



THE SEEDS STORY

ANNUAL CONGREGATION REPORT 2018



**OUR MISSION: BRINGING
PEOPLE TO JESUS AND BEING
TRANSFORMED INTO HIS
PASSIONATE DISCIPLES.**



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4 SERVICES EACH
WEEKEND
+ **1 SERVICE** FORTNIGHTLY

.....

21 BAPTISMS OF
TEEN & ADULTS

.....

44 SMALL GROUPS

.....

1927 ACTIVE
ATTENDERS

.....

800+ WEEKLY
ATTENDANCE AT
WORSHIP

.....

\$696,022 IN
TITHES & OFFERINGS

.....



SENIOR PASTOR REPORT

JONATHAN DAVIES

Dear friends,

We are running towards the end of what has been a most significant and positive year. It is with great joy that I write this annual report. Many things have taken place in our church community that should bring us a measure of satisfaction and praise to our Great King!

There are many highlights for me when I reflect on the year that has been. I am overjoyed to see – again and again – the many baptisms we share in our community. While it's important to realise that numbers are not everything – they do provide us with a gauge of health – so I celebrate that numbers at worship, events, and in small groups, are all up.

Of course, it would be remiss of me to not say a big thank you to the many who have given so generously to Seeds. I'm pleased to say that our giving is up. Again, thank you so much to all those who have given and who continue to do so!

What a privilege it was to launch our church plant; Outpost Uniting in September this year. Please continue to keep them in your prayers. It's my hope that this is the first of many churches that we will see planted from Seeds. Yet again among many other programs we run we hosted another successful Alpha. I make mention of this because it has as its core what we at Seeds are about 'bringing people to Jesus...'

I'm delighted to see our building now under constant use ranging from conferences to Keenagers and Youth. It was wonderful to see KidVenture take over the whole of the complex in January. It's our hope that we will get maximum use out of the building in the years ahead. More so that it becomes a community space, known as a place of God's grace.

Over the past year there has been a lot of work invested into putting together policies and procedures that will take us forward with stability into the future. It's important that we get this right – ranging right across a whole variety of areas. This will reduce frustration and make Seeds run smoothly.

With all the things that are going on in our church (certainly more than I could mention here) I want to point out that I see a big growth in how people serve, and a growth in faith -that is seeing our members live into the truth of the gospel.

It's a delight to work with such a capable group of paid staff. They serve above and beyond and I want to record my thanks for their work. I also extend my thanks to the Church Council for their faithfulness and diligence in oversight and governance – both staff and Council have big roles and I am grateful for their work. Thank you too, for all those who serve in the life of Seeds or in the name of Seeds! You are making a difference! Well done.

Needless to say, we have many plans for the year and years to come! So, stay tuned! It is my privilege to be Senior Pastor.

To God be the Glory!

Blessings.

Jonathan Davies

Senior Pastor



Church Council is made up of the eight elected Elders, our treasurer Rob Miller and Senior Pastor Jonathan Davies. Together we oversee all the missional aspirations, finances and administration of our Church that come out of our mission statement; bringing people to Jesus and being transformed into His passionate disciples.

Church Council is in a privileged position to be able to work with our gifted staff and the many members of Seeds who in faith, humility and commitment seek to serve our Lord. Many of these ministries are in the AGM report and I commend them to you.

Staff will move into the new offices during December and this will mark the realisation of the building development that commenced four years ago. With the exception of a few areas we have been enjoying the new spaces and the new opportunities that are beginning to flow out of the improved space. While the building has taken longer than hoped, Council is pleased to report we were able to build more than we had expected and within the budget set three years ago! We give honour to the Lord for His provision!

In addition to those who contributed financially to the build, we acknowledge the "It's Time Team", the many volunteers who gave their skills and time and the leadership of Paul Tulloch, all who have faithfully delivered to Seeds a wonderful facility. We thank you.

As always, the highlight of the year is seeing many people come into a relationship with Jesus and declare that He is Lord. Council is committed to providing more opportunities for people to meet Jesus and to also build our ability to disciple people for growth and resilience, especially in these times.

Finally, we have welcomed a number of new babies into our Seed's family this year. At Seeds we love our children and we want to be a Church where we support their parents by providing a safe, loving and learning environment, where their feet can be set on good paths. Where they can grow through childhood, teens and into the men and women that God wants them to be.

I look forward to celebrating Christmas with you and trusting the Lord as He leads us into 2019 and beyond.

In His Service

David Sharp

On behalf of Church Council

Jonathan Carpenter, Lisa Newbury
Simon Malcolm, Wendy Perkins
Peter Maschmedt, Marianne Topham
Rob Miller, Jonathan Davies
Deb Mugford



Thank you for your welcome to Seeds. I am delighted to be here and to (slowly) meet all the members, and to work with the staff team and volunteers. It is clear to me that God is very active here and it is my hope to always participate in what God is doing.

