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Overview

Pastor's Report

Many of the best things that happen in our church community come through the initiative of one or two people seeing a need and responding to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. For example:

- Andrew Kollmorgen and Ellen McNaught's vision to establish NightChurch and the wider Young Adults Ministry.
- Kingsley Smith's initiative with the Chat and Chew luncheons which has met a need for retired and other men and seen an increasing number of folk reaching out in pastoral care and contact with others.
- The commencement of five Young Adult Study Groups this semester, with another on Sunday afternoons exploring Baptism, Church membership and other topics.

In addition it has been encouraging to see a number of folk joining existing ministries to our children and young people, and those who continue and develop the Prayer and Bible Study Groups, Choir, Hospitality lunches, Cup Day Picnic, Ladies Evening Fellowship, MACB's, Drop-in, Mission, Aid and Development Group, Music Team and others who assist in worship leading and preaching.

Cup Day Picnic : Back: Stephen Kidner, Val McPherson, Elva Dyer Nance Stewart, Jennie & Liz Taylor,
Centre: Brian & Joyce Garth, Emma Hay-Higgins, John Sampson, Rod Pell Front: Deirdre Willis, Liz Pell, Ken Lyall

As we look back over the last twelve months it is with gratitude to God for the evidence of His Spirit at work in our midst, for as the Psalmist reminds us: "Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labour in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchmen stand guard in vain." Psalm 127:1

With our University Student Hostel, Possums Kindergarten and Playgroups, Vietnamese congregation, and links with the Karana Community, there are over 600 people in regular contact with our church community. In this regard it has been great to have Rev Kingsley Smith join the team part-time to assist in Pastoral Care, Keren McClelland on a half-time basis as Associate Pastor - NightChurch, Tuan Huynh as our Vietnamese Pastor, and Gillian Tonson increasing to 24 hours a week in the office.

Rev Peter Jenkins and Yvonne Lindner have given valuable assistance as Moderators of our Pastoral Search Committees. And we have appreciated links with a number of cross-cultural mission organisations like Global interAction in the support of Allan and Merryl Gamble (Indonesia), Les and Cathy Sherwen (outgoing to China) and the visit of Rev Boston Mwebela from Zambia; Mary Edgar with Interserve in Nepal; Lisa Detlefsen teaching at Ukarumpa with Wycliffe Bible Translators; Michelle Stancliffe - Youth With A Mission in Africa; and Lea and Lindsay Nicholls with Jesus Gift to the Nation.

Over the last couple of years we have celebrated the births of a number of children within our Church community: Adam Dao, Khoi Phong Doan, Huon Ballot-Jones, Harry Clapton, Charlotte Dieng, Nathan Hibbins and Khoi-Viet Doan with the creche on Sunday morning meeting a real need.

At the other end of the spectrum we have felt the passing of loved friends like Betty Boreham, Tien Tanh Tran, Beatrice Gay and Gloria Trenfield. We were also sad to farewell Peter and Rosaleen, Emma and Iain Hay-Higgins back to Scotland, but pleased to welcome Andrew and Heather Fronsco, Alexander and Luke back from Brisbane, together with other families who have moved into the area.

More significant than numerical growth per se however, is growth in faith, hope and love. For these are the three qualities which the Apostle Paul and other New Testament writers, consistently stress as the parameters for measuring a church. My prayer is that we may get the right balance both individually and collectively (see diagram on page 2).

Rod Pell

Associate Pastor - NightChurch

One of the young adults called it baptism by fire. The first introduction to NightChurch community was an evening at a home in Camberwell on the 16th of July accompanied by dares of eating whole fish and skulling soy sauce. Thanks for the welcome guys!

Seven weeks later things have stayed on a fairly even keel. Frivolity and thoughtful discussions seem to balance each other out in the various times young adults have together during the week. It's been great to hear some of the dreams, especially connecting with the hostel and the local (Kew) community better. The music teams are enthusiastic and wish to write some music appropriate for us here at Kew Baptist. The intentional informality of the service at 7pm is refreshing. It has been a real privilege to have people so willing to participate creatively in many different ways: through service leading, prayers, readings, drama, Sunday school, music ministry, and small groups. Thank you to Andrew Kollmorgen and Ellen McNaught for facilitating this initiative.

The five small groups have very distinctive flavours. I've been really impressed by their caring for one-another and heart-felt desires to see where God is taking them. I'm looking forward to spending more time at those groups during the year and also having some quality time with the leaders.

Gwyn and I, Lydia and Geordie have been really welcomed by not only NightChurch, but by you all at Kew Baptist. Thank you for your prayers, letters, encouragement, hospitality and friendship.

Keren McClelland

Deacons' Report

It is exciting and challenging to be part of the present growth and development of Kew Baptist Church. May every member of the congregation have a sense of the depth of God's activity in the lives of individuals and of the church as a whole.

1. Big picture view

It is a challenge to try to grasp a 'big picture' view of the church - its life and ministries are broad and diverse. Rod Pell achieves this to a remarkable degree, the deacons and others less so. Rod finds it helpful to receive feedback through the deacons about what people in the church are thinking and about potential implications for any proposed changes. We encourage members of the congregation to talk with Rod and/or deacons about issues of delight or concern.

Church Meeting: Back: Victor Milne, Val McPherson, Carol & Graham Warner, Phyl Taylor, Ellen McNaught,
Marge Sparkes, Michelle Stancliffe, David Vo
Centre: Valerie Rohde, Tom & Elva Dyer, Audrey Bennett, Jean Smithson, Valda Renshaw, Nemat Makar
Front: Sheila King, Edith Lyall, Ray Leigh

2. Pastoral concern and prayer

While maintaining appropriate confidentiality, each meeting the deacons hear from Rod and each other of pastoral and ministry needs. They then pray about the people and issues raised. Several deacons also regularly participate in other prayer groups.

3. Young adults' work

NightChurch began early in 2003, largely due to the theological thoughtfulness, willingness to take risks, careful planning and much hard work of a core group of young adults. Ellen McNaught and Andrew Kollmorgen did excellent work in a paid capacity while the search for an Associate Pastor NightChurch took place. They and others now offer excellent support as Keren McClelland settles in. The deacons are aware that the start of NightChurch and Keren's appointment are the beginning of a potentially long journey. We encourage support of the young adults' initiative, especially in prayer.

4. Review

Rev Len Lewis led a review of the church's ministries and Rod Pell's role. The outcome was very encouraging, with strong affirmation of both church and pastor. The deacons are addressing the three recommendations brought by Len Lewis:

- Assistance with property management - a group has been formed, while Daniel Hunt will continue to oversee some aspects of property management.
- Additional days off for Rod Pell - the deacons fully endorse this recommendation and are encouraging Rod in taking extra holidays.
- Additional deacons - members of the congregation are urged to prayerfully consider this matter.

