

# Christ Church Mission Community Centre Annual Report 2020



Christ Church Community Centre  
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## **A Year of Two Halves**

### **Half one**

Last year, we spoke about building partnerships with our fellow organisations in our community. We said our role was to work with others in St Kilda to address the needs of our area and to ensure that we never wasted resources by duplicating functions offered elsewhere. And that's what we did in the first half of the year. That has been working well, though we know we have more work to do. We continue to discover new partnerships and new ways to handle longstanding issues. The needs change and we change with them. A good example is the establishment of a Men's Group. We found that there was a missing link for men and we worked with First Step to fill it.

So, a big thanks to our friends at the City of Port Phillip, South Port Uniting Church Parish Mission, Port Phillip Community Group, Brigidine Asylum Seekers Project, Elwood & St Kilda Learning Centre, Sacred Heart Mission, Star Health, First Step, Launch Housing and the many other services with whom we have contact.

### **Half two**

And then came the pandemic. We are proud to say that we continued operating within whatever guidelines and restrictions have been imposed. It meant a major adjustment as all activities operating within the Centre had to stop. So we continued in quite different ways, as you will read. The programs may not look the same but they achieved the same objectives.

Our Emergency Relief program has been hit with record demand. Our partners at South Port Uniting Church Parish Mission have been joined by the Collier Charitable Fund to enable us to increase from 3 days per week to 5 days per week. Things have changed for our valued volunteers as well. Restricted access to the Centre has meant limited volunteering opportunities.

Keeping our organisation afloat is an ongoing challenging issue. Uncertainty is a constant for us. Please be encouraged by this annual report to show how much can be done with little. And a very big thanks to all the people named in this report who have played a part in keeping us open day by day and to the people and organisations who have provided funding to make it possible. You have encouraged us.

Geoffrey Court  
President

## **What Christ Church Mission's Community Centre is about .....**

Christ Church Mission's Community Centre (St Kilda's Little Mission) is committed to creating an environment which is welcoming, inclusive and supportive for the diverse range of people and groups in our local community.

Recognising that poverty of resources and poverty of relationships can lead to social exclusion, the Centre offers opportunities for social interaction and personal growth, particularly through:

- Weekly free community meal,
- Emergency support
- Volunteering opportunities
- Engagement in free or low-cost activities, and
- Community outreach.

We are challenged to be the explicit social justice arm of Christ Church Parish.

## Bringing the Community Together – Some of Our Activities

### Open House

Our weekly Open House Meal is a free, 3 course meal and is usually enjoyed in our dining hall by up to 100 people. Despite the Covid-19 Pandemic our provision of a sumptuous meal served on Wednesday evenings has continued. The no cost, nourishing meal for people who are experiencing difficulties is being cooked and served by our team of volunteers as a take away hot meal collected from our building's front door from 4.30 to 6.15pm.



*Open House volunteer cooks take a "social distancing" break from cooking*

### Kitchen Garden

The kitchen garden continues to evolve and presents new shapes and colours depending on the seasons. One thing that remains steady are the volunteers who enjoy the opportunity to commune with nature, develop skills and share experiences and knowledge. As with all the programs we have had to alter the way things are being done: including restricting the plant sales and the times we are allowed to open. Also, by setting up a sanitising station in the garden and keep numbers of participants limited we are able to match the government safety guidelines.



### Men's Group

An inclusive support group held with First Step for men seeking social connection and guidance with their mental wellbeing was formed this year. While the face to face contact is preferred the group have managed to continue to meet up on line using zoom. Congratulations to Ben from First Step and those who are assisting to ensure the program continues to grow despite the restrictions of Covid-19.



*Ben holding the meetings online.*

### Garden Nomads

Garden Nomads continues to recruit and provide volunteers to work with elderly, frail or disabled local residents who are unable to care for their garden alone. A very popular program which continues also to be of great social benefit and value to all those involved. This program has continued to operate with volunteers taking extra precaution when visiting residents. Staying outside, wearing masks and gloves, using hand sanitizer, sanitized gardening equipment and maintaining the 1.5m social distance.



### Emergency Support

The number of people needing assistance from our Emergency Support program has been significantly increasing as more people have found themselves out of work due to the Covid-19 response. This has led to us extending our opening times and are now open Monday to Friday from 10.30 to 1.30pm to meet demand. In addition to the fresh fruit and vegetables delivered by Second Bite and items collected from Foodbank, we have received frozen meals prepared by RACV chefs and many generous donations from the community and local businesses and café owners.



*Marie with the emergency supplies providing support to people in need during Covid-19*

## Bringing the Community Together – Some of Our People

### Leigh (Garden Nomads Volunteer)

I'm part of a group of volunteers who garden for elderly folk in the Port Phillip local council area. It's a pleasure to tidy up someone's garden or lawn and then to see the smile on their face when the job is finished. To be honest, I get as much out of the job as do the clients. I believe gardening is good for the soul, and there's nothing like the smell of cut grass which somehow always takes me back to my childhood days of helping dad around the yard. I look forward to continue being part of the program.



Leigh with June, one of his regular Garden Nomad maintenance jobs



Patrick: a regular gardener on Thursday afternoons, since 2013.