One of my key responsibilities is discipleship. We are on a life long journey as disciples. We never 'arrive'; there is always more growing to do because we walk with the living God. This growth is always our own responsibility but my role is to help facilitate that.

Next year the Seeds discipleship programme will include opportunities to grow as part of the Body of Christ, opportunities to be more effective as disciples beyond the gathered congregation and experiences in Australia and beyond that will open our eyes to others.

The interns programme is one opportunity to grow as disciples and I also look forward to overseeing that in 2019.

Rod Dyson

Associate Pastor



This year has seen even more change throughout our worship ministry with a heavy engagement from our Youth in the worship space. Our services have created space for engaging, contemporary worship, aided by a committed and passionate team that willingly serve week in and week out.

Our vision for worship remains the same, doing what we can to bring people to Jesus and be transformed into His passionate disciples.

Hosting the GLS+ was a massive win for not only our music team, but for our production and hosting team. With hundreds of delegates coming along to join together in worship and learn together. We also had a team of youth leaders head to Sydney for Hillsong Conference and see the wider church in action, this was a massive highlight for all of us. Our worship team was also represented at SAYCO this year, with the majority of the team being from Seeds, this was another massive win for us.

Recently we've been blessed with the addition of a new lighting rig which has added another dimension to our space and not only made it easier to see, but allowed another platform for us to bring excellence in to our God.

Personally, I'm so thankful for the volunteers in the area and the church that has so willingly accepted us and what we bring every week. The worship culture at Seeds is shifting and it is easy to see that God is the one guiding us through.

Bayley Lang



CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Our Seeds Children & Families ministry continues to present spirit-filled and faith-forming programs for our children. The new facilities and increased space have enabled our Seeds Kids to enthusiastically engage with the variety of activities and teaching methods implemented. Recently, Ethan Wildman was appointed as Seeds Kids Coordinator with a specific focus on our Sunday programs and teams, together with maintaining communication into our homes each week.

At the beginning of the year, our Seeds Kids team (of around 90 volunteers!) started wearing bright blue leader's t-shirts. We introduced them as a means of building team awareness, but more importantly, in order to continually improve our care and safety procedures with our children. The t-shirts have helped the children identify their leader easily, as well as assisting parents in knowing who to approach for any questions.

Seeds Kids renamed its different age groups in order to give more clarity and focus to faith formation in those age levels. This is still a work in progress, but we see it as a purposeful strategy in considering how we disciple the younger members of Seeds.

- XO (18M-K): To nurture the faith of our youngest children through security and love.
- Xcite (R-2): To inspire the faith of our young children through creativity and fun.
- Xplore (3-5): To engage the faith of our children through discovery and wonder.
- Xtnd (6-7): To deepen the faith of our older children through community and compassion.

Thank you to our amazing team of Seeds Kids leaders! You are fantastic!

KCO was scheduled to occur in March at Adare, Victor Harbor, with 22 campers and 12 parents/leaders, however due to a severe storm the event was cancelled. Kids Hope continues to nurture relationships with children through its program at Thiele Primary. Thank you to our small team of mentors who faithfully sow into these young lives. Kidventure ran again in the January and July school holidays with around 160 children and 45 leaders attending. Kidventure has become an event that parents are planning their family holidays around so their children can attend. Xtnd enjoyed their own ministry space this year, and are working on a Christmas play in the lead up to Christmas services. Saturday night Xtnd connected on average with 35 kids - many of whom were invited by friends who attend our local primary schools.

Thank you to the Seeds Kids Core and ministry team for providing leadership and oversight of our various ministry programs. Please continue to pray for this ministry, and partner with us in engaging children and equipping families in our community for a life of faith in God.



XS YOUTH

XS youth runs Friday nights of term. Small groups are a significant part of night, and each week the separate year levels (boys and girls) meet between 6:30-7:30pm. The commitment of our small group leaders is absolutely inspiring and very much represent the heart of XS.

Easter Camp was again a significant component to our XS year. Dave Shepherd (Littlehampton Baptist & Ignite Ministries) spoke powerfully into the lives of our young people and many made decisions across the weekend. Coro and Playford youth partnered again with us for the camp. Those who came up to serve through catering and electives, together with the team of XS leaders always make camp a great success.

XS maintained its commitment to supporting other Uniting Church youth ministries by sending Away Teams to groups at Goolwa, Playford, Coro, and Westminster. Lucy Gear took responsibility for these teams and created opportunities for our young people to bless others while grow in their own leadership. SAYCO was held at Woodcroft College in September, with the large majority of those attending coming from Seeds. Our leaders provided great leadership across the weekend and again demonstrated the wonderful serving spirit of Seeds.

