

Pastor's Overview

In this our 150th year, quite a bit of time has been put into preparations for our Anniversary events. Looking back over this longer period one is conscious not only of times of growth and development but also periods of testing and challenge. Like the people of God in the Old Testament, the overwhelming emotion is one of gratitude to God for His work in our midst, often in spite of, as well as through, our frailty.

Those who read these annual reports (or even keep them!), will recall the emphasis of the New Testament writers on faith, hope and love as the Biblical measure of our individual, small group and corporate life under God. In Colossians 1:3-6; 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3, 5:8; Ephesians 1:15-18; Romans 5:2-5; Galatians 5:5-6; Hebrews 6:10-12, 10:22-24; 1 Peter 1:3-8, 21-22 and 1 Corinthians 13:13 the writers emphasise these three dimensions which relate to our growth in Christ, outreach to others, and care for one another.

Perhaps more than most people in the Church, I am conscious of times when we have not lived up to our ideals in terms of spiritual formation, mission and belonging. And yet even these failings are a reminder to us that we are on a journey rather than at a destination, and that there is more that we can look forward to in the future as we follow Jesus Christ.

In January this year we were stunned by the news that Lilliana de Paiva had been diagnosed with a life threatening tumour in her brain stem. A specially convened church prayer meeting was a significant time of waiting upon God and we give thanks to Him for answered prayer and Lilliana's progress. Prayer is foundational to the life of this community of faith and I am grateful to folk like Amy Hill, Ken Lyall, Val McPherson, David Renshaw, Bev Smith, Kingsley Smith and Keren McClelland who lead our prayer meetings, as well as the many individuals who intercede for the work here.

With the growth in the number of Bible Study groups meeting in different homes through the week including a number of Alpha Groups, it is exciting to see people coming to faith and growing in their relationship with God and others. A number of the larger groups split into smaller groupings for prayer at the end of their studies and it is encouraging to hear of the answers which people have received from God. Initiatives by Sheila King and Liz Taylor's in contemplative prayer and opportunities like the Prayer Labyrinth organised by Keren McClelland at Easter have opened up new vistas for those whose prayer life was stagnating or dried up.

Over the last twelve months we have had the opportunity to share with most of the cross-cultural missionaries we support through our church budget. John and Janine Barclay, Lisa Detlefsen, Mary Edgar, Allan and Merry! Gamble, Natalie Smith and Michelle Stancliffe have spoken in our services and given folk a chance to put faces and personalities to names. Each affirmed our emphasis that mission involves more than cross-cultural endeavour and includes our individual, small group and corporate life and witness, wherever we are.

It is easy to point to our outreach through opportunities like the Alpha Invitation Dinners; Ladies Evening Fellowship; Chat and Chew Luncheons; ministries in local schools, our University Student Hostel, the Karana Community and the people who support Miriam Schmidt and Anastasia Panagiotidis with our Possums Kindergarten and Playgroups and so on, but these are just the tip of the iceberg, the bulk of which is made up of our individual networking amongst family, neighbours, friends and colleagues. This less visible ministry as salt and light in the world is in many ways the balancing counterweight to a purely attractational style of witness, because it is in the regular cut and thrust of life that most of our time and energy is absorbed. By sharing with each other regarding what is happening day to day we can encourage and support these ministries by our prayers, and build Christ's Kingdom wherever we are.

Not dissimilarly, weekend camps and hospitality lunches highlight the more visible picture of growth in our relationships with one another. But just as significant as these are the cards, letters, phone calls, meals, visits and friendships which go unheralded, but form the essential glue which binds us together as a church. The Young Adults camp at Blairgowrie in January organised by Amy Hill and Kerry Pell, the mid-year Church camp at Anglesea organised by Liz Taylor, and the Youth Group camp at Somers, organised by Liz Pell and the Youth Group leaders, have afforded particular opportunities for people to get to know each other. Similarly, the work of Margaret Manley and Deirdre Willis' in organising the hospitality lunches; and combined events with our Vietnamese Congregation give specific expression to our community life.

Youth Group Camp at Somers

Again this year I am grateful for the leadership of Chris and Janine de Paiva in our Hostel community, the work of Tuan and Hannah Huynh with our Vietnamese congregation, the ministry of Keren and Gwyn McClelland to our NightChurch community, and Kingsley, Gwyneth, Lindsay and Meryl Smith's assistance in pastoral care, as well as our Deacons, under Ray Leigh's chairmanship.

Gillian Tonson is a great support in our church office and it has been good to have Jenny Culverwell assisting during Gillian's absence on long service leave from September to January and with the 150th preparations.

In many ways our Sunday Services are the most obvious aspects of our corporate worship and we are blessed with the range of people who contribute in leadership, preaching and music. With the number of new Christians in our congregation, teaching series this year have focused on Genesis 13-50, Matthew's Gospel, and the Holy Spirit in John's Gospel. When I have been away or speaking at the Karana, Vietnamese or NightChurch services I have appreciated the ministries of Geoff Blackburn, Sue Bluett, Dorothy Dullege, Keren and Gwyn McClelland, Ken Manley and Lindsay Smith, and the different styles and emphases each brings.

It is always a delight to see the unity we enjoy as a community of faith at KBC. Despite diversity in age, socio-economic, theological and cultural spread, it is a joy to see the ways in which God is at work, breaking down human barriers.

I am particularly grateful to Liz, Kerryn, Tanya and Natalie, not only for their support and encouragement amidst a busy lifestyle, but also for the ministries which each exercises under God. Our prayer is that we may all continue to grow in faith, hope and love in our individual, small group and congregational life.

Rod Pell

Pastoral Support

As the title suggests, the Pastoral Supporters seek to help the Senior Pastor in particular, and the church members and friends, in general, to meet key goals as set out in the Church Covenant.

As part of the Ministry Team, they seek to help meet the pastoral needs of all the ministry leaders, and the extended church family.

During the enforced slowdown and absence of Kingsley Smith, due to heart problems and the resulting surgery, Lindsay and Meryl Smith accepted an increased work load.

Regular visits were made to the Possums activities, each Tuesday morning during term, to Karana Community, as well as regular Chapel service commitments, and occasional visits were made to Strathalan. Visits were made to our own Church folk who were hospitalized and to individual Church members in their homes.

Kingsley and Gwyneth Smith, Lindsay and Meryl Smith

Vietnamese Congregation

One part of our mission statement is "each of us is a member of the community of faith at Kew...committing to participate in the building this community to become one with love and new life". Accordingly, the focus of our activities during last year has been to encourage and to facilitate the building of deeper relationship within the congregation, the kind of relationship that truly holds love and expresses new life in Christ!

The barbecue on Melbourne Cup Day held in Mornington was attended well and appreciated for a good opportunity for fellowship outside the church building!

In December, 28 people travelled together to attend the Vietnamese National 12th Baptist Conference for five days in Sydney, where we heard Vietnamese preachers from U.S.A, France, Vietnam and Australia who preached and taught on the theme of "Growing in Christ".

The camp at Shoreham on the Mornington Peninsula in March was a good opportunity for 20 people to be together for a few days. We enjoyed each other's company as well as discussion sections where we shared our views about the purpose of life and the purpose of being church!

Last year we also shared in the weddings of our two couples: Joanna & Richard and Luan & Donna and the baptism of Donna!

For the last two months, we have used the hall for our worship service and find that it is better place for our smaller group.

To help our members to do the work of their calling and ministry, this year pastor Minh Bui took the responsibility of co-ordinating the visiting groups, encouraging each member to take the responsibility for caring for one another and building the fellowship.