5. Duty of care, privacy

The Baptist Union of Victoria is encouraging churches to take seriously their duty of care and has provided resources on relevant topics. Representatives from the church have attended seminars, and the following leaders have begun to put in place a duty of care program:

Catherine Dodgshun - food handling, medical issues

Steve Taylor - finance, insurance, driving

Daniel Hunt - health and safety, incidents, hazards

Liz Pell, Deirdre Willis - children's and youth ministries

Chris and Janine de Paiva and Miriam Schmidt - Hostel and Possums Playgroups

Gillian Tonson - hire of facilities, registration of contractors, leaders' acknowledgement of duty of care material, security of data

Grace Munro - selection of leaders, duty of care policies, complaints procedures.

The above people are willing to continue to address duty of care in their particular areas, but we need a person willing to head up the continuing process. Graham Warner is prepared to help in an advisory capacity.

6. Kew Inter-Church Council

Grace Munro and Rod Pell represent the church at regular meetings of the Kew Inter-Church Council and Rod at the Kew Ministers' group. Through KICC we participate in planning events such as the Good Friday service and Carols service in Petrie Square.

Grace Munro, Secretary

Report on Membership and Participation

As with virtually all aspects of the life of Kew Baptist Church during 2002 - 2003, membership and participation increases are very encouraging. Several people are preparing for membership at the AGM, which will increase further the number of members, while reducing the number of active non-members.

The Vietnamese congregation has seen a slight increase even though they have been without a pastor until the appointment of Pastor Tuan Anh Huynh n 10 August 2003.

The English-speaking congregation numbers have increased considerably - in members and, particularly, active non-members. Half of the new attendees are young adults, another sign of the health and vibrancy of NightChurch and associated small groups. It would seem likely, without having done the research to back up the statement, that of those associated with the church, a higher proportion is attending frequently and regularly.

There are those who are unable to attend due to frailty and ill health. But many such people are as actively involved as those who do attend, for they take a keen interest in all that is

going on and are very consistent in praying. We honour them for it, and praise God for his goodness to us as a church.

According to last year's membership records (as at September 2002):

Totals	English Speaking Congregation	Vietnamese Congregation	
Members	64	28	92
Absentee members	6	0	6
Active non-members	<u>77</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>78</u>
Totals	147	29	176

Members

Accepted into membership 2002-2003 5 English congregation, 2 Vietnamese congregation

Transferred into membership 2002 - 2003 congregation 2 English

Members moved from Active to Absentee Roll congregation 2 English

Members moved from Absentee to Active Roll congregation 2 English

Absentee members

Absentee member removed by roll revision congregation 1 English

Former members

Former members requesting transfer 2002 - 2003 congregation 3 English

Former member who died during 2002 - 2003 (Betty Boreham) congregation 1 English

Active non-members

Active non-members who moved away during 2002 - 2003 congregation 7 English

Active non-members who died during 2002 - 2003 (Beatrice Gay) congregation 1 English

Active non-members who became members congregation 4 English

New active non-members congregation 34 English congregation, 3 Vietnamese congregation

MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS AT SEPTEMBER 2003 after the adjustments

Totals	English Speaking Congregation	Vietnamese Congregation	Congregation
Members	71	30	101
Absentee members	5	0	5
Active non-members	<u>99</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>103</u>
Totals	175	34	209

Grace Munro, Honorary Secretary

Congregational Life and Ministries

Vietnamese Congregation

Firstly, we give thanks to God for our new Pastor, Tuan Anh Huynh. As you know we have been looking for a pastor for many years. We invited a couple of people who helped us with pastoral care within the Vietnamese Congregation. But they come and go because of their busyness, thus we had to look after ourselves with God's mercy and grace.

Secondly, we would like to say thank you to Pastor Peter Jenkin who has supported us when we began the process of searching for a Pastor. He shared with us his ministries in the past and explained many matters that were of concern.

Finally, we thank you Pastor Rod Pell and the English Congregation for your prayer and contribution for many years. We are very happy to worship God at Kew Baptist Church for your good heart. We keep praying for you and the church so that God will be pleased when everyone comes to worship Him. May God bless you and be with us, always.

Son Minh Dao, Secretary

Tuan Anh Huynh and Hong-Phong (Hannah) Thi Do

Sunday Morning Worship

Psalm 122:1 *I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go into the house of the Lord."*

We are so grateful to all the many folk who have contributed to our morning worship and have led us into God's presence each week.

Our pastor is unfailing in binding us together as a family, both in leading worship and in his challenging messages. These have included a series on "The Kingdom of God", the Book of Job and studies in Philippians. Ken Manley's two series on the "Testing of Faith" and on "Worship" were most appreciated. We are also grateful to Basil Brown, Grace Munro and in our May Mission Month to Wendy Ridden and Boston Mwebela, for their messages to us.

We have been blessed by the thoughtful leadership of our services by our Worship Team including Janine de Paiva, Michelle Edwards, Leonie Hibbins, Daniel Hunt, Andrew Kollmorgen, Ray Leigh, Keren McClelland, Liz Pell, Kingsley Smith, Michelle Stancliffe, Liz Taylor, and Graham Warner. How much we appreciate Grace's part in keeping us in touch with news of our family members.

Rev Boston Mwebela & Liz Pell

We are grateful to all who contribute to music in our services. With Gwyneth Smith, our organist, Shirley Tuckwell once a quarter, David Mynard every month, the Music Team each week. With Ian Lowe and the choir, we have a rich musical offering. Andrew Kollmorgen, Rory Chambers and Katie McGowan ably plan for and lead our Music Team with others contributing especially Chris de Paiva (trombone), Andrew Harkness (trumpet) and Kylie Geelan (flute). Once again we have enjoyed our Hymnfest, led by Gary Bradley, as well as his Easter and Christmas Cantatas sung by an augmented choir.

It has been a joy to have many families especially those from Possums at our Children's Services, ably led by Janine de Paiva and Miriam Schmidt.

We have been encouraged by increasing numbers at our morning services and at our family lunches. These lunches, held quarterly prior to our business meetings, so expertly planned and catered for by Grace Munro, have provided an excellent opportunity to get together to know one another better, and to enjoy time together as a Church family.

We thank God for His many blessings amongst us.

Ken Lyall

Alexander and Luke Fronsco watch Deirdre Willis make fairy floss following a children's service.

Music Team

Well, what a year for the Kew Baps music team!

Only a few weeks ago, we had a get-together for the entire team (and a few extras!) to discuss where we'd come from, where we are now and where we are headed. Apart from anything else, the 20+ turnout was simply astonishing! This in itself is a testament to the hard work, dedication and solid prayer support of the community as a whole that we have come from having the same people organising and playing every Sunday to a point where we each can have entire weeks off completely!

The commencement of NightChurch has bolstered the music team considerably, bringing 'new blood' to the community beyond the yearly hostel contingent. The result is a more dedicated, reliable and versatile group to lead our worship. As a leadership team, we have strived to reinforce the fact that the music team is not split between morning and evening services; rather it is a ministry and resource for the entire Kew Baptist Church community.

