five people attended to receive a prophetic word from the team consisting of Jenny Austin, Rob Hamilton, Jan Watt, Glennie Eades, Nicole Goldup and Rachel Galati. This was the only on-site presbytery for 2020. With the onset of COVID 19 restrictions for church gatherings, prophetic presbyteries were suspended and recommenced later in the year when we had become more proficient with the use of the on-line zoom platform for meetings.

It was decided that we would offer these presbyteries on the 4th Sunday of the month at 7:30 to 8:30pm. The response was very encouraging. The attendees were booked in via email and sent instructions for attending the zoom meeting. Pastor Mat Daniels assisted by hosting the zoom meetings and directing the attendees into the zoom rooms.

On September 27th thirteen people participated. On October 25th, twelve people and on November 22nd there were fifteen. The attendees were blessed and encouraged through the words that they received. Our very enthusiastic and gifted team members on those occasions were Jenny, Rob, Jan, Glennie, Nicole and David Rodgers.

I value and appreciate these team members, who hear God clearly and are sensitive to the heart of our loving Father for his children. They are committed to the prophetic and minister together in unity.

Jenny Austin

Kids Ministry Report

2020 started off with a bang with over 100 kids attending over a weekend. We were bursting at the seams with new families and new kids. Then in March it was all brought to an abrupt stop as COVID-19 shut Victoria down.

As a children's ministry COVID-19 forced us to think outside the box. We discussed possible ways forward and started to create our own online content alongside the Orange Curriculum. It took a while but we managed to get into a rhythm and produce content to feed children and families through our online platform.

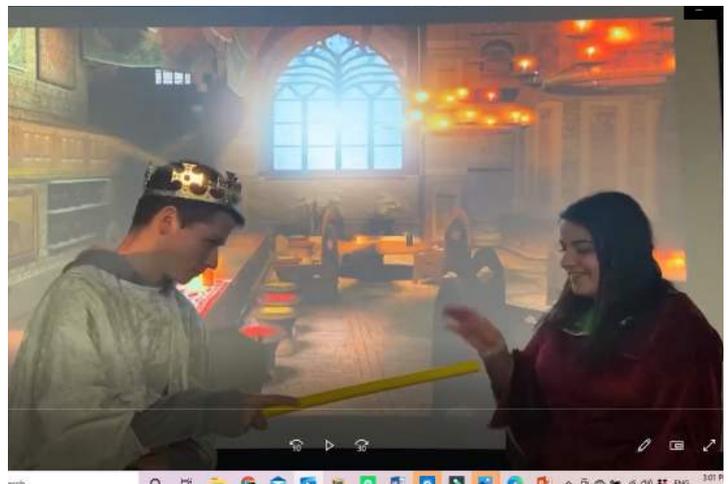
I was so proud of our team and their willingness to serve our church children and families in such difficult and unknown circumstances. We had zoom meetings discussing possibilities and evaluating how to best serve via an online context. The whole team stepped up and did over and above what was expected of them. Consistent Zoom meetings throughout the year kept us strong and relationally connected while we couldn't meet face to face.

Andrew Sidebottom was a cornerstone for us as we navigated this new online season, putting in many hours to make sure the quality of our content was available via our website and our YouTube platform. He and Michelle Jankovic partnered together proving to be a force to be reckoned with!

We developed an online communication team who carried the weight of our online kids' production. Candice Tucker, Jess Georgy, Lauren Alley, Micah North, Michelle Phillips and Rachel Galati put in many hours of work to produce weekly online content that expressed our Berwick Kids flavour so well.

Though 2020 was a challenging year for the Berwick Kids Team, it stretched us and resulted in us producing new fruit and a definitive Berwick Kids' flavour that wouldn't have been extracted if it wasn't for the difficult circumstances we found ourselves in.

The challenges of 2020 set us up for a 2021 like no other, as we go from strength to strength as a team committed to serving the children and families in our church.



Pastor Andrew & the Berwick Kids Team

Playgroup Report

Playgroup was abruptly locked down in March after just a few short weeks. God doesn't stop for pandemics, though, and here's some of what happened during the year:



I kept in contact with monthly emails to families, sending them a link to Kid's Church website where I had a videoed "playgroup segment", including a prayer, acknowledging and singing to the month's birthday children, telling a story and singing. A number of families told me how much their child looked forward to "Sue's Playgroup Video".



I maintained regular messaging, phone calls and visits, particularly with some of the more vulnerable families and team members. I also posted/ delivered cards, letters of encouragement and a nativity scene craft to the families. They particularly appreciated my push-bike deliveries (within 5km of my house) in August and for the Christmas deliveries I knocked on doors and had some wonderful conversations, reconnecting in person after such a big break.



Some wonderful volunteers helped with a massive stocktake of the playgroup space. The decision to demolish one of the playgroup rooms was not made until the end of the year but having the rooms thoroughly sorted and every item listed certainly made the moving process easier.



