



UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA

BEAUMARIS UNITING CHURCH

ST. MARTINS

2017 ANNUAL REPORT

January 1 - December 31, 2017

Presented at the AGM on Sunday 6th May 2018

www.beaumarisunitingchurch.org.au

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CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT 2017 - 2018

Beaumaris Uniting Church has continued on a positive note due to the hard work and dedication of our members. The highlights have been the fete and upgrades to the buildings and grounds together with the consistent warmth and love of our congregation.

We have been fortunate to have the leadership in our worship services of Rev John Connan together with his wife Ann for most of the past year. They have provided us with some excellent engaging and thought provoking services and it has been fantastic to have the continuity of "knowing who will be preaching" each week. We are also indeed blessed with the members of our congregation who have led services throughout 2017 and early 2018 when the Connans have been unavailable. My thanks go to Geoff Hinde, Rev David Beswick, Alan Eales, Graeme Webster and Nick Toovey. Thanks also go to Philip Stuart for his preparation of the pew sheets, organising of the readings and the managing and preparations of the PowerPoint slides and overhead projections when required.

Our congregation continues to seek a permanent minister to lead us. The JNC (Joint Nominating Committee), elected by the congregation, comprises 6 people from our congregation together with the minister from Cheltenham; Greg Fry and a member from Cheltenham congregation, Fiona Hutchinson. The Beaumaris members are: Philip Stewart (chairperson) Jenny Small, Margaret Thorburn, Tom Morris, Geoff Wade and Wendy Hinde. It was with disappointment and some distress when, in February 2017, that their "chosen minister" was rejected by Presbytery Pastoral Relations Committee as unsuitable, despite being approved by the Synod Placements Committee. The JNC has had conversations with 3 new candidates since then. At the time of writing this report the committee is still in conversation with the third candidate.

Music is a major part of our services. Our thanks go to Inez Fripp who has played the organ for many years and has recently had to step down from that role. We thank Jeanette Barklamb who has also faithfully accompanied us on the piano for many years and is now doing so almost every week. The choir, led by Geoff Hinde has also been an important part of our services. My thanks go to him for this. The highlight was the presentation during Advent by the augmented choir of the Christmas cantata "Born a King".

Our fantastic website is kept up to date, providing information not only for our congregation members but also anyone in the community who wishes to find out about our church. We are indeed fortunate to have such a talented person who not only designed it for us but keeps it current and attractive. Thanks Alison Davies!

Highlights and events of the past year have also included:

- Early 2017 the new walkway roof was completed – thanks to the organisation of Margaret Thorburn and Tom Morris
- After the AGM in May, office bearers of council were elected. I was re-elected as chairperson and Margaret Thorburn continued as treasurer. Alison Davies was re-elected as secretary. The other council members are; Jeff Hinde, Wendy Hinde, Philip

Stewart, Jan Graham, Faye Green, Carol Parker and Susie Toovey. We welcomed Nick Toovey as a new elder and council member.

- In November we had another highly successful annual fete. Thanks go to Wendy Hinde and Alison Davies for their hard work as fete convenors and to all of the people who worked so tirelessly to make it the wonderful event that it was.
- The empty Christmas tree and children's service was enjoyed by all. Family Life in Cheltenham was very grateful for the donation of gifts for the needy to put under their trees.
- Thanks also to Rev John & Ann Connan for their contribution to our Christmas window Nativity decoration.
- Throughout the year, and culminating in Advent, Margaret Wade and her helpers created beautiful banners for our windows. These reflected the various seasons of the Christian and Uniting Church calendars.
- In February a most successful Pancake Night, led by Wendy Hinde and her willing band of helpers was held. Many locals attended in addition to church members.
- The new signage at either end of the church looks great. Thanks to Wendy Hinde, Alison Davies and John Davies for organising and erecting them.
- In March a four week Lenten study titled Faith in Action was led by Geoff Hinde.
- This Easter Wendy Hinde together with many church members once again organised a wonderful Easter Garden in the church.

Finally I would like to thank Alison Davies for her hard work as council secretary. My thanks also go to Margaret Thorburn who has continued in her role as treasurer, and also to Margaret Wade as her assistant.

The various committee convenors have also worked hard: Geoff Hinde, who leads the Worship Committee- supporting and sourcing those who lead our services, Jan Graham, Caring Committee- preparing and updating church rolls as well as looking after the care of congregational members, Geoff Wade –Manse Committee working to lease the manse and keep it in good repair, Margaret Thorburn; buildings and finance, Nick Toovey, mission and Philip Stewart as convenor of the JNC. Lastly, those who serve on the committees together with the church councillors also deserve our thanks.

As I have already mentioned it has been an outwardly calm year, but much has been occurring both within and around our church. None of the leaders who I have named and thanked could have done such a great job without the support and assistance of those who work alongside them - every member of our church. To all of you I say thanks. May God's spirit continue amongst us and lead us to continue as a stronger and dynamic church of the future.

