

# The Uniting Church in Australia



## Revesby Uniting Church A Community Centre



## Annual Report

## December 2021

## Minister's Report 2020

Was the pilgrimage I made to come to my own self, to learn that, in times like these, and for ones like me, God will never be plain and out there, but dark rather, and inexplicable, as though he were in here?

- R.S. Thomas

We have lived through another year of Covid with all the uncertainties it entails. We are now overly familiar with lockdown and the unease of not knowing what will come next. We went back to church at the end of February, only to return to lockdown at the end of June.

The rhythms of church life have been disrupted yet again, and we have continued learning new ways of being a faith community. As the reflection above suggests, we have heard echoes of a different God.

What we take from this time will be vital in shaping our future as a church.

During the year, I have continued to direct my energies to offer thoughtful worship and Bible study. We have explored Romans, Genesis, Job and now are focusing on Bethlehem. The Thursday Zoom Bible study has prospered during lockdown, drawing in people who seek a contemporary expression of faith, not previously part of our church community. Church Online (many thanks to Ian) has also engaged people well beyond the bounds of our church. During the last lockdown, Café Church was reinvigorated via Zoom each Sunday night.

I worked with the Pastoral Carers to maintain the essential networks of care established when the pandemic first began (many thanks to the carers!) and provided personal care for those marginalized by the pandemic and those in pain.

We have sought to remain connected as a community through Zoom morning teas and the weekly Update.

I continued my involvements outside Revesby, tutoring at United Theological College and writing for *With Love to the World*.

In September, the strains of ministry in lockdown got the better of me, and I had to take four weeks of stress leave. I much appreciated the care and support of the congregation during that time.

As we open up, we sense a future (*'dark and inexplicable'*) quite different to what we saw two years ago. As well as the joy of being together once more, we anticipate the Community Garden taking shape and drawing in others. We will also need to reconnect with and reshape the Strategic Plan we formulated shortly before lockdowns began.

As ever, it is rewarding to serve in ministry at Revesby.

- Rev MB, 3.12.'21

## Church Council Report 2021

The Church Council have met as normal over the last year through the Zoom medium due to the lockdown. Apart from the normal concerns regarding the governance of the congregation and our usual pastoral responsibilities we have had some additional issues that have needed to be addressed predominately been focused on the following issue:

- The direction as to the viability of the current manse
- Pastoral issues arising out of the Covid lockdown
- The future direction of the Church regarding our strategic plan
- The direction, use and proper function of our community garden
- The possible expansion of the use of the Church building as a creative workspace that can not only be used by our Church but the extended community

The Church Council continues to function with several objectives. The definite focus of a pastoral heart, an outward look on impacting our extended community and a responsible strategic sense of the use of our resources while propelling RUC into the future.

Andrew Schepis  
Interim Chairperson Church Council

## **Treasurer's Report 2021**

Probably all of us would agree that the last year has been turbulent with many ups and downs. Our Church life has been similarly affected.

I am grateful to those folk who continued their offertory contribution to Revesby Uniting Church through online donation during our recent protracted lockdown. The continued income has contributed greatly to keeping us viable.

Our other sources of income – rent from the Child Care Centre and rent from the manse continued through the long lockdown as well. However, the manse rental has now ceased, which limits our income.

Revesby Uniting Church Property Committee proposed to Revesby Uniting Church Council that the present manse should be sold and a more suitable property for a manse be purchased, that could also be a potentially more rental property than the present manse, if it was not used as a manse for a future minister. There is still a lot of work to be done yet on this project and there will be financial impacts on the Revesby Uniting Church.

Insurance payments for the storm damaged church foyer, main floor and vestry have been settled. Similarly, the insurance for the damaged brick meter box has now been settled as well as the residual amount not covered by the insurance payment has been shared equally between the 3 entities on our property.

Our financial bottom line continues to be buoyed by unused grant money. Most of the grant money will need to be expended in the next 6 months or it will have to be returned.

Continued sourcing of various grants would be beneficial to our financial situation in the upcoming year.