Baptisms at XS youth are always an exciting time, and are open for others to attend and celebrate as a whole church. This year 16 youth were baptised, and publicly demonstrated their faith in Jesus. The testimonies from those being baptised are in fact answers to the many prayers lifted up over the years. Please continue to pray for this ministry and for those young people in our neighbourhood we are still to reach with the message of the Gospel of Jesus.



Shane & Christy Rayner concluded their ministry with Seeds in September to plant a church in McLaren Vale. Their passion and faith in our young people over the last few years has been an incredible blessing and the fruit of their ministry will be evident for years to come. Matt Peters was appointed as XS Coordinator early in the year to ensure the transition was as strong as possible, so that the ministry would continue to flourish. Matt has an amazing servant-heart and has led the XS team with humility, and determination to consider ways in which XS may grow stronger and further in order to reach and disciple more young people for Jesus.

Thank you to the XS Leadership Core and ministry team for your commitment and enthusiasm each week. Your love for Jesus is evident through your heart to serve our young people so faithfully.

YOUNG ADULTS

Seeds Young Adults is determined to create opportunities where young people can find connection and community. We have a focus on small groups where young adults grow in faith, and for some to discover faith in Jesus for the first time. This year there were 11 small groups. In February, we held a camp at Wallaroo and were blessed with some fantastic input from Carl Haasbroek, pastor at Balaklava Church of Christ. We are holding the 2019 camp down at Adare, Victor Harbor, and are anticipating a significant weekend of growing together in community and faith.

Seeds Feed was introduced this year as an invitation for young adults to invite friends and come together over a meal and conversation. This initially took place once a month on a Saturday night, then moved to Sunday night following the evening service. Seeds Feed has been averaging 80 young adults and we are excited about what this will continue to develop into moving through 2019.

Pete & Jo Morton
Next Gen Pastors



"The Seeds internship is about taking a leap of faith and diving straight in to developing every aspect of your relationship with God. If you're new to faith or have been walking with Jesus for a while and ready to take the next step, the internship acts as a fixed anchor each week for a year to develop good habits of a disciple. The internship adds to your Christian walk by being a small group, doorway into service, prayer group and weekly teaching on top of what you already participate in. I've loved the internship and would encourage everyone to deeply consider applying."

Seb Macaspac

"Never could I imagine a better way of developing my spiritual self. The community that you get to be a part of, the huge amount of wisdom imparted and the great amount of growth that is had, made this experience amazing and invaluable. Highly recommend anyone who would be having thoughts about it to get on board, you definitely won't regret it."

Josh Worthley

"Internship for me this year has been about expanding my knowledge of the promises that God has already in store for us all. A real take away for me has been the community growth aspect. Not only have I been able to grow closer to God but also closer to the other interns, of all ages and backgrounds, which has allowed me to build a greater picture of the impact that God has not only in the local community, but in the wider area that I call my church home."

Ethan Wildman

"The Seeds internship is a life changing experience. It provides you with the opportunity to stop during your busy week and spend time investing in God. You will meet people who are all on different walks of life and journey together to seek God in your daily life as well as strengthening your relationship with Him. I highly encourage you to apply for the internship. It is definitely something you do not want to miss out on."

Georgia Hayley

Applications for 2019 are now open -
<http://welcome.seedschurch.org/>



Our relational God is all about drawing us into relationship with Him. When Jesus ministered, He invested heavily into a small group of followers. There is a rich history to Small Groups at Seeds and Small groups continue to be a place where people are welcomed, grow, care, and serve. The Small Group Core Team have invested heavily into establishing and refining systems for the growth and support of Small Groups. Since the launch in January, people can view the 45 Small Groups currently available directly from the church website. What a joy it has been to see 46 people join a group using the online system. Many others have joined through personal invitation. Many people have also registered and attended Small Group Leader Evenings, where we have shared a meal, discussed the leading of small groups and provided resources, support and prayer to see this ministry thrive. The Small Group Core Team has met each month. With Growth Tracks and Discipleship being developed we will work closely to ensure a unified and intentional approach into the future. It is our desire to see people enter Small Groups seamlessly, to feel a sense of belonging and connection, to experience a safe place where growth occurs in authentic and dynamic ways. Not all people are the same and therefore not all Small Groups will be the same. Having a place where everyone can connect and grow in relationship with God and each other is what Small Groups are all about. Are you in a Small Group? As we near Christmas we are reminded of a young pregnant virgin and her fiancé who could not find a room. Is there room in your Small Group to welcome others? Are you actively looking for and seeking people to grow His kingdom? If your group became 'too full', would this be a problem you would embrace?

Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few." Matthew 9:37

May God bless you and your Small Group as you continue to grow and serve one another in love, bringing people to Jesus and transforming them into His passionate disciples.

Jonathan Carpenter

Small Group Core Team Leader on behalf of the Team



Alpha at Seeds

Alpha is a series of interactive sessions that freely explore the basics of the Christian faith. Millions of people have tried Alpha all around the world, and it has been translated into 112 different languages.