Jenny Small

Chairperson

THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA
CONGREGATION OF BEAUMARIS (St MARTIN'S)

TREASURER'S REPORT 2017

CONGREGATION OF BEAUMARTS UNITING CHURCH - ST MARTINS
12 months ended 31 December 2017

On behalf of the Beaumaris Uniting Church Council I submit the congregational accounts covering the 12 months ending 31 December 2017. The result of a surplus of over \$54,000 for this period is consistent with the previous 2016 year's surplus of over \$59,000 with a continued minimal spend on ministry. It was encouraging to see our income increase by a total of \$14,000 across a range of sources including offering, hall rental, Deep Spring donations, Manse rental and interest. This effectively covered the increase of \$14,000 across building and maintenance expenses which was the lion's share of a \$19,000 increase in our total expenses.

A huge thank you once again to Geoff Hinde for continuing to meet the constant challenge of ensuring we have supply ministry in place. In 2017 the Rev John Connan provided 'short term supply' for several periods around his other commitments. This provided a great deal of continuity especially from June through December. Further occasional supply ministers who conducted 3 services each included Rev Arthur Poole, Rev Dr Graeme Gibbons, Rev Ted Curnow, and Geoff Hinde. Rev John Lamont conducted one service. In addition, we had two choral services as well as pro-bono services conducted by our own Rev David Beswick (2), Dr Graeme Webster (3), Alan Eales (2) and Nick Toovey (2).

After writing to all members of the congregation in March 2016 asking them to consider increasing or formalizing their giving, to enable us to meet our obligations in calling a new minister, we received \$60,757 in offering in 2017 (up from \$56,342 in 2016). Currently about 57% of the offering is made via Direct Offering into our UCA Cash Management 'General' account, 4% as annual offerings into our Bendigo Bank account, 30% via weekly planned giving envelopes and 9% via cash into the open plate. Looking forward and assuming offering levels hold at their current levels a .5 placement would be accommodated comfortably, whilst a .6 placement could be supported but with the likely drawing on our much improved reserves after the first year.

Hall rental income has remained steady with some further growth from the addition of a pre-schoolers music class during school hours on a Thursday morning.

Our third twilight fete in November gave us over \$6,000 as a net result and was again a very pleasing result given the significant number of expenses involved in adequately stocking the offerings for the food hall. A \$300 cash donation was received prior to the fete. A warm thank you to all who contributed their energy, time and talents to make the fete a success.

In accordance with the 60% Beaumaris Uniting Church/40% Black Rock Uniting Church net Manse income disbursal ratio (agreed at the 29 May 2015 special Church Council meeting of the Beaumaris-Black Rock Parish and subsequently formalized in a Memorandum of Understanding in late March 2017) we received \$13,500 of net Manse income.

As per the 2016 accounts the Deep Spring Counselling operating account funds have been fully consolidated into the 2017 accounts (not just the 'seed capital' account held in the UCA as was the case previously). The operating account will continue to be held in a separate bank account and you can see the movements of this account summarized in the separate Deep Spring Counselling report.

It should be noted that the Christmas Bowl donations collected through the pews in the month of December 2017 totalled \$5,543. These monies were processed in January 2018, and do not appear in these accounts as monies are deposited directly with Act for Peace National Council of Churches in Australia (NCCA). A further \$500 was collected at the Christmas Eve carols service at the Community Centre and also forwarded to the NCCA (see separate report by Roger Wilson).

I would like to thank the members of the St Martin's property and finance committee who have assisted me during 2017, particularly Margaret Wade as assistant Treasurer, and Geoff Wade as convenor of the Manse committee.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Margaret Thorburn', is written over a horizontal dotted line.

Margaret Thorburn

Treasurer

Dated this 19th day of April, 2018

THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA
 CONGREGATION OF BEAUMARIS (St MARTIN'S)
 STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE
 For the 12 months ended 31st DECEMBER, 2017

	2017		2016
	\$		\$
<u>INCOME</u>			
Collections			
Envelopes	17,498		18,036
Direct Offering	37,633		32,938
Open Plate	<u>5,626</u>		<u>5,368</u>
	60,757		56,342
Donations			
Hall Rental	21,086		18,620
Deep Spring Counselling Service ^(*2)	3,957		2,405
Fundraising – fete & craft stalls ^(*3)	8,356		7,488
Funerals	1,150		-
Other	994		-
UCA & Special appeals	742		512
Work for the Dole	-		515
Manse Rental – net rental received	13,500		11,625
Interest Received	2,988		1,725
Stipend Related Refunds	256		285
Total income	<u>113,786</u>		<u>99,517</u>
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>			
Ministry Costs & Supply	9,415		7,492
Mission and Services	4,104		4,020
Administration Costs	469		584
Printing and Stationery	1,289		1,485
Stewardship/Worship	1,548		1,430
Special Collections/Donations	1,742		612
Fundraising Expenses	2,087		1,530
Utilities & Rates	5,653		5,501
Repairs and Maintenance	27,990		13,764
Property Insurance ^(*4)	4,803		3,109
Minor Capital Purchases	307		509
Sundry Expenses	-		230
Total Expenditure	<u>59,407</u>		<u>40,266</u>
Surplus	<u>54,379</u>		<u>59,251</u>

THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA
CONGREGATION OF BEAUMARIS (ST MARTIN'S)

BALANCE SHEET as at 31st DECEMBER, 2017

	2017	2016
<u>ASSETS</u>	\$	\$
Cash in UCA General Account	142,975	57,696
Bendigo Bank (Beau UC a/c)	6,239	41,090
Debtors: GST Refund	4,217	5,514
Sundry debtors ^(*5)	5,560	3,646
Interest Receivable	1,745	-
Investments		
Deep Spring Counselling seed capital ^(*6)	11,503	11,210
Deep Spring Counselling operating account ^(*6)	10,519	9,113
Development Fund ^(*7)	3,811	3,766
Plant and Equipment ^(*8)	44,586	44,586
Total Assets	<u>231,155</u>	<u>176,621</u>
 <u>LIABILITIES</u>		
Sundry Creditors & Accruals ^(*9)	<u>1,589</u>	<u>1,434</u>
 <u>TOTAL NET ASSETS</u>	 <u>229,566</u>	 <u>175,187</u>
 Represented by:		
TRUST FUNDS comprising:		
Retained Earnings		
Opening Balance	151,192	91,892
Transfer to Deep Spring Capital Reserve	(293)	(313)
Transfer from Deep Spring Operating Reserve	(1,406)	362
Transfer to Development Fund	(183)	-
Surplus (Deficit) for year	<u>54,379</u>	<u>59,251</u>
Total Retained Earnings	<u>203,689</u>	<u>151,192</u>
 Reserve for Deep Spring Seed Capital		
Opening Balance	11,210	10,897
Transfer from Retained Earnings	<u>293</u>	<u>313</u>
Closing Balance	11,503	11,210
 Reserve for Deep Spring Operating		
Opening Balance	9,113	9,475
Transfer from Retained Earnings	<u>1,406</u>	<u>(362)</u>
Closing Balance	10,519	9,113
 Reserve for Development Fund		
Opening Balance	3,672	3,672
Transfer from Retained Earnings	<u>183</u>	-
Closing Balance	3,855	3,672
Total Reserves	<u>25,877</u>	<u>23,995</u>
 TOTAL TRUST FUNDS	 <u>229,566</u>	 <u>175,187</u>

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the 12 months ended 31 December, 2017

- NOTE 1** The accounts have been prepared on an accruals basis.
- NOTE 2** Income from Deep Spring Counselling Service represents the donations made by the counsellors for the use of the facilities less the client support subsidies made from time to time to support those clients with a genuine inability to pay.
- NOTE 3** Total proceeds from the November twilight fete were \$8,356 from which \$2,087 was reimbursed as expenses. The net result of \$6,269 included extra printing costs.
- NOTE 4** Due to a change in insurance year the 2016 insurance premium represented an 8 month period of insurance whilst the 2017 insurance premium represents a full 12 month period of insurance. Thus, on an annualized basis, there was a 3% pa CPI increase between 2016 and 2017 insurance premiums.
- NOTE 5** **Sundry debtors** at 31 December 2017 of \$5,560 includes rental for Semester 2 Beaumaris 3 yo Kinder, Term 4 Kelly Mini Sports and Term 3 Kallara Calisthenics all of which were paid by early February 2018.
- NOTE 6** The amount of \$11,503 in the Deep Spring Counselling seed capital account listed in the Reserves is an amount set aside at the end of 2002 (\$9,382) accumulated with interest. It represents funds donated to the benefit of Deep Spring Counselling which are for the exclusive use in or on the Counselling Service. Other funds of \$10,519 as at 31 December 2017 in respect of the Deep Spring Counselling Operating Account represent funds accumulated since commencement of the program. Refer to the separate report for the Deep Spring Counselling Service included in this Annual Report.
- NOTE 7** The **Development Fund** money held in the **Uniting Ethical Enhanced Cash Trust** represents Beaumaris (St Martin's) parishioner funds on deposit with the Synod of Victoria to which the congregation receives the interest. This amount was transferred from retained earnings to a Reserve in the 2014 financial statements to reflect the position that these funds may strictly belong to specific parishioners. Subsequent to 31 December 2017, an enquiry with UCA Funds Management has been unable to locate any documentation supporting the identity of depositors. Church Council has approved transfer of these funds into Beaumaris UC retained earnings in 2018.
- NOTE 8** The total **Plant and Equipment** of \$44,586 has been retained in the Beaumaris accounts for a further 12 month period. It has been acknowledged by our auditor that the sum of \$44,586 is not unreasonable but that a review should be conducted in 2018 to create an asset register to support the value of plant and equipment.
- NOTE 9** Sundry Creditors/Accruals at 31 December 2017 of \$1,589 includes a number of bills paid in January i.e. telephone, electricity, reimbursement of worship resource licensing fees and cleaning, as well as the transfer of a gst reimbursement of ministerial benefits to Black Rock Uniting Church which was paid to us in error via Synod.

