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OVERVIEW

Pastor's Report

One of the things which I appreciate about our church life is its diversity. The range of ages, nationalities, vocations, interests and expressions of the Christian faith, bear testimony to the reality of the Gospel which breaks down dividing walls and builds up the Kingdom of God.

This year there has again been a vibrancy and variety in our individual, small group, and congregational life, centred in our journey with Christ. People have come to faith and grown in their relationship with God, spiritual gifts have been discovered, nurtured and used in the upbuilding of the body of Christ, and our times of corporate worship have reflected the rich heritage and traditions which we bring to our life together.

Picnic at Port Melbourne following a Sunday morning service

John and Janine Barclay's return to missionary service in India, Natalie Smith's time with us during her brief period back from Nigeria, and regular prayer letters from Lisa Detlefsen, Mary Edgar, Allan and Merryl Gamble, Les and Cathy Sherwen and Michelle Stancliffe, plus thought provoking dramas and skits from our Mission Aid and Development group, have helped us maintain a global perspective.

Workshops on Welcoming and Outreach, Pastoral Care, Music and Worship Leading plus the Christian Life and Witness Classes attended by more than 50 of our folk and the Strengths in Leadership groups led by Keren McClelland have helped to equip people for ministry. In addition our prayer meetings, Bible Study, Young Adult, Meditation, Lenten and Youth Groups have provided opportunities for people to grow in their relationship with Christ and with each other.

At the congregational level preaching series from *Genesis*, *Reflections on some of the claims of Jesus*, the *Psalms of Ascent*, *Hebrews* and *Forgiveness* have been interspersed with special Easter and Christmas services, Hymnfests and Children's services providing natural opportunities to invite neighbours and friends. I am grateful to Sue Bluett, Basil Brown, Janine de Paiva, Dorothy Dullege, Keren McClelland, Ken Manley, and David White for sharing on one or more occasions, and to our worship leaders, choir, music teams and musicians for their enriching contributions.

In addition to our annual Church Camp at Anglesea which provides a concentrated opportunity for folk to get to know one another, our 148th Church Anniversary was a significant time of re-connecting with a number of friends from years gone by. Dennis and Gay Brennan's ministry over the four day weekend provided a positive catalyst for healing in a number of lives and I continue to value your prayers for others who are still finding their way.

As always we have lost some dear friends in the last twelve months with the deaths of Bobby Swain, Tim Watts, Jack Griffin and Muriel Bradshaw. But we have also rejoiced in the birth of Madeline Wist, Tayla Trieu-Nguyen and Patrick Worboyes; the dedications of Amanda Dao, Tuong-Vy Huynh, Carter Milne, Khoi-Phong and Kho-Viet Doan and the baptisms of Kylie Geelan, Luke Gibbons and Do Tuyet Thanh.

In addition it has been great to have Lindsay and Meryl Smith rejoin the Ministry Team in a Pastoral Support role, working alongside Chris and Janine de Paiva, Tuan and Hannah Huynh, Keren and Gwyn McClelland, Miriam and Louis Schmidt, Kingsley and Gwyneth Smith and Gillian and Paul Tonson. The co-operation and strength of the team enabled me to undertake a ministry trip back to Africa and spend time leading workshops and seminars at the Theological College of Central Africa (TCCA), the Malambanyama Biblical Leadership Training Centre and Sikalongo Bible Institute, catching up with over 100 former TCCA students and graduates in Zambia and Malawi, and encouraging the *Global interAction* staff in Mozambique.

Liz, Kerry, Tanya, Natalie and I count it a privilege to serve God in such a positive and enriching community of faith and pray that as you read these reports you will give thanks to God for the evidence of His Spirit at work in our midst.

Rod Pell

Vietnamese Ministry

In general, the past year was a normal year for the Vietnamese fellowship. The attendance has not been very consistent due to frequent overseas travels of many members throughout the year. The aim to move the church's life as an organisation into life as organism has been slow; though there have been some positive hints of moving forward in this direction during the last few months.

To deepen the experience of fellowship, a church camp was organised with the theme of "active commitment to church life" from Friday afternoon 18 to Sunday afternoon 20 February at the Mount Disappointment Retreat Centre in Wallan. It was a great time for 20 members to experience another aspect of community life, which is somewhat different from just being at church on Sunday. It was a success not only in that we had a chance for closer fellowship, but also that members could learn about each other's different expectations and see the necessity of greater commitment during discussion sessions.

To lead the way in encouraging members to enter into their calling and roles in the church's life, three Bible students, Khoi Doan, Luan Walker and Son Dao took up their roles in preaching. The church has been very encouraged and happy about their contributions. Son Dao and his family moved to Sydney in August 2005 to take up the position of assistant pastor for a Vietnamese Christian Missionary Alliance Church there.

Deacon's elections on Sunday 6 February saw two new valuable deacons, Pastor Minh Bui and Luan Walker elected to the board. For the last few months, we have been working on the purpose and direction of the church in order to encourage more church members to actively take their roles in the body. After much discussion, we came up with a tentative purpose statement:

- *Each of us is a member of the community of faith at Kew, which is a part of a greater family bought by the blood of Jesus Christ*
- *Committing to God and to one another to build ourselves up to become a community full of the kingdom's life and love*
- *Willing to receive guidance, teaching and training in order to be God's effective means to show His love to the world.*

Sunday afternoon Vietnamese worship service

This is to encourage each member to see themselves as true and active parts of the family, thus share the responsibility, not only to one another, but also to the wider Christian community and the world. To fulfill this purpose, at the moment we plan to have at least five short different evangelistic booklets printed for members' personal evangelism. We also plan to call upon and build up a program for willing members to take up some pastoral care for other members and unsaved friends. Besides that, Reverend Tin Van Pham has been asked and will be invited to take a 3 hour per week pastoral care position, to conduct regular pastoral visits from next year. This will help to take a share of Pastor Tuan's visiting task, which will concentrate on those who are sick or in some kind of trouble.

The journey of rediscovering and repositioning ourselves in the plan and purpose of God is challenging and difficult, but it is spiritually vital and has been rewarding indeed.

Thanks for your commitment to our faith journey, especially Pastor Rod Pell and the ministry team, who have been actively involved in preaching, encouraging and guiding Pastor Tuan and the Deacons in their service to God and the community.

Thank God for His faithfulness and grace. Let's have great faith and high hopes in God's continuing involvement and active working in the lives of His people here in the days to come.

Pastor Tuan

NIGHTCHURCH

NightChurch continues to be a diverse community of people who meet in a huge range of places throughout the week and in the region of Melbourne – not just 7pm Sunday night!

Kew Regional Ministry

An association with Kew Regional Ministry was a highlight in the NC calendar with nine of us going to Carrical (a boarding house in West Hawthorn) last December and giving out the gifts we had been collecting for a few months to the 40 residents. Natalie Dixon has been twice to the evening service to preach and we really appreciate her input. Carly and Ellen McNaught have continued with their involvement in the Community Dances and have gone on to organise the events with a small team of others from local churches (when the Kew Neighbourhood House pulled out of running them). Michelle Edwards has been involved in a small singing group with Natalie and a few others have been supporting swimming groups and lunches at La's with a range of people. In 2005-6 I'm looking forward to seeing how a monthly games night at Carrical works out and having a bigger representation of NC people involved in this ministry.

Small groups

In the past twelve months there have been a variety of small groups and I am grateful to leaders Kim Fleming, Ryan Harper, Steve Taylor, Gwyn McClelland, Cameron Taylor and Russel Dyer.



