

MOOREBANK  
HAMMONDVILLE  
ANGLICAN CHURCH

# 2023 AGM Ministry Reports

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## Rector's Report

Together we seek to be:

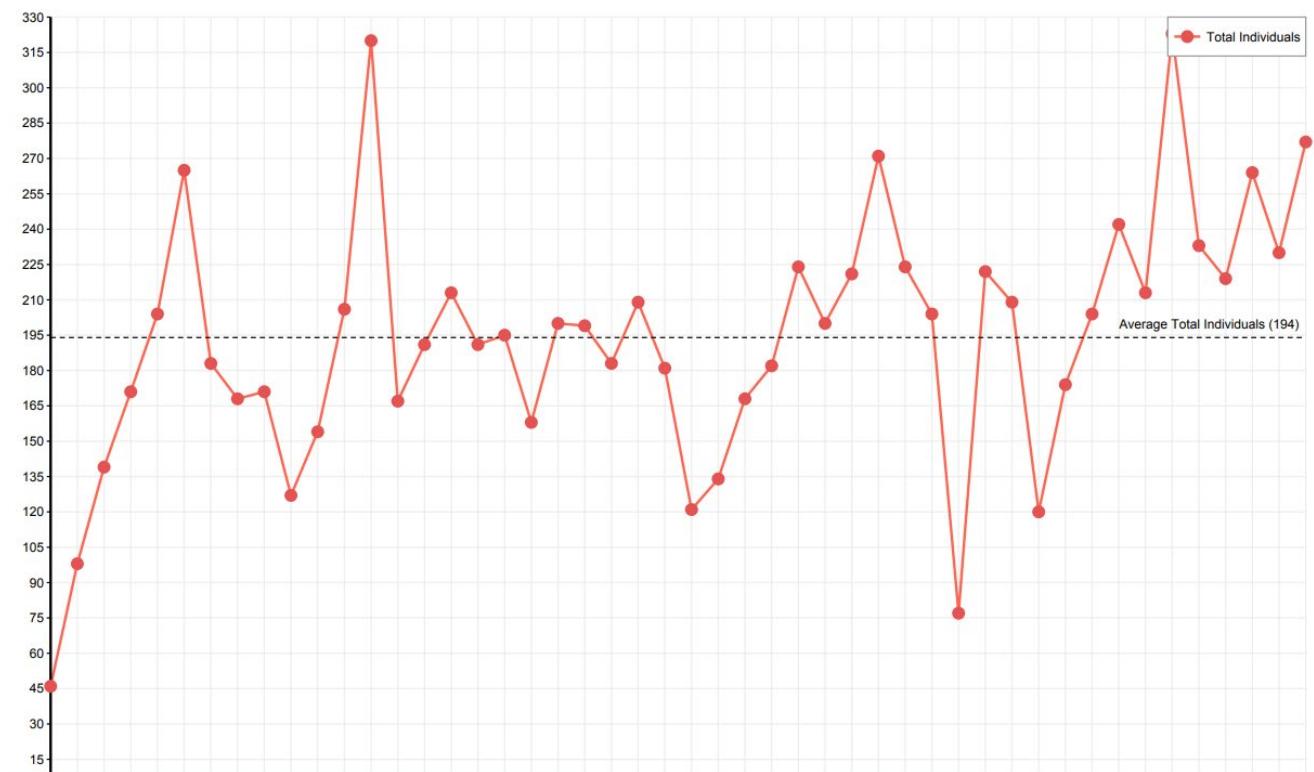
***joyfully trusting following and sharing Jesus***

The reports from a number of our MHAC ministry areas demonstrate how that vision is expressed in our life together. This is the ministry of the body of Christ in this place. In addition to these reports, I want to briefly reflect on a few noteworthy things throughout 2022 before considering the year ahead.

### Sunday services

It seems like a long time ago, but January 2022 was the height of the Omicron wave! Happily as the year progressed, we increasingly saw people return to church, particularly throughout the second half of the year. Across all congregations, our church has seen significant growth. We have nearly doubled our weekly average attendance over the course of the year. All our congregations have welcomed new people and seen them become part of MHAC. God has been reminding us of the joy and encouragement of seeing each other ‘face to face’ and of how much we need the encouragement that comes from our brothers and sisters (Hebrews 10:23-25).

### Sunday Attendance – all congregations - 2022



## **Church Weekend Away**

In September 2022 people from all congregations time out at Waterslea Conference Centre (Nowra) to learn together about how we see Christ in the Old Testament. We were blessed by the ministry of Rev. David Ould and by the opportunity to spend time together in a beautiful part of God's world.

## **Leadership Development**

Throughout 2022 a small team comprising our ministry staff and congregational leaders met regularly to consider how we develop and train our ministry leaders and volunteers. Over the next few years, our goal is to develop a leadership pipeline that equips people to serve effectively in the various ministries of MHAC. Drawing on the work of this group, I have restructured the responsibilities of our ministry staff. Their new areas of responsibility are displayed in the MHAC organisational chart included at the end of this report.