In term 3 I partnered with Andrew Austin, Christine Buckingham and a small team to run the Alpha Parenting course via Zoom. Many of the couples were current or past playgroup members and some great connections were made with the couples and individuals, as well as helping them in their parenting journey. At least one of these families has begun to attend church in 2021.



In early December we were allowed to catch up in outdoor spaces so we had a gathering for each group in a local park. I also had the privilege of baptising one of the playgroup mums at Carrum Beach. She had been waiting months for lockdown to lift so she could be baptised and came to faith as a direct result of her involvement in playgroup.

In spite of the challenges of not being able to meet in person, God was definitely at work in 2020. The profile of playgroup was also lifted in the church community, resulting in a number of new volunteers joining our team for 2021. We look forward to seeing more of our playgroup community taking the next steps towards faith as we journey with them.

We always have room for church families and child-free adults so please get in touch if you'd like to be part of this great ministry. Sue 0403 822 324

Sue Nicholls

18th VIC Berwick Boys' Brigade

Wow 2020! What a year, what a challenge! As with all areas of life in COVID 2020; work, church and ministries, we all had a tough and challenging year. At Boys Brigade we faced the same challenge of setting up a program to run online.

We started the year in a strong place with a number of new boys joining our company especially in our Anchor group. For 2020 we had initiated a change of program and timing to better suit this age bracket. We had previously struggled for numbers in our Anchor section. The only camp we were able to run and enjoy, before we had to suspend contact gatherings due to COVID 19, was our senior's water sports camp in late February at lake Eildon, Bonnie Doon. All other camps and events were eventually cancelled for the remainder of the year.

Our online year was a real curve ball which we had to work through. Our high school senior boys coped well and enjoyed the program and overall numbers remained stable despite the boys really missing the one to one contact and interaction. Our primary school junior boys struggled more with an online BB program. This age group was already spending a large part of their day on a computer completing school online and so an online BB program added more computer time and numbers dropped significantly because of this.

We were fortunate to be able to finish our 2020 year with most of the boys getting together in a park for a face to face social catch up with games. This was thoroughly enjoyed by all the leaders and the boys. The only challenge of this night was to get the boys to go home!

I would like to acknowledge and thank all our leaders for the work and effort that went in to organising an entirely new online program. I would also like to thank the BB State Executive, and the Berwick Church of Christ staff for the help, support and direction as we navigated the COVID 19 challenge. We look forward to, and pray for a more normal Brigade year in 2021 as we continue with our mission (The advancement of Christ's kingdom, among boys... and all that leads towards a true Christian manliness) to mentor and guide the young men of Boys' Brigade into Godly, purposeful lives.

Brendon Cameron, Captain



FUSE Youth Report

Our youth ministry, FUSE (Fearless, Unashamed Supernatural Existence), had an incredible year in 2020.

Firstly, I would like to thank all of our amazing leaders who give their all to serve our youth here at BCOC. In no particular order, these were Nick Kaprinov, Abby Coates, Alec Cameron, Sarah Rodgers, Jordan Smith, Zoe Heart, James Izvekov, Zack Smith, Ryan Walker, Chester Cameron, Joel McQuie, Sam Medlin, Erica Mercer and Laura Rodgers. Without these dedicated leaders, FUSE Youth would not be able to run and be the ministry that it is. I would also like to thank parents for your support, help and encouragement of our events, and our ministry. We are forever grateful to you, and really appreciate all you do. Lastly, I want to thank Pastor Mat who has both encouraged and equipped the FUSE leaders. His support has been essential to the ministry.

2020 was a year like no other. We kicked off the year full of energy and excitement with nights like 'Games: ALL IN', bowling, food fight night and more! We also began our series "Agape" where we saw God reveal his love in a real and tangible way. MERGE was another key event, in which FUSE, along with numerous other youth groups in Casey combine under the one name of Jesus. Prior to the Covid-19 lockdown, Merge was able to take place attracting over 300 youth to come together in worship, and to hear the Word as one collective church.

Then, lockdown happened.

Despite being unable to meet in person for the rest of the year, we were able to gather together online through the creation of Fuse TV and Zoom Small Groups. As a result, Fuse continued to support and encourage youth in their journeys with God, and guided them to grow both spiritually and in their God given identity whilst keeping them connected in such unprecedented circumstances. Through Fuse TV we were able to worship together, hear great teaching from our leaders and covered key themes such as "Agape", "Unshakeable Faith", "Fruits of the Spirit", "Back to Basics" and "The Good News". Each Friday, following Fuse TV, we engaged with youth in small groups on Zoom. The combination of these two online programs encouraged spiritual growth and connection among the youth. Fuse online allowed us to reach more young people than we ever have before, with an average of 150-200 views per week.

Our team has done a phenomenal job in both sustaining our youth ministry across such a challenging year and overseeing significant growth and momentum in 2020!