Back row: Ryan Harper, Russel Dyer, Katie McGowan, Kathryn Barclay, Cameron Taylor Front row: Christine Muller, Keren McClelland

I pray that the year ahead with new groups and leaders can be one where we continue to be faithful in these meetings supporting one another in our day to day living. The idea of activities such as these is not for taking us out of the world of work, study, family, friendships and responsibilities. I pray that they might truly encourage each other to be integrating our faith in these everyday places.

In the first six months of 2005 two groups (each run fortnightly) of gorgeous people have gathered in 'Strengths in Leadership' small groups. The focus in these groups has been on spiritual formation. Practically this has meant that we have spent time working out our gifts (strengths and resources) and used a lot of material from 'St.Luke's' in Bendigo ('strengths' and 'signpost' spirituality cards and a solution oriented way of working through problems). It's been a great challenge to ban the habit of advice giving... and hilarious when people can't help themselves. I'm excited to be continuing these two groups into the second half of 2005 with three new members in the second group and using the biblical material of Esther, Ruth, Lamentations, Song of Songs and Ecclesiastes.

7pm services

In twelve months we have had a wide range of series. We engaged with the Old Testament story of David over about 10 weeks, followed by a series on ethics and Luke's Gospel parables. In 2005 we have had considerable input from Rod in a series on Colossians and then we had 8 weeks based on Richard Foster's book "Streams of Living Water" which looks at six great movements/traditions in church history. It has been absolutely fantastic to have many of the young adults involved in preaching including Ryan, Evita, Carly, Luke, Kim and Ellen. The community has been challenged in our individual and communal lives to be balanced and grounded in many areas of our lives: these have included: prayer (contemplative), the living Word (evangelical), Holy Spirit and gifts (charismatic), God in our every day (incarnational), struggling with living a holy life (holiness) and making sure our faith has a practical outworking (social justice). We have really been encouraged to think about our weaknesses and to make some changes.

A huge range of people organised the services. From early in the year we have been using the term 'curating' rather than service leading as it helps us to remember that we are putting things together and creating a space (like a curator of an art gallery) where we can come and learn and pray.

Luke Wilson has been doing 'eco tips/challenges' nearly every week and whilst some find this odd most love the challenge to remember our faith has ecological implications. Thank-you to all who have been involved in developing the services, for testing out and sharing your gifts in the work in curating, music, technical stuff, supper (we have amazing suppers) and pastoral care.

In the year ahead I am looking forward to some services on Grace, Mission and Women and I hope building on the way we think through ethical issues which we started last year.

Personal blessings and challenges

July 2005 marks the commencement of Gwyn's and my third year here at Kew. It's been great building on relationships with people in the community and at church in the last year. Living in Kew means we are really getting to know many families and children at Kew Primary School. Gwyn teaches R.E. there and I help out in the children's classes. My time allocation at Kew BC was increased to three days a week in January this year. Many weeks I feel my time blow out with NightChurch ministries, spending time with people and getting my head around what I need to know (reading). I tend to take it a little quieter on Fridays and we work hard to make Saturday our family day (so Lydia and Geordie never resent me working on Sundays). Study this semester at Whitley with Gwyn (Resurrection, Justice and Discipleship) will, I hope, benefit the NC community directly.

Whilst there are difficult things, the exciting and rewarding part of ministry continues to be seeing amazing changes in the lives of many at NightChurch. I am aware of God's working here, most often in places where we don't expect. It really confirms my sense of the rightness of being in this place at this time and of God's calling.

Thank-you

Gwyn is an amazing support behind the scenes: he listens tirelessly, encourages, supports and challenges. He is really aware of the issues involved in being a woman in ministry. Mostly it is great fun dreaming and creating things together. I couldn't do without his stability and partnership in parenting Lydia and Geordie (who are also greatly encouraging). I also really appreciate the amazing support from my Spiritual Director Jean Penman, and Rod's support and encouragement. To all the NightChurch community, the Kew community and those supporting us through prayer and presence (we love having morning congregation people at NC!): it is such a privilege working with you. Thank you for your care and prayer for Gwyn, Lydia, Geordie, me and one another.

Keren McClelland

PASTORAL CARE

At the beginning of this year, 2005, the Pastor invited Meryl and Lindsay Smith to join with Kingsley Smith, and Bev Smith, in pastoral care and visitation, with special attention to Karana, Strathalan, and Possums.

Numerous visits were made to Karana, some visits to Strathalan, some to Possums, and quite a number to families in their homes. On occasions, we have been asked to give advice to those in need of guidance, and it has been our privilege to do this.

Whilst we do the work in a kind of "official" capacity, we are very conscious that there are many individual people who undertake wonderful visits, and seek no thanks for it, doing the work as to the Lord. We want to say thanks to these lovely people, and we are honoured to be a part of this ministry with them.

Lindsay Smith, for the Team

DEACONS REPORT

The deacons meet monthly with Ray Leigh as chairperson. We enjoy good fellowship, engage in healthy interaction, share in intercession, consider ministry possibilities and priorities and deal with administrative and finance matters.

Within the group

- We had a reduction in the group's average age with the appointment of Andrew Kollmorgen who makes a very valuable contribution, including in technical areas.
- Victor Milne, now Treasurer, and his assistant, David Benwell, are an able team.
- We are grateful that Steve Taylor, excellent former treasurer, remains a deacon.
- Rod Pell, who has regular contact with the Vietnamese congregation, and with Steve Taylor meet the Vietnamese deacons bi-monthly. Ray Leigh and Rod have met with the leaders of the Chinese Church now based on the corner of Highbury Grove and Cotham Road regarding future ministry possibilities.
- The secretary took three months' leave during the year.
- Ray Leigh and Deirdre Willis visit Possums' Playgroup sessions regularly and are encouraged by interaction with the parents and their openness to spiritual matters.
- Chris de Paiva's participation strengthens the links with the Student Hostel.
- Rod Pell is a great encourager and brings wisdom and energy to the group. His disciplined and caring leadership and 'no fuss' style are invaluable.

Extending beyond the group

Discussion is wide-ranging as we consider the diverse life and ministry of the church. Deacons mentioned the following as highlights for the year:

- Overwhelming support of church people in buying the Highbury Grove house, in warm affirmation, loans and gifts. It has enhanced Hostel and church ministries.
- The healing dimension of the 2004 Church Anniversary service with Dennis Brennan as the speaker and the theme 'honey and lemon'.
- The growth of music teams, with an amazing array of gifts enhancing worship.
- The involvement of young adults in both morning and evening services, with clear evidence of spiritual growth, and requests for baptism and membership.
- The growing significance and influence of Keren McClelland in her ministry.
- An increase in participation and membership, with new people getting involved.
- Children of diverse ages developing and participating in various ways.
- A record attendance and good feel at church camp, with David White as speaker.
- Liz Taylor's organizing ability, her leadership in deepening spiritual awareness.
- Participation in the Franklin Graham Festival.
- The growing ministry of Chat and Chew, led by Kingsley Smith.
- A sharing of the ministry load with Merryl and Lindsay Smith joining the team.
- The effective, often unnoticed, pastoral ministry of numerous people in notes, cards, emails, meals, visits, encouragement and much prayer.
- Equally unnoticed, the witness of the church through individuals in their workplaces, communities, schools, colleges and homes.
- Having Jenny Culverwell work during Gillian and Paul Tonson's ministry exchange, and the consistent help of Robyn Scott and Bev Smith.

Into the future

Looking ahead, we are grateful to God for the journey so far, and have confidence in his enabling to continue in the direction we are headed. A few key aspects are:

- Continuing to strengthen the links with the Possums' Playgroup and Hostel communities, with the Spring Fair and hopefully children's parties playing an important part in that.
- Making our property more usable, appealing and profitable. We need a group to take responsibility for maintenance work.
- Increased income is vital for ongoing development of the church community and the buildings, and extra giving is needed alongside income-generating activities.
- Preparing for celebrations around the 150th church anniversary.