In the past six months, apart from meetings, meetings and more meetings, the music team has run a few workshops here and there – plans are currently in the works for organising more regarding PA operation, singing, and also bringing together the team in more of a small group setting, focusing on the personal side of worship beyond ‘doing our thing on a Sunday’. Also coming up is the EMU Music Word in Song Conference, which several Kew Baps members will be attending. See Andy for more details on that!

As a worship team we are focusing not only on the musical side of things, but also on the attitudes of individual people involved, and the role of music in bringing people into worship. We are aiming to involve as many people as possible in this ministry, and are particularly concentrating on building and strengthening honest, God-focused unity within the entire team.

To the church as a whole, we’d like to thank you for your continuing support and trust in us with this aspect of our worship together. Please continue to pray for the ongoing dedication, enthusiasm and most importantly God-focus in the entire musical direction of Kew Baps.

Rory Chambers, Katie McGowan, Andy Kollmorgen

Back: Graham Warner, Howard Barclay, Brian Garth, Jan Mathes, Catherine Francis, Ann Mills
Centre: Robyn Scott, Janet Radford, Joyce Garth, Bev Ratten, Valarie Rohde
Front: Gwyneth Smith (organ), Chris de Paiva, Cameron Taylor

Choir

The Choir has continued to make a monthly contribution to the worship service. We thank Gwyneth Smith for her time and willingness to be involved in the preparation of the music. Once again we were able to lead a carol service at Royal Talbot Rehabilitation Centre in their preparation for Christmas. Gary Bradley has also augmented the choir in his presentations at Kew and elsewhere, and this has given members further opportunities to use their gifts.

Ian Lowe

NightChurch

After eight months of prayer, planning and dreaming NightChurch services commenced on the 2nd March this year. So what is NightChurch? Being the first ever annual report for NightChurch, allow me to initially explain some history to set the scene. I'll then describe the planning, give a report on the first seven months of NightChurch and conclude with where we are now and what might lie ahead.

Some History

First recognize that Kew Baptist Church has had a growing young adult's ministry for some years now. During 1999 and the beginning of 2000 only a handful of Kew Baptist Student Hostel (KBSH) students attended morning services. At about the time the KBSH opened its doors in 2000 three things happened in God's good timing: Rod Pell was appointed Senior Pastor, Ellen McNaught and Jackie Cosson and others initiated *Uni.Comm* and the Music Team was formed. For those who don't know, *Uni.Comm* (which stands for University Community), was a coffee-shop style evening with live music and a speaker. It aimed to outreach to past and present KBSH students and form real community. It ran fortnightly and was soon coupled with an evening Bible study running on alternate Wednesday evenings.

In mid 2001 the format of *Uni.Comm* changed to weekly Bible studies and monthly social events. During 2000, 2001, 2002 the number of young adults making Kew Baptist Church their spiritual home steadily grew to a core group of around twenty. Perhaps more exciting is that those twenty (I being one) have had major growth in their faith in that time. By the commencement of semester two 2002 the core group began to dream about starting a night service at Kew with a focus on young adults. We felt led to pursue the idea, one that seemed to be in perfect timing and make a lot of sense. i.e.

- Not all students like getting out of bed on Sunday morning. Therefore some students, although living in the KBSH, look for a church which meets at other times.
- The core group was growing in numbers and we could no longer have just one small group, because it was now a "big group". Therefore we needed something else where we could all meet together.

Back: Tom Docking, Nicholas Barclay, Andrew Harkness, Iyasha Hulugalle, Angus Bremna
Middle: Tanya Pell, Kristy Brown, Mick O'Kelly, Ben Prime, Michelle Edwards, Katie McGowan
Front: Tania Sutherland, Ellen McNaught, Kim Fleming, Kathryn Barclay

Planning NightChurch

For the remainder of 2002 and for the beginning of 2003 there was a lot planning and prayer as we looked for answers to questions like: “What is church and what is its purpose?”, “What will be the aims of the night service?”, “What sort of person would we be suitable to work with us?”

L to R: Ashleigh Rowe, Zoe Parle, Christine Muller, Evita Stone, Ellen McNaught, Luke Wilson

Below is a table showing some of our original answers regarding the service content:

Will include:	How and in what form?
The Bible	Reading Teaching from it / Preaching
Prayer	Spirit lead Corporate Open microphone Groups?
Worship	Dancing Singing, music Meditation, listening and silence Drama
Fellowship	Supper after the service / during the service? Interview times Testimonies
Communion	Small groups Other people serving you Sharing a meal
Giving	Time Money Resources

Table 1.0

Something that was clear in our discussion was that we wanted people to be attracted to the community because of the changed lives in the community – not because the community was cool. We wanted it to be a place that promoted realness in the individual, not

superficially. Also noted was that a major function of service was to be the “hub” of the young adult community, but without being exclusive.

We didn’t end up finding a pastor in time for the start of semester one 2003. We also didn’t feel it was right to wait until we found one. Therefore Ellen McNaught and I stepped in for an interim period. The first NightChurch service was held on 2nd March 2003, with an attendance of around sixty – majority young adults.

A bit about the services

Each NightChurch service is different, but not for the sake of being different. People have different needs and therefore respond to content differently. We aim to balance variety and continuity. The content of each service reflects pretty much what we imagined it would (the content in Table 1.0). We haven’t had dancing yet though – maybe next week! The feel of the service is harder to describe, it is welcoming, intellectually stimulating, relaxed and not showy. But best to find out for yourself. Below is a table of speakers and their respective topics for the services thus far.

Speaker(s)	Topic	Number
Ben Pharlet (RMIT CU worker)	Church	2
Janet & Richard Adams (Interserve)	Jordan Stories	1
Deborah Storie (Tear Australia)	Afghanistan Stories	1
Sue McDonald	Spirituality	2
Rod Pell	Easter Communion	1
Rod Pell, Brad Jackson (Deakin CU), Mike Veith (RMIT CU)	Discipleship Series	5
Ellen McNaught	Prayer Walk	1
Boston Mwebela (Zambia)	Discipleship	1
Rod Pell	Communion (Taize style)	1
Yvonne Lindner	Malachi Series	3
Rod Pell	Malachi & Communion	1
Kim Glasgow (AM Speaker at GWAC)	Keren’s Induction	1
Martin Reily (Asylum seeker worker)	Refugees	2
Keren McClelland	Journey	1

Table 2.0

Today & Tomorrow

New semesters seem to bring about change in young adults ministry. Gladly we appointed Keren McClelland as Associate Pastor – NightChurch on the 13th July 2003. Keren is an answer to prayer and brings life experience, creativity, Bible knowledge and more to the NightChurch community. We believe that as God works through Keren and other young adults that we will continue to see lives changed and the community grow. I am glad that we spent so long planning NightChurch, because what we have is unique and self defined. It’s a community where the direction in which you are travelling is what makes you belong. Most weeks we have people attending who are non-Christians, but who are openly at the beginning of their journey. Make no mistake - God is at work in Kew. At this point in its four year history, I feel that the young adult community is now more enabled than before to build God’s Kingdom. We just need to maintain focus and not get comfortable with what is already done.