Pastor Genny Cameron



FORGE Young Adults



2020 started with a splash at Forge Young Adults. We had an incredible camp at Bonnie Doon; where we saw 95 participants, volunteers and boat drivers share together in a weekend of water sports, food, morning devotions and a special Y&Y service. Our year then continued with two "in-person" Y&Y services, with roughly 80 people in attendance, and an additional worship night at the Cameron's property before lockdown hit. Our remaining Y&Y services for the year were held online via a monthly 'Zoom' call, where we could share in the Word and worship as one community. Lifegroups kicked off in 2020 with the '40 Days of Love' campaign and continued online from April onwards. Through 'Zoom', we studied the book of Acts and saw many of the Lifegroup participants step up to lead our discussions. We were excited to also see two new young adult Lifegroups form, each with a focus on young couples.

As an addition plug for 'Zoom', we also used this platform to host Sunday morning services together. We saw a smaller group of young adults, approximately 6-15 people, log in to share in a time of worship and communion together. We also made a point to leave room in these calls for people to share both their prayer, and praise points, and to simply encourage one-another through another week. We strongly believe that these regular calls via 'Zoom' helped us to foster a sense of community through what was an otherwise isolating year for most.

As the year came to an end, we were very pleased to be able to hold an 'in-person' Y&Y Christmas Party at Pakenham Lakeside, where we were greatly encouraged by a powerful message from Pastor Michael.

2020 was certainly a year of many trials. However, we are exceedingly grateful to God who brought us through the fire and continued to so faithfully impact the lives of the young adults in our city.

The following is a short testimony from one of our young adults, Sammy Medlin, about how the young adults ministry impacted him in 2020...

Testimony

In the year that was 2020, the ability for the young adult ministry at Berwick to continue to thrive was essential for the tough year that it was. Personally, the ability to meet multiple times weekly, at life group and Sunday morning church allowed me to use the lockdown periods as growth periods. The feelings of loneliness, being bored and feeling disconnected were combated with this young adult community. As a member who had recently made large strides towards God, the zooms and routine provided consistency. I believe I learnt things and habits that have set me up for an increase in passion for God in this year and the next.

Sammy Medlin

Mikayla Nicholas

Pastor Michael Rojas' Report

The year started very well for our church especially with the success of the Love Campaign. Then COVID hit and the world stopped and ministries struggled. The Welcome Team, Newcomers' Lunch Team and Bringing Christmas to Life event were not able to function as per normal due to the restrictions in place. None the less, where we can minister, we did.

Thank you to all the amazing teams and leaders who kept the ministries going in the midst of very difficult circumstances. I'm so proud of you. A special thank you to Arlo Van Rhyn and Catherine Kimpton who stepped in to look after Life Groups and Pastoral Care. They did and are doing such a wonderful job.

And a BIG thank you to the, Board, the Staff and the Church Community for caring for me and my family when we couldn't look after ourselves. We have been the recipient of so much love and compassion. We are truly grateful.



Pastor Michael & the Rojas family

Life Groups & Pastoral Care

We started the year with a bang with the Love Campaign. We had about 120 people join life groups and saw 10 new groups start as well bringing the number of life groups to 37. As a church, the support for the first campaign we've done in a long time has been amazing. It was the highlight of what was, unbeknownst to us, going to be a very difficult year.

Someone once said that Life Groups are the glue that holds the church together. This has been so evident in this past year, especially when we were not able to meet in person when the pandemic hit. We've had to learn and adapt in big and small ways. We have heard many stories of people who have been so thankful to be connected in one way or another (Zoom anyone!?) to their life group during these challenging times.

At the end of the 2020, we had 29 life groups running which is amazing considering the year we've just had. And obviously, we intend to grow and multiply these groups so that many more people can experience spiritual growth and authentic connections. Through these connections we have the opportunity to care and be cared. Life groups, after all, is the primary channel of care for us as a church.

And talking about care, in October 2020, we embarked on a major care call project. We commissioned a team of 14 people to call, connect and pray for church attenders 18 years and above who are not connected to a life group. And the team called, connected and prayed for 560 people. That is an awesome achievement! People were grateful for the care they received.

Do you need care? Are you in a Life Group? Take the next steps in your journey of faith and get connected to one. And if you have what it takes to host a Life Group we would love to hear from you too. A big thank you to the awesome care calls team and to all our wonderful Life Group Leaders. You guys are amazing!



Arlo Van Rhyn, Catherine Kimpton and amazing Life Groups Team

Friendship Group

The Friendship Group continues to meet a need for our older members to come together to share together in prayer, fun and laughter. The program creates a happy time for friendship and education through our social activities and interesting speakers.

Last year's program was cut short due to COVID19, and as a result we only had the opportunity to have 3 meetings before we were in lockdown. This being so, we, however endeavoured to keep contact through phone calls and sending mail.