TREASURER'S REPORT ON FINANCES PERTAINING TO 35 FIRST ST, BLACK ROCK ("THE MANSE")

Managed on behalf of BEAUMARIS and BLACK ROCK congregations

For 12 months ended 31 December 2017

The finances relating to the Manse post 30 September 2015 (when the Beaumaris and Black Rock Uniting Churches effectively separated) are handled under the Beaumaris Uniting Church (ABN remains as 81 592 839 027) with disbursements of net income from manse rental to occur as regularly as possible according to the formula agreed at the special Beaumaris Black Rock Church Council meeting of 29 May 2015 – ie in a 60% Beaumaris/40% Black Rock ratio. The Manse committee is comprised of Geoff Wade and Margaret Thorburn from Beaumaris UC and Nan McArthur and Jill Russell from Black Rock UC). The Manse committee met in 2017 as required (2 meetings - in March and October).

In anticipation of the Beaumaris UC JNC recommendation for a new minister being approved in early April by Presbytery, the tenants were advised on 23 March that they would be required to vacate the Manse by 31 May 2017 (required to give 60 days' notice.) When advised by PRC that the JNC recommendation was not approved and the conversation had been concluded, the agent was approached re the possibility of the notice to vacate being rescinded. The tenants subsequently advised on 7 April that they were due to sign a lease for another property that afternoon but were prepared to stay for a further 6 months with a rent reduction. After some negotiation, the rent was reduced to \$750 per week (down from \$800 per week) for a renegotiated 6 months lease from the start of May 2017.

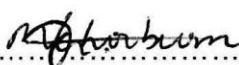
Subsequently, from 30 October a 12 month lease was approved by all parties, with the rent being restored to what it was originally at the start of 2016, ie \$800 per week from 30 December (as 2 of the original tenants were remaining, we were required to give them 60 days' notice of the rental increase.) The new 'carry over' lease also required that the condition report of January 2016 will apply.

A special thanks to Geoff Wade who has done most of the liaising with our real estate agent (Buxton, Sandringham) regarding maintenance issues and with both Buxton and Presbytery/Synod property personnel to resolve the complications arising from the false alarm re likely cessation of the lease, as well as organizing the new carry over lease.

In regard to expenses incurred throughout 2016

- Agent fees are 7.2% or \$250 per month (with rent at \$800 per week)
- Utilities were solely water service fees
- Rates include 2/4 instalments of both the 2016/2017 rates and the 2017/2018 rates
- Insurance paid was for the 12 month period December 2016 – November 2017
- Maintenance items included some bathroom retiling \$550 including gst
- Land Tax 2017 of \$8,455 is payable in April 2018.

Total net assets remaining at the end of 2017 are \$4,544. This covers a \$3,000 maintenance reserve which will be held until the cessation of the current lease.


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Margaret Thorburn

*Treasurer - Manse related finances on behalf of
Beaumaris and Black Rock Uniting Churches*

Dated this 19th day of April 2018

THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA
FINANCES PERTAINING TO 35 FIRST ST, BLACK ROCK ("THE MANSE")

For the 12 months ending 31 December 2017, managed on behalf of
BOTH CONGREGATIONS of BEAUMARIS and BLACK ROCK

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

For 12 months ended 31 December 2017

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
<u>INCOME</u>		
Gross Rental received	40,635	38,137
Interest received	6	3
Total income	<u>40,641</u>	<u>38,140</u>
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		
Agent Fees	2,931	4,071
Advertising	0	270
Bank Fees	11	55
Utilities	502	563
Rates	2,986	3,095
Insurance	612	396
Maintenance/Repairs	550	5,239
Land Tax - 2017	8,455	5,055
Total Expenditure before disbursements	<u>16,047</u>	<u>18,744</u>
Disbursements to Beaumaris UC	13,500	11,625
Disbursements to Black Rock UC	9,000	7,750
Total Disbursements	<u>22,500</u>	<u>19,375</u>
Surplus after Expenditure & Disbursements	<u>2,094</u>	<u>21</u>

BALANCE SHEET as at 31st DECEMBER

<u>ASSETS</u>			
	\$		\$
Cash at hand	12,999		7,505
Total Assets	<u>12,999</u>		<u>7,505</u>
<u>LIABILITIES</u>			
Sundry Creditors & Accruals	8,455		5,055
Total Liabilities	<u>8,455</u>		<u>5,055</u>
<u>TOTAL NET ASSETS</u>		<u>4,544</u>	<u>2,450</u>
Represented by			
Accumulated surplus			
Opening Balance	2,450	2,429	
Surplus (Deficit)	<u>2,094</u>	<u>21</u>	
Closing Balance	<u>4,544</u>		<u>2,450</u>
	<u>4,544</u>		<u>2,450</u>

AUDITOR'S REPORT 2017

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA
CONGREGATION OF BEAUMARIS (ST MARTIN'S)

Scope

I have audited the special purpose financial report, comprising a Statement of Income and Expenditure, Balance Sheet and accompanying notes of the Beaumaris Uniting Church for the year ended 31 December 2017. I have also reviewed the joint Beaumaris Black Rock Manse account to ensure distributions are in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding.