Grace Munro

Report on membership and participation

It is gratifying to see continued numerical growth in the church. It is even more pleasing to see the growth of people in their journey with God. We see this represented in the figures below in new people attending, and people being baptised and becoming members.

We also note that there have been relatively few people leave the church this year, except for some who have moved away from the district. Many of those are now attending other churches. This highlights the spirit of goodwill and cooperation that is evident in church life at present.

We give praise to God, for he is working among us in amazing ways.

According to last year's membership records (as at September 2004):

	English Speaking Congregation	Vietnamese Congregation	Totals
Members	81	25	106
Absentee members	3	0	3
Active non-members	<u>103</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>110</u>
Totals	187	32	219

MEMBERS

Accepted into membership 2003-2004	8 English congregation
Transferred into membership 2003 - 2004	9 English congregation, 1 Vietnamese
Died (Muriel Bradshaw)	1 English congregation

FORMER MEMBERS

Former members for whom request was made for transfer 2004 - 2005	2 English congregation
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ACTIVE NON-MEMBERS

Active non-members who have moved away during 2004 – 2005	8 English congregation
Active non-members who died 2004-2005 (Jack Griffin, Bobby Swain)	2 English congregation
Active non-members who became members during 2004 - 2005	13 English congregation
New active non-members during 2004 - 2005	24 English, 4 Vietnamese congregation

MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS AT SEPTEMBER 2005 after the adjustments

	English Speaking Congregation	Vietnamese Congregation Congregation	Totals
Members	97	26	123
Absentee members	3	0	3
Active non-members	<u>104</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>115</u>
Totals	204	37	241

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE AND MINISTRIES

Sunday Morning Worship

This year we have again had a diversity of leadership, preaching, and participation.

Bearing in mind that we have a wide spread in ages, we have not "targeted" any one grouping, but relied on our people accepting that sometimes one service will meet their needs better than another.

The goodwill of our people and the working of God's spirit in our attitude when we are "in service" are the very important ingredients along with the prayers of the group that meet just prior to the service.

The variety of musical support from many talented people has added greatly to the worship and our thanks go to all who have contributed.

The series lead by the Pastor and Ken Manley were very helpful and much appreciated. If you are not actively involved in the service your prayers for the service beforehand and a willing and open spirit will be a worthwhile contribution.

Ray Leigh

Morning Coffee

Morning Coffee, served by rostered volunteers from the congregation, continues to offer a valuable time of fellowship after Sunday Morning Worship.

It functions very efficiently, and we have enough folk to require only one rostering per couple per quarter. However, new faces are always welcome behind the counter and if anyone wishes to be added to the roster (or even just to be an 'emergency' helper) please advise the office.

Many thanks to all who have participated over the past year and a special thank you to the Hostel for organising the milk supply. Everyone's efforts are greatly appreciated.

Janelle Benwell

MUSIC TEAMS

This past year has seen lots of really positive change within the music team. We reshuffled into 4 unique teams, with over 30 people who are actively involved in both morning and nightchurch services. These teams have been capably led by Rory Chambers, Chris de Paiva, Michelle Edwards, Kylie Geelan, Andrew Harkness, Ryan Harper, Andrew Kollmorgen, and Katie McGowan. This helped spread the workload, allowed more preparation for each service, and also provided a few more weeks off than previously enjoyed. Another benefit of these new teams has been the relationships that have grown between team members as they work closely together, learning each others styles and strengths, allowing each team to develop its own unique style.

We have been delighted to watch up and coming musical talent in KBC with Jacob de Paiva and Lydia McClelland under Kylie Geelan's watchful eye providing the offertory song. A number of new Hostel and morning church folk have been a great addition to our ever-expanding team. Another highlight has been captivating brass and organ ensembles, special thanks to Andy H and Gwyneth Smith.

We have been making great use of the new computer, data projector and screen. Andy Kollmorgen has done a terrific job in setting up the technology, but is still looking for willing hands to help operate it. Earlier in the year, one of the digital piano keys was sticking and causing some grief for the pianists in the music team. Thankfully, there was a general fault with this model of piano and was replaced for no cost. We have also purchased two speakers for better audio in the hall, and additional foldback for the larger music teams.

We are ever on the look-out for new and relevant songs we can incorporate into services, alongside the varied ones we are currently using, and we are getting closer to the day we start to use lyrics and music written by our very own!

As we move into the next year we would value your prayers as we continue to welcome more people to join us in this exciting ministry. Please pray for our leaders within the teams as they choose songs each week, and put time into planning and organising their music. Pray that music will continue to be incorporated into our weekly services in an effective and inspiring way, that can help us to draw closer to God.

Andrew Harkness and Katie McGowan

CHOIR

The choir contributes monthly to the morning service. Wherever possible the chosen piece reflects the theme of the message and provides the congregation with a time of reflection before the pastor speaks.

Encouraged by Gwyneth Smith, two Hymnfests have been presented which were enthusiastically received. We were delighted to have a number of guests supplementing our ranks on these occasions. A Sunday Afternoon of Music is planned for 9 October 2005.

Ian Lowe

PRAYER GROUPS SUNDAY MORNING PRAYER MEETING

With rare exceptions a small group of six to eight people meet at 9.30a.m. each Sunday morning for prayer. We seek God's blessing on the various ministries of the church, especially the worship services and the participants in those services. We also remember any who cannot attend and those who serve overseas. May more of our members join us. Not everyone prays aloud, but all are blessed in the time of prayer fellowship.

Kingsley Smith, Convenor

35 Years

Tuesday Prayer Breakfast

- Promoted, started and enthused about by Bob Callaghan, at that time Director of the Asia Pacific Christian Mission
- Over the years, stalwarts like Alex Stewart, John Nash, Fred Levett, Eugene Veith, as well as each of our pastors have attended.
- Between five and ten meet regularly week by week at 7.00am to pray followed by breakfast; conclude at 8.00am
- Come and join this exciting adventure!

1970 – 2005

Ken Lyall

WEDNESDAY MORNING PRAYER MEETING

The Wednesday morning prayer group has been meeting since just before the start of the hostel year.

People praying together

Relying on Glyn's alarm clock

Answered prayer, Amy, Andy, amazing fellowship

Young adults (and sometimes older young adults)

Evidence of God at work in the hostel, NightChurch and wider community
Really looking forward to seeing God continue to work

WEDNESDAY EVENING PRAYER MEETING

We, in this group, give thanks to the Lord for the fellowship we have shared throughout the past year. We have seen some amazing answers to prayer. I am sure each of us has grown in the Lord as we have met each week to pray together. The numbers are small but the blessings are big!

We share the leadership between us all, each person bringing a short thought before we pray. We stick pretty well to time!!?? And we would love it if more people could join us, and share the blessings with us.

We meet at 2/2 Vigilant Ave, Nunawading from 7-8pm every Wednesday except in January.

Bev Smith

LENTEN STUDY GROUPS

This year, eleven people took the opportunity to prepare for Easter by reflecting together on material from the book "Travelling the Prayer Paths of Jesus" by John Indermark. We met as 2 groups, one on Tuesday nights with Liz Taylor as the leader, and one on Wednesday nights with Sheila King as the leader, for the 6 week period of Lent. In our times together, we enjoyed worship, prayer and times of silence, sharing and supper! Hopefully this initiative can become a yearly event.

Liz Taylor

SMALL GROUPS

THURSDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

Sometimes we met on the first and third Thursdays of the month.