Fifty people were part of the Alpha sessions at Seeds this year, including guests and team, who over 10 weeks formed friendships, explored their faith and for some, came to know Jesus for the first time. The Alpha weekend was held at Goolwa and allowed guests to experience God personally through the Holy Spirit, through discussions, worship and prayer.

The Alpha ministry was generously supported in 2018 by the Alpha team of 20, Seeds small groups who prepared meals for each session, and three church families who donated the use of holiday houses for the Goolwa weekend. Each Alpha session was underpinned by the prayers of our faithful prayer team.

God's great!

Leah Hopton
Seeds Alpha Team





Our aim is to Identifying, Encourage and Support those who have lost a loved one or are on their own and to help them to adjust to their changed life circumstances. We aim to make each of our activities a stimulating, happy and welcoming God centred experience. We provide books and other literature on grieving etc as required and have a contact list (email and mobile) of 43.

We visit those who are newly on their own or new to our church, making regular contact by phone. We also provide transport when required provide food, visit and support people when ill or in need.

Some of our regular activities include:

Monthly Sunday Lunches at local venues. We have been pleased to welcome Ian Kitto (Pastoral Care) - and his wife Karen - on these occasions and appreciate his support at other times. Monthly Thursday Meal and Film evening at Event Cinemas. Weekly Saturday morning Beach Walk. A small group walk from Brighton to Seacliff and return followed by coffee and friendly conversations. Inexpensive Day Outings – Picnics, Coro Valley bus trip, Wetland visit, Nostalgia film mornings, Tickle Tank etc etc and 3-4 day Holidays at the Barossa, Moonta, Normanville, Victor Harbor, Hahndorf, the Grampians, Mannum etc often at a caravan park. Film Afternoons on Holiday Mondays (3 times a year) Held at Seeds and for all to attend. Whilst these were initially commenced to provide an activity on a lonely Monday holiday, We now hold these three times a year. Many positive comments have been received. Attendances are from 50-100

The proceeds from these afternoons have been given to Christian Missions and causes including Bright Futures in Africa and India, The Green Team, Church Plant at McLaren Vale, Building Fund, Pastoral Care at Seeds and in the Community, Christina Noble Foundation in Vietnam.

We also promote and encourage attendance to all activities of Seeds including- Sunday Services, Chatter Matters, Alpha, Keenagers, Small Groups, Craft, the Shed plus functions at Seeds and in the Community, and pick up or arrange to meet them on many occasions

We are a Connect and Nurturing group that Invites and Welcomes and are continually analysing what we are doing and what we provide and whilst some of us have been involved with Horizons for some years we are pleased to welcome new people.

We have been pleased to see new individual friendship groups develop.

We have encouraged different people to be in charge of our various activities and plan to increase this involvement.

It is encouraging also to find from time to time that people outside our church community are invited to join us and they appreciate the happy and welcoming environment.

Frank Milne, Nola Rowlands & Jan Henderson

Horizons Core Team



BASKETBALL

BASKETBALL COMMITTEE

The club, as a ministry of Seeds Uniting Church, aims to offer an accessible and affordable opportunity for families to participate in basketball. While skills are developed, there is also a focus on developing good character and leadership among the players. Those involved in the leadership of teams and the club desire to offer a different experience from other basketball options with greater inclusivity for players and a positive community feel for all involved.

In the Winter season, we had 37 Junior players and 24 Senior Players involved. In Summer we have 15 first time players in our Under 8/Under 10 teams , a further 16 Junior players and 18 Senior Players.

The Seeds Uniting Basketball Club fielded nine teams in the Winter 2018 season, ranging from Under 12s to Under 18s in Juniors with 2 Men's teams and a Women's team. All but two of the teams made the finals and the U16 Gear, U18 Heath and Men's A teams were all grand final winners for the season.

At the end of the Winter season, the club held a very successful mini clinic for 6 – 10 year olds which attracted children from within the church and the wider community. This has resulted in the addition of two U8/U10 teams for the Summer season, along with an U14, U18 and two Men's teams.

We are thankful to all of our volunteers involved in administration, coaching, managing teams and refereeing during the year. We look forward to continuing to offer an opportunity to play basketball as a connection point with Seeds Church.

We plan to hold further mini clinics to connect with the community and encourage new players to give basketball a try and join our club. This gives us the opportunity to Invite and Welcome, and Connect and Nurture.

Kristen Heath

On behalf of the Basketball Committee



Little Wonders Playgroup runs Monday to Thursday 9:30 -11:15. It is primarily for parents and grandparents and carers and preschool children from birth to 5 years. Currently, we have just over 90 families and 125 children enrolled in our programme with an average weekly attendance of 85 children. Most families who attend have no other connection with Seeds.