The Church Council is responsible for the financial report and has determined that accounting policies used are consistent with the reporting requirements of the Constitution and Regulations of the Uniting Church in Australia. I have conducted an independent audit of the financial report in order to express an opinion on it to members of the Beaumaris Uniting Church. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the needs of the members.

My audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. My procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial report and the evaluation of significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion whether, in all material respects, the financial report is presented fairly in accordance with accounting policies described in Note 1.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

Audit opinion

In my opinion, the financial report presents fairly, in accordance with accounting policies described in Note 1, the surplus of income over expenditure for the year ended 31 December 2017 and Balance Sheet as at that date.



Helen Hutchison CA (Retired)
Auditor
Beaumaris Uniting Church

Dated this 19th day of April 2018

PROPERTY AND FINANCE REPORT 2017

Members of the Property and Finance Committee (Margaret Thorburn, Gaye Waite, Margaret and Geoff Wade, and Tom Morris) met at least 4 times during the year: January, April, September and October. Along with other less formal meetings regarding more specific issues this enabled it to report in detail at the January, February, April, September, October and November CC meetings.

The year began with a replacement of the covered outdoor walkway (which had a number of rot issues) involving a significant outlay of \$9,700 + gst. An experienced carpenter, plumber and electrician team completed the work most satisfactorily during January before the late January Red Cross mobile blood service visit and the return of school term related activities.

It has been good to see the property committee meeting regularly and transitioning to a more pro-active one which plans for the future as well as responding to the routine and urgent matters which arise. This approach became even more important following advice that our 2017 insurance policy now has a \$2,500 excess of \$500 previously. It was therefore with much relief that we finished the 2017 year without any major flooding events. To this purpose miscellaneous repairs (some reactionary, some preventative) were carried out to various roof flashings, downpipes and storm water drains totalling approximately \$3,300 ex gst as well as repairs to the kitchen skylight flashings totalling \$800 ex gst.

Quarterly week-long visits from the Red Cross mobile blood service continued to provide a regular deadline for working bees (cleaning of windows, general weeding and garden tidy ups) and a more regular schedule was maintained in the clearing of gutters with the assistance of Jake and Matthew Small. We made use of one of our two hard rubbish collections to remove sub-standard furniture and other items from our storage areas. Thank you to all members who have assisted in the maintenance of our property, especially those on the Lawn Mowing Roster. This significant task requires 2 to 2.5 hours of hard work up to five times per year for each of the six volunteers on the roster. Thank you to Geoff Wade who cuts all the edges on the property throughout the year.

Further significant items completed or contributed to during the 2017 year (costs are ex gst)

- Donation to Beaumaris 3yo kinder for new playground surface installed January 2017 \$1,000
- New hot water service \$1,200
- Two new church signs on Gibbs St – near intersections of Dalgetty Rd & Haldane St \$2,980
- Other items of less than \$310 ex gst included new kitchen tapware, new vacuum cleaner, emergency repair of external burst water pipe, kinder toilet repairs and check/minor adjustment to oven, service of hot water unit, testing and tagging of all electrical appliances

Thank you to Helene Knight for looking after our property bookings.

Margaret Thorburn

WORSHIP AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE 2017

Reflecting on 2017, six years after the completion of the last permanent minister, (excluding the twelve -month tenure of an IIM) we have been served well, first with supply ministry and more recently with gifted visiting preachers, augmented by the development of a local preaching team from within the congregation.

Worship:

We have been blessed, having Rev. John Connan for a significant portion of the year, not only providing continuity in preaching, but also, along with his wife Ann, sharing himself with our community, attending social functions.

Philip Stewart has continued to serve us well, preparing the printed Order of Service sheets and emailing the weekly notice sheet to members. In addition his handling of the data projector is an onerous task which he undertakes on an increasing number of occasions. Looking to the future, church council will need to consider installing a permanent piece of equipment for this purpose.

Music:

Choral services were again held at Christmas and Easter, highlighting the valuable part which the St Martins Singers play in our worship throughout the year. We were saddened when our organist of long standing, Inez Fripp, had to retire from the organ roster during the year due to ill-health. It is a role she has filled admirably over many years in the service of the Lord. This, of course, has given her colleague, Jeanette Barklamb the added burden of playing every week, a burden we would like to lighten. Philip has compiled a collection of recorded hymn accompaniments from 'Together in Song' for this purpose.