## **Community**

In 2022 we particularly focused on re-building our sense of community, our sense of belonging to one another. We have renamed our small groups as community groups, enjoyed congregational suppers and lunches each month, and we went away together. There is more to be done, however, some good progress was made in building our awareness of our commitment to one-another, as evidenced in the growing health of our Sunday congregations.

## **Ministry**

Throughout 2022, despite some significant challenges as we struggled with the ongoing effects of the pandemic, it was a great joy to see so many people continuing to serve and also involving themselves for the first time in mission and ministry. Here are some of the highlights that we achieved together over the last twelve months:

### **Engaging**

- Through our connect ministries like ESL and Food pantry, we have been able to provide support and assistance to those who are most in need, including the elderly, the unemployed and those with limited English.
- Our Friday Playtime Group continued to attract young mums and their kids (occasionally dads too!) and enabled us to connect with them. It has been fantastic to see that some of these connections have resulted in people joining us for our Sunday services.
- We have also engaged the community by teaching 500-600 kids through SRE (School Scripture). And through our Christmas and Easter services and Carols event.
- We ran a number of Men's and Women's connect events during the year to try and provide pathways for people to become connected with the MHAC community. We also hosted newcomers afternoon tea for those who have visited our services.
- Invitation nights at RAYG (teenage youth group) and bring a friend afternoons at Friday Kids Club.

## Evangelism

When it comes to Joyfully sharing Jesus – we want to equip people to be confidently sharing the reason for the hope that they have (1 Peter 3:15). We want to encourage and equip people to read the Bible with others (using the Word one to one). We also want to run Hope Explored regularly through the year following an outreach series so there is a clear ‘next step’ for people.

During 2022:

- We ran Hope Explored during the year to share Jesus with others.
- We also had two 3 week outreach series where the service and sermons were particularly oriented towards the outsider. One of these was a confirmation / baptism service at 6pm that was a great encouragement!

## Establishing & Equipping

- The annual Equip women’s conference was held online and watched by women at church – the Men’s Katoomba Basecamp conference was attended in person.
- Our Sunday services are the main way that we seek to establish believers in the faith through the preaching and teaching of the word of God. During 2022 we preached through 1 Samuel, 2 Corinthians, Parables of the Kingdom in Matthew, and a short series on Micah 6:8 Act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with our God.
- Throughout 2022 we continued our regular pattern of meeting twice each term to support and equip our small group leaders.

## Staffing

Our ministry staff contribute significantly to the health of our church family. The resignation of Tom Guthrie in April 2022 was difficult for the Church family and also for Tom and Patty. We had all hoped that this ministry appointment would turn out differently. We owe a debt of gratitude to our children’s and youth leaders and helpers who served throughout 2022. It is important to acknowledge the additional burdens placed on them. They served admirably and applied themselves amidst their disappointment. We are thankful to God for sustaining you and we’re thankful to you, our children’s and youth leaders, who were gracious and persevering in a difficult season.

Someone wise once said the Lord moves in mysterious ways. The departure of Tom opened the possibility for Sarah Barber to join our staff team as Children’s Workers (3 days per week) in January this year. Sarah has been with us for about two months and has been a great blessing. She is gifted in and passionate about ministry to children. As mentioned in the warden’s report, we have confirmed funding for her for two years.

Is it possible for us to grow as a church over the next two years so that we can keep her? My hope and prayer is for it to be so.

## The Body of Christ

I mentioned above the importance contribution made by the staff team. Their work is not to do all the work of mission and ministry. But to equip and encourage, to admonish and discipline and teach and correct such that the body of Christ is equipped for the work of mission and ministry.

What we do as a church family happens because Christ is at work amongst us. Christ's body is built as we, members of his body, exercise the gifts and capacities that God has given in loving service of one another. With that in mind, I want to record my thanks to so many leaders, helpers, contributors, givers and prayers who have served in mission and ministry over the last year.

I'm thankful for the ministry of our Parish Council and Church Wardens. Our wardens in particular have served us all so well. It has been encouraging to see members of the Parish Council working well together and taking initiative in stewarding our property and finances.

## Looking ahead for 2023

Looking ahead, let me share with you just three exciting things happening this year for our church family to be involved with:

### Mission

In 2023 we have slated two periods of focused mission activity during the year.

<b>Mission Focus 1</b>	<b>25 Mar.</b> Men's connect event <b>1 Apr.</b> Women's connect event <b>7 Apr.</b> Good Friday <b>9 Apr.</b> Easter Sunday <b>30 Apr.</b> Hope Explored
<b>Mission Focus 2</b>	<b>22 Jul.</b> Men's connect event <b>29 Jul.</b> Women's connect event <b>6 Aug.</b> Outreach Sun. – Peter Lin <b>13 Aug.</b> Hope Explored

Between now and Easter Sunday – we're running a variety of connect events so that we can engage our community. We want to build on these connections so that people will come under the sound of the gospel, either in our gospel preaching at church on Sundays or through reading the Bible with someone (Word one to one) or through the Hope Explored Course. We are God's fellow workers – our task is to be a church family that shares Jesus with others. Faith comes through hearing. People hear the gospel, when God's people share it.