The 3 group meetings were as follows:



As Happy as Larry!

Each of us brought an object that made us happy and talked about why. Jokes abounded, and Larry spoke about the happiness he found when he came to Jesus.



Worship Service

Major Alan Laurens came to lead our worship service sharing many of his published and unpublished poetry and songs. It was a beautiful time of joy and devotion together.



Are You A Goose?

Sharon Edwards shared a meeting themed: "Are you a goose?" Lots of laughter ensued, and the message focused on the attributes of Canada Geese, and their amazing ability to support and encourage each other.

A great big happy Christmas Party was enjoyed in December! How we each revelled in sharing each other's company after so long!



Sharon & Larry Edwards and the fantastic Friendship Group

Welcome Team

Well what a year! As much as I would love to report back on how we were blessed with Gods fruit with Welcoming Newcomers in 2020 especially after the training development etc. in 2019, we were not able serve for the majority of 2020. WhatsApp suddenly became an important tool for communication during the year especially for prayer points and morale between members. Special thanks to Greg Morris for his focus on this space.

Welcome Team had its first ever Zoom Meeting online during lockdown with the main focus on re-connecting the team and prayer for members and online services. The team were able to connect with a few newcomers when church commenced at the start and end of 2020 but largely it was a disruptive year as we were not able to gain any traction or momentum for the ministry.

Focus for early 2021 after lockdown will be on rebuilding connections within our team members and asking God how best to regain that confidence in serving our church with new challenges like face masks and the new try bookings system. A big thankyou to the Welcome Team with the large role they played in checking-in people at the door (for contact tracing) when church first reopened after the restrictions were eased. This was not easy at the time but our team were champions at welcoming people back to the church under the restrictions. I say it every year but especially under the circumstances of this challenging year thankyou to the Team for their commitment to the ministry & I look forward to see how God transforms and develops our ministry going forward in 2021.

I ask church partners to pray for the growth & empowerment of the Welcome Team so that we can welcome more people to this warm home called Berwick Church of Christ!



Testimony

The first time I went to Berwick Church of Christ I wasn't a Christian. I didn't even really want to be there. I thought I'd be judged or looked down on. I remember being welcomed by Denis, he had a presence about him that was warm, friendly and loving. Almost as if he were greeting a dear friend and not a stranger. I then met Chris. He also had such a loving and warm presence about him. As an apprehensive visitor in a place I didn't want to be in, I felt a sense of loving kindness from them which softened the walls I had put up.

I attended church a couple more times and was treated the same each time, at this point I had also met Leanne and Greg too. I didn't attend church for a while after that but would occasionally think back to the times I went and remembered how nice and compassionate the welcome team had always been. I wanted to go back. I missed it. I almost felt homesick. In fact I now call Berwick Church of Christ home.

The journey to this point has been hard, very hard. I have strayed from the path a few times. Life has been tough and I have felt like turning away from church many times. And if not for the welcome team I probably would have. I believe now, that the presence I felt from them, was the Spirit of God.

I hope this testimony encourages and builds up the welcome team and that they may continue to welcome many more strangers home.

Thank you all for the underserved kindness you showed me. - Chris N

Denis Giroto and the fabulous Welcome Team

Food Pantry

We started the year as per normal but had to close after one month since COVID hit.

When able, we reopened on a drive thru social distancing basis. We pre-packed bags of groceries so that we could distribute them quickly. Foodbank had its own issues during this period and we were not able to order food fortnightly as previously. We helped approximately 30 families during this time with some families coming regularly to the drive-thru. The pre-packed bags we gave out valued \$150.

We did have very generous donations from a local church and a local family. Berwick Fields primary school also did a food drive for us. The competition was fierce between the classes as there was the incentive of a pizza lunch to the winning class. They donated 100's of items and delivered them to the Church just before Christmas.

Unfortunately, we could not host Bringing Christmas to Life in 2020 so we gave our clients Coles vouchers instead to be able to buy food and celebrate Christmas.

One family in particular that stands out, the Dad lost his job and did not qualify for government assistance. The Mum was in a serious car accident, they have 3 boys. It was lovely to be able to help this family at such a tough time.

We had a break over Christmas and the pantry is now up and running again. We have been quiet and we think this is to do with the extra government payments a lot of our clients are receiving. As these payments are finishing soon we expect to get busier.

I would like to thank the above mentioned for their generous support. Also to our Church community who have continued to support us during this very strange time.

Also a big thank you to Arlo and Michael for their encouragement and help. A thank you also to the pantry team who have worked together to make this work in very challenging circumstances.



Michelle Gould, Denise Holdsworth, John Lynch and the incredible Pantry Team

Treasurer's Report

This is my first Treasurer's Report, and it is a privilege to report that we had an excellent year financially for our fiscal year 2020 (01 January to 31 December 2020). Thank you to all who have supported the church financially and to the leadership of the church for your guidance throughout the year. We have been truly blessed by God.