The website:

Alison Davies continues to compile and update the website - just one of a number of roles she performs in the church. She has produced a quality product which I know many refer to, both from within and outside the church.

The committee:

The committee has continued with the policy of communicating by email as the need arises and I thank Philip and Jeanette for their wisdom, input and support throughout 2017.

Geoff Hinde,
Convener.

MISSION REPORT 2017

The 'M' in St Martin's must stand for 'mission', and the 'Saint' represents all the saints amongst us who do so much to serve the needs of our local community and those beyond the horizon. Whether raising much-needed funds, donating goods, running coffee/ chat mornings or serving the needs of others across the street or across the seas, St Martins was well represented in the mission field in the past 12 months.

Our busiest foray into fund raising was our *annual Fete* in November, which again attracted a bumper crowd on a beautiful spring evening. All the usual stalls were there, especially the trash 'n treasure, BBQ stalls, fruit 'n veg, plants, tea/coffee, cakes, books, face painting, lucky dip etc. We raised the princely sum of over \$6000.

Christmas continues to provide St Martins with an opportunity to provide our 'musical mission' to the local community at the ever- popular *Community Carols by Candlelight* on Christmas Eve. For more than four decades, our very own Roger Wilson has compered the evening and the Hinde extended family has kept the musical tradition alive with their wonderful Carols and Choir. Where would the local 'Carols by Candlelight' be without the contribution of folks from St Martins?

The same can be said for the Easter observation of the '*Stations of the Cross*' as St Martins takes its place with other neighbouring churches in this significantly ecumenical service.

The *Pancake Night* on Shrove Tuesday raised funds for the UC Share Appeal and provided a steady stream of yummy pancakes with all kinds of sweet toppings from the hotplate of the BBQ. Thanks to all the expert cooks and servers throughout the evening.

Through the popular Ladies discussion *Friday morning group*, run by Alison Davies and Margaret Thorburn, we had the opportunity to provide encouragement, prayer and funds to assist special guest Alison Mellon who spoke about her work in Cambodia to rescue children from the dangers of the streets of Phnom Penh through her NGO 'Hard Places'. Ali Mellon gave a powerful account of her work and the extent of the problems facing such vulnerable young people in Cambodia.

We are all 'missionaries' when we 'break bread together' in a social setting. Throughout the year, Shirley Tillet's 'Coffee Knit and Chat' Wednesday afternoon group provided a comfortable and friendly forum for healthy chat and rich time together, while John Angwin's Friday morning group provided Bayside Melbourne's best scones of jam and cream for a dozen or so 'senior' gentlemen of our congregation. Both groups provide wonderful fellowship and pastoral care for those who attend.

Our 'adopted locum ministers' John and Ann Connan touched our hearts with their call for us to help the folks of *Tonga* as they recover from the ravages of *Cyclone Gita* in February. Garden tools, non-perishable food, building materials etc. were loaded into several trailers and dispatched to Tonga via a shipping container which was filled to the brim in Keysborough. We have enjoyed hearing John's tales of their missionary work in India and Tonga during their precious time with us. Truly inspiring.

Weekly donations of non-perishable food from us all which have filled the Church *food basket* we bring forward with the weekly offering each Sunday morning continues to find its way to helping the local community at 'Family Life'. Long may this small but hugely significant gesture form the congregation continue. Thanks to the dedication of Margaret Beaumont, '*Sammy Stamp*' continues to provide funds for the Uniting Church and Frontier Services.

Continued:

As a regular blood donor for many decades, I am pleased to report that St. Martins continue to host the quarterly mobile Blood Bank in our Hall and adjoining rooms. The Red Cross boasts that 'every donation saves three lives' in a medical context. We can boast that Jesus saves lives too!

St Martins can be proud of how we have been faithful to Matthew Chapter 25 v 31-46. Every act of kindness to friends and strangers alike, every word of comfort and encouragement, particularly to someone who is struggling, every shoulder we offer for someone to cry on or to lean on, every visit to a friend or relative in need, every donation of our precious time or money, are all acts of *mission* in a very Christian way.

Nick Toovey

CRAFT GROUP REPORT 2017

Throughout the year the small group of ladies of the Craft Group have met to enjoy fellowship and to work on producing a wonderful selection of items for sale to members and the wider community on the craft stall at the annual fete as well as occasional craft tables following morning services.

The wide variety of items produced have all been well received and have sold well, once again returning valuable funds for the Beaumaris Uniting Church – St Martins and the wider work of the Church.

The many skills offered by the ladies of the Craft Group plus their valuable time and their considerable contribution to material for items being worked on, including the production of a series of banners for the Church window displays has resulted in another rewarding year.

We have been rewarded with positive sales returns as well as a year of warm fellowship.

Jane McLean

COFFEE, CHAT & KNIT GROUP REPORT 2017

This is a ladies group which meets on the 3rd Wednesday afternoon of the month from 1.30 - 3.30pm in the meeting room at the rear of the church.