Last year evangelistic tracts were produced as tools to help members to fulfil "the great commission". In July this year Mrs Ngoc Ha and Pastor Tuan have attended "Evangelism Explosion International" course for one week in Sydney with the hope that they can provide training for those who want to learn more about how to share the gospel with friends and relatives.

All these activities and efforts underline our intention to help our members move from just being regular attendants to becoming participants in church life within and without the church building. This process has been slow and has had some circumstantial setbacks but we believe that gradually it will make us stronger and more effective witness for the Gospel as a whole.

We very much appreciate your continuing prayers and support throughout the last year and are expecting the same thing if not more for the year to come! May God bless you greatly.

Tuan Huynh.

NightChurch 2006

True community is always, among other things, an adventure. You will always be going into the unknown, and you will often be scared, particularly at the beginning. But you will not be alone. You will be entering this adventure with others as scared as you, and you will be able to share not only your fear but your talents and strengths. Out of the strength of your community you will be able to do things you never thought you were capable of. M. Scott Peck (*Be Our Freedom*, Terry Falla, 370)

7pm

In 2005/06, NC community's adventure has included the coverage of a wide range of themes and biblical material. Working backwards the series have included: *The Holy Spirit, Resurrection, Job, Turning Points, Grace, the Trinity, and Mission*. Our quality speakers have included people from other churches, the BUV and Whitley. They set very high standards for preaching! We could not run services of such variety and interest without their specialised support. Labyrinth (prayer walk) involved a walk through the lavishly prepared dark and beautiful gymnasium. We also experienced an Indian Monsoon simulation (with TEAR).

I have appreciated the growing abilities of service curators and musos in pulling things together. It was great to have the baptisms of Ash Wright, Grace Wu, Geoff Trevaskis and Claire Kearney this year, as well as celebrating the marriages of Bron and Ash Wright and Andy and Kylie Kollmorgen. Congratulations to all of you! Thanks in particular to Rod and Liz Pell for your support at NC in many different ways. We have continued to share communion together about once a month. It is regularly a very meaningful time of quiet prayer around the table and commitment to caring for one another in the journey of following Jesus.

As the main age bracket widens at NC it is increasingly a challenge to keep in mind the different needs of such a variety of people. Please pray for us as the group continues with the Sermon on the Mount and for future new series as well.

Kew Regional Ministry

The development of regular gatherings at Carrical during this year has been a particular highlight. We take sausages, salads, bread and an openness to whatever discussion might come up for the evening. The guys have started to get to know us now and the usual joke is about the bbq which never seems to be working properly (leading to all sorts of adventures). Whilst Luke, Carly, Ellen and Jane have been

closely connected with NC, Kew in the past (and now participate in other communities of faith) they continue to participate at the heart of this ministry. Christine Day and Christine Muller are regulars from Kew, along with myself! We have loved getting to know Gavin, Saint Nick, David the poet, Dee and many others who tell us that our time there is the highlight of the month. It's going to be exciting taking KBC's gifts (at Christmas time) this year as we know the guys more than we have ever done before. We are going to miss Natalie Dickson who leads KRM and is moving on in October. Others who are interested in contributing in any way are always much appreciated.

Small Groups

Two groups of 'Strengths in Leadership' finished up late 2005 after a full year of meeting together. It was an ambitious project getting through Eugene Peterson's book 'Five Smooth Stones' (and five books of the bible associated with it) but every person who did so has benefited! There have also been Alpha groups, Christianity Explored, Apocalyptic literature, Prayer, Getting to know Other Religions... Thanks heaps leaders for all your care of those in your groups as well as the regular preparation and effort of putting together a study! You're fantastic.



Gwyn is co-ordinating NightChurch small groups for the semester ahead and it will be great to see how the groups work. There is a real variety of groups from Alpha and Acts to a Men's group as well as one group using studies written by Andrew Harkness' dad together with Stephen Bradbury (TEAR).

Weekend Away - Blairgowrie January 2006.

Swimming pool, relaxed time together, huge groups at the meal table were significant for the very social Weekend Away at Blairgowrie. Ben Prime took one look of pity at sleep-deprived Keren at 2:30am on the second night, and proceeded to supply a quality set of ear plugs. In blissful silence I managed to sleep a few hours before a silent prayer walk in the dark to the beach to watch the sunrise - a new year for NightChurch. Thanks especially to Kerryn Pell and others for creating the space to get away for forty of us. It was a lovely unstructured hang-out time. The range of people who were able to develop new friendships was also fantastic. Let's do it again soon.



Following are some important questions which I invite you to reflect upon in relation to the NC journey, related to the principles of empowerment and how to live in true community (adapted from St. Luke's - Bendigo):

transparency - are our decisions open, public, able to be scrutinised and challenged by anyone?

respect - have we listened to, heard and respected minorities and quiet voices?

self-determination - do we treat one another as experts on our own lives?

community building - do we encourage wide participation, diverse opinions and the sharing of resources? How do we build connectedness with others?

sustainability - for how long will our community impact on peoples lives?

hope - does our community contribute meaning and purpose to people's lives?

building on strengths - How can our community encourage, value and build on what people are doing when the problem (whatever it may be!) has been absent or less of a problem?

language and communication - is our language respectful, non-discriminatory and free of stereotypes and labels?

As we bravely enter the future, in the strength of what we hold together in Christ, the adventure continues.

Keren McClelland

Deacons' Report

The deacons continue to meet monthly, with a strong focus on hearing from one another and praying about individual and corporate pastoral care issues.

Some of the matters that have been a priority in the 2005-2006 year follow.

1. The deacons are grateful for the energy and input of the 150th Anniversary Committee, and especially for the contribution made by Lindsay Smith.
2. It has been encouraging to see an increase in the number of church people directly involved in the Possums Playgroups ministry. The deacons, particularly the chairperson, Ray Leigh, continue to explore possibilities of how we might increase the interaction between the church, Possums and Hostel. It is gratifying to see the benefits of the use of the house between the church and the hall to the ministry as a whole.
3. Encouraging numerical growth continues in the church, with several new people beginning to attend during the year. It is particularly gratifying to see healthy interaction between the people of a wide range of age, ethnicity, interests and theological perspectives.
4. It is even more encouraging to see the personal and spiritual growth of many people in the congregation, and to experience the development of strong, mutually-nurturing interaction within the wide range of small groups, prayer groups, music and choir groups, Alpha groups etc. The church camp was again a significant event in the church's life, and thanks are due to Liz Taylor, Sue Bluett, Rod Pell and others for their work.
5. With such diversity in the church, the willingness of Rod Pell, Keren McClelland and others to provide a breadth of worship styles and experience is important. The involvement of many people in the leadership of services, especially at NightChurch, is extremely helpful, both to the congregation and to the individuals whose gifts are strengthened through their participation.
6. In the deacons' meetings, as in broader church life, it is clear that some people with strong relational gifts play a vitally important part in nurturing individuals, strengthening group unity and welcoming newcomers. Within the Diaconate, we appreciate the input in this area of Deirdre Willis, Steve Taylor and Rod Pell in particular, and there are many others in the church whose interaction with people makes a huge contribution to life within the church, and that benefit extends into the broader community.