## Big Day In – mental health

Keith and Sarah Condie are coming to speak with us in September about the Christian Life and mental health. As founders of the Mental Health and Pastoral Care Institute (part of Mary Andrews College), Keith and Sarah are passionate about equipping Christians to better

understand mental and to love and serve others well. This will be a great time together in September.

#### Community

As noted above, 2022 was an encouraging year regarding our habits of church attendance. We can all attest to how the challenges of the last few years have impacted our habits of Sunday service attendance. God has been teaching us about the great value of regularly gathering together! Yet perhaps we need to have a conversation about what are the challenges, obstacles and thoughts around being regular at church?

One of the best ways we can contribute to our life together is to be diligent in attending each Sunday. It is critical to your individual spiritual life and our life together. We worship together: hearing the word, singing and praying, we encourage each other face to face, to keep running the race. It is where we hear the word taught and explained by those Christ has appointed to bless his people.

Recent years have seen a decline in our habits of regularly gathering on Sundays. How can we encourage each other to be devoted to this? Jesus says that we will be known by the love we have for one another. Part of loving your brothers and sisters is to gather with them, in the Lord's name on Sundays.

#### Conclusion

We want to be Joyfully trusting, following and sharing Jesus.

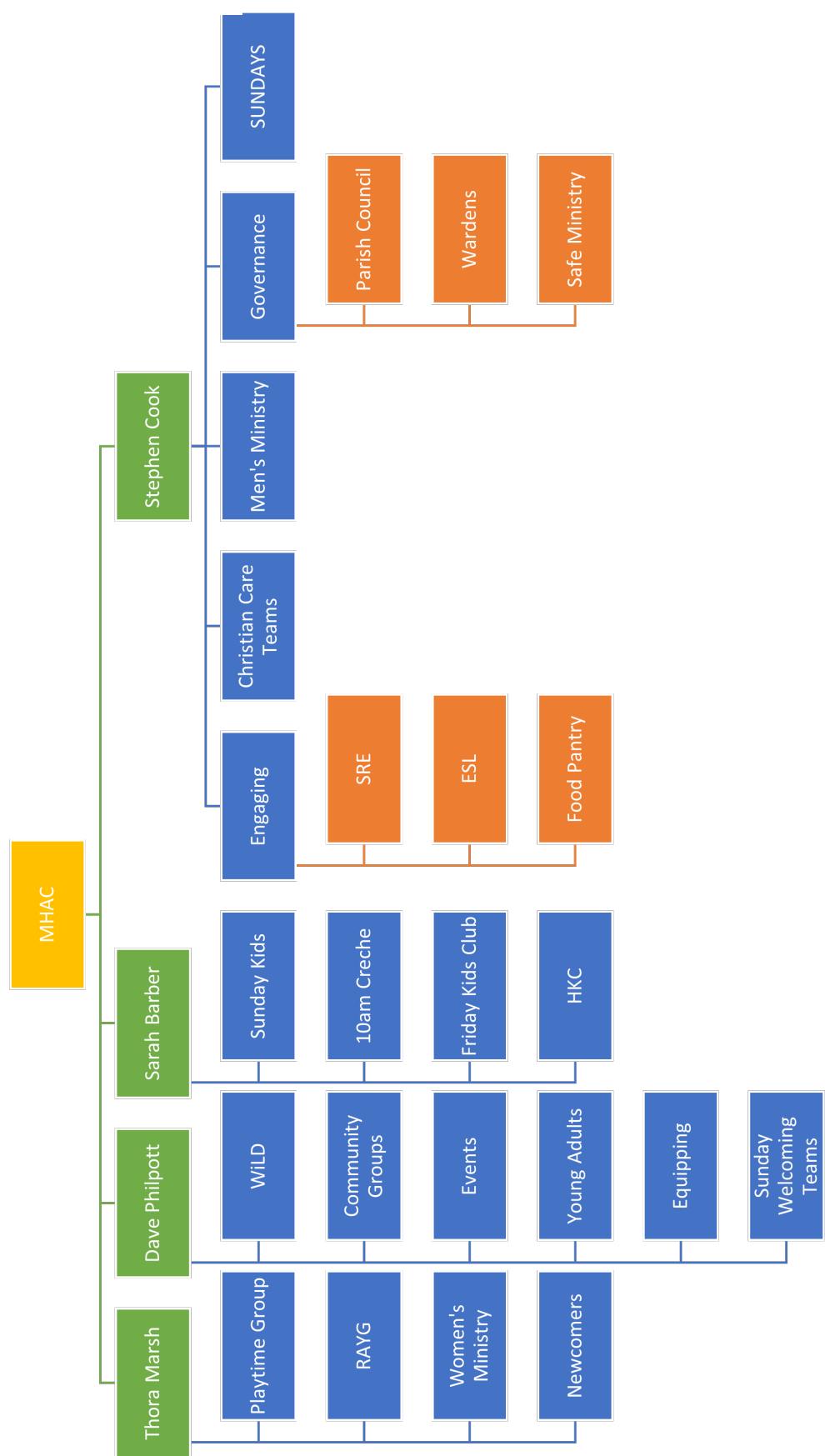
We want people committed to personally living this vision personally as well as pursuing it in our life together.