According to the latest financial statement (October 2021), from our church accountant, we are presently in "deficit to \$5,646 compared to the budget deficit of \$10,983".

During the latest lockdown period all the usual financial requirements continued – our Annual Information Statement (AIS) was completed, our BAS statements were completed and the annual audit of our finances was conducted. We have successfully passed our annual audit. Our thanks to Barry O'Connor for once again thoroughly conducting the required yearly audit of our finances.

Also during the latest lockdown we were fortunate enough to qualify for and obtain the Government's Small Business Grant fund and also the Government Fees and Charges refund Grant – both of which helped us greatly.

As we get back to normality, we need to continue with our offertory. Without offertory we would not be a viable entity.

I have included copies of an 'Income & Expenses Summary' statement and a more extensive 'Expenses & Income Statement' from the latest Financial Report (October 2021) from our Church accountant.

Mark Gordon

Treasurer

**Revesby Uniting Church**

119 River Rd  
REVESBY NSW 2212

20-Nov-21

**Income & Expenditure Summary**

October 2021						Year to Date						Full Year
Actual	Budget	Var \$	Last Year	Var \$	Var %	Actual	Budget	Var \$	Last Year	Var \$	Var %	Budget
<b>3,390</b>	6,543	(3,153)	4,895	(1,505)	(30.7%)	<b>14,407</b>	19,805	(5,398)	19,791	(5,384)	(27.2%)	71,950
	558	(558)					2,233	(2,233)				8,700
<b>4,371</b>		4,371	30,382	(26,010)		<b>13,871</b>		13,871	49,781	(35,909)		18,655
<b>6</b>	25	(18)	6	(1)		<b>17</b>	100	(83)	27	(10)		300
<b>3,476</b>	5,930	(2,453)	5,152	(1,676)		<b>22,376</b>	22,331	44	20,608	1,768		69,770
<b>98</b>	98		98			<b>171</b>	100	71	260	(89)		700
<b>11,342</b>	<b>13,056</b>	<b>(1,714)</b>	<b>40,435</b>	<b>(29,093)</b>	<b>(72.0%)</b>	<b>50,843</b>	<b>44,370</b>	<b>6,473</b>	<b>90,466</b>	<b>(39,623)</b>	<b>(43.8%)</b>	168,074
<b>9,969</b>	9,964	(5)	9,880	(89)		<b>39,876</b>	39,856	(20)	38,720	(1,156)		119,568
<b>1,139</b>	978	(161)	18,710	17,571		<b>8,858</b>	6,612	(2,246)	22,087	13,229		31,104
<b>2,263</b>	558	(1,705)	982	(1,282)		<b>2,359</b>	4,833	(2,474)	4,464	2,104		11,191
<b>940</b>	826	(114)	2,775	1,835		<b>4,762</b>	3,843	(919)	5,328	565		10,450
	52	52				<b>633</b>	208	(425)	594	(39)		625
<b>14,311</b>	12,378	(1,933)	32,147	17,836	124.6%	<b>56,489</b>	55,353	(1,136)	71,193	14,704	26.0%	172,938
<b>(2,969)</b>	678	(3,647)	8,289	(11,258)		<b>(5,646)</b>	(10,983)	5,338	19,274	(24,918)		(4,864)

**What's in the Bank?**

	Balance at 1 Jul 2021	Movement	Bal at end October
UFS At Call Account	32,413	28,507	60,920
UFS Cheque Account	4,205	(205)	4,000
Ministers Emergency Fund (Cash)	300		300
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>36,918</b>	<b>28,302</b>	<b>65,220</b>

**Other Assets / (Liabilities to be paid)**

	(1,000)	1,000	
Funds Held in Advance	(1,000)	1,000	
GST Collected	(950)	617	(333)
GST Paid	3,350	(3,205)	144
PAYG Payable	(2,055)	1,318	(737)
Deposits Paid	27,228	(27,228)	
Government Grants	(10,075)		(10,075)
Playgroup 2021	(5,722)	2,359	(3,363)
Playgroup 2022		(8,800)	(8,800)
Ministers Expense Fund Net Liability		(9)	(9)
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>10,776</b>	<b>(33,948)</b>	<b>(23,172)</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>47,694</b>	<b>(5,646)</b>	<b>42,049</b>