### Patrick (Participant/Volunteer)

I grew up in Nagambie, Victoria and lived on a property with my parents, two brothers and two sisters. I moved to St Kilda over 10 years ago. I enjoy being part of the community and attending the Open House meal, it provides company and a lovely dinner. I have been involved in the Kitchen Garden almost every Thursday afternoon since it began in 2013. It gives me something to do and I like getting out of the house. Each week I also have my music day and play my favourite country music. I am a big fan of Ned Kelly and have a collection of souvenirs, including a Ned Kelly lamp. If you ask me what my favourite meal is, I would say steak and chips.

### Ruth (Garden Nomads Volunteer)

I have been a gardener in the Garden Nomads program for well over 10 years. Meeting other volunteers and budding gardeners has opened up my eyes to how other people live and their reasons for wanting to be involved in such a rewarding program. The highlight of my involvement has been meeting and forming friendships with recipients of the program. Gardening for the elderly ladies on my list has been the greatest joy to me. Their age and disabilities belie the fact that they want to get out and help me and offer advice and inspiration in their own gardens. It is this inspiration and love that gives me much, much more than the Gardening Nomads program ever promised.



Lindsay, Jaebin and Ruth developing a garden makeover plan together



Barry helping with Open House

### Barry (Open House Volunteer)

I have been living in Melbourne since I left Winnipeg, Canada in 2003. I have experienced homelessness here and received much community support. I had volunteered in Winnipeg and began here in my first year. I think there is nothing more rewarding than helping others help themselves. Our community strength lies with people. We owe each other respect and dignity.

## Bringing the Community Together – Some of Our People

### Sam (Open House Participant/Volunteer)

I moved into the local area 5 years ago and I was looking for some affordable courses at Port Phillip Community Group and they referred me to the Hospitality Training program at Christ Church Mission Community Centre. I completed the 10-week introductory course and have been able to stay on as a volunteer. I really love cooking and being part of the team and am hoping to find paid employment in a kitchen soon.



Sam serving up dessert for Open House



Greg, Celeste and Luke

### Celeste (Garden Nomads Resident)

I am a senior citizen and live in Elwood, imagine my delight when a friend told me of the 'nomads'. These good people are treasures within a community. They support living independently - which is everything. Now, these people are passionate, their work is their pleasure. They arrive at the appointed time, and, as if by some magic hand the overgrown garden is transformed into an oasis. Their concept of beauty has made my heart sing, for to gaze upon my garden now is a joy beyond measure.

### Chris (Kitchen Garden Participant/Volunteer)

My mum passed away in 2018 and I was at a bit of a loose end. I was introduced to the kitchen garden program in 2018 by the staff at Sacred Heart Mission, they made a suggestion that I might like the Christ Church Mission Community Centre kitchen garden because I like to garden and being outdoors. I enjoy being part of the community and interacting with others. I also became a garden nomad to help those who can't look after their own garden. I find gardening therapeutic and a good way to pass the time.



Chris is always ready to help

## Working Together

The Working Together program provides mentoring each week for people who are ready to make positive changes in their lives by volunteering in the Centre as a first step towards greater engagement in the community. We offer support and training in the cooking and gardening programs. Participants enjoy gaining confidence, developing new skills and expanding their social circle in the process.



"I mowed a lawn for the first time today. I really enjoy learning in the garden and doing new things, I'm 70 and there were so many things I have been able to do for the first time".  
Katrina



Dianne a volunteer mentor demonstrates to Brendan how to use power tools safely when trimming a hedge as part of 'Working Together'.

## Our Volunteers

Heartfelt thanks to our amazing team of volunteers. They have covered a range of activities. We would be lost without them.

Aheda Amro	Fr Turi Hollis	Leigh Smith	Penny Matthews
Andrew Pope	Gala Moskalenko	Lindsay Jamieson	Peter Turner
Anne Murphy	Greg Russow-	Lynette Chapple	Robert David Fitchett
Barry Reynolds	Russakowsky	Mahsa Saadation	Robyn Foy
Brendan Elvey	Geoffrey Court	Makenna Myler	Rod Carmichael
Charles Baird	Jackie Rongonui	Marie N'Diaye	Ruth Kingston
Charet Garcia	James McAlpine	Mark Spehr	Samnang Leng
Christopher Selleck	Janet Cathels	Martin Prest	Shaun Spiers
Christopher	Jen Sykes	Michael McLellan	Steve Wichtowski
Stephen	Jim Arter	Michael Myler	Stuart Baker
David Dawson	Joseph O'Reilly	Michael Stock	Tam Thanh Thi Nguyen
David Hughes	Josie Alexander	Michele Sholl	Tony Lion
Deb Carmichael	Judy O'Brien	Neville Aphoy	Tony Rusciano
Dianne Hollis	Julie Armstrong	Niki Camilatos	Valda O'Keeffe
Dianne Thomas	Kerrie O'Sullivan	Patrick Manning	Valerie Lion
Evanna Lake	Kurtis Smith	Pauline O'Brien	

Thank you also to Kate & Denise for delivering bread to us each morning donated by Bakers Delight, great teamwork!!