Back: Chris Allsop, Nicholas Barclay, Ellen & Carly McNaught, Geoff Trevaskis, Luke Wilson, Keren McClelland
Front: Rory Chambers, Mick O'Kelly

Finally, a big thank you on behalf of NightChurch to the whole of KBC, for grasping the vision, your prayer, support, wisdom, flexibility, and being part of the journey.

Andrew Kollmorgen

Prayer Groups

Sunday Morning

Each Sunday morning from 9.30 – 9.45 a small group between four and ten persons meet in the Vestry to pray for the leaders and participants in the various ministries of the day, and known needs of the wider church family including our missionaries. The time is short. The prayers are intensive and to the point. The fellowship is enriching.

The membership of this group is wide open and new members are encouraged to attend whenever they can.

Kingsley Smith, Pastoral Support

Tuesday Prayer Breakfast

What an inspiration it is to meet for prayer on Tuesday mornings at 7.00a.m.!

The tradition, commenced in 1970 by Bob Callaghan, Alex Stewart, Fred Levett and others, has been blessed by God and has been a great blessing to all who participate.

We have had from six to fourteen folk in this fellowship of prayer which has meant a great deal to us all. Come and join us for a time of prayer, followed by breakfast.

Ken Lyall

Wednesday Evening Prayer Meeting

Approximately five folk meet in each others home at 7pm each Wednesday. Although the numbers are small, we share wonderful fellowship together and share rich blessings as we pray and praise together. We have seen some lovely answers to our prayers and continue to believe that *the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous person availeth much*.

We'd love more folk to come and share this hour together in God's presence.

Bev Smith

NightChurch Small Groups

The ministry of Small Groups in the Young Adult community has seen tremendous growth and much answer to prayer. It has become an exciting area that holds a great deal of potential, passion, vision and anticipation for how God is going to further use these humble groups in the Kew community.

From having one group that met on a Wednesday (with an average of 15 people in attendance) in 2002, we now see five separate groups operating from Monday to Wednesday with approximately eight people in each group.

L to R: Katie McGowan, Kim Fleming, Michelle Edwards, Ellen McNaught, Tania Sutherland

2003 began with three groups in operation: Introduction to Old Testament, Alpha, and Philippians. These groups quickly filled up, with some groups having in excess of ten people, leaving little room for new members to join and for the groups to remain true to their title of 'small' groups. The need for more groups to operate was apparent, but NightChurch found themselves limited in small group leaders. With a lot of prayer (and now thanks!), we now have a team of 10 leaders offering a diverse range of gifts to these groups. The group topics for this semester include Alpha, A life Worth Living, Proverbs, Gifts and Evangelism

Alongside Small Groups two other types of small groups are running.

A new initiative operating this semester is a 'Hot Topics' group looking at issues of Baptism, Church membership, relationships and other issues that affect the community so that solid teaching is available to all who are interested in a particular topic. Secondly, a fortnightly prayer lunch operates during the university semester. This group involves a time of

fellowship during the sharing of a meal followed by a small devotion regarding prayer, and then a great deal of prayer!

This group was formed out of a recognition that everything that happens under the banner of NightChurch needs to be committed to prayer, for we are unable to do anything in our own strength. The group is steadily growing both in numbers and in our commitment to prayer.

Small groups is a ministry integral to NightChurch. It is here, in a smaller community that we aim to:

- develop honest, challenging and supportive relationships within the group;
- seek out the truth and wisdom of the Bible in a safe and non-judgmental environment;
- develop a commitment to prayer for each other and the larger community;
- be accountable to one another;
- create a space where gifts can be used and potential leaders can be developed; and
- encourage individual exploration of faith and our personal relationship with our creator outside of the group

As for the future, anything could happen! God has been working in such amazing ways through Small Groups, both in individuals and as a community. We now have a well established foundation to build upon and we would like to remain open to the promptings of the Holy Spirit as to what He would have the groups be / do.

Ellen McNaught

Thursday Night Bible Study Group

This group started the year with about twelve members and meets on the first and third Thursdays of the month at John Sampson's house. Due to a combination of illness, travel, the heavy demands of people's work and several temporary changes of venue, the numbers fluctuate, but most nights we now have about eight. We are at present working through Acts and should get to about chapter 15 by the end of the year. With our group you never know. So far it is clear that the early church was very different to Kew and trying to account for the difference has led to some very lively discussions.

John Sampson

MACB's

It wasn't until we were gathered around a table in a café in Kew, drinking coffee and farewelling Rosaleen Hay that we realised the enormity of her departure for MacB's. Rosaleen had been our guiding light for this group – it had come from her vision, under her leadership, sustained by her Scottish shortbreads, and now she was leaving us to start another such group in Scotland of all places! What were we going to do without her??

But when a Captain leaves the battle field, what do the soldiers do? They don't follow, or abandon the battle, they soldier on, and soldier on we have done! We have successfully delegated the roles of treasurer, caterer, book buyer and study leader. The group has maintained numbers of around 4 – 5 women each fortnight. Our child care, although varying in personnel, has been a real blessing. Only once have we resorted to calling the Hostel Manager out of his office to fill in, after all, one of the children is his!

After exhausting Koorong Book Shop's supply of studies on Christian Homemaking, we have moved on to a study of the Beatitudes. It has been much more challenging, but still providing lots of food for thought and opportunities for personal application. But, if the truth be known, the essential ingredient of

the group, is not so much the study at hand, but the fellowship and support of other Christian women, wives and mothers. We only meet fortnightly, but crave the company and prayer support of each other.

Please continue to pray for this ministry, that it may grow, that it may answer the needs of the women who attend, that we may find a regular carer for the children and that God will continue to sustain us and challenge us in the many different facets of our lives as Christian women.

Janine de Paiva

Ladies Evening Fellowship

This is my first report for the Ladies Evening Fellowship as I have taken over as President this year from our former President of some 17 years, Mrs Jean Jeffery. We are thankful to God for the ways Jean led our Fellowship over all these years and pray that she will enjoy better health in the coming years.

Our Fellowship has grown in numbers this year with four new members and on some occasions have 18-20 women attending. We are sorry Valda Renshaw has not been well enough to attend but as our Birthday Convenor, she still sends birthday cards to members. Margaret Clapton has been unable to attend and hopefully we shall share our October meeting with her in her home, you are both constantly in our prayers for improved health.

Our prayer life has been foremost at our meetings when thanks is given for arrivals of healthy grandchildren to a few of our members and needs for improved health for many of our church members or relations of our members.