Sometimes we didn't.

Sometimes we had lively discussions centred on the texts of Ephesians, Jonah, Joel and Amos.

Sometimes we didn't.

Sometimes everyone was present:
John Sampson, Ken & Margaret Manley, Ken & Edith Lyall, George & Dorothy Dullege, Deirdre Willis, Val Rohde, & Tim Sui.

Sometimes not.

Sometimes we had significant insights into the relevance of the text to our daily lives.

Sometimes we didn't.

No matter what else happened
We always enjoyed ourselves

And always enjoyed our supper.

John Sampson

MACBS MOTHERS' AND CHILDREN'S BIBLE STUDY

We have continued to grow from strength to strength in Macbees over the past year – and that has nothing to do with the copious amount of delicious food we seem to devour each fortnightly Friday morning! Over the past year we have studied 'Women from the Bible', 'Seeking God's Will' and we have just started to study together '40 days to a Purpose Driven Life.' Our numbers average at around 7–8 women each fortnight. Our children have been capably cared for by the lovely Chris Day, with guest appearances from other Hosteliars when Chris has been on placement. A big thank you to Wendy Davies who so unflappably provides tea and coffee each week, and fills in for me whenever I am not able to be there. We are not sure what format Macbees will take next year as work commitments and child care arrangements change – maybe a nighttime meeting? But we have much to thank God for in terms of the amount we have learnt about Him through our studies and the tremendous support we have found through each other as we have come together to study, pray and chat.

Janine de Paiva

LADIES EVENING FELLOWSHIP

This year has been very rewarding for our members as we have learned such a lot from our various speakers.

Meryl Smith spoke on her and Lindsay's visit to Nigeria to visit Natalie; Alan Rash showed his wonderful slides and the beautiful accompanying music; Joanne Jarlett who is the co-ordinator of the Baptist Women's Ministry spoke and told us of her hopes and aspirations for Baptist Women in their own Churches. A couple of our ladies attended the "Connect 05" function held in February at the Diamond Valley Church and benefited from the day talking to ladies from other Churches. We also had a talk from Peter Cormack from "Habitat" a Christian world-wide organisation helping needy families own their homes. Another night the ladies spoke on "Gifts" and what our gifts were, i.e. Spiritual, practical and such like.

Our attendances have been around 15 each meeting and we all enjoy the friendship we share with each other and were saddened in December with Joy Griffin's loss of her husband, Jack and pray that she will be comforted and receive strength from her loving family and friends.

Each year we hold in August our Annual Dinner at Gwen and Arthur Davie's home and our Christmas meeting at Ken and Edith Lyall's home. Thanks to all the ladies who open their homes for our meetings.

This year our donations to Home and Overseas Missions, Emergency Relief, various needy appeals totalled \$1655.50.

We pray that God will continue to bless each one of us as we continue to serve Him in this way.

Elva Dyer

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND CRECHE REPORT

A usually happy group of four to six children gather each week to play together in the creche area. It is fun watching them develop their own personalities, learn each other's names as they begin talking, and start to play and interact with each other. As a Church we are very grateful for the large team of people who take a turn each quarter to supervise the creche time. Their efforts ensure a quieter environment for worship and a chance for our young mothers to have some time in Church.

With about fifteen children in our Four year old Kinder to Year 3 Sunday School group, the room next door to creche is a busy place on Sunday mornings. Bible stories, memory verses and activities in age appropriate groups form the focus, under the expert guidance of our teachers, Jo Austin, Kylie Geelan, Bron Steel and Christine Muller, and ably assisted by Noni Kloppers, Natalie Pell, Kara Ribbons and Jennie Taylor. Materials for lessons vary but during the past twelve months have included outlines prepared by Scripture Union, Christian Education Publications and Gospel Light.

Our Year 4 to Year 6 group of eight young people meets in the back of the Hall or in the Youth Lounge and usually follow Sunday School material prepared by Scripture Union. Looking after this group are Tanya Pell, Liz Pell and Tarnya Smith.

With big voices and lots of actions, singing begins our Sunday School time each week, and we are thankful for Janine de Paiva, Kylie Geelan, Bron Steel and Rory Chambers who lead this section of the program for us. In both the Sunday School groups we try to give our teachers one term teaching followed by one term back in Church.

Liz Pell

YOUTH GROUP



Youth Group this year has been a pleasure to be involved in. We are very fortunate to have two new fantastic leaders in Andy Hunter and Luke Gibbons (Gibbo), so full of energy and enthusiasm. It has been great to have Siobhan, Tash and Elizabeth join us and also a few visiting friends throughout the year. We meet every Sunday from 5-7pm and have been working through YP's, a daily devotional book for young people. Eating tea together seems to be quite a highlight!

"Our youth group isn't just about getting to know God, but also about getting to know each other. We have fun together and enjoy exploring the Bible." Noni Kloppers

"The friendly atmosphere makes it easy for us to express ourselves and talk about and build up our faith in God." Tash Hardy

"During Youth Group both Amy Hill and Liz Pell provided their time to prepare food. Some of which were pizza, burgers, stir-fry and soup. All these foods were quality hand cooked not bought or ordered from artificial retail food stores! Except for their pizzas made by our good friends at Papa Luke's Pizza Shop." Alexander Fronsko

Every second weekend we have an extra social event. Activities have included the following:-

"We went rock climbing with North Balwyn Baptist Youth Group. It was a fun and challenging experience and also a great way to meet new people." Tegan Davies

"On games night (combined with North Balwyn Baptist and Vietnamese Youth Groups in our hall) I had a lot of fun mixing with other youth groups. And definitely an experience I would like to encounter again." Siobhan Stivala-Andrews

Regressive Dinner (A four course meal beginning with dessert, followed by mains, entrée, then starters). *"The food was delicious and we had a lot of fun. It was a very good chance to meet people and know about them. It was awesome."* Elizabeth Murari

"U-Turn (youth service and café) with North Balwyn Baptist was a great time to meet people

from other youth groups and hear the sorts of things they do at youth group.” Luke Gibbons

We were shown wonderful hospitality by the Taylor family in Finley:

“At the end of 2004, we went on a camp to Cameron Taylor’s farm. We went swimming in the Murray, played games, had a drive around the farm, and went to church. It was a really great time!” Jennie Taylor

The high ropes course and night of games was great fun!

“Church Camp! A blessed weekend of fellowship; valuable relaxing time spent with each other.” Andy Hunter

We raised over \$1400 for the 40 Hour Famine. Some of us went without food, others without furniture and talking!

“Our youth group was doing the 40 Hour Famine and we all did a great job.” Natalie Pell

We have all really enjoyed each other’s company and have seen growth in our relationship with God and also with each other.

Amy Hill

CHURCH CAMP 2005

It was a memorable Church Camp!

Some highlights were -

- good weather despite the poor forecast
- 114 people (old, young and in between) attended the camp including 27 new people
- the fun games on Friday night

- David White's unique and creative input
- new options on Saturday afternoon – Pilates exercise demonstration for the girls or fishing for the boys, plus the usual coffee at Airey's Lighthouse, high ropes and beach walks
- the Saturday night Artfest which revealed much hidden talent, both in drawing and modelling
- time to talk, eat and relax with one another
- time to pray together and be renewed in our relationship with God



Thank you to everyone who helped organize and run the different camp activities – I greatly appreciated your assistance. Thank you also to everyone who prayed – it made it all worth it.

We look forward to seeing you at next year's Church camp – write the date in your diary : June 30 – July 2, 2006 (the last weekend of the school holidays).