As a church family, growing in our knowledge of God's will, revealed in the Scriptures, may it be true:

- That knowing God's promises and provision that we will trust Jesus
- That knowing God's ways we will follow Jesus
- That knowing God's worthiness we will share Jesus

We appreciate your prayers and partnership in mission and ministry in 2023.

MHAC org chart



## Wardens report

### **"MONEY IS OUR SERVANT NOT OUR GOD. LET IT SERVE YOU NOT THE OTHER WAY AROUND." Debasion Mridha**

When we presented our report and Budget around this time last year we sadly presented a deficit Budget. Not something any of us were eager to do. We also expressed our strongly held belief that we would see the church finances recover over the following 3 years provided certain measures were undertaken.

It is indeed a relief and a pleasure to report that this would appear to be well on track

Both planned and unplanned events now see us in a more positive financial position, which is reflected in the Budget. However, we still need a further two (2) years at our current pace to recover monies spent/lost over the "COVID YEARS". We believe that the current and projected figures are very positive and the losses incurred will be recouped.

You will note we have held the projected offertory the same as last year, being well aware that our overall attendance has not really altered but that mortgage repayments and the cost of basic necessities most certainly have. With this in mind we have held the offertory the same.

The departure of Youth Minister Tom Guthrie and the subsequent renting of 7A Morley Ave to a Parish family saw us both save money as well as receive income. This was not anticipated when the last Budget was created. Thanks to the generosity of Deb and Jeremy Vickers we were able to completely refurbish that residence prior to the family taking over occupancy at no cost to the Parish.

With the long awaited and delayed repairs to St Anne's Hall commencing, our regular renters were required to move to St Thomas. Most declined to move although one renter has been so pleased with the Old Rectory for their business that they have doubled the number of hours thus making up for any lost income from others.

### **"Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously." Corinthians (9:7)**

With no Youth Minister, other staff and parishioners fulfilled the duties of the position. Unexpectedly, we received another generous donation, enough to pay for a part-time Youth Worker for 2 years; provided we added some of the monies made from the rental income. This is how we now have Sarah Barber on staff. Welcome Sarah.

Another change to staffing was the engagement of Amy Bosker to replace Abbi and Ely who moved on to other work. Abbi to full time training for the Commonwealth Games (Bronze Medal Winner) and Ely to High School teaching at Ashcroft High.

Along with the refurbishment to St Anne's Hall the Wardens oversaw the following at St Anne's:-

2 x trees removed, one termite infested  
7A Morley Ave completely refurbished  
New instantaneous hot water heater installed in church kitchenette  
Pest Control  
Fire safety inspection  
Air conditioning service  
Gutters cleaned

Currently work in progress includes:-

Vestry refresh, repainting and new carpet and equipment  
Solar panels from a successful grant application to be installed  
Wi-Fi and TV screens for the church and Wi-Fi for the hall.

At St Thomas Church Grounds:-

Gutters cleaned  
Broken Roof tiles replaced and repaired  
Bell Tower flashing re-laid  
Air conditioning service and upgrade as well as cages for protection  
Trees removal  
Repainting of Rectory  
Car park lines and car stops installed  
Blinds for Ministry Centre  
Graffiti removal  
Major underfloor repairs  
Fence repairs due to vandalism  
Repairs to Ministry Centre due to break-in  
Pest Control

In progress:-

Upgrade of Church foyer  
Upgrade to Security Camera System  
New lighting for Church interior  
New doors for Ministry Staff offices.

The Wardens would like to take this opportunity to thank Scott Carlsen, Andris Zirins and Dave Smith for faithfully cutting the grass and keeping the edges tidy at both churches and adjacent buildings. We would also like to thank the ladies at both St Thomas and St Anne's who give up their time to clean the churches. The ground care and cleaning saves the Parish

a great deal of money. For David Cox, our heartfelt thanks for all his Spiderman antics on the church and rectory roof checking out damage and effecting repairs.

Unfortunately with a very busy church calendar and rubbish weather we were only able to hold one (1) fund raiser. The Trivia Night proved popular with far more turning up than was expected. The evening raised approximately \$6k for a worthy Parish activity and appeared to be a great success.

Sadly, although a great deal of work went into an application for a grant under the NSW Government Westinvest Scheme we were unsuccessful so at the moment we do not have a plan for a new Ministry Centre.

Ross Cotter

Lance McLaren

Kerrie Oxlade

## Playtime – Thora Marsh

Team: Thora Marsh, Nicole Copeland, Yvette Sathiakumar, Eileen Gimes

Playtime is for parents and carers of children who are preschool. We have children ranging from babies to 5 years old coming along. We have a mix of families from church and the local community. Many of our families comment on how welcoming and caring our group is. We want our group to be welcoming, just as we are welcomed by God into his family. We want our group to reflect the love of Jesus to anyone who comes. We do this by including some Christian songs and praying each week. We also regularly read from the Bible, and quite often have overarching themes that are Biblical. In 2022 our themes were Jesus' life and ministry leading into Easter, God made fruit, God made bugs, and when I grow up.