Back: Gwen Davie, Elizabeth Dodgshun, Val McPherson, June Green, Audrey Bennett, Jean Jeffery, Shirley Tape, Bev Smith, Elvie White; Front: Liz Pell, Deirdre Willis, Janelle Benwell, Valarie Rohde, Elva Dyer.

We have enjoyed interesting talks each month such as, Howard Barclay's experiences in Nepal, Cynthia Page's experience as the Kew High School Chaplain, Kathryn Barclay as an ex-hostel student, Steve Taylor and his visit back to PNG last year, Tanya & Liz Pell showed us how to make 'phone pens'. Our members enjoyed a Testimonials night - "A turning Point" when each member took part and a very interesting time was had, learning more from each member. As usual each year we meet for our Annual Dinner at Gwen & Arthur Davies' home and a happy and relaxing time is had by all.

This year in March most of our members with our husbands and some men from the church spent a memorable week-end at Marysville. Sadly it was too early for the beautiful autumn tints.

Our gifts for the 2 children we support through Baptist World Aid totalled \$750.00. Other donations given are as follows - \$100.00 Alan & Meryll Gamble, \$100.00 Lisa Detlefsen, \$40.00 Missions Victoria Women's Group, \$133.20 Home Missions, \$104.40 Overseas Missions --Totalling \$1227.60.

Thank you to all who open their homes to us each month and we look forward to another year of rich Christian fellowship.

Elva Dyer

Sunday School

The last twelve months have seen major changes in our Sunday School with Ken Lyall retiring after many years faithful, dedicated service to our youngsters, and Rosaleen Hay returning to Scotland after her years of regular, valued teaching. Although we were also sorry to lose Emma and Iain from the Sunday School, we are thankful to God for new families who have joined us.

The Senior Sunday School Class: Back: Charles Dargaville; Middle: Luke & Alexander Fronsco, Emma Hay-Higgins, Jennie Taylor Front: Kara Ribbons, Natalie & Liz Pell.

We now have a team of people who creatively and diligently prepare lessons for Sunday School each week on a roster basis. These include Kylie Geelan, Kathryn Barclay and Kit Leung who look after our four to seven year olds; Tanya Pell and Bronwyn Steel who look after our nine and ten year olds; and Liz Pell who looks after the older children. Deirdre Willis continues to lead singing for us at the beginning of the Sunday School time and fill any gaps which sometimes arise at short notice!

We continue to base our lessons on the Scripture Union material which has been used for a number of years, finding it supplies a good variety of ideas for our lessons.

Attending the Baptist Union Duty of Care seminar early in the year has increased our awareness of safety issues surrounding the running of Sunday School and we have sometimes called upon parental assistance to ensure that Sunday mornings are a safe, happy time for our children.

Liz Pell

Youth Group

Our Secondary school age young people continue to meet on alternate Wednesday nights for tea together followed by a Bible Study.

At the end of 2002, Ken Lyall retired after many years of valuable ministry among our youth and Kim Fleming joined the leadership team alongside Cameron Taylor, David Vo and Liz Pell. It was great to welcome Alex and Luke Fronsko back after their time in Queensland, and Caitlin Davies who moved into Secondary School this year. They joined Jennie Taylor, Natalie Pell, Belinda Romney and Kara Ribbons, our other regular attenders this year.

From left: Liz & Natalie Pell, Kim Fleming, Luke & Alexander Fronsko, Cameron Taylor, Kara Ribbons, David Vo, Jennie Taylor, Kerryn Pell, Caitlin Davies

Although a small group, we enjoy each other's company and great food in different family homes. Special thanks to our hosts and those who assist with transport. Some of the group have also enjoyed attending NightChurch, Youth Alive and a trip to Port Melbourne fish and chip shop at the end of last year.

Liz Pell

Church Camp – Anglesea 2003

Church Camp

T is for **trampolines**, fun for the young and young at heart,
H is for **hiking** along the beach at night and toasting marshmallows,
E is for **eating** lots of yummy food.

C is for **connecting** to God and each other,
H is for **heavenly** weather – sunshine in July!
U is for the **unique** quiz game “The Choice is Right”
R is for **relaxing** and chatting together,
C is for the **concert** and playing Beetle on Saturday night
H is for the **high** ropes course, challenge a plenty!

C is for the **communion** service on Sunday morning,
A is for **Airey’s** Inlet, cliff views and coffee,
M is for **making** badges on Friday night,
P is for early **prayer** meetings, seeing the sunrise.

Yes, all 78 of us had a great time at the 2003 Church Camp. Special thanks to Len and Kathy Lewis for their participation in the weekend. Plan now to be there next year: 2 – 4 July 2004.

Liz Taylor

Back: Tanya Dargaville, Stephen Kidner, Mary Edgar, Steve Taylor, Daniel Hunt, Ken Manley, Ken Lyall,
John Sampson, Janet Radford, Andrew Harkness, Andy Kollmorgen, Helen & Richard Godden
Middle: Ashleigh Gould, Leeanne & Lauren Hunt, Jade Gould, Bronwyn & Bernie Hogan, Kathy Lewis, Ann Mills, Grace Munro,
Robyn Scott, Deirdre Willis, Ray Leigh, Margaret Manley, Liz Pell, Val Rohde, Liz Taylor, Edith Lyall, Alex Fronsco, Natalie
Pell, Christine Muller, Caitlin Backholer, Jenny Campbell, Luke Wilson, Andrew Kollmorgen, Lilliana, Janine & Chris de Paiva.
Seated: Sheila King, Lachlan & Matthew Hogan, Jacob de Paiva, Charles Dargaville, Luke Fronsco, Ashley Rowe, Evita Stone,
Ellen McNaught, Heather & Andrew Fronsco
Front: George & Lucy Dargaville, Christie, Annie, Nemat, Maher & Rebecca Makar, Carly McNaught, Zoe Parle, Rod Pell

Ministry to the Community and the World

Kew Baptist Student Hostel

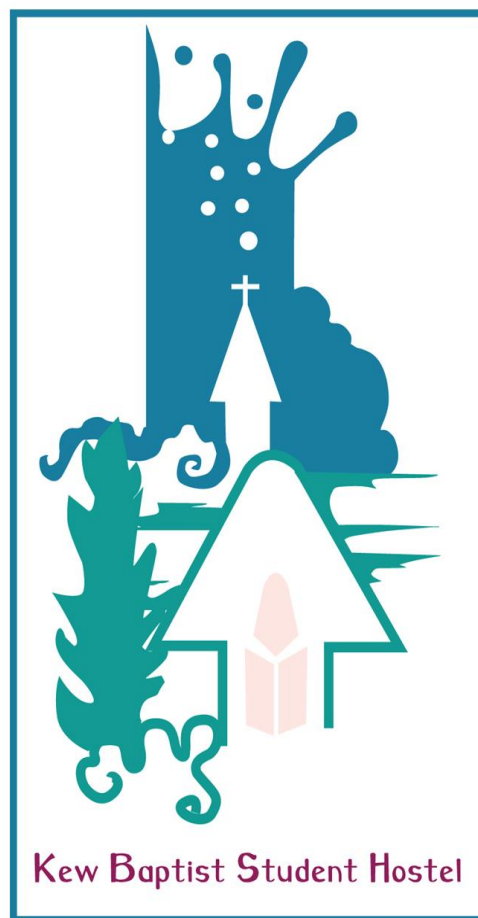
The beginning of the year was very busy as we embarked on a long term project to refurbish and update the bedrooms in the old side of the Hostel as these rooms are looking very tired and run down. It is very important for the Hostel to be up to date as there is a lot of competition in the Student Accommodation Market. Three rooms have been updated and it is hoped that more will be updated over the upcoming summer break (finance permitting).