We start our morning with free play. This can include playdough painting, home corner, trains, gluing, puzzles big active equipment. While children play parents can have coffee and chat and make friendships. We then move into a time of craft where we all gather together and do a craft of the week. Some of these include making finger puppets, rainbows, penguins, butterflies. This is a time to encourage children with fine motor skills in sticking, gluing colouring matching and much more. We then sit together and sing grace before having our fruit time. We end our morning with a story and some singing.

Some highlights of our year have been visiting St Mary Fire Station, Cooking week at Pilgrim School and having Pastor Jonathan share with us at Easter. Children and parents making friendships and getting together out side Playgroup time. We have had a baby boom this year. Our beautiful mural out the back that Naomi Brophy has painted. Thank you to Bev Winen, Margaret Bartlett, Louise Price and Pat Ryan, ladies who come and help me Mothers Day week and cooking week all who are faithful volunteers and make running playgroup easier.

Next year we are hoping we will be able to use the outside area as that gets developed. New songs, stories and craft ideas are always in the planning.

The Mission Core Behaviour which best describes Playgroup would be Invite and Welcome followed a close second with Connect and Nurture. Parents and children are made to feel welcome and there is an open invitation to all with none being turned away. It is a great place to connect and nurture. Many friendships are made through Playgroup and it is a great way to connect with other parents going through the same stage of pre-schoolers. People are cared for and interest is taken in their daily lives. Pastoral care is given where needed.

Karen Richardson

Playgroup Coordinator



A night where women can come together to hear inspirational stories from other women. Our Gleaning Wisdom nights offer encouragement and inspiration, coffee and supper. Women of all ages attend with an average attendance of 80 women. We have had one Gleaning Wisdom night this year. This was a panel of 4 women sharing on God's Purpose for their Lives. It was a time for others to hear how God has worked in these women's lives.

We are looking forward to our next event on December 8th when we will host Bel Thompson a Christian singer songwriter and hear her inspirational story. These events are a wonderful time of fellowship as women connect with women and are encouraged in their faith.

We are hoping to hold more Gleaning wisdom nights next year. Hopefully our ministry has all our Mission Core Behaviours with

Invite and welcome - We invite and welcome all women to our events

Connect and Nurture - Women connect with women and prayer is offered at the end of each evening to those who need it

Equip and Disciple - Through other women's stories women are encouraged to tell their own story and disciple to others

Send out and Serve - We hope our evenings make women feel that they can go out with a greater confidence knowing everyone has a story and they can serve others by sharing a bit about themselves.

Sheree Richardson

Seeds Women



MENS HIGH COUNTRY WALK

April 2018 saw the inaugural Seeds men's walking trip to Bogong High Plains. A group of eight intrepid hikers, planned, trained and prepared for a walk across a section of the Bogong High Plains in Victoria.

The backpacking trip was everything we hoped for and more! It combined some meaningful times with each other in preparation and mutual encouragement. We worked together to get things organised and learned a lot about each other. Under the leadership of Craig Chapman, we thrived.

The 5 days walking was in one word – spectacular. We relished each other's company, we shared faith and hardships, we laughed and prayed with each other. Our faith was strengthened, and our hearts warmed! We even celebrated a milestone birthday in the High Country. Our souls were enriched, and our bodies invigorated. It was a once in a lifetime experience that we continue to recall.

2019 sees another trip. The planning and training for that is underway already. Who knows what God is going to do through the time ahead!

Jonathan Davies



The Mens Shed is an opportunity for men to come together in their own space to share expertise, business skills, swap ideas, solve problems or just to discuss life in general - and to create, build and help the disadvantaged in the community. The Shed meets on Tuesday afternoon.

Over the past year we have attendance as low as seven men and as high as twenty. Most of the time the average attendance would be 15.

The main activity this year has been moving from the old shed and establishing in the new shed at the other end of the carpark. This task has not yet finished, while many of the tools and machinery has moved not all have found their final resting place. The laser cutter has yet to move, it will have to go before this Christmas. Many of our activities take place outside the shed, in the community. We have a very active team of fence builders and restorers.

This year we have renovated fences on five properties. From time to time we clean up properties and mow lawns on an irregular basis and carry out minor repairs. We have this year helped four households dispose of 'no longer required' shed contents. Inside the shed the laser cutter has been busy with jigsaws, puzzles, coasters and craft items for groups inside and outside the church family. Currently the laser cutter is busy with three craft items for Road to Christmas. A dedicated couple of men have restored and painted furniture. Quite a few men have suffered serious health issues and the shed space has afforded them some deep and meaningful conversations.

In the year ahead we will be finding the rightful place for our machinery and tools. Finish paving the area to the rear of the shed. Training can commence in the new year with new men and activities expected.