A particular highlight has been seeing a couple of families come along to Sunday church, and also many of the mums coming to our women's connect events last year. Please pray that we would continue to develop good relationships and that many families would come to know and love the Lord Jesus as a result of our ministry. Pray that these relationships would continue even if parents return to work or their children age out of Playtime. Thank God for the families who have returned to Playtime this year, and also for the new team members, Sarah Barber and Rebecca Daniel.

## Women's Ministry Team – Thora Marsh

Team: Liv Bemrose, Diane Whittle, Sam Cook, Margaret Brown, Karen Nugteren, Jeanette Goodman, Mel Creighton

In 2022 the women's ministry team worked hard to produce a number of events that were designed to connect the women of our church with one another and also with our friends and family who don't yet know Jesus. For our first mission cycle we ran a high tea that was extremely well attended, and the second mission cycle we had a walk in the park, that saw a number of visitors join us. In the middle of the year we livestreamed Equip at our Moorebank building, and looking at the book of was encouraging for the 50 women who attended. At Christmas time we ran an evangelistic evening that was a wreath making night, and included beautiful Christmas music by Amy Bosker and an evangelistic talk by Thora. While these events are always a joy, it's also worth thanking God for the number of women who have grown over the year in their personal relationship with God as they met with other women from church in community groups and individually, sought to share Jesus with their connections, and served our church and others in many different ministry areas. We look forward to more of the same in 2023, and we welcome Kate Richardson to the team. Pray that God would honour the seeds that have been sown for his glory in the course of the year, and thank him for the many opportunities we have to grow as sisters in the Lord.

## Music Ministry – Josh Barber & Amy Bosker

We aim to help God's people praise Him in song as we gather week by week, bring to mind the truths that Scripture teaches, and enable us to encourage each other through the songs that we sing. It has been our joy and privilege to do this week by week for most of the past year!

Music Ministry is quite a unique ministry in our church. Unlike most other ministry groups, we get to serve each week in our three services. Although the music at each service looks quite different, we are united in our goal across all services. The purpose of music in church is twofold. Firstly, as God's people, it enables us to express our praise for Him in a special and unique way. Secondly, we encourage and teach each other about the truths of Scripture through the songs we sing. Careful thought and consideration is given to each song we sing, as they play such an essential role in shaping our understanding and hearts.

The past year has seen several changes, both in personnel and opportunity to serve.

### 9AM Hammondville

During the last year, we have been very thankful for the service of each of our Music Ministry team members. It has been great to welcome Jessica Philpott into the team for the first time, and welcome back Marilyn Jackson. It has been such a delight seeing them grow in confidence each week. The Hammondville 9AM Music team is as follows:

Vocals- Jessica Philpott, Terri Cartmer, Diane Whittle, Stephanie Philpott, Marilyn Jackson  
Keyboard- Matthew Philpott, Josh Barber

Guitar- Brendan McMahon

Each week, we gather at 8.20 to practice before the service. It is sometimes quite a tight timeframe, but we do the best we can with our time. We gather on a few Saturdays each term to learn new songs or prepare for 'big services', including Easter and Christmas.

### 6PM Moorebank

The 6PM Music Ministry team has had a pretty consistent year personnel wise, which has been a great blessing! It has been great to welcome Josh Cook, Kate McLaren, Jeanette Goodman, Emily Cook and Matthew Philpott to the band. Each new or returning member has made such valuable contributions to the team!

Unfortunately, we have had to farewell Syon Rosh, who provided great service for many years. We are very thankful for his service to both the 6pm, Hammondville and Carols music teams.

Each week, we gather between 4 and 4.30 pm to practice.

The 6pm Music Ministry Team (at present) is as follows:

Sound Desk- Daniel Nichols, Matthew Philpott, Kate Richardson, Cathy Lean

Computer- Daniel Nichols, Matthew Philpott, Benji Daniel, Rebecca Daniel

Vocals- Sarah Barber, Chantelle Nichols, Jeanette Goodman, Emily Cook, Kate McLaren

Keyboard- Matthew Philpott, Josh Barber

Guitar- Alex Reincastle, Ryan Wilcockson, Josh Cook

### **10AM Moorebank**

Music at 10am in 2022 has been uplifting for the congregation, moving away from recorded worship to be able to unite in live worship had been long awaited. So many praise points but in particular praise for a new instrumentalist and praise God for sustaining all our musician's health during such a demanding year.

With majority of the year only having one instrumentalist and two main vocalists, sickness and burn out have been a real concern. God in his goodness has always provided a way for his name to be glorified in congregational worship at 10am and only twice have we reverted to recorded worship.

We now have a pianist working toward playing two/three times a month and 3 additional vocalist that enthusiastically accompany our lead vocalists.