7. As Treasurer, Victor Milne has brought a necessary emphasis on increasing the church's income. He will be missed when he and Heather leave for New Zealand.
8. There have been many people who have made an important contribution in improving the visual, audio and technical aspects of the church. In the deacons' meetings, Andrew Kollmorgen's input on these matters is particularly valuable.
9. Some years ago, the deacons set a goal of gradually increasing our contribution to local and world mission, aid and development needs, and started with an allocation of around 3% of the church's budget. It is gratifying this year to see 10% of our budget allocated for such purposes.
10. Concern has been expressed about the isolation of Keren McClelland's office, which raises workplace safety issues. The ideal would be to undertake a major renovation of the buildings to cater for better and more accessible office space for all concerned. But, as that is not feasible financially at present, Daniel Hunt is preparing to have some basic work done on the present office area.
11. The stability, strength and diversity of the Ministry team is beneficial to the broad life of the church. Keren McClelland has now completed three years with the NightChurch congregation, while Lindsay and Merryl Smith are now in their second year on the team. Chris and Janine de Paiva are now among our longest-serving Hostel managers. Kingsley and Gwyneth Smith have had an interrupted year due to medical issues, and it is good to see Kingsley resume most of his responsibilities. At Karana, a major change has occurred with Phyl Taylor relinquishing many of the responsibilities she has carried so well for many years. The overall leadership provided by Rod Pell is exceptional, and the church is grateful for the wholehearted involvement of each member of the Pell family.

Grace Munro
Secretary

Report on Membership and Participation

The trend of recent years has continued with ongoing growth in attendance and membership, and, more importantly, the growth of people in their walk with God. It was pleasing to see five young adults express their faith in baptism.



We give praise to God who continues to work among us in a wide variety of ways, in and through the many people who are actively involved, not just in church life, but in the communities in which they live, work and study.

Grace Munro
Secretary

According to last year's membership records (as at September 2005):

	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

MEMBERS

Accepted into membership 2005-2006	5 English congregation, 2 Vietnamese
Transferred into membership 2005 - 2006	1 English congregation
Died (Jean Knight)	1 English congregation
Transferred away 2005-2006	1 English congregation, 5 Vietnamese
Removed by roll revision	1 English congregation, 1 Vietnamese

ACTIVE NON-MEMBERS

Active non-members who have moved away during 2005 – 2006	15 English congregation 4 Vietnamese congregation
Active non-members who died 2005-2006 (Daisy Barclay)	1 English congregation
Active non-members who became members during 2005 - 2006	6 English congregation 1 Vietnamese congregation
New active non-members during 2005 - 2006	29 English 1 Vietnamese congregation

MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS AT SEPTEMBER 2006 after the adjustments

	English Speaking Congregation	Vietnamese Congregation Congregation	Totals
Members	100	22	122
Absentee members	3	0	3
Active non-members	<u>111</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>118</u>
Totals	214	29	243

Grace Munro
Secretary

Congregational Life and Ministries

Sunday Morning Worship

I believe God's spirit is at work in the morning services. Before the service a group of 8 or more spend time praying that those attending will be blessed and those taking part in the leading will honor God.

Having the music team, the organ and piano, the brass, and the choir, helps cater for the tastes of the wide age group that attends. Many have found the "sermons series" led by the pastor and Ken Manley very helpful.

There have been a number of "special" services; the hymnfest, the children's service, the Hostel opening, and some guest speakers as well. The attendances have built up during the year and we have 150 or more on a regular basis.

Please support the services in prayer before you come because God does answer prayer.

Ray Leigh

Choir

During the year the choir contributes to the morning service on a monthly basis. At special Christmas and Easter services it was joined by a number of friends who have sung with us on previous occasions plus members of the Music Teams, resulting in a wonderful contribution of music on these special occasions.

Since February members of the Music Teams have joined with the choir for its monthly contribution to the morning service and we appreciate their involvement along with the special brass quartet.

We are looking forward to participating in the 150th Anniversary Celebrations.

Ian Lowe

Music Team Report 2006

*Who imagined the sun and gave source to its light?
Yet conceals it to bring us the coolness of night?
None can fathom!
Indescribable! Uncontainable!
You placed the stars in the sky and you know them by name...
You are amazing, God!
Incomparable! Unchangeable!
You see the depths of our hearts and you love us the same...
You are amazing, God!*

Who is this all-powerful creator that we so casually sing to every Sunday?

Who is this one that we call the Saviour of our lives that we try to contain in small, controllable doses; to times we can fit into our schedule; in the confines of the culture around us?

... we think about more than music. Our expression of worship of this God that we struggle to understand reflects – at least in intention – our honest response to his impact on our lives individually and communally.

And so, we ask: Do our efforts in worship lead to genuine praise of God and the growth of character in the members and the whole body of this Christian community?

We hope so.

Now, a little bit of housekeeping – we've reshuffled into 3 music teams and we're having stacks of fun singing in the choir. If you want to get involved we'd love to have you and if you've been involved – we really value your gifts and time!

Once again, thank you for this community's support of the music teams. We appreciate the feedback and encouragement – especially that which comes when your voices are louder than ours combined!

A final thought:

*“Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.
Worship the LORD with gladness;
come before him with joyful songs.
Know that the LORD is God.
It is he who made us, and we are his;
We are his people, the sheep of his pasture.
Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise;
Give thanks to him and praise his name.
For the LORD is good and his love endures forever;
His faithfulness continues through all generations.”*

- Psalm 100

For Christ's sake,
Kylie Kollmorgen & Ryan Harper,
Michelle Edwards & Rory Chambers,
Kez Pell & Andy Harkness

Prayer Groups

Sunday Morning

Prayer is not only for personal devotions and public worship but, under God, it releases spiritual power for ministry, witness, and outreach service. This is what motivates the Sunday morning pre-service prayer meeting (9.30-9.45am).

The numbers of attendees fluctuates according to the availability of members. A few times three or four may gather, such as when the Church Camp was being held, or the time of the morning service has been radically changed. At other times 10 or 12 gather. We read a few verses from the Bible or appropriate Christian literature, consult the Prayer and Care section of the bulletin, and then pray for the congregation and leading participants in the service which follows.

As we conclude the music team gathers for a few minutes of prayer. We encourage others to join us at 9.30am each Sunday in the vestry. Come when you can and go when various duties call.

We note that the **Wednesday Evening Prayer Fellowship** has gone into abeyance for the present due to changed personal circumstances of group members. Thank you to Val McPherson and Bev Smith for their gracious hosting over recent years.

Kingsley Smith

Tuesday Prayer Breakfast

Have you seen the sun rise lately?
Join us in the Youth Lounge
and watch this beauty unfold
because
on Tuesday mornings
at 7.00a.m.
we talk to God
about you.

God has graciously answered our prayers for the 6 – 8 people who gather each week.

The day is made brighter
our faith is made stronger
we are encouraged,
we are very blessed!

Ken Lyall

Wednesday Prayer Breakfast

Five to ten young adults gather every Wednesday morning at 7am in the warmth of Amy, Ben and Kim's lounge. Contrary to popular belief, the focus of the gathering is not on breakfast, but rather on spending time together in prayer – especially for the hostel and NightChurch communities.

The prayer time has become a priority to those that attend regularly, and we have seen God at work in many ways – casual attendees are also welcome, and if you need to eat breakfast, that can be arranged!

Kerryn Pell

Prayer Study Groups

Two small groups on "Different Ways of Praying" ran for four weeks, the first in August last year led by Liz Taylor and the second in February this year, led by Sheila King. Some of us also attended a Taize prayer service at Ashburton as part of this exploration.