It is a time for fellowship, full of memories, fun, care & support of each other.

We are encouraged to bring along friends who may need company.

The knitters in the group also knit squares for the charity "Wrap With Love". (<http://www.wrapwithlove.org/>) The squares are made into beautiful, warm wraps or rugs which are delivered by aid agencies of high repute directly to people in areas of trauma and need, whether they be in Australia or sent overseas for refugees.

Shirley Tillett or Lois Henstridge

CARING COMMITTEE REPORT 2017

Our committee has met several times during the year to discuss our duties to the congregation. People are often not well and we do not hear about them. The “contact” people can help in this regard by keeping in touch with their members of the church community, though often people don’t want to draw attention to themselves. The weekly news sheet in their letter box is a good idea just to let them know we are thinking of them. But a phone call or a card is another good idea.

An important note - There are CPR instruction sheets in the vestry & on the side of the refrigerator in the kitchen. Also a First Aid box in the kitchen.

We have been pleased to welcome some new members, Mrs. Helen Seimering & Ms. Euphemia Harahwa, & other people who visit occasionally. We are always pleased to welcome visitors & new members.

Mrs Inez Fripp is unable to attend church as frequently as she used to. We thank her for all those 50+ years she played the organ, not to mention all the other duties she carried out through the years. Mrs Jean Patterson has sold her townhouse, & is now living in Cheltenham Manor. She has settled in though she is very frail.

After all the years of battling Motor Neurone Disease Ruth Ewart passed away in June 2017 Geoff Hinde gave the service of thanksgiving & a very large crowd met for afternoon tea, indicating all of Ruth’s interests & friends.

Mrs Marjorie Bentley passed away, (aged 101 years) after a few years in Sheridan Hall Nursing Home. This was a private funeral but 26 members of the congregation attended and Geoff Hinde conducted the service at Allison Monkhouse, Brighton.

The funeral of our friend Mrs Loxley Massey was a family only private funeral.

Mrs Laura Lang also passed away early this year. Geoff Hinde gave the service – while we provided the afternoon tea for family & friends. Laura is another person who gave lots of service to the church

The church hall & kinder were all opened up for the fete. It was a large area all in use, also all the lawn outside. The kinder provided entertainment for their age group. Being a twilight fete, families were able to have their meal together. Wendy & Alison provided so much of the preparation, then everyone worked hard to make it a great day. Of course the weather was good too.

The Pancake Night was a good night too, church members friends & neighbours all joined in to have pancakes, ice-cream & plenty of choice of toppings, thanks to Wendy & helpers.

Thank you to the people of the Caring Group - Shirley Tillett, Jane McLean, Suzy Toovey, Jan Graham.

Jan Graham
Convenor.

FRIDAY MORNING DISCUSSION GROUP REPORT 2017

“ENJOYING TIME OUT WITH FRIENDS TO EXPLORE NEW IDEAS”

History: The group began in the late 80's as a group of mothers who had dropped their children at the Beaumaris Primary School and stood around chatting to each other. With the assistance of a St Martin's elder and the minister of the day, they decided to meet at St Martin's where they could relax and talk over morning tea whilst another member of the congregation was paid to look after the pre-school children. The group has evolved from a weekly Friday meeting chat group to a forum where meatier issues are discussed. The group has aged as the years marched on and the discussions too have changed accordingly.

Currently: we meet monthly on the first Friday of the month in the sunny back foyer of Beaumaris Uniting Church - St Martin's or one of the meeting rooms, gathering at 9.30am. We don't generally meet during school holidays. On a rotating basis we provide a simple morning tea and the discussion topic for the day. We generally have between 6 and 10 participants at each meeting.

Demographically: we are women and by definition not working in full time paid employment. Historically attrition has generally been due to a change or increase in paid employment hours. Our age range is mostly 50 plus plus. The group is not exclusive to the St Martin's congregation or to mums. We welcome anyone who would like 2 hours of lively discussion and debate on current issues and ideas that relate to the members of the group or society in general.

What do we discuss? A huge array of topics! Some of the issues and ideas covered in the last year include:

- Reading the book: “Being Mortal” by Atul Gawande and discussing his writings on “Illness, Medicine and What Matters in the End”
- The Meaning of Friendship & How to Tell Who Your Real Friends Are
- 99 Reasons Why 2017 Was a Good Year
- Paying It Forward
- “Is Bold the New Beautiful?” – ABC Debate on International Women’s Day
- We discussed aspects of the book Musicophilia: Tales of Music and the Brain, a 2007 book by neurologist Oliver Sacks about music and the human brain.
- We were privileged to be visited in August 2017 by a Cambodian Missionary Alli Mellon, the founding director of **The Hard Places Community**, a team of passionate missionaries who came together in February 2008 to be “a glimpse of hope to the hopeless in the darkest corners of this world.” Alli Mellon talked of the organisation’s work with the child sex trade in Cambodia.
- We went on two excursions during 2017 – The new Peter McCallum Cancer Centre in Parkville and also the Australian Tapestry Workshop in South Melbourne, where we were lucky enough to see the major tapestry *Morning Star* about two-thirds completed before it began its journey to the new Sir John Monash Centre, to be opened in Villeurs Brettenaux, France in April 2018.