Many thanks to each team member that weekly comes early and learns new songs. Thank you to Paula, Laurel, Amie, Irin and George. With gratitude I especially want to acknowledge Frankie and his family. Your commitment to play every week such an encouragement to us all.

### **RAYG – Andrew Fleming**

RAYG (Really Awesome Youth Group) has the pleasure of sharing Jesus with the teens in our community. The leaders we have on our team this year are Emily Cook, Naomi Reincastle, Alex Reincastle, Miriam Leslie (who joined us this year) and me Andrew Fleming. We also have several leaders joining us on a rotating basis. Jen van Holst and Thora Marsh join us every few weeks, as do Ben Nugteren, Dave Salaun, and Phil Glendenning. It is a joy to have them on board.

RAYG exists so high school students come to know Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord, and so they will joyfully trust, follow and share Jesus the rest of their lives. I remember from my time at RAYG that I was encouraged by the leaders to keep following Jesus, whether during a big event like KYCK or a small 3-minute conversation over supper, and I love being able to see that continue with the current youth. The other side effect of RAYG is that it provides a place for the leaders to invest in our youth and be reminded ourselves of the reason we love Jesus.

Over the past year, we had the great opportunity to attend KYCK and to see the faith of our youth bolstered and challenged, and we look forward to going again in April. We also had the “me, myself and the gospel” topic series last year, where we got to explain how the youth how the gospel shapes all of life. That was particularly helpful as it brought the core of the gospel into the big questions that the youth had. As this year has started, we have seen so many new faces coming along, which is a genuine pleasure. Please pray that more youth would come consistently to RAYG.

There have been a few challenges over the past little while. One awesome feature of the gospel is that it is real and raw, and some of our teens have felt that impact. This is a great opportunity as they are coming to terms with the gospel, but it was also a few heavy conversations for leaders. Please pray that God would sustain our leaders with His power and give us His wisdom to care for our youth well. We have also our leader situation change, with a few leaders stepping back from last year. Please pray that God would equip the leadership team with everything it needs to faithfully and joyfully serve these youth.

### [Friday Kids Club – Stephanie Philpott](#)

Friday Kids Club runs on Friday afternoons (4pm – 5:30pm) for kids in K – 6, as a ministry to share Jesus with kids in our church and local community. In 2022 we averaged 15 - 25 kids each week. Our leadership team in 2022 was: Steph Philpott, Tom Guthrie, Alison Smith, Jodie Barber, Janine Pringle, Bec Zakhia and Luke Hurley.

We had a difficult start to the year with only 4 leaders on team in Term 1. Tom Guthrie left after Term 1, which meant we had to recruit very quickly to keep the group operational from Term 2. Praise God for Janine, Bec and Luke who stepped up to serve each week for the remainder of the year!

Some highlights of the year were new leaders joining the team bringing with them fresh ideas and enthusiasm, and hearing the kids ask great questions about God. Some challenges included declining numbers of kids attending, recruiting new leaders and meeting the challenge of last-minute changes when sickness struck the leadership team.

#### Prayer points for 2023:

- Give thanks for Sarah Barber leading our team in 2023 and for her passion and joy for children’s ministry.
- Give thanks for our 2023 leaders: Sarah Barber, Alison Smith, Jodie Barber, Steph Philpott, Luke Hurley, Sue Todd (every 2<sup>nd</sup> week) and helper Daniel McMahon.
- Praise God that this year, lots more kids have started coming to kid’s club and our numbers are now back to / almost better than pre covid days!
- Praise God for new leaders and helpers Sue Todd and Daniel McMahon.
- Pray for the kids to understand and grow in their knowledge of Jesus, and for the leaders to develop good relationships with the kids.

- For more leaders to join our team.

## Mens Ministry – David Smith

The Men's MHAC Mens group started 2022 with a planned Barefoot Bowl Night in March , unfortunately the weather had been very wet , so the night became a meal together at the Jack High Bistro at Ingleburn Bowling Club. We had a great night of fellowship together.

Later in the year, in early August, about 20 men travelled to Katoomba, for an overnight stay, to attend KCC BASECAMP. We had a great time at the convention Hearing God's word and singing together. Malcom Gill shared from God's word, how we are called to be Sons of the living God. Dr Jonathon Andrews also spoke and was very thought provoking. He is the author of the book "The Reconnected Heart: How Relationships Help us Heal" which explores how the heart is broken by bad or insufficient connection, and how a three-way connection (God, self and others) can help us recover. Some of the men stayed on to play Golf the following day at Blackheath. It was a very encouraging weekend.

In late October, we had our final Mens connect event for the year , with a Dinner at Moorebank. There were about 60 Men, enjoying a Meat feast, listening to Testimonies from fellow brothers in Christ , about the Good and the Hard aspects of following Christ daily. We also had a magician for some fun, and everyone had a great time.

We also had some other activities like bike riding together during the year. Men meeting together to learn and encourage each other is an important part of Church life. Men are faced (as with all) many trials in the Christian walk. It is vital for us, to be part of a community that loves and cares for every member. Endurance is a key indicator of spiritual fitness. Men, we have to keep up the good fight together.....