The four ways of praying were

- Using Imagination in Prayer
- Lectio Divina (Praying with Scripture)
- Centering Prayer
- Reflective Night prayer

After the prayer style had been explained, we spent 20 - 30 minutes engaging in this way of praying. Following supper we shared our experiences and concluded with worship. Some people found they were drawn to a particular way of praying.

Overall it was a helpful learning experience for us all. Many Christians speak highly about prayer but in practice spend very little time praying. The key to getting enthused about prayer may lie in discovering ways of praying that are authentic for us.

Liz Taylor

Small Groups

Alpha Groups



In early 2006 Kew Baptist Church joined with 100 churches across Melbourne in running The Alpha Course under the banner "R U coming to dinner?" Alpha is a fantastic course where members of the congregation can invite their friends, who have questions about Christianity, to an evening where they can explore faith in a safe and non-threatening environment.

Two groups ran in first semester on Tuesday and Thursday nights comprising of a diverse range of people with different backgrounds. All who took part in the course were challenged by the content to enter deeper into a relationship with God. Many of those who participated in Alpha in the first semester are now involved in other small groups. Another two courses are running in 2nd semester at the Pell's house on Monday and Tuesday nights, and our prayer is that Alpha will become a constant outreach tool for Kew Baptist Church. Wouldn't it be awesome if we adopted this wonderful opportunity as a Church, praying for the courses' success and continually encouraging our pre-Christian friends to get involved!

Luke Gibbons

Christianity Explored

Over the summer break, as many things started to wind down for 2005, Christianity Explored got going! It was begun with the realization that a number in our community were actually going to be around Melbourne, rather than back at home in the country, and keen to study the Bible together. It was also seen as a good opportunity for a few people who were relatively new to Kew Baps to get to know each other and experience the small group environment. So, with that in mind ten or so young adults met regularly at the Pell's, chatting lots, asking plenty of questions, learning together... and enjoying supper.

Christianity Explored is similar to the Alpha course, but works through the book of Mark over 10-12 weeks. The course notes – and sometimes even the video – provided a good springboard for some lively discussion. A number of fundamental aspects of our faith were represented in analogies – bumper bars, chickens and pesky kangaroos were a common theme... we leave it to you to work out the connection there!

Kerryn Pell

McBS Study Group

McBS finished off 2005 strongly, having covered some great study series, including 40 days of Purpose and a fascinating study on Women in the Bible. We continued to meet on Friday mornings in the Youth Lounge with Child care provided in the Possums rooms.

In 2006, due to changing Child care needs, and work arrangements, we started meeting fortnightly on Tuesday evenings at the de Paiva house. Due to Janine's unavailability in Term 1, we didn't regroup until Term 2 and have been slowly making our way through the Alpha course. This has been a great way of promoting lengthy discussions amongst us all with our varying spiritual backgrounds. To complete the Alpha course should take us through to the end of the year. As you would expect of McBS – in addition to our formal study we have persisted in finding great prayer support amongst each other as we continue to grow in our faith and friendships.

Janine de Paiva

Thursday Bible Study Group

Thursday night group at John Sampson's house. 7.30 sharp. (No lingering after the ABC news here!)

We have had a very stimulating and productive time in this group. Lately we have been looking at the parables and finding there is far more to be learned than one might expect from stories that are so well known. We use a variety of sources and take them all as starting points for discussion and reflection. Sometimes we agree, sometimes we do not.

The end result is that the group has provided us with a very enriching experience of both study and prayer and has been well worth the effort.

At present the group consists of Ken and Margaret Manley, Ken and Edith Lyall, John Sampson and Tim Siu (hosts), Deirdre Willis, Val Rhode, Marguerite Swann and George and Dorothy Dullege.

If you would like to join us you are very welcome.

John Sampson

Sunday School

What a joy for us all to see children sitting near the front of the Church with their parents on a Sunday morning, joining with the adults worship God, clapping along with the Music Team, helping take up the offering and listening and participating in the Children's talk.

You may wonder each Sunday what happens to them when they all leave!

In the Possums play room there can usually be found two or three creche children, hopefully happily playing with the toys and under the supervision of wonderful people who so faithfully serve us all. These include our secondary school age girls. If you have been one of those special people - thank you very much.

The program in the Hall begins with action-packed singing and we want to thank Rory Chambers and Janine de Paiva for their leadership in this area.

Singing is followed by classes for our twenty-five children. The youngest group, Kinder and Prep children have been taught this year by Lee Ann Butchart, Christine Muller, Tanya Pell and Marisol Pizarro with Natalie Pell assisting.

Our Year 1 and 2 children have been taught by Jo Austin, Kylie Kollmorgen and Elise Taylor. And our Year 3 to 5 children, who meet in the Youth Lounge, have been led by Ashley and Bron Wright, Tanya Smith and Rory Chambers.

A lot of preparation goes into each week and the results have been creative presentations of the stories of the Bible, following the Gospel Light curriculum, a series printed in the USA. A big thank you goes to our Sunday School teachers for their time and commitment to the faith journeys of our children.

As there are so many children these days, we run Sunday school into holiday times and when Sunday school is not operating, offer a suitable Christian kids' video for the children to watch.

Liz Pell

Youth Group

The Kew Baps Youth Group has enjoyed another year together, learning and encouraging one another in our faith in Jesus Christ. We have enjoyed our Sunday afternoon Bible studies and the meal we share together afterwards. Recently we have aligned our studies with NightChurch as a precursor to the evening service, and we look forward to the privilege of leading NightChurch on the 27th of August.

We also have a social function running every other weekend, and these have been great fun as well as valuable bonding times. Here are some of our reflections on this year...*"I think Youth Group is a really exciting way to meet more new people and learn about Jesus."*

"Youth Group is a place to give your week a kick-start, to grow in your faith, have fun and learn more about our wonderful God."

"In Bible Study this year we have looked at wisdom, the books of James and Romans and lately the Sermon on the mount. We have had many great discussions."

"Young people live out honesty, hope and innocence in a way that we can all learn from irrespective of our age, race, or social standing. Thanks stax Kew Baps Youth Group."

"The best time in Youth Group was when we went to the footy. Especially because Collingwood thrashed Brisbane."

"My favorite Youth Group event was our trip to St. Kilda beach."

"I mostly enjoyed the ice skating night. At first we were falling but we soon got the hang of it – heaps of fun."

"I liked the ice skating and anything we did where I didn't get my photo taken."

"Wonderful times, wonderful people, life can't get any better."

"We went to Urban Seed. It was really fun and interesting about how they help homeless people."

"We watched Collingwood vs Brisbane and it was really fun because Collingwood thrashed Brisbane."

Thanks everyone for all your prayers, please keep them coming.

Tom Docking, Luke Gibbons, Amy Hill, Andy Hunter, Liz Pell, Kara Ribbons, Jennie Taylor.

Ladies Evening Group

In presenting this report for the Ladies Evening Fellowship I wish to give thanks to God for the way He has led us over the past year and His loving kindness to all of us.

We have enjoyed a wonderful feeling of friendship with all our members and especially during our weekend trip to Marysville in October last. Hopefully we intend to organise another weekend away in March next year.

At our first meeting in February, Liz Taylor spoke to us on the topic "Finding God in the darkness" which was a very apt subject as at that time we were all very concerned about Lilliana's condition, Bev Smith and other members with personal concerns. Gillian Tonson then gave us a wonderful insight to their experiences in the UK and Israel and her big '50' with all her family present. We had talks from Sue Bluett on life as a Carey Chaplain, Victor Milne and Smile Dzisi on their lives in South Africa and Ghana. The Kew Historical Society talk was most interesting with their folk showing old photos and maps of the Kew area, one of the first settlements in Melbourne. We look forward to having Rev. Ken Manley talk to us later this year on the book he has just written about the history of the Baptists in Australia.