The drought has also had an affect on the Hostel this year as there were quite a few students who had been offered a place for this year who ended up deferring university until next year. Student numbers at the beginning of the year were looking quite low, but fortunately there were 15 students who returned from last year. At one point it was looking as though there was only going to be 40 students. After some very late starters and some comings and goings throughout the year, the average student number for the year is going to be 44, which is a much more viable number for the Hostel.

It was great starting the year with so many returning students taking the initiative of organizing some fantastic Orientation activities. These activities included a Scavenger hunt, ice-skating and a scrumptious three-meter long banana split. The dynamics of this year's group of students is fantastic and the integration between the new and returning students has been very pleasing.

The introduction of NightChurch has been a very exciting and positive aspect to Hostel life this year. Many of the students attend both the morning and evening services and are participating in small groups. Many of the guest speakers for NightChurch have been joining us for dinner on a Sunday night, which has been a great way of promoting NightChurch. The evening music team has often also come to the Hostel for tea after rehearsals on a Sunday, which too has helped those who don't attend NightChurch, meet some fantastic enthusiastic Christian youth.

Two mixed netball teams have started this year called the "Owens" and the "Sloans", both teams predominately consisting of current and past students. Many non playing students ventured out to support the two teams on a Tuesday night especially when they played each other, these games were called "Hostel grudge matches" Both teams made the finals and the "Sloans" won the Grand Final. Other Social events include; the good old St Patrick's night with the green theme, jokes and quizzes, the Matrix night using the big screen in the Hall, where the some young budding Hostel film makers previewed their own film called "the Mattress". The next night the majority of Hostel students and NightChurch congregation went to see *The Matrix Reloaded* at the cinema. A group of students went to have a look at the Urban Seed program at Collins St Baptist, which gave them a greater understanding of issues faced by Melbourne's marginalised people. Other events coming up are the Formal with the theme of Masquerade, the Celebration Service in NightChurch and the Hostel break up.



New hostel logo designed
by Daisy Chattaraj

Staffing this year has been similar to last year with Ben Prime and Abhijit Chattaraj sharing the Support Staff role. The only change this year was the introduction of a female Senior Student Caroline Giltrap, to even out the male/female ratio in the staff structure, which has taken the pressure off Janine in some respects. Andy Kollmorgen has also had a busy year this year as he also been a Senior Student along with his NightChurch and university commitments.

Advertising for the Hostel has risen to another level thanks to two third year students offering their services in creating a new brochure and Web page. Daisy Chattaraj designed a fantastic new brochure and logo and Rudolf Schmidt has redesigned our web site www.kbsh.org. Using the expertise of our students has many positives; it is not only more economical for the Hostel but it also gives the students hands-on experience that can be added to their portfolios. I have given over 200 of the new brochures at Accommodation Expos in Geelong, Bendigo and Ballarat over the past few weeks and many people have used the new facility on the web page to download application forms.

Hostel Staff: L to R: Abhijit Chattaraj, Janine & Chris de Paiva, Ben Prime, Andrew Kollmorgen

Future goals for the Hostel are similar to the past few years in that we want to continue to build on the links between the church and the Hostel and we see NightChurch as being the perfect avenue to do this. We want to continue to ensure the Hostel is a warm, safe and friendly environment that is based on Christian values and where the students are able feel at home and be supported. There are many plans in place to continue to improve the physical appearance of the Hostel, both maintenance and improvements.

Thanks again for the support over the year; be it physically, helping on working bees, practically, baking the odd chocolate cookie during exam periods, and prayerfully, for the students and for us as a family. We often thank God for this opportunity of ministry, the way the students enrich our life, for the incredible support of the Committee and the wider Church.

Chris and Janine de Paiva
Hostel Managers

Possums Playgroup

This year Possums celebrates 15 years of ministry through playgroups to children and families of our church and wider communities. It does not seem possible that I have also been at Possums for 15 years! (it takes some of us a little longer to graduate than others!!). I am constantly surprised at how many people must have come through our doors over the years. Recently, a Possums mum told me that she'd discovered that everyone in her street had been to Possums – maybe it's not a very big street, but that's rather amazing.

Another mother told me her neighbour used to come and had asked if I was still there? – the neighbour's child being 13 now! The answer of course being – yes I am and then, “Do I remember them?” Often I do, sometimes not so readily. I think the truly amazing thing is that I get up each morning – Monday – to Thursday, nearly always really looking forward to seeing everyone – and on days that I am less enthusiastic, a few moments with my little Possums, a cheery hullo, or a welcome hug, and I'm having another wonderful day.

But Possums is not just me – it is a wonderful team of people who through love of Possums and a lot of hard work make it a great community to be part of. There is a committee who meet regularly to plan social events, and ways to raise money so that we can continually update our play equipment and make our Possums environment as pleasant and user friendly as possible. Each person brings their particular strengths and skills and each is truly valued for their contribution. There is Gillian in the church office who cheerfully gives us administrative support, through photocopying, and also helping to create activity sheets or notices for us. Of course there is Rod, who regularly visits every Possums group to support and encourage us all. Rod is an extra person to interact with, to provide a listening ear, and to represent the church community. Caz Giltrap, a hostel student, has continued as our kinder assistant and is much loved by all the children.

This year I was privileged to be able to have some long service leave and with my husband Louis, spent 11 wonderful weeks overseas. I am particularly grateful to all the people who kept Possums going in my absence – they did a fantastic job, but I know it took some effort as they all already lead full and busy lives, and Possums was an added responsibility – so thank you.

At this stage, it looks as though we will be entering our 16th year with full kindergarten enrolments as well as a full complement of playgroups, and probably a waiting list.

Miriam Schmidt with some of the children and parents at a Possums service

Please remember to pray for us at Possums especially for those of us who strive to live and model our Christian faith each day to the people we meet. It is an awesome responsibility and one we can't do alone or in our own strength, but only with God's grace. When we come to celebrate our 15 years of ministry together (Sunday 19 October) make sure you are there to celebrate with us. After all, Possums is a Kew Baptist Church ministry and together we are part of the Kew community.