I would like to take an opportunity to thank my predecessor, Murray Nicholls, who has given 20 years of faithful service to the Church. Murray has been immensely helpful in handing over the duties of Treasurer and made the transition as easy as possible.

FY20 brought some tremendous financial blessings and some significant challenges. In consultation with the Board, we set a total budget that included a Stewardship budget and a Faith budget. The Stewardship budget included planned increases in giving (tithing) and resources/expenses over FY19. The Faith budget was based on a call to the church to financially support a number of staff-hour increases (Children and Youth Ministries) plus facility upgrades. We were incredibly blessed to have over \$300,000 committed to the Faith budget which enabled us to meet all the planned staffing and facility initiatives.

The most significant challenge in FY20 was the obvious impact of COVID-19. Church attendance and giving for the first 10 weeks of the year were up significantly and then we were shut down after the third week of March. The financial impact was immediate as about 25% of our total giving at the time was provided at weekend services, meaning that our giving had potentially dropped to about 75% of budget. This was obviously unsustainable. Coupled with the economic uncertainty at the time, we applied for JobKeeper and received JobKeeper payments for most of the staff for six months. In addition, we received the Federal Government cash boost payments and applied for State Government grants.

Despite the initial drop off in giving, you, the church responded magnificently. Our committed partners and regular attendees remained faithful in their giving, and many people who had previously given via cash or credit card at weekend services converted to giving electronically. The net result was that we finished the year on budget for giving in our Stewardship budget. In addition, we received a total of \$430,000 against our Faith budget (\$300K), plus the income from JobKeeper and grants. The Faith giving enabled us to complete major facilities upgrades including the roof replacement, entrance upgrade, and Creative Arts A/V upgrades. We finished the year with a profit (surplus) of over \$318,000.

The financial reports of Berwick Church of Christ for the year ended 31 December 2020 are outlined on the following pages. A simplified view of our FY20 results compared to our Stewardship budget is shown below. Note that the Actuals include Faith giving whilst the Budget represents our Stewardship budget.

*Thank
you!*

I would like to take an opportunity to thank my predecessor, Murray Nicholls, who has given 20 years of faithful service to the Church.

	Actual	Budget	Difference
Income			
Hire of Facilities	2,541	11,000	-8,459
Humanitarian & Food Pantry	25,987	9,500	16,487
Tithes & Offerings	934,289	934,024	265
Gifts incl Faith Giving	424,800	39,461	385,339
Other Income	335,636	101,525	234,111
Total Income	1,723,253	1,095,510	627,743
Expenses			
Administration Expenses	106,548	98,140	8,408
Building Costs & Upgrades	373,683	81,260	219,275
Utilities	59,140	59,530	-390
Humanitarian & Food Pantry Expenditure	12,558	13,860	-1,302
Missions	4,965	10,000	-5,035
Staff Remuneration	733,396	699,290	34,106
Other Expenses	114,621	150,852	36,917
Total Expenses	1,404,911	1,112,932	291,979
Net Income	318,342	-17,422	335,765
Assets ##	4,488,098	4,152,334	335,765
Liabilities	(3,650.00)	(3,650.00)	0.00
Net Assets	4,484,448	4,148,684	335,765

After adjusting for net tax liabilities

Key Points From FY20:

- The church generated a surplus of \$318,342 which was \$335,709 higher than the Stewardship budget.
- Tithes and offerings averaged \$17,967 per week, which was a record high. This amount was 4.2% greater than the average for FY19. As previously noted, this was a fantastic result given that the church was physically closed for much of the year.
- We received Faith Gifts of \$424,800 which far exceeded our ambitious goal of \$300,000. This enabled us to invest in much needed facility repairs and upgrades such as the roof replacement, entrance roof, foyer upgrades and sound deadening in the auditorium and rooms. With the gift from a church family, we also installed a 30kW solar system which is now anticipated to save us around \$10,000 per annum in electricity costs.
- Faithful families regularly contributed financial support to the Food Pantry, with total contributions of \$25,987 exceeding the budget of \$9,500.
- We received total JobKeeper payments of \$234,000.
- We received total government grants (Cash Boost and State grants) of \$73,248.
- Missions expenditure largely comprised gifts to Empart Inc, the Berwick College Chaplaincy program, and the Australia Day outreach event.
- The church is in a healthy financial position, enabling us to invest and grow to reach the community as God calls us.

I would like to thank my wife Glenda, our family, and the Board for supporting me in taking on the Treasurer role. I would also particularly like to thank Melinda Izvekov for her role in the day-to-day management of the financial affairs of the church.

Brett Hutchinson

Financial Statements

Berwick Church of Christ Inc

ABN: 37 625 301 987

Regulation No.: A0059580G

The Board of Elders has determined that Berwick Church of Christ ("the Church") is not a reporting entity and that these special purpose financial statements should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in note 1 to the financial statements.