Our annual dinner is always held at Gwen & Arthur Davie's home and a great time is had with our men folk attending. Our annual appeals, donations to Home & Overseas Missions etc. totalled \$1453.90 and I wish to thank our members for their generous support this year and all the committee members who have carried out their duties so graciously. A big thank you to Valda Renshaw who kindly offered to send birthday cards to our members and get-well messages to folk in our Church who have been unwell during the year. I would also like to thank the ladies who have opened their homes and provided supper for the 15-20 who attend each month.

In closing let us thank God once again for his loving kindness to us, surrounding us each day with His presence.

Elva Dyer, President

Church Camp

This year's camp went well, with some people describing it as the best camp we've had. 111 people attended, including 29 new people. It was exciting to have eight different nationalities represented at the camp (people from South Africa, Ghana, Chile, New Zealand, Korea, China, Vietnam & Australia) and a big group of young adults. Camp again proved to be a great opportunity to get to know others in a relaxed setting and have fun together.

On Friday night, Sue Bluett introduced the theme of Building Bridges and 8 teams enthusiastically set about making bridges from newspaper and tape. A vast range of creative constructions set the judges Ken Lyall and Mark Holt a challenging task.



On Saturday morning, Mark Holt led two sessions developing the theme of Building Bridges. He drew from his experiences in tsunami-ravaged Banda Aceh and living in multicultural Newmarket in inner Melbourne. The small group discussions were helpful and practical. Mark emphasised the value of table hospitality with authentic conversation as a very valuable means of building bridges with people in our community.



The children's first session on Saturday morning was led by Janine de Paiva, Bronwyn and Bernie Hogan and other parents helped with activities after morning tea. Tim Jones, Caitlin Backholer and Jenny Campbell did a great job too. My grateful thanks to everyone concerned and to Liz Pell who co-ordinated the children's program.

On Saturday afternoon people enjoyed the relaxed time together – the Airey's Inlet coffee shop and cliff walk was popular as was fishing by the river and the nearby playground. The high ropes had a good number wanting to try out or watch and the younger children had fun on the flying fox, despite the rain.

Saturday night saw another memorable Beetles tournament followed by interactive games led by Amy Hill. The night hike and bonfire had to be cancelled due to the wet weather but people played card games and board games instead. The young adults may have started a new craze with their game, Angels and Assassins!

On Sunday morning Sue Bluett, Janine de Paiva and Mark Holt combined to take the all-age service. It was a special time of worship, with children taking a leading role in the prayers and the drama of the paralysed man. Mark impacted us all as he took on the character of Bart in re-telling the Bartimaeus story. We were challenged to build bridges towards others, taking a Duplo (Lego) block home to remind us.

Many thanks to Mark and Val Holt and to Sue Bluett for their great contribution to the Camp. Thank you also to everyone who helped organize and run the different camp activities – I really appreciated your assistance. Thank you to everyone who prayed – God was at work!

We look forward to seeing you at next year's Church camp – **June 29 – July 1, 2007** (the first weekend of the school holidays).

Liz Taylor

150th Anniversary Celebrations

By the time you read this, the first major function will have taken place. Eighty two folk met in Newnham for the Weddings Reunion Dinner, and it was a great success.

KEW | 150
BAPTIST CHURCH
ANNIVERSARY



150th Anniversary Weddings Reunion Dinner in the KBC hall.

An enormous amount of work went into preparation, and in particular, compiling an accurate database of all who have been associated with Kew Baptist Church over the years, and we wish to thank Jenny Culverwell, Gillian Tonson and John Hollow, for hours of work to reach this point. An "I remember" column has been printed in the weekly church bulletin adding interest and memories to our anniversary year. My thanks to all those who have contributed to this.

Ahead of us are a series of events you all might like to participate in. Representatives from the Church will meet for afternoon tea with the residents of the Karana Community, in September to thank them for being part of our Church's life.

On October 21, and again on November 11, you are invited to be part of an Historical Tour, together with afternoon tea and the launch of Dr. John Sampson's book on the early families of the Church. Cost will be \$15.00 each.

On Thursday, November 9, at the Auburn Baptist Church, 597 Burwood Rd., Hawthorn, at 7:30, Dr. John Sampson will address the gathering on historical aspects of his book.

The final weekend will be November 18 and 19. Saturday, November 18 will be the Celebration Dinner at Carey Quadrangle, when 350 will be able to attend. Sunday, November 19 will see a full Church and more, at both morning and evening Services. Come along, and meet Rev. Dr. Ross Clifford.

I would like to thank all the members of the Organising Committee, Judith Backholer, John Hollow, Ken Lyall, Ken Manley, Ann Mills, Rod Pell, John Sampson, Meryl Smith and Matthew Wood, for a magnificent job well done.

Lindsay Smith
Chairman

Ministry to the Community and the World

Student Hostel

It hasn't been all smooth sailing in the Hostel over the last twelve months. The beginning of the year was very tough mainly due to the unexpected illness of Lilliana, so Janine and I started the year mentally and physically exhausted. We were very grateful of the support of the Hostel Committee and our fantastic staff, Kim Fleming, Amy Hill and Ben Prime who were very accommodating and helpful through what is one of the busiest times for the Hostel. They helped interview students, answer accommodation inquiries, run the Working Bee Breakfast, and along with Rory Chambers, Michelle Edwards, Luke Gibbons (Gibbo) and Ryan Harper from the House, (No. 18 Highbury), helped organize the Hostel Commencement Service and BBQ.



The student numbers are also low again this year, mainly due to the new accommodation that has been built at Swinburne University. The number of students in 2006 has hovered around 40. We have picked up some new students and lost a few mid-year which is quite common. We have also been taking some short stay people to help generate extra income. Over the summer we had 25 Koreans use our facilities for two weeks, which also helped and they hope to return this summer.

Another challenge was receiving the resignation of our cook within the first two weeks of the Hostel being open for the year. It has been very difficult to find a replacement and very unsettling for both staff and students having temporary cooking staff for nearly three months. Finally after the mid-year break we found a great cook, Sue, who is doing a fantastic job. Not only is she good at cooking, she has a great rapport with the students.



Christine Day, a third year midwifery student at ACU, has been our Senior Student this year. She is a great asset to the team and does lots of work behind the scenes. Alongside Christine, our staff team has remained the same and worked really well again. We are all quite different and bring a variety of gifts and skills which have come together to make a cohesive unit. It has been tough on everyone having to carry the extra load in helping out in kitchen more than in the past, but the extra support has been very much appreciated.

Hostel Assistant Staff
Kim, Ben and Amy

There has been a change of the guard in the Hostel Committee this year; we have been very pleased to welcome the wisdom of Ken Manly, the youthfulness of Nicholas Barclay and the expertise and leadership of Carin Kloppers who has replaced Leonie Hibbins as chair. We are very sad to say farewell to Leonie as she has done an outstanding job in leading the committee over the last ten years and has initiated many changes and upgrades over this time. Thanks again for all your hard work, time spent at meetings and working bees, and your loyal commitment to the ministry of the Hostel.

Other than lots of incidental maintenance, not much has been done on the buildings front over the last year. The largest expense was the new picket fence at the front of 18 Highbury Grove, which has really added to the appearance of the house and is very much in keeping with the Federation style of the house. Thanks again to Tim Jones who has spent hours researching, co-ordinating the working bee to

pull down the old fence and painting the new fence (rather than painting his own place! I'm sure his wife might add.)