Miriam Schmidt
Possums Co-ordinator

Drop In

Drop In on Fridays in school term time from 10-11.30am provides fellowship and friendship. Our aim is to be a witness for the Lord and provide acceptance for all who come. Besides the two appeals through the church, (winter food and Christmas) each year for Camcare Kew, our group raises money to help needy families we hear about.

Drop In : From left: Val McPherson, Vicki Buehlert, Valerie Rohde, Mary Turnbull, Jean Jeffery, Glwad Wade

We pray that more will join us, even occasionally, and that we will be able to reach out into the community.

Valarie McPherson

Chat & Chew Luncheons for Men

The first Chat & Chew was held on Thursday 29th February 2003 attended by 27 men. Most of these were from our own church (KBC) together with five from Karana and two or three from Hamer Court.

A survey of those attending indicated strong support for the event to be repeated every four to eight weeks. Four luncheons have been held since then, including 28th August. Numbers have stabilized to about 30 on average. The programs are informal with an occasional old time community singing segment. Talks have been varied, speakers have included Bert Hansom from Karana and the navy; Bruce Kelly ex-policeman and church planter at Altona Meadows and the North West mining towns of W.A.; our own Howard Barclay from Nepal celebrating the 50th anniversary of the conquest of Mt Everest by Edmund Hiliary and Tensing; and Howard Boreham reflecting on Australian Test Cricket tours around the world and his own special hobby of collecting autographs of famous people.

Two course quality meals are provided by Ken and Edith Lyall, Gwyneth Smith and Val McPherson. A number of round tables to seat six have been made by Adrian Grice, Richard Godden has helped with arrangements and presentations, and David Mynard has played the piano for community singing.

The basic aim of Chat & Chew is to provide relaxing fellowship in a Christian environment, together with encouragement and self expression. This has been especially appreciated by a small but significant number of physically handicapped attendees.

The Chaplain at Royal Talbot Rehabilitation Centre, Margie Hopkins, has expressed interest in arranging for some of “her men” to join us from time to time, and we are looking at the feasibility of holding a Chat & Chew at the RTR Centre. This is where our church choir has been so appreciated and accepted for its annual celebratory Christmas service.

Chat & Chew expenses are met by donations and capital costs (e.g. for tables and table cloths) have been met from Church budget provisions. The support and encouragement of our Minister, Rod Pell, and the practical assistance of Gillian Tonson in the Church Office has been a great help.

Kingsley Smith
Chat & Chew Co-ordinator

Karana

As we look back over the past twelve months there does not seem to be any great change as to our activities.

Morning Worship continues to go on from strength to strength, growing in numbers and folk are encouraged as they near the end of their stay here on earth. As one lady says a resting place on the way to heaven, don't ever stop reminding us. God is love. Our total giving for January to June of this year is \$1,665.50.

Some ten dear ones have gone on into the new life with Christ which is far better. One was Marjorie Southam who was my back stop, friend and helper. There are many things around Karana that Marj helped make happen, especially in relation to Fellowship Hour.



Fellowship Hour continues to be lead by Marj Robinson and

we are pleased to have Helen Godden back on the team. Our grateful thanks to Bev Smith who visits every week and also to Audrey Bennett who are very faithful to Karana.

Our prayer meeting keeps on keeping on, praying as the Spirit leads.

We have much to thank our Kew Church for :

- Pastor Rod Pell for always being available when needed
- Our bus drivers who get us to and from church safely every Sunday
- To Ken Lyall, Ken Manley, Grace Munro, Rod Pell, June Robertson and Kingsley Smith who help with morning chapel
- The large print bulletins produced by the church office
- The introduction of the Men's Luncheon by Kingsley Smith. It has helped create a closer bond among our own dear men folk here at Karana
- Hospitality lunches

The *Baptist Witness* is always very welcome as is the *Vision Magazine* and the new *Melbourne Courier*. It seems to me that everyone who can read goes for it.

Phyl Taylor

Mission, Aid & Development Group

Let your faith “make a difference”. This is part of the benediction which Rod often pronounces at the close of our Sunday morning worship. Make A Difference: that is the alternative name of the Mission, Aid and Development Group. To Make a Difference in the wider world has been our vision.

We have had six core members. We were sad to accept the resignation of Leeanne Hunt, who felt called to the Hostel Management Committee. However, we have been delighted to see two new members, Rory Chambers and Timothy Siu; they have entered with enthusiasm into the vision and activity of the group. We meet every two months in different members’ homes.

We have sought to Make A. Difference by encouraging those linked to the front-line of missionary activity.

Thus we were pleased to support Steve Taylor’s visit to PNG for the dedication of the Huli Bible. His report on the visit was thrilling.

Mary Edgar,
Interserve, Nepal

We have also sought to encourage front line workers by writing personally to each, one whom we know.

We have sought to Make A Difference in the financial support of Lisa Detlefsen, Mary Edgar, Allan and Merryl Gamble, Les and Cathy, Michelle Stancliffe, Camcare Kew and NightChurch.



Les & Cathy, Matthew, Josiah, Harrison and Rachel with Global interAction



Allan & Merryl Gamble,
Global interAction
Indonesia

To Make A Difference, we need to be well informed about the wider world. Research has been the key.

The videos we have been on Nepal and Ethiopia deeply challenged us. In our research, we have sought to understand cross-cultural mission, and the meaning of Aid and Development. Demolishing myths has been a challenge. For example, we confronted the myth of overpopulation. This is summed up in the common but misleading question, quoted by Susan George, expert on World Hunter, *Why do the poor have more children than they can afford?* She answers. “They don’t”.

She explains that, in very poor communities, each new child contributes to the basic wealth of the family through essential chores. To the very poor, large families are often essential. (This fake idea of overpopulation seems to be rather deeply ingrained in the thinking of many in the richer countries.)

We know we cannot adequately Make A Difference without the support and understanding of the wider congregation. So it has been a privilege for example, for the group to have input into themes for May Mission Month.

It is exciting to explore the possibility of Making A Difference by adopting a missionary family, or better still, a Third World tribe.

I think we are seeing more and more that we cannot Make A Difference except through prayer.

Lisa Detlefsen,
Wycliffe Bible Translators, PNG

Stephen Kidner

Wider Baptist Connections

Kew Baptist is connected to the wider Baptist family in many ways. We are a part of the Baptist Union of Victoria (BUV) and our delegates (Ken Lyall, Ken & Margaret Manley and John Sampson) represent us at the Assemblies of the BUV. This is where various aspects of our life together in the denomination are determined and leadership appointments made. For example, the BUV agrees to ordain those who have been recognised, trained and affirmed by the churches as well as conducting regular in-service training for pastors and leaders. We have been helped by our regional minister in the search for our pastoral appointments. Our support is expressed in various ways, not least by our regular financial gifts to help maintain our denominational work.