Liz Taylor

PLANNING FOR KEW BAPTIST CHURCH 150th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

A working committee is in embryo, but a number of possibilities have been discussed quietly during the "morning cuppa" after Church. The Diaconate has given approval for the Committee to be formed. There are a number of very significant possibilities that will be explored.

Whilst in England, for the 100th anniversary of the B.W.A. Congress in Birmingham, one of our Church Members sought to establish a "pencilled booking" for a very senior Council Member.

It is suggested we might extend the official celebration over two weekends, with a luncheon

at a reasonable price for present and past members and friends. A special music program would add to the celebrations.

We are currently working through the Church Marriage Registry from 1945 onwards, with a view to holding a dinner for those who would choose to return. An inspirational speaker would be invited to address the occasion.

We are looking at the possibility of a Hostel Reunion, in the form of a Concert Night, in Newnham Hall, and we are also exploring the possibility of a Possums reunion, with Parents and/ or "Children".

During 2006 we would like to run an occasional section in the bulletin by past and present members, speaking on "What Kew Baptist Church means to me...."

In addition, a special developmental project should be included in our celebrations to take us into the future, with improved facilities that would make our ministry that much more effective. Coupled with this, we might look at a significant missionary project, in co-operation with GiA, or the appointment of a further staff member to cover a particular area of ministry we might feel led to pursue.

These dreams only become realities when you catch the vision along with others, of where God might lead us in the significant and vital days ahead.

Lindsay Smith, for the Committee

MINISTRY TO THE COMMUNITY AND THE WORLD

Hostel

Unlike last year, student numbers have been lower than desired, averaging about forty-five: 16 females and 29 males. However, we have had quite a few summer residents and short stays that have counter balanced the shortfall in numbers. It has been great to have many returning students this year, especially after the tough times we had at the end of last year with the death of Tim Watts. The new students we have this year are fantastic and everyone seems to be getting on well.

The highlight of the end of last year was the overwhelming support and efforts of the church and Hostel committee to purchase 18 Highbury Grove. Although this was and is a big huge step in faith, we are already reaping the rewards of having fantastic young adults living close to both the church and Hostel. The addition of Highbury Grove has been phenomenal and the way in which the students in that house have caught the vision and integrated with the students from the Hostel has worked out far beyond what we ever imagined. Financial support from the church and its members has also been outstanding and really has confirmed that the church owns the ministry of the Hostel.

The appointment of two new staff members; Kim Fleming and Amy Hill has also made a huge impact on the Hostel environment. Kim and Amy have each brought their own gifts and talents to the team here at the Hostel and have adapted well to the role of support staff. Cameron Taylor continues to work behind the scenes on our computer systems and Ben Prime is gradually getting used to the idea of sharing the unit with females, which previously had been well and truly a male domain! Seriously though, all the staff is working very well together, which creates a great atmosphere for both the staff and the students.

Morning Tea at the Hostel Working Bee

Over the summer break the kitchen and old side bathroom was totally repainted and decorated and a major project was undertaken in replacing and painting the window frames in the tower, as they were becoming very rotten due to weathering and old age. In keeping with the ongoing refurbishment program for the old wing of the building, another bedroom was refurbished which only leaves about five to go until all of the old side is updated! Lots more maintenance has been carried out over the past year but these have not been major projects. Again we are very grateful for the time and energy that Tim and Claire Ballot Jones have been voluntarily putting into the grounds of the Hostel, they are now in a state that is much easier to maintain.

Another mixed netball team has been created this year from the first year students, and much to the disgust of the second year team, they have beaten them convincingly on several occasions and have made it into the Grand Final. Early in April the Hostel had two stalls in

the Kew Festival, one was a food stall and the other was children's art and craft stall. Most students got involved in one way or another; either cooking Nachos, face painting or cleaning up etc, and it was not only good PR for Kew Baptist and the Hostel, but it was a great time of bonding and building the sense of community within the Hostel.

Plans for renovating Highbury Grove have been drawn up by 'KSM Constructions' and submitted to local government for council approval. The aims of the renovation are to create more bedrooms and another living area, which will not only increase the amount of students that can utilise the facility but will help with financing the project. The designs of the renovation have been done in a way that if the house was ever to be sold in the future that it would still look and have the feel of family home and not that of mass accommodation. 'KSM Constructions' is the company that was employed to build the Managers' residence in 2002.

The purchase of the Highbury Grove house and the lower student numbers this year have slowed down some of the other projects that I mentioned last year such as making the Hostel more energy efficient and creating an Alumni, but they are still on the drawing board. These projects are not only costly but very time consuming, I would like to thank the committee for all the voluntary work that they do and did, especially leading up to the purchase of the House. The house has been a long-term vision of the Hostel Committee and Tim Jones in particular, as he had endless meetings with banks, Deacons, sleepless nights and extra grey hairs as a result of the whole process. Thanks again Tim.

In conclusion it has been a very interesting and challenging year with its fair share of ups and downs. The support the church has been outstanding and Rod had been a great Pastor for the whole Hostel community, especially in our time of sadness with the death of Tim Watts. Please continue to support the Hostel ministry either by praying, giving or loaning money, or building relationships with the staff and students as it is a very relevant and practical ministry of the Kew Baptist Church. Janine and I feel very honoured to be given the opportunity to work and live in such a great community.

Chris de Paiva

Possums' Playgroup and Kindergarten



Recently a new hat was added to our collection at Possums'. It was a 'birthday cake' hat to be worn at birthday celebrations. Indeed there has been plenty to celebrate as another year of ministry, mission, service and fun has taken place at Possums'.

In 2005 we have two kindergarten groups with a total of 37 children and five playgroups that approximately 70 families attend with about 85 children. Attendance varies from week to week. We reluctantly farewell friends who need to move on, and are always happy to welcome new members, who in turn become old friends!

We have a largely new committee of management which includes extra church members, who are most welcome. Below I have listed them for your prayerful support. Although many are listed as new committee members, they are not necessarily new to Possums'. Kew Baptist Church's Bronwyn Hogan has taken on the role of President, after serving on the committee for many years and being involved in Possums' for even longer. Her committee consists of:-

Representing			
Monday 9.30am	Donna Cameron	(New '05)	
	Ray Leigh	(New '05)	Church support
Tuesday 9.00am	Kumi Undugodage	(New '05)	
Tuesday 11.30am	Maria Sweeney	(New '05)	Birthday card co-ordinator
	Naomi Allen	(New '05)	Maintenance Officer
Wednesday 9.00am	Amy Steventon	(New '05)	
	Adrienne Graham	(Continuing)	Playgroups' Enrolment Officer
	Deirdre Willis	(New '05)	Church support
	Heather Milne	(New '05)	Church support
Thursday 9.30am	Jacinta A'Hearn	(New '05)	
	Lilia Mosbauer	(New 05)	
Kinder Blue	Sarah Clapton	(Continuing)	
	Evelyn Tilley	(New '05)	Kindergarten Enrolment Officer
	Cathryn Elgar	(New '05)	Social/fundraising support
Kinder Red	Amy Steventon	(New '05)	Social Secretary
	Angela Lidgett	(New '05)	Fundraising Co-ordinator
Other	Jean Jeffery	(Continuing)	Church support
	Leanne Butchart	(New '05)	Secretary and church support
	David Benwell	(Continuing)	Treasurer
	Rod Pell	(Continuing)	Church support

Lauren Nash and Jennifer Bede continue as our valued kindergarten assistants, and Gillian Tonson provides invaluable office support. We look forward to having Lindsay and Meryl Smith involved as they are able. I also especially appreciate the work and effort that Janine de Paiva and Liz Pell put in to present the two special children's church services each year. They do a fantastic job.