There are advantages of not having the Hostel totally full. The dining room at meal times is far less crowded but more importantly it is easier for students to get to know each other and build more meaningful relationships. The atmosphere of the Hostel is fantastic and has a real homely feel. The guys in the house have done a great job interacting with the students and made them feel welcome to drop in and have a chat etc.



Hostel Formal 2005

This year the students have been more aware of social justice and have done lots of fundraising together including, Relay for Life, the 40 hour Famine, The Kew Festival and sponsoring a World Vision child. It has been great to see people sharing their faith and being positive role models and also inviting people to Alpha, small groups and the wider church community.

In conclusion, although it has been a tough year in the Hostel, it is an amazing place and Janine and I feel very honoured and blessed to be a part of this special community.

We could not do the work we do here without the support of the Hostel Committee, Support Staff and the wider church community. Please continue to support the Hostel ministry whether it be in prayer, financially or making the students feel welcome in our wider church community.

Chris and Janine de Paiva
Hostel Managers



Shaved for a cure

Possums Playgroup and Kindergarten

The end of 2005 saw Possums complete its 17th year of operation, sporting a fine new fence facing onto Highbury Grove and plans afoot for a new larger shed to replace the one that had served us well but that we had seriously outgrown. Both of these items required considerable effort in obtaining Council approval, permits etc., and Bronwyn Hogan is to be commended for her patience and perseverance in seeing these projects through.



We commenced 2006 with four playgroups and two 3-year old kindergarten groups, and we recommenced our fifth playgroup after Easter. Regretfully we farewelled Lauren Nash as our Kinder Red Assistant, but we were pleased to welcome Anastasia Panagiotidis to take her position. She joins our team, along with Jennifer Bede who continues as our Kinder Blue Assistant.

We have some wonderful people at Possums. I wish you could meet them all. Most are doing OK, but a few are doing the hard yards. One of the dads was diagnosed with cancer this year and the family have had to sell their business and home and will shortly move back to Adelaide. In the meantime, dad is at home and mum has had to return to work full time. Two of our Possums' mums put their heads together to find a way they could show this family that they are special and that we care about them. Subsequently, monetary contributions were collected from their group, a meal was delivered to the family and those of the group who were able attended an Intimo party. As well as having a fun evening together, the mum in need now has some special garments to remember us at Possums by, and we have had the opportunity to ensure her family of our prayers.



I am particularly grateful for the church community who visit us and invest in the people who are the Possums' mission field, and for those who take time to pray regularly for us. I am also very appreciative of all the support and encouragement I receive from the Possums' Committee. These people work hard at organizing fundraising activities, working bees, enrolments, finances, birthday cards, social activities, and generally keeping the individual groups in touch with each other. Of course, Possums wouldn't be the place it is if it weren't for all the marvellous children and their families that come along each week, to enjoy being together and having fun as they learn and explore a little more of the world each week. I am sure the church community of 150 years ago could not have imagined a place such as Possums is today. But in 2006 Possums Playgroup offers us a unique opportunity to share God's love with over 100 families each week. Please join me as we seek to love, care, support, encourage, and offer friendship to all these wonderful people who are the Possums community.

Miriam Schmidt

Mustard – at Kew High School

Mustard Ministries is an organisation that runs lunch time groups and seminars in schools across Melbourne where students can gather to discuss their faith and discover the love of Jesus. This year, Kew Baptist Church has had the privilege of partnering with Mustard to run a lunch time group at Kew High School on Tuesdays. Leading the group has led to some overwhelming and rewarding experiences with up to 11 students participating and considering the amazing love of Christ. Glynn Chambers has proven a wonderful asset to the group since joining the leadership team, while other members of the NightChurch congregation have shown genuine interest in assisting to build this young Church of Kew High School. You might like to pray for the school Chaplain, Rosemary Carter, the growing leadership team as well as the growth of the group both spiritually and in attendance.

"The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all your seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and perch in its branches."

Luke Gibbons

Chat & Chew Men's Lunches

During the past year our attendances have remained fairly constant at 29-30 attending. Some regulars have died or moved away only to be replaced by new members.

Thanks to Felicity Rentos and her helpers, the meeting at Karana every alternate month has worked well.

In addition to Kew Baptist Church and Karana, men now attend from Templestowe, Hamer Court, Canterbury and Richmond.

Speakers for the past year have been :

Rod Pell	<i>Men's Business in Africa</i>
Neil Shields	<i>Habitat for Humanity</i>
Gary & Gwyn Milne	<i>BWA Congress and Beyond</i>
Les Hutchinson	<i>Joseph Wilson (1810-1897) Bright Hopes for Tomorrow</i>
Peter Breen	<i>Insights for Life by a blind musician</i>
Geoff Holland	<i>Teacher Missionary, Editor</i>
Alan Rash	<i>Inspiring Scenes and Music</i>
John Wall	<i>Ansett Pilot, MAF Adviser, Living with Depression</i>
Ian Hawley	<i>Living with Muslims</i>
Noel Burley	<i>Research Scientist with Australian Military Forces</i>
Jenny Jeffree	<i>Volunteering at Olympic & Commonwealth Games</i>
Stephen Kidner	<i>Africa Revisited</i>

Honour Board of helpers includes: Richard Godden, Ken and Edith Lyall, Val McPherson, David Mynard, Robyn Scott, Gwyneth Smith and Lindsay Smith.

In response to a request for feedback:

Richard Godden has made a number of suggestions for increasing the amount of involvement of more men.

Bob Pocklington, on behalf of some of the Karana men has highlighted the quality of speakers, the availability of transport, the music and community singing, and the need to adhere to our self-imposed time limits.

Keith Matthies noted the great catering, fine fellowship, interesting and informative speakers.

Brian Garth commented favourably on the following acrostic:

Cheering		Considerate
Healthful		Harmonious
Affable	AND	Educational
Tolerant		Worthwhile

and leaves little to be desired.

Chat and Chew is fellowship forming and life enhancing.

Kingsley Smith

Karana Chaplain's Report

"Many, O Lord My God,
Are the wonders you have done.
The things you planned for us
No-one can recount to you;
Were I to speak and tell of them,
They would be too many to declare. Psalm 40:5

It is a testimony to the goodness of the Lord that we have experienced His love and faithfulness throughout the last year at Karana.

At the end of 2005 we acknowledged Miss Phyl Taylor's wonderful leadership and ministry over the years particularly in organizing the roster for service leaders and overseeing this ministry. Her faithfulness, along with others, has established a work in Karana which continues.

Phyl Taylor, Freda Kingdom & Valarie McPherson

Chapel services have continued throughout the week as well as on Sundays despite a significant number of volunteers no longer being available to lead services. Karana has been blessed with many folk giving generously of their time on a regular basis and we are grateful to God for the ministry they have exercised.

Up until the month of August four services have been held mid week on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. However with several folk away during the winter months and reduced volunteer numbers, mid-week services have been reduced to three and there is no longer a service held on Mondays. Numbers attending have reduced throughout the year due to increased resident frailty however a faithful core of 18-26 residents come to services mid week with more on Sundays.

Sunday service speakers include Professor Basil Brown, Miss Ruth Nicholls on a monthly basis, representatives from The Bible Society, Open Air Campaigners, the Bible College of Victoria, The Leprosy Mission, and various other individual speakers. We give thanks to God for the loving generosity of these folk. The contribution of Mr and Mrs Gil Robinson in attending each Sunday and caring for residents is acknowledged with gratitude and thanks to the Lord for their faithful service.