Russell Flavel
Men's Shed



Seeds has a partnership with Zion Saimai Church, a local Thai Christian Church. As part of our partnership we send a team for two weeks each year to be part of local evangelism activities with them, specifically teaching English to local children as part of their "Summer Camp". We sent a team of 10 in April/May this year.

Our Thailand trip is always a highlight and this year was no exception. We taught over 200 children across two weeks. Our first week was spent in Khek Noi, a tiny poor village high in the mountains of central Thailand. The children here have little English and most have never seen a white person before – they loved us being there. Our presence in this local community is a big deal and local people were very keen to meet us. We slept on the concrete floors, had no hot water and only 'bucket showers' but it was an amazing time and the team found it hard to leave. The church in Khek Noi is home to a local Compassion Project and meeting sponsor children and seeing the program first hand was a moving experience for sure. Back in Saimai we split into two teams teaching children at the church and at a local community space (outdoors!) which gave us some awesome opportunities to connect with the local people living in that community. Handing out Operation Christmas Child Boxes to these children was a real highlight of this second week. We also had the opportunity to stand on and pray over the land that the Zion Saimai church is planning to build their first church building on. This was a moving experience and we came home determined to help raise funds to make this new Christian church a reality – so cool. Living, serving and worshipping with this local church for two weeks is a life-changing experience and we're already looking forward to putting together a new team for 2019!

Plans are underway for our 2019 trip and expressions of interest are open now for people of all ages who want to join the team. We're also working hard to raise funds to help build a Christian Church in this community (500,000 people live in Saimai and the church currently meets in a converted house! It will make such a massive difference for them to have their own dedicated church space.

The Mission Core Behaviours the best describes our program are Equip and Disciple, and Send Out and Serve.

Matt & Ros Sarre

Thailand Mission Partnership



The group meets on Friday mornings during school term time and is open to all. We have a crèche to encourage young Mums to attend. While the group members are interested in pursuing a range of crafts it is also very much a support group as well as an outreach to the community.

Over 50 people have participated during the year with an average attendance of 30 plus. Many of our members are not Seeds Church members.

Our members use their skills to contribute to a number of charities. We support Operation Christmas Child. A number of items for the shoeboxes are made throughout the year. Members knit and crochet items for a number of Charity groups such as Wrapped with Love, Neo-Natal Units and overseas missions. Prayer Quilts are made and given to people, both from within our church family and the wider community who are in need of a special blessing. Before being distributed the quilts are prayed over.

We support selected community groups such as the Cancer Council as the need arises. Above all the group aims to be inviting, friendly and supportive. It is a group where members feel safe and that they are not only welcome but important; that they are loved, and, in return, give out love to others. By using and sharing their skills, by encouraging and teaching others, the group ensures that its members are willing and confident to develop new skills which they can use not only for themselves but also for the wider community.

The Mission Core Behaviours best describes our program are -

- Invite and Welcome
- Connect and Nurture

Judy Styles & Val Leo
Craft Group



KEENAGERS REPORT

MARGARET & TREVOR BARTLETT

Now entering its 13th year, KEENAGERS continues to "touch lives in the Community", with a variety of events and activities arranged specifically for 'over 55's'.

Under the guidance of a Core Team of 11 members, we continue to focus on ways to further develop this unique "movement of God's Spirit", enabling all people to feel Valued, Loved, and Cared For. Our regular programs continue to appeal to many faithful participants who have contributed to and supported them over the years, however, opportunities with a new purpose have been added. Keenagers have now become more 'outreach orientated', where everyone, including previously 'unchurched' people, can find a comfortable place to grow and serve.

We feel relaxed about inviting friends and family to join in fortnightly sessions of T.L.C. and SING!, plus trips, concerts, holidays, lunches, etc., and subsequent attendance at Seeds Worship Services. Keenagers has become a channel of communication where older adults hear of needs and opportunities and become involved in areas of service throughout the entire church and community.

Currently, we have approx. 140 members, averaging an attendance of 60 at each gathering.

This year, we have enjoyed an overnight trip to Barossa Valley, an unforgettable 14 days on the Gold Coast, and several Day Trips including The Bend Motorsport Park. Our regular sessions each month have included inspirational input from local identities, sharing their life stories and individual faith experiences. The ultimate event was the Every Generation "All-Age Family Concert" in October – a wonderful time hearing the musical talents of many in our Seeds Church community...what amazing God-given gifts shared with the wider community! We look forward to our final event for 2018 – the annual Carols session on December 6th featuring the Reception children from Pilgrim Primary School.

Especially important in 2018 has been our connection with the Seeds "Sai Mai Church Building project in Thailand" – we have committed ourselves to continue offering financial support throughout the months ahead, and the growing partnership in this area of Mission.

We are privileged to have Rev. Ian Kitto and Daphne Weatherill on our team, with overall pastoral responsibility for those known to us who have special needs from time to time. Relating to Seeds Mission Core Behaviours, Keenagers identify "Invite & Welcome", "Connect and Nurture" and "Send Out and Serve" as the basis of our purpose and goals!