## Our Staff

The Centre is now open 5 days per week and our four staff members are employed for a total of 79 hours (2.1 full time equivalent). They bring a wide range of skills and experience from a broad range of working and life experience covering Community Welfare, Mental Illness, Social Engagement and Community Development to their relationship with our community.

Manager - Elizabeth Rooney

Program and Volunteer Coordinator - Elaine Wilkinson

Community Engagement and Emergency Support program - Marie Baker

Program Facilitator- Elizabeth Ng

Our community Centre is cared for by Jim Arter, Andrew Pope and Peter Turner.

*A big thankyou to our staff who with our volunteers enable us to continue providing valuable support and services to the community.*

## Our Finances

*Christ Church Mission Inc. operating as Christ Church Community Centre*

Income & Expenditure for the year to 30 June 2020

	Income		Expenditure
Operating income (Grants, venue hire)	346,162	Staff salaries (1.8 EFT)	174,381
Donations	20,468	Other staffing costs	16,578
Member's subscriptions	40	Program costs	37,041
Interest	<u>2,824</u>	Office expenses	2,189
	<u>369,494</u>	Rent	9,000
		Insurance	2,572
		Bank charges	300
		Depreciation	<u>68,257</u>
			<u>310,318</u>

Surplus (loss) from ordinary activities 59,176

This is an extract from the audited financial statement. Full financial statement is available on request

## Our Supporters

We acknowledge with gratitude the support given in donations, gifts, grants and/or in-kind by those listed below and those who prefer to remain anonymous.

### Individuals

Andrew Alexander	Isla Carboon	Ching Ping Hui	Yan Ou
Norma Alexander	Valerie Ferguson	Laraine Proctor	Rose & Damian Paterno
Stella Beal	Caroline Hogg	Olivia Ng	Michael Walker
Barbara Brown	Evanna Lake	Maree N'Diaye	Dorothy Waterfield
David A Brown	Therese Lovejoy	Pauline O'Brien	Kerry Willcock
			Michael Wilson

### Organisations

Alcoholics Anonymous	GIVIT	Sacred Heart Mission
All About Organics Online	Grill'd	Second Bite
Bakers Delight Elwood	Hanes	Spiral Foods
Bakers Delight Hampton	Holley Nethercote	Springvale Gospel Singers
Bakers Delight Highett	Jerry's Milk Bar	Star Health
CCare	Kadem Community	St Andrew's Opportunity Shop, Brighton
Christ Church St Kilda	Kiwanis Port Phillip	St John's Anglican Church, Toorak
Coles	Lactalis Australia	St Kilda/ Elsternwick Baptist Church
Feed Melbourne	Mt Bernard Olives	Toyota Community Foundation
First Step	Narcotics Anonymous	Woolworths
Fitzrovia	Pinchapoo	XTM Performance
Foodbank Victoria	RACV	
Brigidine Asylum Seekers Project		South Port Uniting Church Parish Mission
Elwood St Kilda Neighbourhood Learning Centre		South Melbourne Community Chest
Port Philip Community Group		Toorak Ecumenical Churches Opportunity Shop

### Other Funders

City of Port Phillip	Collier Charitable Fund	Flora & Frank Leith Charitable Trust	Perpetual
Tucker Foundation	Musculoskeletal Australia	Feed Melbourne	

## Committee of Management

Responsible for the overall governance of the Centre, the voluntary Committee includes:

Office Holders:	Geoffrey Court - President	Fr Turi Hollis- Vice President
	Charles Baird -Treasurer	Mark Spehr – Secretary
Members:	Kerrie O'Sullivan	

## You can be part of our work by.....

- Donating non-perishable foods and toiletries. You can leave them at the Community Centre: 14 Acland Street, St Kilda, between 10.30am to 1.30pm Monday to Friday or give us a call.
- Donating \$2.00 or more which is tax-deductible.  
You can donate online at: <https://www.givenow.com.au/cause1510>
- Volunteering – especially for involvement in our Garden Nomads, Community Kitchen Garden and Open House programs. Express your interest to any of our staff – phone 9534 9250 or email us at [communitycentre@christchurchstkilda.org.au](mailto:communitycentre@christchurchstkilda.org.au)
- Hiring our venue for your next function, workshop or Owner's Corporation meeting.
- Liking our Facebook and Instagram pages to stay up to date with the latest news and events.  
Facebook: <https://facebook.com/ChristChurchCommunityCentreStKilda>  
Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/ccmcommunitycentre/>  
Website: [www.ccm.org.au](http://www.ccm.org.au)



We are Grateful for Support from .....



MUSCULOSKELETAL AUSTRALIA



Collier Charitable Fund

### Parish Partnerships

Our ability to continue working in the community has been supported by South Port Uniting Church Parish Mission and the Anglican parish of St John's Toorak through the Toorak Ecumenical Churches Opportunity Shop.

We continue to be thankful and challenged by their support!



Uniting Church SOUTH PORT



### Hiring our Venue

Our facilities are a community resource available for hire. We have hosted gatherings ranging from celebration of life events through to workshops and Owner's Corporation meetings, with reduced rates for community groups.