In the Opinion of the Board of Elders:

1. The financial statements and notes present a true and fair view of the financial position of the Church as at 31st December 2020 and its financial performance for the year ended on that date.
2. At the date of this statement there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Church will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

The Statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Board and is signed for and on behalf of the Board by:



Elder: Bronwyn Cameron

Dated this 12th day of April 2021



Elder: Matt Ormiston

Dated this 12th day of APRIL 2021

Financial Statements

Berwick Church of Christ Inc

ABN: 37 625 301 987

Regulation No.: A0059580G

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2020

	Note	2020 \$	2019 \$
Income			
Children's Ministry		128	550
Community Outreach		21,957	10,438
Creative Arts		182	4,072
Executive:			
Humanitarian Offerings		4,030	30,091
Tithes & Offerings		934,289	896,503
Other Income	7 (a)	675,507	95,974
Sub-Total Executive		<u>1,613,826</u>	<u>1,022,568</u>
General:			
Gifts Received		103	30,902
Hire of Facilities		2,541	13,238
Interest Received		399	1,153
Other Income	7 (b)	75,926	14,109
Sub-Total General		<u>78,969</u>	<u>59,401</u>
Young Adults Ministry		6,014	5,791
Youth Ministry		2,177	31,997
Total Income		<u>1,723,253</u>	<u>1,134,817</u>
Expenses			
Children's Ministry		12,961	6,572
Community Outreach		9,190	14,732
Creative Arts		54,546	19,231
Executive:			
Humanitarian Gifts & Expenses		4,464	30,333
Mission Gifts & Expenses		4,965	6,713
Remuneration Expenses	7 (a)	733,396	612,426
Other Expenses	7 (b)	111,352	58,341
Subtotal Executive		<u>854,177</u>	<u>707,813</u>
General:			
Administration Expenses	7 (b)	75,400	76,888
Building Cleaning & Maintenance	7 (b)	299,834	85,919
Utilities	7 (b)	59,140	56,269
Other Expenses	7 (b)	31,849	87,441
Sub-Total General		<u>466,223</u>	<u>306,517</u>
Young Adults Ministry		4,469	5,843
Youth Ministry		3,345	31,400
Total Expenses		<u>1,404,911</u>	<u>1,092,108</u>
Net Operating Surplus		318,342	42,709
Other Comprehensive Income		-	-
Total Operating & Comprehensive Income		<u>318,342</u>	<u>42,709</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

Financial Statements

Berwick Church of Christ Inc
ABN: 37 625 301 987
Regulation No.: A0059580G
Statement of Changes in Equity
AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2020

	Note	Retained Surpluses	Restricted Surpluses	Total
Balance as at 1 January 2019		4,110,963	12,434	4,123,397
Surplus from ordinary operations		42,709	-	42,709
Transfers		(15,206)	15,206	-
Balance as at 31 December 2019		4,138,466	27,640	4,166,106
Surplus from ordinary operations		318,342		318,342
Transfers		(59,845)	59,845	-
Balance as at 31 December 2020	8	4,396,963	87,485	4,484,448

Berwick Church of Christ Inc
ABN: 37 625 301 987
Regulation No.: A0059580G
Balance Sheet
AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2020

	Note	2020	2019
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	2	519,944	206,906
Receivables	3	18,008	9,069
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		<u>537,952</u>	<u>215,975</u>
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant and equipment	4	3,966,079	3,966,079
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		<u>3,966,079</u>	<u>3,966,079</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>4,504,031</u>	<u>4,182,054</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Accounts Payable	5	15,933	12,298
Bonds Held	6	3,650	3,650
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>19,583</u>	<u>15,948</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u>19,583</u>	<u>15,948</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>4,484,448</u>	<u>4,166,106</u>
EQUITY			
Retained Surplus	7	87,485	27,639
Restricted Surpluses	7	4,396,963	4,138,467
TOTAL EQUITY		<u>4,484,448</u>	<u>4,166,106</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

Financial Statements

Berwick Church of Christ Inc

ABN: 37 625 301 987

Regulation No.: A0059580G

**CASH FLOW STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2020**

	Note	2020 \$	2019 \$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Receipts from Church Members, Customers & Others		1,722,854	1,191,484
Interest Received		399	1,153
Payments to Suppliers and Employees		(1,413,908)	(1,141,977)
NET CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	9 (a)	<u>309,345</u>	<u>50,660</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Purchase of Property, Plant and Equipment		-	(46,177)
Proceed from Sale of Property, Plant and Equipment		-	-
NET CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		<u>-</u>	<u>(46,177)</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Repayment of Borrowings		-	(1,000)
Borrowings		-	-
NET CASH FLOWS PROVIDED BY FINANCING ACTIVITIES		<u>-</u>	<u>(1,000)</u>
Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash Held		309,345	3,483
Cash at Beginning of Year		203,544	200,061
Cash at end of Year	9 (b)	<u>512,889</u>	<u>203,544</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

Financial Statements

Berwick Church of Christ Inc
ABN: 37 625 301 987
Regulation No.:A0059580G
Notes to the Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

NOTE 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The Board of Elders of Berwick Church of Christ Inc ("The Church") has determined that the Church is not a reporting entity because there are no users dependent on general purpose financial statements. Therefore these are special purpose financial statements that have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 and section 60.40 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013.