To facilitate getting to know each other, Bronwyn held an inaugural president's dinner at her home, which was greatly enjoyed by those who were able to attend. The church support we enjoyed at our fabulous Family Fun Day was very much appreciated. Special thanks to the Hostel and NightChurch communities who supported the event so splendidly as entertainers, face-painters, "balloonologists", clowns, and so forth. The day was very much enjoyed by all

who came.

Animal Farm at the Family Fun Day

Our financial position at this time is sound, and we are looking forward to having a new shed and fence onto Highbury Grove erected, some new bench tops and shelving installed in our playroom, extra shelving in our office/storeroom, and a commercial style baby change table fitted in the ladies' toilet of the church hall. These improvements will also benefit the church community. We continue to update and add to our toys and equipment as necessary and as funds permit. As always, your support of our fundraising activities is invaluable.

Now, just a short story to finish. At the president's dinner, Lachlan Hogan greeted me with a hug. We chatted, and I commented that I had now seen him twice in a short space of time, to which his response was "yes, this must be your lucky year!" He is so right. I count it a real honour and privilege to be accepted as part of the lives of so many wonderful people each week. I am indeed lucky!

Thanks for your continued support of the wonderful ministry and mission opportunity that Possums' is to so many in the community.

More than 220 reasons to celebrate - every week at Possums'.

Miriam Schmidt (Co-ordinator)

DROP-IN GROUP

The Drop-In Group began more than 16 years ago. It provided friendship and fellowship for folk within and without the church family. Several people just "dropped in" and became regular each week, really appreciating the friendship they found.

Sadly, numbers dropped off, some moved out of the Kew area, some just aged, and others found it difficult to keep coming. The group ceased to function at the end of 2004. We

continue, through the church to have two appeals throughout the year for food and toiletries. These things are taken to Camcare for distribution among needy families in the Kew area. These appeals are gratefully received by the Social Worker, Jan Stewart.

We have been blessed through “drop-in”, and have made continuing friendships with folk that have moved away. Happy memories linger.

Valarie McPherson

CHAT AND CHEW

Chat and Chew met on ten occasions during the past year with an average attendance of 29-30. Our guest speakers have been Bob Boucher, Rob Neilson, Lindsay Smith, Alan Rash, Eugene Veith, Natalie Smith, Ken Stanley, Gordon Summerson and Tom Dyer. Most recently our Pastor, Rod Pell, gave a most interesting report on important aspects of his visit to Africa. Our fine team of helpers include Ken and Edith Lyall, Robyn Scott, Gwyneth Smith, Val McPherson, and Carol Warner. Adrian Grice assists with hall preparation, Richard Godden general assistance including background music, David Mynard plays the piano and Brian Garth leads community singing.

The trial experiment of holding every second meeting at Karana has been very successful. It has enabled five or six men to attend who cannot get out and about. The co-operation of Felicity Rentos and her Karana helpers has made this possible.

Chat and Chew is fellowship forming, spiritually enriching and assists with pastoral care and social outreach.

Kingsley Smith, Co-ordinator

KARANA COMMUNITY

They shall be mine, when I make up my jewels. Mal.3:37

Sunday Morning Worship at Karana

It is a very humbling experience for me when leading the service. As I look upon the dear ones who come to worship all sitting quietly, with expectant looks, waiting to hear God's word and to sing and pray.

We are very grateful to the many folk who come to minister to us, in word, song and music. Carey Grammar is represented by teacher, Mrs Wendy Wood and her three teenagers.

The North Balwyn ladies are ever so faithful coming once a month now for six years. We could not manage, if we did not have the assistance of the personal care workers.

We have some new folk joining us in ministry: Rev Colin Hunter, Mr Ken Budin, Mr Maxwell McCartney, Mr Bill Merriweather, and Miss Ruth Nicholls. Mr Graham Peck will join us later in the year. Gary Bradley helps occasionally.

We have welcomed Ruth Prentice (Chaplain) and Ruth Nicholls to our committee. Sunday 25th September we will be celebrating nine years with a Communion Service at 10.30am and the Immanuel choir at 2.30pm with afternoon tea to follow.

We are continually reminded that each and everyone are precious jewels, bright gems for His crown.

Pleasant Sunday Afternoon

This is a great joy to all of us, especially when Gary Bradley and his team come. Other guests have included John and Jenny Fearn-Wannan, the Melbourne Chinese Choir, Sarah Chau (Pianist), Pauline Madden with her wonderful selection of photographic slides and poetry presentations. We usually have 40 – 50 folk come, including family and friends. "High care" folk are also brought along. It is a great thrill to see them come from their room and enjoy these afternoons.

Fellowship for Everyone

This year we have had a new look fellowship hour, changing to Fellowship for Everyone. What a difference the word "Everyone" has made. For everyone comes. They say, they feel they belong. We have had 50 folk come since we changed the name. We are very excited about the results.

The most wonderful thing is that we have had a team of advisors including Wendy Gavin, Felicity Rentos, Audrey Bennett, Serena Collins, May Vernon, Bill Morton and Phyl Taylor. You will notice that three of the members are from the staff which is a good achievement. May Vernon represents the apartments who are very much a part of the fellowship. Bill Morton encourages the men folk to join us. We praise God for every blessing he has given us. For those who have helped to make our fellowship such a success, thank you – Rod and Nancy Welsh with their two metre scale model of Noah's ark, May Lee who gave us her blessing at the beginning, Yvonne Roddy, Personal Care worker told of her trip to China, Ben Schmidt, pianist and Margaret Gardner, book illustrator.

Carey Buddies

During the last four years, the Karana community and Carey Grammar school have developed a special bond. Teacher Stephen Carter and his class (4C) visit Karana several times throughout the year. Each student is linked up with one of our residents, who becomes that student's "Grandparent buddy" for the year.

These visits develop very special friendships which are reinforced through such activities as hand massages, games, musical presentations and lots of talking! Our residents provide a

Treasure Hunt for the students who have completed a list of questions as they follow a “map” around Karana. This special program has been a huge success.

Men’s Chat and Chew

These luncheons are now held at Karana every second month. This enables all our male residents to attend. The program has been very successful, as it provides a perfect opportunity for men to enjoy each other’s company.

One of our female residents commented to me while we were walking past our last luncheon “I didn’t know that men could be so noisy”.

We value your prayers for the days ahead when there will be changes. Pray that whatever takes place, the name of the Lord will be glorified.

Co-ordinators
Felicity Rentos, Serena Collins and Phyl Taylor

KARANA CHAPLAIN’S REPORT

Due to the resignation of Sally Burton as Chaplain to the Karana Community earlier this year this Report will primarily cover the months since the middle of February when my role as Chaplain, two days a week, commenced. My introduction to Karana was greatly assisted by Pastor Rod Pell who gave support, insight and understanding of Karana.

The Community has a strong Christian presence and residents are active in their participation to the best of their capacity given health limitations. Numbers attending mid week Chapel services remain consistent. Early in the week a smaller number are present than on a Friday for example, but usually the total number of Residents attending is around 20-24. On a Friday the number is often higher sometimes 26-28 again depending on the individual situations of Residents.

Since late 2004 twelve residents have passed away and some of those were regular attendees. A number of others rarely attend now as they are no longer well enough to make the effort to come. The increasing frailty of residents is having an impact overall on staff, and other residents as they work with, and observe the changes. The percentage of high care residents has increased markedly over the last twelve months. This fact alone has placed extra pressure on staff who exhibit wonderful care and compassion towards residents.