A 2019 approaches, we keep before us our motto "The Best is Yet To Be!"

Trevor & Margaret Bartlett

Keenagers



VOLUNTEERING

Thank you for helping us with our mission of bringing people to Jesus and being transformed into His passionate disciples. If you are interested in finding a purpose through serving please contact us. There are many ways to serve. Seeds will never have enough volunteers – there will always be work to be done. We are so thankful for all of the people who volunteer on a regular basis here Seeds Uniting Church.

We couldn't do what we do without you!

COMMUNICATIONS

We believe we are communicating more effectively through our online mediums (website, email, Facebook) and also with our printed matter (weekly Seeds Snapshot, monthly newsletters, reports, etc) to help you be more informed and feel better connected. Events coming up and monthly newsletters are uploaded onto the website. Keep checking in to keep up to date. Also, please ensure your details are updated with us if you move or change numbers/email addresses.

SEEDS WEBSITE

1807PAGE VIEWS

PER WEEK

578 UNIQUE VISITORS

PER WEEK



HIGHLIGHTS OF 2018:

21 DAYS OF PRAYER
EASTER SUNDAY
EASTER CAMP

GLS +

ALPHA

TESTIMONIES

INTERVIEWS

MOVIE FUNDRAISERS

GLS

MISSION EXPO

VOLUNTEER

CELEBRATION

ALL AGE CONCERT

SOUP SUNDAY

CHURCH PLANT

BAPTISMS



After nearly four years, the Its Time redevelopment is all but complete with the finalisation of the offices this week. Hallelujah! The project has been steeped in prayer, generosity, goodwill and blessing, and as we have observed many times, such big builds are only done once a generation for good reason! It's hard to remember back, but in progressing the 2008 Dream On project, we initially set about simply considering new rooms behind the old toilets and kitchen. However, guided by our mission into the future, the planning team and architect, together with input from congregational input sessions (remember them) devised a master plan with a more connected design and included a cafe and relocation of the toilets and kitchen altogether.

We were then able to capitalise on favourable market conditions, saving nearly \$400k on pre-tender estimates and future stages were able to be brought forward, including café, new offices, Mens Shed, and avoided having to sell eastern residential lots 8 and 9, where the Mens and NU4U shed are located. Our builders, Tonkin Schutz and Lang Homes (offices) and architect Craig Vale, were joined by our own volunteers and local trades, and supported by Synod property and resources staff, with Paul Tulloch providing project leadership, management, and coordination services.

The property has transitioned into a lively, modern regional complex, able to promote worship, ministry, education and development, outreach and mission, social and events activity, facility hire, and business and administration activities in an integrated and inviting manner. Ramps and handicapped toilets provide an overt welcome to all.

Work currently being finalised includes an updated security system, vehicle barriers from the strata units, leasing of #40 Sunnymeade Drive (#40), and the rectification of defects on aluminium doors.

Outside of the project's \$2.5m budget, the shelter behind Room S1 and the outside café decking/pergola and are the priority do-next items, and landscaping plans for front and rear areas will be progressively implemented. The Master Plan also included enclosing the entry area and steps, but this may detract from the lively frontage that is so inviting for people. Minor items to make the interior more inviting include posters, paintings, curtains, blinds, and decals on sliding doors. The 'nook' adjacent the parent's room at the rear of the auditorium needs development as a toddler's area, and an additional audio speaker is required into the parent's room and foyer.

The old offices at #40 will be leased for consulting rooms or offices for the next 5 years, with a \$240k 15-year loan to be established early in 2021 directly against the rental income.

Thanks so much for everyone who has contributed funds, ideas, prayers, vision, expertise, catering, energy, and hard work over this time, and to our gracious God who is the great provider, designer, creator, and owner of all things.

Paul Tulloch



Nu4U Op shop is run 6 days a week, selling quality goods to locals at Aberfoyle Hub Shopping Centre and O'Halloran Hill. Staff is made up of volunteers aged 18 yrs to 80+ years. Men and women.

We have currently 30 volunteers who come in every week on a regular basis. Volunteers learn all aspects of running a shop day to day, and we regularly have training to improve customer service, and go over any issues. Volunteers are all generally locals, they enjoy getting to know locals as customers and team members, many make new friends. Often our centrelink workers continue after they need too because they love the work and the people.

No big changes coming up at the moment, but we change things from time to time to keep the customers interested. We regularly have sale promotions that are always well attended, and are promoted via email, and sometimes on Church facebook.

Our goals are to welcome and encourage people who become a part of team, and to make people feel welcome in our stores.

SEND OUT & SERVE

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. -Matthew 28:19

If you would like to volunteer in a shop then please call Meredith on 0421059917 or Julie on 0408807446





Thank you to all of you who give generously to the work of God through Seeds Uniting Church. We are pleased to update the Congregation with our latest financial results.