Community Building Partnership Grant  
Revesby Workers Club grant 2021  
Revesby Workers Club grant 2022

Ministers Benefit Account	2,612	1,248	3,860
Ministers Benefit Account Liability	(2,612)	(1,257)	(3,869)
<b>Net MEF Liability</b>		<b>(9)</b>	<b>(9)</b>

**Revesby Uniting Church**  
 219 River Rd  
 REVESBY NSW 2212  
**Income & Expenditure Statement**

26-Nov-21

October 2021						Year to Date						Full Year
Actual	Budget	Var \$	Var %	Last Year	Var \$	Actual	Budget	Var \$	Var %	Last Year	Var \$	Budget
<b>4-0000 INCOME</b>						<b>4-0000 INCOME</b>						
<b>4-1000 Ministry &amp; Missions Income</b>						<b>4-1000 Ministry &amp; Missions Income</b>						
	522	(522)	(100.0%)	200	(200)	132	522	(390)	(74.6%)	691	(559)	4,700
	1,667	(1,667)	(100.0%)			15	1,667	(1,652)	(99.1%)	1,945	(1,930)	15,000
3,390	4,333	(943)	(21.8%)	4,695	(1,305)	14,260	17,332	(3,072)	(17.7%)	17,155	(2,895)	52,000
	21	(21)	(100.0%)			84	84	(0)	(100.0%)			250
<b>3,390</b>	<b>6,543</b>	<b>(3,153)</b>	<b>(48.2%)</b>	<b>4,895</b>	<b>(1,505)</b>	<b>14,407</b>	<b>19,605</b>	<b>(5,198)</b>	<b>(26.5%)</b>	<b>19,791</b>	<b>(5,384)</b>	<b>71,950</b>
<b>4-1200 Wider Work Donations [R2]</b>						<b>4-1200 Wider Work Donations [R2]</b>						
	558	(558)	(100.0%)				2,233	(2,233)	(100.0%)			6,700
	558	(558)	(100.0%)				2,233	(2,233)	(100.0%)			6,700
<b>4-2000 Other M&amp;M Receipts</b>						<b>4-2000 Other M&amp;M Receipts</b>						
	2,012			20,000	(20,000)					20,000	(20,000)	
	2,359	2,012	(85.3%)	7,400	(5,388)	11,012	11,012		(0.0%)	22,900	(11,888)	18,655
	4,371	2,359	(54.0%)	2,982	(622)	2,859	2,859		(0.0%)	6,881	(4,021)	
		4,371	(100.0%)	30,382	(26,010)	13,871	13,871		(0.0%)	49,781	(35,909)	18,655
<b>7,762</b>	<b>7,101</b>	<b>660</b>	<b>9.3%</b>	<b>35,277</b>	<b>(27,515)</b>	<b>28,279</b>	<b>21,838</b>	<b>6,441</b>	<b>29.5%</b>	<b>68,572</b>	<b>(41,293)</b>	<b>97,304</b>
<b>4-3000 Interest Income</b>						<b>4-3000 Interest Income</b>						
	6	25	(19)	6	(1)	17	100	(83)	(82.8%)	27	(10)	300
	6	25	(19)	6	(1)	17	100	(83)	(82.8%)	27	(10)	300
<b>4-4200 Property Income [R10]</b>						<b>4-4200 Property Income [R10]</b>						
	3,231	444	(444)	3,152	79	2,727	444	2,283	513.6%	2,727		4,000
	246	3,231	(0)	2,000	(1,754)	12,923	12,923	(1)	(0.0%)	12,608	315	38,770
	3,476	2,255	(2,009)	5,152	(1,676)	6,726	8,964	(2,238)	(25.0%)	8,000	(1,274)	27,000
		3,476	(100.0%)	5,152	(1,676)	22,376	22,331	44	0.2%	20,608	1,768	69,770