Recently I observed a young male nurse in the passageway, who was leaving at the end of his shift, stop and take a disoriented resident back to her room. On returning along the passage in order to go home another Resident followed the staff member, who turned back a second time to also assist that resident to his room. This was over and above the call of duty and an example of the level of care and commitment shown to those who live at Karana.

The number of volunteers who are able to take services has also changed during the last few months, primarily due to health restrictions. Our appreciation of Rev June Robertson’s faithful contribution is noted as she is no longer able to continue. It has taken time to find others who are able to contribute and some of those who are now on the Roster are Rev Geoff Ryall, Rev Jillian Stewart, Mr Ken Lyall, Mr Les Davies, Rev Gary Lockyer, Mr Frank O’Neil and Rev Harley Kitchen. Their generous contribution has made a significant difference as the number of mid week services has been maintained and in fact has increased. Contact has been made with Crossway Church also to explore the possibility of Interns participating at Karana, however this has not taken place to date.

Several new residents have moved into Karana, and my hope and prayer is that as they adjust to their new environment and are touched by the care they receive they will grow in the love of the Lord.

On a personal level I have found Karana to be a wonderful place in which to share life with others and thank God that he has called me to this work. The demands of documentation are a constant pressure which I seek to keep in balance with the time spent in meaningful interactions with residents.



Our monthly Chaplains meeting with Rev John Walz, Pauline Arnold, Lisa Spencer and Joy Tarrant are a great support.

Ruth Prentice, Chaplain

Mission Aid and Development Group

What is the M.A.D. Group all about?

This group of people, of a range of ages, meets once every two months or so from a desire to proclaim and demonstrate the love of God in Christ, and to Make a Difference in the lives of the world's peoples, living locally or overseas, in the areas of justice, mission, aid and development.

What activities are we engaged in?

The Mission Aid and Development Group aims to increase the Church's awareness of the world's needs and the causes of those needs, by engaging in dialogue and promoting action to address those issues.

The Group also supports, encourages and prays for those God has called to particular outreach ministries in Australia and overseas.

How has the M.A.D. Group spent its time over the past year?

Each meeting starts with a time of post card writing to people in special ministries, including to John and Janine Barclay (and Aidan) in India, Lisa Detlefsen in Papua New Guinea, Mary Edgar in Nepal, Allan and Meryl Gamble (and baby Jennifer) in Indonesia, Les and Cathy Sherwen and their children in China, and Natalie Smith in Nigeria. We have also kept in touch with Michelle Stancliffe, working with Youth with a Mission. Time is always spent in prayer for these people and other matters that come to attention. Our annual budget allocation is divided between all the above people and includes Grace Munro in her work with Global interAction.

More letters were written to members of the Australian Government about Australia's lack of action to implement the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals, despite having promised to share with other nations in doing so.

Two more mini-dramas, devised by Stephen Kidner, were presented during Sunday services, with the assistance of Rory Chambers, Ryan Harper and Nicholas Barclay. The first was about the Micah Challenge and its aim of halving world poverty by the year 2015 and promoting a much more fair and just world than at present. Its subtitle, "Christian

mosquitoes”, highlighted the idea that even people without great influence can take action to “sting” those with power and influence in ways that may result in greater justice being done.

The second mini-drama was entitled, “The Oil Refinery – a Parable” and warned against allowing all the spiritual energy of the church to be used just to keep the church going, without concern for the needs of people outside it, let alone the needs of the millions overseas who may never hear the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

A highlight for the whole group was when Rod shared some of the experiences of his, Kerry’s and Tanya’s trip to Zambia, Mozambique and Malawi. Members of the group were amazed at the numbers of families and former students contacted and the distances travelled, and rejoiced to hear of the many answers to prayer.

We would love to have more people involved in the group so that together we can share the challenge of Making a Difference in the wider world.

Deirdre Willis

FESTIVAL VICTORIA

Something like 92,000 people attended the Franklin Graham Meetings in Colonial Stadium. It was an awesome setting, and a real experience to share our faith with fellow Christians from many denominations and Churches. Six thousand five hundred people from all walks of life responded to Franklin Graham’s appeal. But to make it worthwhile, the participating churches committed to following up ALL of those who went forward. Kew Baptist Church was allocated 14 people.

- Pastor Tuan agreed to follow up four who were more comfortable with the Vietnamese language.
- Five were released to near-by Churches they were more comfortable with.
- Five were taken through follow-up material, and one of those was recently baptised and joined a Church up in the Dandenongs.

Chris Day, Christine Muller and Luke Gibbons were an inspiration and a blessing to work with. They were the vital link in the Team.

Lindsay & Meryl Smith and theTeam

Wider Baptist Connections

We all love belonging to a family. We may not all look alike, think the same or act in a similar way but it is important to belong. This is where we locate our identity and find acceptance and support - at least that is the ideal for a family isn't it? Here at Kew we like to think of our church as a family where each one is accepted, nurtured and helped to fulfil our role in life. But we have a wider Baptist family or range of networks that strengthen all of us for our mission. Think of it like concentric circles radiating out from our local church.

We belong to a state family of churches that are committed to each other- called the Baptist Union of Victoria (BUV). Together we find our strength to undertake service throughout our region and beyond. We appoint gifted leaders to assist our church family in various ways to fulfil our shared vision of mission. The BUV - which sends us the Baptist Witness each month so that we can know what is happening in our churches - regularly holds Assemblies where each church can send delegates to share in decision making. All are welcome to share in these sessions as they are great times of celebration as well as decision-making. This year a lot of time has been given to planning to make these Assemblies even more relevant by holding special seminars dealing with crucial topical issues. Being in a family brings responsibility as well as enjoyment and one way we seek to help the Baptist family is through our giving as a church to the BUV. But there is more.

The BUV belongs to our national body or family, the Baptist Union of Australia (BUA). Through this family connection we are able to share in national programs such as Crossover, which helps in national evangelism and we also support our global mission, Global Interaction, as well as Baptist World Aid Australia. And the BUA belongs to our world family, the Baptist World Alliance (BWA). This is our 'network to the world' as we share in the needs and opportunities of Baptists around the world. I have been asked to thank Kew Church for being a 'global impact church' - our gift to the BWA has strengthened this global witness. As some of you will know, I have had the privilege of sharing in BWA leadership over the last five years and as I shared in the Centenary Congress in Birmingham UK last July I was deeply grateful for such a warm evangelical group of people who make up our world Baptist family.

So as we sit in our church each Sunday, I hope we can recall the other members of our family of Baptists, a part of the larger family of the Church around the world. We can give thanks for belonging to such a group of Christians and remember to pray for all that we are seeking to do as a Baptist family - not only in Kew, not only in Victoria and Australia but around the world. This is the family where we belong - I hope you agree.

Ken Manley

MINISTRY SUPPORT

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Changeover

Towards the end of last year, Ray Leigh approached me to be treasurer as Steve was coming to the end of his long run in this role. (Or so he thought!)

After being approached by Ray and Rod and after consultation with Heather I accepted the challenge. Initially I thought I was a "sucker for punishment", but realized I was surrounded by good people willing to help at every turn.

The Treasury Team

Steve Taylor's input and support has been amazing to both me and Kate our bookkeeper - thank you Steve for all the guidance and for that keen accounting eye! Steve has been a great help during this handover period.



Steve Taylor, early days as Treasurer



Steve Taylor a few years later!

Kate Crock is our Bookkeeper who works tirelessly to meet the strict deadlines for our monthly and quarterly meetings. The changeover to the MYOB accounting system with the end of Financial Year has been challenging but Kate, with Steve's guidance, has done this with a smile on her face – thank you Kate.