Offerings received on Sundays have been distributed to a wide variety of ministries with a total of over \$1,000. This again is evidence of the goodness of the Lord and faithful giving.

Prayer circle continues monthly on a Wednesday morning and is attended by approximately ten residents. This time is led by various residents on a roster basis and is a precious time of praying for our community and other areas of ministry.

Monthly Fellowship Afternoons continue as do Pleasant Sunday Afternoons. Topics and speakers are varied with a view to including everyone while seeking to maintain a Christian perspective.

The care given by Pastor Rod Pell, Rev Lindsay Smith and other Kew Church members is a source of encouragement to Karana residents and staff alike.

Currently renovations are taking place at Karana with an extra 16 resident placements becoming available in the New Year. Noise and inconvenience are daily challenges facing everyone and prayer for patience is appreciated!

A continuing goal at Karana is to maintain the spiritual focus and emphasis despite various changes. This relates to all areas and specifically to the Chapel/Wilkins Centre being used for increasingly diverse purposes with the ongoing challenge to find another way of accommodating these activities.

As well as the things mentioned the most important aspect of all, is God's ongoing work in each individual's life at Karana and there is daily evidence of His spirit at work. We continue to look to Him to lead and guide and provide for every need.

This report is submitted with thanks to God for His ongoing provision and blessing to all of us who share life at Karana.

Ruth Prentice, Chaplain

Mission Aid & Development Group

Vision Statement

The purpose of the Mission, Aid and Development Group is, with God's guidance, to Make a Difference in the world, both local and overseas, in the areas of justice, mission, aid and development.

The group aims to do this by stimulating interest and appropriate action within the Kew Baptist Church by:

- * increasing awareness of the world's needs and their causes.
- * promoting action to address those needs.
- * supporting, encouraging and praying for those who are involved in various ministries that encompass the areas of Mission, Aid and Development.

This statement, finally agreed on in September, after much deliberation, defines the purpose and goals of the M.A.D. Group. Membership is open to any person interested in joining in.

Highlights of 2005-2006

- In August, Rod reported to the group on his trip to Zambia, Mozambique and Malawi, with Kerry and Tanya, in June/July. It was exciting to hear of many answers to prayer and of the amazing number of families and former students visited.
- In December, the group encouraged people to give to Baptist World Aid projects of their own choosing, rather than specifying certain ones, as in previous years.
- Of the overseas missionaries we support, and encourage by writing post cards to them each meeting, all have been back in Australia at some time during the year.
 - * **Lisa Detlefson** returned to Wangaratta in November after more than three years in Papua New Guinea, as a teacher of children with special needs and is now teaching in Shepparton.
 - * **The Sherwen family** returned to Australia after completing their term in China.
- * **Allan and Merryl Gamble** and their two little children visited KBC in February, when Allan preached at the morning service. He also attended the April meeting of the M.A.D. Group and shared about his and Merryl's work in Indonesia, prior to their return there in May.





- * It has been very special having John, **Janine and Aidan Barclay** worshiping with us for much of their home stay, sharing in the mission focus during May, and being “sent forth” again from KBC, for their next term away in India.

- * **Mary Edgar** had some brief visits back to Melbourne from Nepal and caught up with friends at Kew and will be returning for the 15th anniversary celebrations.
- * **Natalie Smith** has returned from Nigeria for further study and it has been good to hear about her work and see her from time to time.
- * **Michelle Stancliffe** has set off on her first overseas term in Tanzania and is sending regular email prayer letters.
- For three of the four weeks of May, when the focus was on mission, Keren and Gwyn McClelland provided insights into the form of cross-cultural mission known as “tent-making”, based on their own experiences in Japan.
- In June, Stephen Kidner shared about his forthcoming trip to Tanzania, the place of his birth, and his plans, amongst other things, to visit the church where his parents married, the grave of his young brother and the two children he currently supports through World Vision and Compassion.



Plans for 2006-2007

The group is committed to continuing support for those from our fellowship working in cross-cultural and other ministries at home or overseas and to continue to learn about the huge areas of need around the world, what the causes are, and appropriate action that we can take. We are very keen to include new members in the group. There is an open invitation to talk to any member of the group about these matters: Rod Pell, Jean Jeffery, Stephen Kidner, Steve Taylor or Deirdre Willis.

Deirdre Willis, Secretary

Wider Connections

As Kew Baptist celebrates 150 years of service and fellowship we can be grateful for long years of support and fellowship among fellow-Baptists that have sustained and enriched our life. In return, Kew has always been a strong supporter of the Baptist Union of Victoria, has supplied many Union Presidents and denominational leaders and our buildings have frequently been utilised for significant denominational events. In this last year we have continued to participate in regular gatherings (what used to be called Assemblies) as representatives from all our churches listen to various plans and achievements among our churches as they act together. News about evangelism, Missions, Whitley College, our Baptist schools, community services, youth and children’s work, for example, all have a place in our shared life. Copies of the monthly *Witness* and regular reports in our church’s bulletins and church services provide up to date information on what is happening. Kew is proud to be thought of as a strong ‘Union’ church. So as we share in our weekly worship it is encouraging to appreciate that we belong to a family of Baptists throughout all the regions of our state. (Check out their website: www.buv.com.au).



In turn, the Baptist Union of Victoria belongs to the Baptist Union of Australia (BUA). This obviously gives a national focus to our work as Baptists. Our Church Anniversary speaker is Dr Ross Clifford, the current President of the BUA. He seeks to offer Baptist views on current issues in our national life and brings encouragement and vision to our national programs which include ‘Crossover’, a cooperative venture in evangelism. Baptists in isolated rural and regional centres also receive special support from fellow-Baptists through the BUA. (See their web-site: www.baptist.org.au).

But wait, as the ads say, there is even more! Through the BUA we belong to the Baptist World Alliance (BWA) which since 1905 has been encouraging and supporting Baptist work around the world. There are now over some 100 million Baptists found in most countries. Through BWA we are able to support those who suffer in hostile environments or who are victims of natural disasters. We support a world vision of evangelism and service through BWA. (Check out yet one more web-site: www.bwanet.org).

Ken Manley

Ministry Support

Property Management

The focus of the past year has been in transforming the hall. We have been blessed with the financial resources available for the project. Thanks to the fundraising efforts of the Spring Fair and several generous financial donations, we were able to perform some much-needed updating of the hall auditorium.

This included replacement of the patterned brown carpet with a fresh, bold blue carpet. While the previous carpet had served us well, it had reached (by some accounts - some time ago) the end of its useful life. In addition the removal process revealed the lack of underlay.

The mission brown paintwork has been replaced by a butter cream colour which has significantly brightened and lifted the atmosphere of the hall. All window winders have been replaced. The window dressings, both blinds and curtains have been replaced by chain drive blinds for upper and lower windows.

The church again experienced leaks during extra-heavy rain in February with some damage being incurred by the organ. We had one break-in to the church building that occurred in June with the loss of the data projector and sound equipment (replaced under insurance). We have purchased a new extension ladder to facilitate replacing the higher globes in the church auditorium.

Our working bees are mostly planned to coincide with the Possums working bees. Many thanks to those who attend these mornings and to others who quietly beaver away behind the scenes.

Planned / Potential projects for 2006/7

Thanks to Mark Hibbins who replaces light bulbs!