Soon our auditors and external accountants, Galpins, will commence their annual audit of our 2017/2018 financial results. What can be reported is that we returned an unaudited surplus of \$33,316 against our budget of \$19,026 for the year which was a pleasing result.

**PROFIT AND LOSS
JULY 2017 – JUNE 2018**

<u>Income</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$ Difference</u>
Offerings	\$696,022	\$687,102	\$8,920
Annesley Chaplaincy Services	\$19,691	\$19,470	\$221
Donations & Grants	\$3,637	\$2,800	\$837
Interest	\$2,175	\$930	\$1,245
Property & Café	\$10,601	\$2,828	\$7,773
NU4U Shop income	\$145,463	\$143,450	\$2,013
Kids Ministry	\$8,282	\$8,240	\$42
Young Adults	\$1,068	\$3,160	-\$2,092
XS Income	\$13,579	\$8,150	\$5,429
Other Income	\$22,802	\$2,926	\$19,876
TOTAL INCOME	\$923,320	\$879,056	\$44,264
<u>Expenses</u>			
Employment costs	\$547,814	\$535,141	\$12,673
Property & Café	\$74,221	\$64,008	\$10,213
Administrations costs	\$51,220	\$50,952	\$268
Communication	\$2,502	\$1,960	\$542
Discipleship Resources	\$1,236	\$925	\$311
Beyond Seeds	\$16,280	\$18,500	-\$2,220
Synod M&S Fund, 3D Net	\$87,699	\$77,628	\$10,071
NU4U Costs	\$83,450	\$82,436	\$1,014
Creative Ministry	\$9,029	\$7,500	\$1,529
Kids Ministry	\$6,830	\$7,200	-\$370
Young Adults	\$810	\$1,500	-\$690
XS	\$8,913	\$12,280	-\$3,367
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$890,004	\$860,030	\$29,974
OPERATING SURPLUS	\$33,316	\$19,026	\$14,290

We should all be very happy with the surplus achieved in the past financial year which will further enable God's work within and outside the church.

The following table represents this financial year's results to date:

PROFIT AND LOSS JULY – OCTOBER 2018

Income	Actual	Budget	\$ Difference
Offerings	\$278,434	\$255,300	\$23,134
Annesley Chaplaincy Services	\$6,667	\$6,667	\$0
Donations and Grants	\$4,302	\$4,480	-\$178
Property & Café	\$5,023	\$6,517	-\$1,494
NU4U Shop income	\$47,313	\$49,400	-\$2,087
Other Income	\$1,877	\$1,409	\$468
TOTAL INCOME	\$343,616	\$323,773	\$19,843
Expenses			
Employment costs	\$181,683	\$182,163	-\$480
Property costs	\$28,570	\$28,156	\$414
Administrations costs	\$21,643	\$21,965	-\$322
Synod M&S Fund	\$23,970	\$24,170	-\$200
NU4U Costs	\$31,462	\$30,934	\$528
Creative Ministry	\$19,703	\$15,828	\$3,875
Kids/XS/Young Adults	\$4,341	\$4,703	-\$362
Other Expenses	\$11,783	\$9,763	\$2,020
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$323,155	\$317,682	\$5,473
OPERATING SURPLUS	\$20,461	\$6,091	\$14,370

We have seen a continual growth in offerings across the year compared to budget which is wonderful.

Our continuing financial performance is 'cash positive' and we are meeting all debt repayment obligations. The outstanding balance on our building loans now stands at \$854,625.

PROPERTY:

A report on the progress of our 'It's Time' Building Project is being addressed separately in this booklet. It is a timely reminder for pledge amounts to continue to be honoured as we try to complete the final stages of the build.

NU4U OP SHOPS:

We are fortunate to have 2 retail Op Shops which trade as NU4U. These shops have provided Seeds with good income support over a number of years. While their performance is only slightly down in the last quarter, 2017/2018 saw the Op Shops over achieve on budget.

HUMAN RESOURCES:

The staff team have continued to evolve in the last twelve months. Matt Peters commenced in January as the XS Coordinator ahead of the planned move of Shane and Christy Rayner to the new Church plant of Outpost Uniting in August 2018. Helene Bentley came on board as the Business Manager from March to September 2018, and Margaret Davidson took on the Interim Business Manager role on in September 2018. A newly created role of Operations Manager saw Leanne Wissell commence at the end of September 2018, Leanne has been on team at Seeds previously and has slipped into her role very quickly overseeing the Front Office and Venue Hire. Another newly created role (Seeds Kids Coordinator) was filled by Ethan Wildman who commenced in October 2018. Paul Tulloch, Project Manager of the build, finishes at the end of November 2018 and part of his role will be taken up by the Business Manager.

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