The following is a summary of the accounting policies that have been adopted in preparation of these financial statements.

(a) Historical Cost Accounting

The financial statements have been prepared on a cash basis (except for PAYG Withholding Tax and GST), based on historical costs and do not take into account changing money values or, except where stated, current valuations of non-current assets. The accounting policies have been consistently applied, unless otherwise stated.

(b) Consolidated Accounts

The financial statements represent all ministry areas of the Church apart from Playgroup and Boys Brigade which operate autonomously.

(c) Property, Plant & Equipment

All plant and equipment are expensed and all land and buildings are recorded at cost.

The title for the Church property is held in the name of The Properties Corporation of Churches of Christ ("Prop Corp"). Prop Corp holds the title as trustee for the Church and does not retain any beneficial interest in it.

(d) Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenue, expenses and assets are recognised net of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). Receivables and payables are stated as inclusive of GST. The net amount of GST recoverable from or payable to the ATO is included in the statement of financial position

Cash flows are presented on a gross basis. The GST components of cash flows arising from investing or financing activities which are recoverable from or payable to the ATO are presented as operating cash flows, and have been included in receipts from customers or payments to suppliers.

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

Financial Statements

Berwick Church of Christ Inc
ABN: 37 625 301 987
Regulation No.:A0059580G
Notes to the Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

	2020	2019
Note 2. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENT	\$	\$
New Cheque Account	31,314	48,218
RaboPlus General	436,163	126,945
RaboPlus - LSL	26,000	22,427
RaboPlus Food Pantry Account	19,059	1
RaboPlus - Humanitarian Fund	7,408	9,315
	<u>519,944</u>	<u>206,906</u>
Note 3. Receivables		
GST Refundable	<u>18,008</u>	<u>9,069</u>
Note 4. PROPERTY PLANT AND EQUIPMENT		
Freehold Land and Buildings at Cost	3,966,079	3,919,902
Add : Additions	-	46,177
	<u>3,966,079</u>	<u>3,966,079</u>
Note 5. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE		
Credit Card: Karen Fletcher	4,118	2,598
Credit Card: Melinda Izvekov	2,937	763
PAYG Withholding Tax Payable	8,878	8,937
	<u>15,933</u>	<u>12,298</u>
Note 6. Current Borrowings		
Bonds Held	<u>3,650</u>	<u>3,650</u>
Note 7. Further Details of Ministry Income & Expenses		
(a) Executive	2020	2019
<u>Other Income:</u>		
Counselling Centre Income	8,341	11,100
Course Fees & Income	3,162	2,564
** Gifts Received	424,800	71,998
Miscellaneous Ministries Income	-	5,019
Missions Income	1,235	4,186
Prayer Ministry Income	3,969	1,107
Job keeper Payment	234,000	-
	<u>675,507</u>	<u>95,974</u>

** During the 2020 year, special congregation gifts of \$424,800 were received for roof replacement, building upgrades, and repairs and maintenance. \$267,505 has been spent on the building upgrades and maintenance, including replacing the roof, solar system and facilities and setting up the Counselling Centre.

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

Financial Statements

ABN: 37 625 301 987
Regulation No.:A0059580G
Notes to the Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

Note 7. Further Details of Ministry Income & Expenses	2020	2019
	\$	\$
(a) Executive (continue)		
<u>Remuneration Expense:</u>		
Fringe Benefits	303,782	283,232
Fringe Benefits Tax	85	103
Long Service Leave	9,100	9,661
Salaries	352,830	263,535
Superannuation	63,657	52,952
Work Cover - Medical Expenses	735	-
Workcover	3,207	2,943
	<u>733,396</u>	<u>612,426</u>
<u>Other Expenses:</u>		
Congregational Care	1,822	1,186
Counselling Centre Expenses	173	559
Course & Training Expenses	948	6,455
Event Expenses	-	29,000
Guest Speakers	336	2,627
Hospitality	3,039	4,489
Life Group Resources	7,669	1,512
Miscellaneous Ministries Expenses	100	5,640
Prayer Ministry Expenses	4,066	1,998
Sundry Expenses	73,148	214
Training & Travel Expenses	15,377	4,661
Weekend Services Expenses	4,674	-
	<u>111,352</u>	<u>58,341</u>
(b) General		
<u>Other Income</u>		
Grants & Cash Flow Boost	73,428	-
Books	641	500
Kitchen & Catering	987	4,495
Sundry Income	403	1,566
Sundry Receipts Redirected	467	7,548
	<u>75,926</u>	<u>14,109</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