Looking forward to 2023

David Smith

0417202383

## Audio-Visual ministry- Hammondville

The AV ministry at St Annes Hammondville is supported by 4-6 parishioners, trained and happy to serve each Sunday and on other gatherings to present content. By facilitating the display of content and recording of sermons, the AV ministry team contribute by allowing church members to be a part of the service by singing, following of prayers, reciting of creeds and confessions, and listening to sermons online. The Pro Presenter content is updated, edited and formatted as required to ensure that it is easily read and understood so it is presented well to the congregation. The equipment used is of high standard and easily utilised for its intended purpose. An opportunity to be explored is a Wi-Fi connection for the

computer to allow internet access to send and receive data, and computer updates to content or operating system.

The current team members are: Darren and Liv Bemrose, Matt Philpott, Daniel McMahon, Ellie Drinkwater and Sharath Sarvotham.

## Meals Ministry – Kate McLaren

As coordinator for meals ministry my task is very easy and thankful for the opportunity to bless others with the blessing of others.

The great benefit of a meals roster is the task is shared on MHAC Facebook pages and via email and those who can help at that time jump in and grab a spot and make, bake or buy for our family in need.

A recent roster towards last half of last year for one of our families - saw an abundance of our church joyfully help out the family - even asking for extra spots ... Here is their thankfulness for the love and food shared with their family

I'm not sure how to describe or express our thanks for the meals ministry we received in 2023. We were recipients of a planned and unplanned set of meals! An unexpected hospitalisation of our main meal maker, without request or expectation, a run of meals arrived on our doorstep each evening for a week. Simple, generous provision for our family. A planned hospitalisation and significant recovery time afterwards. Every few days we could see who was bringing a meal, and what it might be. As we juggled hospital visits, and other family responsibilities, it removed the need for thinking, planning, shopping, and preparing meals. The care expressed through the meals ministry, allowed us to care for our loved ones through a challenging time. By using a coordinated approach to meals ministry, not only did it mean we didn't have to field regular questions about diet, timing, quantities etc, but others in our community had opportunity to contribute too. Familiar names, apart from church, popped up on the meal roster as when friends had asked "how can we help?" they had been directed to the meal roster. It was also humbling to receive meals from church cooks, whom we had never even met before.

For our ministry one would say to pray it's not needed but we know that isn't always the case and in joyfully trusting Jesus we pray people will be available should the need arise for meals and sharing Jesus in the meals made or bought and the burden it lessens for those at a trying time.

Kindest regards

Kate McLaren

## Anglicare Mobile Pantry – Margaret Brown

The first six months of 2022 the shopper numbers each fortnight ranged from 8 - 16 shoppers. In the second half activity increased to between 15 - 22 shoppers, culminating in 31 at the last pantry of the year. We have a core of 10 people who usually come each fortnight and the remainder less often.

In the second half of the year, due to some donated funds with the stipulation that the funds be used to directly benefit shoppers, we negotiated with the Anglicare Team to provide some fresh food (vegetables, fruit and at times dairy or frozen items) which they purchase at Foodbank on our behalf, then we reimburse them. This has been able to continue as we are charging shoppers \$3 a bag (value up to \$12-20 in supermarkets depending on what is available). Contributions from parishioner's veggie gardens are a welcome supplement this table. We continue to offer the Hygiene Table (goods provided by Anglicare) and give out the donated bread from Casula Bakers Delight. For our last pantry in 2022 we received a donation of 30 doz. eggs from an Egg Farm to supplement the shopper's purchases.

We gratefully received funds from Anglicare to purchase some tarpaulins and poles to construct better cover for the volunteers and shoppers at the van when it is raining so they don't get drenched, and to purchase some new lighter tables which makes set up / pack up less arduous.

While it is positive to have regular customers that we can build connection with, it is encouraging to hear that some people stop coming because their circumstances improve, such as permanent housing in a different suburb or permanent / increased hours of work. The pantries are busy in attending to the required tasks but we all make an effort to talk with people to make them feel welcome and understand what is happening in their lives, their joys and challenges. And we look for opportunities to talk of Christianity. Invitations are extended to relevant church events, particularly our Easter and Christmas events.

The Team this year has been: Elizabeth Barns; Heather McKay; Marilyn Griffiths; David Cox, Eileen & Charlie Grimes, Laurel Todd and Alan Kington. A huge thank you to them all for their commitment to serving members of our community in this way.

Praise and thanks to God for the kindness and generosity of the people who support Anglicare Mobile Pantries, and in particular out pantry. Also, for enabling us to continue and enhance this outreach ministry.

Pray that the team's energy and willingness to serve will not waiver that we will remain flexible to adapt as needed to continue this ministry, and that as we talk to the shoppers we will recognize opportunities and feel confident to speak of God's saving grace.

Margaret Brown

## Sunday Creche @ Moorebank – Alison Smith

We have a lovely play morning each week during school terms with up to 5 little girls under 3 years old. Boys are welcome too, but there just aren't any at the moment!