The BUV is in turn a part of the Baptist Union of Australia (BUA) and through the BUA we are a part of the Baptist World Alliance (BWA), our world body with a membership of over 45 million members representing over a 100 million people in our congregations. As one of the Vice Presidents of the BWA it has been my privilege to represent you and other Australian Baptists at Executive and General Council meetings each year. Through BWA we support our needy fellow-Baptists in troubled spots of the world (such as Liberia at the moment) as well as

sharing in mission and study. At this time BWA faces a delicate problem with fundamentalists within the Southern Baptist Convention (USA) threatening to withdraw funding and membership because the BWA has resolved to admit another group from the USA with whom the SBC is in conflict. Please pray for this situation.

I have been asked to see if some Australian churches would agree to become BWA 'Global Impact Churches', and by an annual gift of \$1, 000 share in global ministry opportunities. I will be in touch with Rod Pell and the deacons about this, but take this opportunity to introduce the request in a preliminary way. Certainly I am grateful for the interest Kew has consistently shown in the work of the BWA.

Ken Manley

Ministry Support

Property

Year In Review

It has been a busy year in Property Management, with some major projects being completed and major items being purchased. Particular thanks goes to Victor Milne, Rod Pell and Gillian Tonson, who have, on an adhoc basis, contributed of their time and talents on specific projects. For the year to come, a small, core group of people has agreed to give their time, energy and talents in sharing the responsibilities of maintaining the church's physical assets Elva Dyer, Mark Hibbins, Daniel Hunt, Ray Leigh and Victor Milne.

Below is a summary of the main achievements for year 2002 – 2003:

Church

Purchase of mat for children's play area

Maintenance of guttering and general roof plumbing

Sections of fences at the manse, Hostel and Possums replaced

Hall

Major upgrade to the kitchen; room completely gutted including the lino floor. Replacement floor and bench tops, new sinks, hand wash basin, soap dispenser, overhead cupboards, new fume extraction, commercial stove, larger refrigerator, dishwasher broom cupboard, hand towel rails, space for rubbish bin and more! Many thanks to Victor Milne for overseeing this major project.

Equipment

Purchase of sound mixer (thanks to a bequest); this bequest has allowed us to expand our capability and facilitate a larger and more varied band on Sunday mornings.

Replacement computer; a much needed upgrade to increase office efficiency and to support upgrades to the operating system and software.

Refrigerator – with the upgrade to the kitchen a larger fridge has been purchased. The “upside down” arrangement will assist those who do not care to bend to get the milk! The old hall fridge is now in the church office kitchen replacing the 1920’s model that was there!

Kitchen oven – the previous residential stoves have been replaced with a commercial unit and the addition of a dishwasher.

Digital Photocopier – upgrade required due to age and maintenance requirements of the previous machine.

Planned / Potential Projects for Upcoming Year

Church

Address rising damp in church offices	(planned)
Repair, repaint and refit church offices (to provide accommodation for Associate Pastor – NightChurch)	(potential)
Refurbish sound desk	(potential)

Hall

Replace carpet in main auditorium	(potential)
Replace stolen sound system	(planned)

Morning tea at a church working bee

Dreams and Aspirations

Church

Enlarge worship leading area by extending stage left to create one platform across the rear church wall

Enclose the rear corners of the church to create creche and small group facilities

Daniel Hunt

Treasurer's Report

It is very pleasing to report that for the last financial year the church made a surplus of \$4,123 (compared to the budget surplus of \$2,008).

The following should be noted:

- Offerings and gifts were \$92,123 (2002: \$85,503) compared to the budget of \$90,000. This is very encouraging particularly since offerings were low at times during the year and it appeared the budget would not be achieved.
- Total income for the year was \$138,864 (2002: \$133,117). Expenses were \$134,741 (2002: \$116,919).
- In addition to the amount received from offerings and gifts, a total of \$23,280 (2002: \$28,616) for other designated giving was received and paid out (see note 7). This included \$18,388 (2002: \$16,079) paid by the Barnabas Fund.

The proposed budget for 2003/04 shows a forecast surplus of \$2,072. Included in the budget are the following items:

- Offerings are shown at \$92,000.
- The Mission Aid & Development expense of \$7,360 represents 8% of offerings and gifts (it is planned that this will increase by 1% per annum to a ceiling of 10%).
- It is proposed to transfer \$20,000 from accumulated surpluses to the Property Reserve Fund. This is to provide for further major items of expenditure. It may be necessary to transfer further funds from the accumulated surpluses or bequests to meet anticipated major property costs.

I trust that in the coming year the momentum that has been achieved in our giving will continue. This will be necessary to adequately support the ministries of the church and to maintain our property.

Many thanks to Gillian and her assistants for their help with the financial work, their efforts have made my task a lot easier.

Steve Taylor
Treasurer

See accounts, budget and notes to the accounts on following pages.

Church Office

This year, my eighth in the office, has been my busiest resulting in an increase in my hours to 24 per week. The appointment of two new part-time staff has created many extra meetings for which minutes have been typed and circulated while emails have flown back and forth. New privacy laws have created extra work in producing the directory; hiring the property has required compliance with public liability insurance regulations; and the upgrading of the hall kitchen required liaison with contractors, although I am grateful to Victor Milne who did most of the work and oversaw the project so efficiently. Miriam Schmidt, our Possums Co-ordinator, was away on long service leave for Term 2 and the church office became the go-between for the committee and the three temporary staff.

There continues to be a team of people behind the scenes who help to keep the church running smoothly. Bev Smith spends every Wednesday morning in the office completing a variety of tasks which makes my job easier; Audrey Bennett comes each week to help Bev with the church banking; Kerry Pell deals with the rubbish and recycling; Robyn Scott tidies up on a Tuesday morning and returns each Friday to assemble the bulletin, Ellen McNaught produced the bulletin while I was away and Elva and Tom Dyer have helped with the collation of bulk printing runs. To all of these folk I would like to express my thanks for their loyalty and faithfulness.

John Hollow has overseen the installation of a new computer in the office (still not quite completed) and hopefully this report will be printed on our new digital

photocopier. Choosing and installing this new equipment has taken extra time on top of the ordinary chasing of details for the weekly bulletin. The office itself saw a change when the photocopier was moved to the kitchen and Keren McClelland's desk was incorporated into the central office. It has been a pleasure to have a second person in the office some days.

We all try to let the church office be seen to be efficient, friendly and as helpful as possible. It is hard work sometimes keeping up with Rod Pell – he rarely misses a thing! We can certainly all be extremely grateful for a pastor who is willing to do so many extras that often go unnoticed. It is a pleasure to work beside him offering administrative support. I have appreciated the extra leave I have been granted this year in personal circumstances and continue to value the opportunity to serve God through my employment in a church that seeks to be so visible in its community.

Gillian Tonson