Financial Statements

Berwick Church of Christ Inc
ABN: 37 625 301 987
Regulation No.:A0059580G
Notes to the Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

Note 7 (b) General (continued)	2020	2019
	\$	\$
<u>Administration Expenses</u>		
Advertising & Publicity	1,408	908
Audit Fees	3,766	3,375
Bank charges	1,476	1,661
Centre Management Fees	-	1,080
Computer Expenses	19,138	5,722
Computer /Office Maintenance	138	-
First Aid Expenses	189	403
Legal Fees	2,725	3,836
Postage	1,153	522
Printing & Stationery	20,955	30,303
Registration & Subscriptions	17,290	19,517
Repairs, Resources & Equipment	- 1,145	643
Security Costs	653	1,493
Sundry Expenses	1,013	872
Telephone	6,641	6,553
	<u>75,400</u>	<u>76,888</u>
<u>Building & Cleaning & Maintenance</u>		
Cleaning Contract	26,570	32,760
Cleaning & Caretaking Expenses	5,759	7,181
**Repairs Replacements & Maintenance	267,505	45,978
	<u>299,834</u>	<u>85,919</u>
<u>Utilities</u>		
Electricity	18,051	19,465
Gas	366	412
Insurance	26,191	21,423
Rates	14,532	14,969
	<u>59,140</u>	<u>56,269</u>
<u>Other Expenses</u>		
Book Purchases	2,322	679
Gifts Paid	12,090	-
Hospitality, Supplies & Amenities	3,990	8,288
Kitchen & catering Costs	1,803	9,023
Sundry Equipment	11,177	61,903
Sundry Receipts Redirected	467	7,548
	<u>31,849</u>	<u>87,441</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

Financial Statements

Berwick Church of Christ Inc
ABN: 37 625 301 987
Regulation No.:A0059580G
Notes to the Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

Note 8	Surpluses	<i>Opening Balance</i>	<i>Income</i>	<i>Expenses</i>	<i>Transfers</i>	<i>Closing Balance</i>
	<u>Restricted Surpluses</u>					
	Children's Ministry	-	128	12,961	12,833	-
	Community Outreach	-	21,957	9,190	(12,767)	-
	Creative Arts	-	182	54,546	54,364	-
	Executive	27,639	1,613,826	854,177	(699,803)	87,485
	Young Adults Ministry	-	6,014	4,469	(1,545)	-
	Youth Ministry	-	2,177	3,345	1,168	-
	Subtotal	27,639	1,644,284	938,688	(645,750)	87,485
	<u>Retained Surpluses</u>					
	<u>General</u>					
	Cheque Account	20,579	78,570	466,223	310,903	(56,171)
	Other Accounts	4,117,888	399	-	334,847	4,453,134
	Subtotal	4,138,467	78,969	466,223	645,750	4,396,963
	Total	4,166,106	1,723,253	1,404,911	-	4,484,448

Note 9 Cash Flow Information

(a) Reconciliation of Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities to Operating Surplus

	2020	2019
Net Surplus	318,342	42,709
Change in Assets & Liabilities		
(Increase) /Decrease in receivables/ prepaid	(8,939)	4,001
Increase /(Decrease) in other creditors	(58)	3,950
Net Cash used by operating activities	309,345	50,660

(b) Net Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cheque Account	31,314	48,218
Deposits at Call	488,630	158,687
Credit Cards	(7,055)	(3,361)
	512,889	203,544

Auditor's Report

Berwick Church of Christ Inc
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2020

Opinion

I have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of Berwick Church of Christ Inc, which comprises the balance sheet as at 31 December 2020, the income statements, statement of changes in equity and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements including a summary of significant accounting policies and the statement by members of the Board of Elders.

In my opinion, the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the balance sheet of Berwick Church of Christ Inc as at 31 December 2020, and of its income statements and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements and the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 Vic.

Basis for Opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of my report. I am independent of the entity in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the financial report in Australia. I have also fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Emphasis of Matter - Basis of Accounting

I also draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for distribution to members for the purpose of fulfilling the members of the Board of Elders' financial reporting obligations under the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 Vic. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. My opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Report

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of the applicable legislation and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, management is responsible for assessing the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the entity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the entity's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Report

Berwick Church of Christ Inc
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2020

Auditor's Responsibility for the Audit of the Financial Report

My 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 my 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 Australian Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I 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 my 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 entity's internal control.

Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.

Conclude on the appropriateness of management's 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 entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the entity 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.

I communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.



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Geoffrey B. Johnson, FCA
Rucker Audit and Assurance Pty Ltd

Dated this 13th day of April 2021
Doncaster, VIC 3108