What do we get out of the group?

- A sense of connection and community with others who share part of our journey in life
- Relaxed time out with friends
- Exposure and education – a chance to explore new ideas and perspectives
- A diversity of cultural backgrounds
- A support group during crisis

We always welcome new faces so please join us on the first Friday of each month.

Convenors: Alison Davies & Margaret Thorburn

MEN'S FRIDAY MORNING SCONES & COFFEE GROUP 2017

The writing of a report on the Friday Morning Men's Group (sometimes called the "Lobby Group") presents some difficulties, as this was never a structured group, and there is no planned agenda. Of course you cannot sit around a table for 2 hours without talking. Topics discussed cover politics, our church, Presbytery, football, cricket and any other sport (providing it's football and cricket).

Questions are asked of members who have the knowledge to answer them, and quite often members who do not have the knowledge to answer them but do so any way.

The group continues to meet from 10:00am until 12 noon every Friday at the different homes. Morning tea is always provided and covers a wide range of culinary delights. The group has been meeting for about 13 years now, and, on average 9/10 attend regularly. Occasionally we have had 12.

On a more serious note the group are very aware of the health and well-being of the friends who are the congregation. The group included men who work tirelessly for our church and it is because of this that we still function as a viable church.

All are welcome. Come 2/3 times before you make a decision as to whether it suits you. The meeting offers great support if you need it, and great fellowship (and a chance to get out of the house). There seems to be one condition – you have to report back to your wife!?!

John R. Angwin

CHRISTMAS EVE CAROLS COMMITTEE REPORT 2017

Our Committee met on Monday 5th February and the following is a brief report.

- 1. ATTENDANCE**--Approximately 450 attended on a coolish somewhat windy night—still a great outreach by our church to the Community at large.
- 2. CHILDREN**--A lot less children than the 2016 Carols—maybe the weather turned them away
- 3. ENTERTAINERS**—MLOC Choir (22), Southern Area Concert Band (23), Katrina and Lucinda Pezzimenti and Father Christmas at the end!
- 4. TIMINGS** –Band started at 7.30pm with medleys followed by Carols at 7.45pm –finished 9.17pm
- 5. GUEST SPEAKERS**—Bayside Mayor –Cr Laurie Evans, Rev John Connan (St Martin's Minister) and for the 21st and last time—Murray Thompson (MLA) for Sandringham
- 6. COMMITTEE AND HELPERS**—same Committee of 12 members—we need new blood please—a little help on the night from outside the Committee---but still not enough!
- 7. SPONSORSHIPS**—Bayside Council, Beaumaris Bendigo Bank and Hocking Stuart Real Estate Sandringham (4 X Large Advertising Bill Boards)
- 8. DONATION**—Our Committee has increased our donation to the Christmas Bowl Appeal by \$100 on last year –to \$500.

Roger Wilson OAM

Convenor & Compere of Beaumaris Community Christmas Eve Carols

DEEP SPRING COUNSELLING SERVICE REPORT 2017

The “Deep Spring Counselling Service” continued its mission to the community throughout 2017.

Counsellors: Ailsa Drent and Geoff Hinde, have delivered counselling sessions to both Deep Spring clients and their private clients from the Deep Spring room, for which Deep Spring receives a donation.

Deep Spring’s scheduled fee for Deep Spring clients is closely aligned to the current Medicare rebate, resulting in minimal outlay for clients who approach Deep Spring directly and have access to the Medicare benefit for this service. Deep Spring will provide a subsidy to clients with a genuine inability to pay the low Deep Spring fee and unable to access the Medicare rebate. The assistance is provided from Deep Spring resources, when determined appropriate by the counsellor. The counsellors may also support clients sourced through other means, utilising the Deep Spring rooms.

We encourage members of the congregation to continue to support the service by referring friends and neighbours who may benefit from the service. Brochures are available in the display case outside the door of the Deep Spring room. Whilst Deep Spring remains well utilised, there is always scope to provide more consultations.

Financially, Deep Spring is in a satisfactory position. From the donations received, Deep Spring meets its costs whilst also providing a subsidy to clients in need of support.

Our special thanks go to our Counsellors (Ailsa Drent and Geoff Hinde) for their support to Deep Spring throughout 2017.

Guy Thorburn

Treasurer

Deep Spring Counselling Service

DEEP SPRING OPERATING ACCOUNT

For 12 months ended 31 December 2017

	\$
Balance at 31/12/2016	9,112.62
Donations less client support	3,956.89
Utilities	550.79
Maintenance	0.00
Donation to BUC - St Martin’s	2,000.00
Balance at 31/12/2017	10,518.72