We contribute to MHAC joyfully trusting, following and sharing Jesus by freeing up parents to be undistracted participants in the 10 am congregation. We also model Christ's love to the children in the way we care for them and speak about God's love for them. We play, draw, read, talk, eat and pray. Each week we have 2 adults caring for the children. I am there each week.

I am thankful to God for those who share in this ministry with me by serving once or twice per term. The team includes: Heather McKay, Kathy Lord, Julie Clark, Pat Waskiw, Yvette Sathiakumar, Nicole Copeland, Deb Vickers and Thora Marsh.

Please let me know if you'd like to join this fun ministry with little ones. It is a joy to serve together. Please pray that our newest little girl will settle in soon so that her mum and dad can be in church together.

Alison Smith

## Sunday Kids Year 6-8 @ Hammondville – Alison Smith

I lead a group of 11-14 year olds during school terms. There are 9 in the group this year.

We do bible study and pray for each other. We sometimes play games, learn memory verses and have reward lollies! We get to know one another. We ask questions. We build relationships. I seek to help them to understand and apply the Bible. I seek to model to them what it means to live for Jesus.

It's a privilege to spend up to 3 years with these great kids/teenagers. I want to see them grow in joyfully trusting, following and sharing Jesus and it's a joy when this happens! I am greatly encouraged by those who are keen and eager to learn and grow - and most of them are! I am thankful for their christian parents and friends and other leaders who all contribute to helping them grow as God works in each of their lives.

It would be great to have a helper or a support leader. Please let me know if you are interested. Please pray that I can find an appropriate person to join me in this ministry.

Alison Smith

### Sunday Kids @ Moorebank – Jodie Barber

2022 was a good year for Sunday Kids at Moorebank. We began the year with five leaders – Kelly, Jodie, Cathy, Benji and Rebecca. Sadly, at the beginning of term 2, Kelly, after 2.5 years of teaching Sunday Kids, resigned. Thanks, Kelly, for your wonderful service to Sunday Kids. God graciously provided us with a new leader, Jenni Fleming, who taught the year 6-8 group with Cathy and later the preschool to year 5 group with Jodie over the remainder of the year. God blessed us with hard-working, well-prepared leaders throughout the year. These leaders helped our church to joyfully trust, follow and share Jesus by providing age-appropriate, fun and exciting lessons for the children who attended and encouraged them to believe in Jesus for themselves.

Over 2022, Sunday Kids enjoyed lessons on Acts, Jacob, Joshua, Judges and Jesus. One of the year's many highlights was our easter egg hunt held on the last Sunday of term 1. Children enjoyed hunting eggs and learning about why Jesus is our saviour and how he saved us from the consequences of our sins. Another highlight for 2022 was the growing number of children who attended each week. At the beginning of the year, we averaged 15 children each week. By the end of the year, the average had risen to around 20. This trend has continued into 2023, and we have enough children to add another class. However, we still need more leaders to do this.

One of the challenges we faced in 2022 was providing age-appropriate lessons for the children. Please pray for more volunteers for all our children's ministries (Sunday Kids, Kid's Club, Play Time and SRE) so that children are taught at their level.

We would also like to thank everyone who volunteered to help us at Sunday Kids when one of the leaders was away or sick and those who volunteered to be on the roster to help Cathy's year 6-8 group. Thank you also to the people who encouraged us with prayers and kind words and by sending their children each week to Sunday Kids. We especially thank our lord Jesus who gives us all we need to teach the children each week.

## Sunday Kids @ Hammondville – Jeanette Goodman

In 2022 Emily Cook and Jeanette Goodman were teaching the preschool to year 5 students at Hammondville. We taught accounts from Exodus, Judges and Joshua as well as some from the gospels. All the lessons always ended up giving some sort of gospel message. Our goal is to point kids to Jesus and the cross so that they grow in awe of him, being filled with joy when they consider what he has done and so want to follow him.

One week we did a lesson on Achan. (Who's Achan? Go and look him up. You'll find him in the book of Joshua.) The following week I was doing some revision, not expecting the kids to remember the name – after all, this is not a character you find in most Bible story books. But one of our young boys remembered and very confidently stated, "Achan." When I spoke to his mum later, she told me that he had been so intrigued with the story that she had reread the story to him over and over that week. I love it when we work in cooperation with the parents!

Prayer points:

That we can get children excited about Jesus and their eyes would be opened to his beauty.

We have a few children who are brought by their grandparents so please pray for the families of these children.

For those families who only come occasionally

## Morning Tea Ministry @Moorebank – Kathy Lord

It was lovely to have a complete year in 2022 where our church family was able to spend time together after the service each Sunday enjoying morning tea and a chat.

There were a dozen helpers on the morning tea roster who provided and served morning tea, catering for approx. 80 adults and 20 children each week.

Having such a good amount of volunteers has meant each person has only had to provide and serve morning tea approximately once every six weeks.

Thank you to Lee and Paul, Janine and Keith, Karen and Ben, Dave, Sarah, Heather, Marilyn, Eileen and Irin, for your willingness to serve our church family in this ministry,