Planned projects for the next year include

- repainting the exterior brown woodwork at the hall (lower windows only),
- replacing a pair of exterior doors in the Possum's rooms (due to extensive water damage).
- costing and implementing remote security for the administrative areas. This has implications for the way we use the offices after hours.
- replace the front church doors with all glass doors (both sides)
- replacement of the manse cooktop
- perform a mini-renovation of the existing office area to provision for three offices in the existing space. This will require selective removal of unwanted items and re-organisation of existing storage space.

Daniel Hunt

Treasurer's Report

Another financial year has past where the Lord has truly blessed Kew Baptist!

I have had wonderful support from many different people but a special mention must go to Kate Crock our bookkeeper and David Benwell.

Thank you to Steve Taylor who is always in the wings willing to answer the difficult questions and give advice. Thanks to all of you for your support.

At the beginning of the financial year we wanted to take a more proactive approach to the Treasury role. As a result, a committee consisting of Heather Milne, Leonie Hibbins, Ray Leigh, Chris de Paiva and Victor Milne was set up. Our objective was to brainstorm ideas for both raising revenue and to encourage Community networking.

From this committee there were two new ideas (amongst many others!) which eventuated, namely the "Spring Fair" and the "Christmas Lunch". Both events were profitable (which does help) however, the Community involvement in the Spring Fair was exceptional and the highlight.

Thank you to everyone involved in making a success of both events, the list is very long. (I must thank my wife Heather for her support and energy).

The 2005 Spring Fair

There were many activities, stalls, crafts and goodies for families and kids. We had good attendance from the Church, Possum's and the local Community families.



Face Painting was a hit with the youngsters!



We were blessed with lovely weather and good attendance.



Christmas Lunch 2005

Another first was the Xmas lunch which was a great opportunity to get many people together to celebrate Christmas and to have good fellowship!
A very big thanks again, to everyone who helped us with this function.



The Catering Team!



Some of our younger guests!



Church folk enjoying the Christmas lunch and fellowship

Events for 2006/7

It was decided that this financial year we would not hold the Spring Fair and Christmas lunch events, as it is the year of our 150th Birthday celebrations.

We look forward to the excitement of these 150th Anniversary events scheduled for this year as a lot of hard work has gone into organizing them.

Special Gifts

There are many people who give to our Church in different ways not always financially. However this year saw some extraordinary financial gifts from some special people which certainly helped ease the financial burden required to operate the Church:

Thank you for the generous contributions throughout the year which contributed to the refurbishment downstairs in the hall and upstairs in the Youth Lounge!

Also a big thank you to Ann Seeley who has given away to Kew Baptist her commissions from the sale of houses. Thank you Ann for helping us raise further funds for God's work! *(P.S. If you are selling your home you know who to see!)*

An Overview of the Finances of 2005/6

Last Year's Goals

The primary goal was to ensure the offerings targets were met and that there was added income from special events to assist with the refurbishment required in the Hall. The church operating expenses also needed to be covered as they were up on the year 2004/5 in terms of budget.

Offering Envelopes

One of the Quarterly Meetings also saw the implementation of an idea from Liz Taylor for the use of Credit Card for offerings. Thanks to Gillian Tonson who did all the hard work in getting the design signed off and printed and thanks to Liz for the idea!

Summary of Actual Income and Expenditure 2005/6 against 2004/5:

- **Offerings and Gifts** were up on last year with the annual amount \$158 922 compared to \$112 546 for 2004/5. (Annual Offerings and Gifts for 2001/2 were \$86 806!)
- **Total Income** was \$201 456 compared to \$150 105 for 2004/5 actual
- **Total Expenses** were \$200 615 compared to \$162 547 for 2004/5 actual
- **Net Profit** was (\$360) compared to (\$12 442) for 2004/5 actual. We had budget for a loss of (\$23 118)

Summary of the Proposed Budgeted Income and Expenditure 2006/7

- **Offerings & Gifts** are budgeted to be \$152 200, which is lower than last year actual. It includes 150th income but no other fundraising events budgeted for.
- **Total Income** is budgeted at \$201 063 which is similar to the actual combined income for 2005/6. The camp fees are now budgeted for within the 2005/6 year.
- **Total Expenses**
General Expenses are anticipated to be \$221 730 which is higher than the actual figure of \$200 615 from 2005/6. We have included the expenses anticipated for the 150th and also budget for a part time assistant to Pastor. General increases in costs due to CPI also taken into account.
- **Net Profit/Loss** is budgeted at a loss of (\$21 867) against an actual of only (\$360) of 2005/6. I am certain we can improve on as we did this year past by improved offerings which are budgeted for conservatively and also better than budgeted income from the 150th celebrations.

General Comments

The last financial year was very encouraging especially to see how the Church responded with increase offerings. This year will be no different and the challenge is on to better the budgeted offerings figure!

The other highlight was to see what difference fundraising/networking initiatives can make and what a positive effect it has on all of us; the atmosphere before, during and after the Spring Fair was amazing.

The year ahead is another exciting one with all the 150th events planned. I think we should be realistic to face the new budget which clearly highlights that we need to improve offerings even further in order to, at the very least, break-even financially.

Finally, thank you for the support and prayers regarding our family's imminent move to New Zealand around March next year.

We would appreciate further prayers to help and guide us as a Church to identify a replacement Treasurer in the coming months. Naturally I will stay on as Treasurer, longer than September until a replacement is found.

Thank you to everyone once again for all the support and let's look forward to the challenges and God's hand in the year ahead.

Victor Milne, Treasurer

Church Office

The office has enjoyed an increase in staff this year beginning in August 2005 when I took long service leave after ten years and accompanied my husband Paul to the UK on a ministry exchange to the Lake District while my three children were all overseas. I record my thanks to the church for allowing me to make this possible. My visit to Israel will remain with me forever and has greatly enhanced my understanding of the Biblical world.

Jenny Culverwell from the Rowville Baptist Church capably filled in until Christmas and then has been employed 1 – 2 days a week since April preparing for the 150th Church Anniversary.

The 150th celebrations have added a great variety of work to the office and John Hollow has been a patient teacher and much appreciated resource person in preparing extra documents to cope with the demand of the anniversary, let alone the address list of over 1300 names. A new letterhead was printed, a website has been set up, www.kewbaptist.net.au and added to the external church notice board. Credit card provision has been put in place for people registering for 150th events and for direct giving through the weekly offerings. The busiest day in the office year was in August when a team of 7 people gathered to assemble a mailing of 560 invitations for the 150th anniversary.

Daniel Hunt's technical knowledge was in great demand for the new format of the church directory which was produced in June. With today's increased technological lifestyle, many more mobile phone numbers and email addresses were included in this year's directory.

The faithful work of Audrey Bennett, Bev Smith and Robyn Scott helping with weekly banking and bulletin preparation has been greatly appreciated. I am also grateful for the work of our bookkeeper, Kate Crock, who pops in once or twice a week, and Elva Dyer, Karen Lim, Anastasia Panagiotidis and Natalie Pell who have also assisted at times.

Jenny Culverwell, Gillian Tonson and John Hollow

Our links with Camcare Kew continue as we try support those less fortunate in our area. However their office is now open only two days a week and we have seen many more strangers at the door this year. The donations given during the winter and Christmas appeals are greatly appreciated by Camcare.

As a team we try to be efficient and welcoming to all who come to the door as we seek to be a Christian presence in this community. Thank you to everyone who includes us in your prayers.

Gillian Tonson
Administrative Assistant