David Benwell too, has been of great assistance to Kate Crock with the monthly account reconciliation, thanks David for your help. Gillian Tonson remains an important link in the day to day Treasury functions of the Church; we thank her and pray she has a lovely time overseas.



Kate Crock always smiling!

2004/5 Objectives:

With the Treasurer changeover some early objectives were set:

1. We planned for the conversion from QuickBooks to MYOB for the new Financial Year. This was done and we are onto the new system effective July 05 (Thanks to Kate)
2. The Diaconate agreed to the new Financial Year being July 05 to June 06. As a result the Financial Statement that follows is for the period August 04 to June 05; (1 Month short: 11 Months only.)

3. To work as a team in order to present accurate accounts to Deacons and Church Members within time frames set. This is primarily through constant communication within the Treasury team via meetings, telephone calls and email.

Goals for 2005/6:

The primary goal set towards the end of the Financial Year and continuing into the new Financial Year is to assist the Offerings Income targets with fund raising events throughout the year.

The 3 primary reasons are: added income, funding for capital works such as the painting of the Hall and the wonderful opportunity to network with new faces and expose all the exciting happenings at Kew Baptist – thus growing the Kew Church Community!

This can only be achieved through a proactive approach to achieving these goals...

1. The recent Spring Fair is the stepping stone for other fund raisers throughout the next 11 Months.
2. Kiddies Birthday Parties will be more frequent with improved Rental and Income opportunities
3. Our collective Goal as Church Members should be to help improve the offerings where possible as this remains an area for improvement in order to achieve the Budgeted Figures



Victor with his Assistant Treasurer!

The attached financial reports show the following:

Income & Expenditure 2004/5

- Offerings and other income of \$112,496 for 11 months (2004: \$120,448 for 12 months) were received compared to the budget of \$130,250.

This is a shortfall of \$17,754 against budget! However, the monthly actual average was up by \$275.

- Total income for the year was \$152,118 for 11 months (2004: \$164,347 for 12 months). **A shortfall of \$13,219 against budget for our Total Income.**
- Expenses were \$162,778 for the 11 months (2004: \$169,394 for 12 months). **Expenses were \$10,300 under spent against a budget of \$173,078.**
- Our Actual Net difference between Income and Expenditure was a **Deficit of (\$10,661)**. (The budgeted deficit was \$7,741.)

Budget for 2005/6

The attached proposed budget for 2005/6 shows a forecast **deficit of \$10,504**.

Some comments on items included in the budget are as follows:

- Offerings are budgeted at an increase of \$769 per month against actual monthly average.
- The total budget for offerings is \$132,000 representing an increase of 7.5%.
- There is a new budget amount of \$6,200 for Fund Raising initiatives in 2005/6. The fundraising budget is a conservative amount as we should all feel confident to exceed this if we are prepared to be proactive.
- The Mission Aid & Development expense of \$12,690 represents 9% of offerings and other income.
- Administration and other expenses are budgeted for an increase primarily due to a new budget for the fund raising expenses and 150th Anniversary expenses.
- The budgeted Net Surplus/Deficit is \$10,504 which is a realistic picture if we are not proactive.

The budget presents another challenge in terms of our individual giving and therefore we are hoping that the fund raising initiatives being planned for the year will assist in us achieving the overall income targets set and improve the budgeted deficit.

There are many exciting things happening in this Church and I pray that the Lord continues to bless us in this 150th Anniversary year ahead. I pray too that we expose many new people in the Kew Community to our Church as we drive the new events and initiatives.

Thank you to everyone for the assistance and contribution to this team effort.

Victor Milne

Property Report

The past year has seen many positive efforts by individuals and a significant choice by the church in supporting the purchase by the hostel of the "house next door".

The last three years have seen a focus on maintenance on buildings, with significant repairs to the church roof, painting of the church interior, repair of the organ, the revamp of the church hall kitchen and upgrades to the church manse building and gardens.

This year we had some major sewerage works outside the hall due to a tree root blocking the line. Fortunately this was at Yarra Valley Water's expense (see photos), as it was on their side of the main.

Another major item was the replacement of the three phase electricity supply to the church following problems with lights dimming up and down during our NightChurch services when all the floor heaters were on in winter. Citypower found the main cables needed replacement, thankfully at their expense also.

At this time last year, consideration was being given to the use of the Boreham legacy funds. One possible use involved employing a portion of these funds to revamp, renew or extend the church buildings and facilities. With the decision to commit the funds toward the purchase of 18 Highbury Grove, activity in year 2004 - 2005 has been focused around upgrading and extending the capabilities of the equipment that support and enhance our worship.

This has involved the purchase of:-

- a rear projection screen
- a data projector
- a personal computer (donation) for use with the data projector and making recordings of our sermons on CD
- LCD screen for computer
- portable speakers (used in the hall)

An "invisible" activity underneath the church has been the installation of cabling to allow the playing and controlling of images via the computer.

As part of our efforts to extend our connections with our local community, significant effort has gone into the planning of the Spring Fair. The intended outcome is to raise funds that will facilitate the refurbishment of the hall auditorium and provide a first class facility for the provision of children's parties to strengthen links with our Possums families. Several opportunities are planned, including replacement of carpet and curtains, repainting of woodwork and different use of the stage area. A continuing outcome of this will hopefully be a source of income to support various church activities, including maintenance.

Planned/Potential projects for the upcoming year

Continuing and completing the work of the past year, more work is planned for the sound desk and surrounds, including:

- installation of new patch panel (at desk and on stage)
- rack mounting of amplifiers and equalizers
- purchase of DVD player
- provision of shelving for PC, tape recorder, VCR and DVD
- installation of LED lighting
- extension of the hostel intranet to the hall and church to provide broadband connection

With an eye on safety, the stairs to the church pulpit are to be blocked to limit the wanderings of little and not so little people. Consideration is being given on how to limit access to the hall stage while still providing access as required.

Daniel Hunt

Annual Report from the Office

The office continues to play a connecting role in the life of KBC and people from different sections of the church call at the office for administrative support. I meet a variety of people not only from KBC, but from other churches in Kew, family members of those holding weddings or funerals in the church (often for historical reasons), people from the local business community and the continual stream of people who knock at the door for financial help.

Lindsay Smith's appointment early in 2005 has added another member to the ministry team and it is a privilege to be part of that group where the joys and challenges of the different ministries are aired and prayed for: pastoral concerns, links with Karana, Hostel, Possums and the Vietnamese and NightChurch congregations.

Audrey Bennett, Robyn Scott and Bev Smith continue as volunteers on different mornings each week and I am very grateful to them for their faithfulness. While I am not present at Sunday services, Bev or Robyn may well be able to answer your office related questions. John Hollow's technical support is much appreciated and I've even learnt how to burn a CD this year! Andrew Kollmorgen and Ben Prime deserve a big thank you for the time and effort they have put in upgrading the audio facilities and maintaining Keren McClelland's computer. There is ongoing discussion concerning further computer networking and increased internet facility. With Rod Pell's fastidious eye to every detail we try to be a pretty efficient team! Recent acquisitions in the office are a laminator and a paper shredder, helpful for privacy issues.

It's hard to believe I will have been 10 years in the church office by October. With our three children overseas for extended periods this year, I am grateful to KBC for extending me some long service leave to accompany my husband, Paul, for a four month ministry exchange from September until Christmas Day at the Carver Memorial United Reformed Church in Windermere in the Lake District, U.K. We are looking forward to a happy family reunion but I plan to return in January to help with the planning of KBC's 150th Anniversary in November 2006.

I have been able to spend two weeks with Jenny Culverwell from the Rowville Baptist Church who, I'm sure, will fill in for me during this time in a most capable manner.

Gillian Tonson