<b>3,476</b>	<b>5,930</b>	<b>(2,453)</b>	<b>(41.4%)</b>	<b>5,152</b>	<b>(1,676)</b>	<b>22,376</b>	<b>22,331</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>0.2%</b>	<b>20,608</b>	<b>1,768</b>	<b>69,770</b>
<b>4-5000 Other Income</b>						<b>4-5000 Other Income</b>						
	98	98		98		98	98			98		400
	98	98		98		73	100	(27)	(27.2%)	110	(37)	400
	98	98		98		171	100	71	71.2%	110	61	400
	98	98		98						150	(150)	300
<b>98</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>98</b>	<b></b>	<b>98</b>	<b></b>	<b>171</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>71.2%</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>(89)</b>	<b>700</b>
<b>11,342</b>	<b>13,056</b>	<b>(1,714)</b>	<b>(13.1%)</b>	<b>40,435</b>	<b>(29,093)</b>	<b>50,843</b>	<b>44,370</b>	<b>6,473</b>	<b>14.6%</b>	<b>90,466</b>	<b>(39,623)</b>	<b>168,074</b>
<b>6-0000 EXPENSES</b>						<b>6-0000 EXPENSES</b>						
<b>6-1000 Wages &amp; Salaries</b>						<b>6-1000 Wages &amp; Salaries</b>						
	8,944	8,939	(5)	8,883	(261)	35,776	35,756	(20)	(0.1%)	34,732	(1,044)	107,268
	1,025	1,025		997	(28)	4,100	4,100		(0.0%)	3,968	(112)	12,300
	9,969	9,964	(5)	9,880	(289)	39,876	39,856	(20)	(0.0%)	38,720	(1,156)	119,568
	9,969	9,964	(5)	9,880	(289)	39,876	39,856	(20)	(0.0%)	38,720	(1,156)	119,568
<b>6-2000 Property Related Costs</b>						<b>6-2000 Property Related Costs</b>						
	197	42	(155)	18,182	(197)	1,950	1,950		(0.0%)	1,812	16,232	9,067
	330	42	(330)	330		776	167	(609)	(78.5%)	290	(486)	500
	90	390	300	333.7%	(90)	1,447	1,447		(0.0%)	808	(237)	
		83	83			1,045	1,045		(0.0%)	808	(237)	
						1,269	1,561	292	23.0%		(1,269)	4,684
							333	333				1,000
<b>617</b>	<b>515</b>	<b>(101)</b>	<b>(16.4%)</b>	<b>(617)</b>	<b></b>	<b>4,537</b>	<b>2,061</b>	<b>(2,475)</b>	<b>(54.6%)</b>	<b>1,329</b>	<b>(3,208)</b>	<b>6,184</b>
<b>6-2299 Property Overheads [P6]</b>						<b>6-2299 Property Overheads [P6]</b>						
	399	333	(66)	265	(134)	1,233	1,333	100	8.1%	982	(251)	4,000
	104	333	(229)	148	44	289	200	(89)	(30.8%)	295	6	800
	19	129	110	580.2%	116	512	2,500	1,988	388.2%	1,068	556	2,500
	522	463	(60)	528	6	337	518	181	53.6%	231	(106)	1,553
<b>1,139</b>	<b>978</b>	<b>(161)</b>	<b>(14.4%)</b>	<b>18,710</b>	<b>17,571</b>	<b>2,371</b>	<b>4,551</b>	<b>2,180</b>	<b>91.9%</b>	<b>2,577</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>15,853</b>
<b>6-3000 Mission Costs &amp; Giving</b>						<b>6-3000 Mission Costs &amp; Giving</b>						
	263	558	295	982	718	2,359	4,833	2,474	104.9%	4,464	2,104	11,191
	2,000	2,000		2,000		2,960	2,660	(300)	(10.1%)	2,820	(140)	6,900
	2,263	558	(1,705)	982	(1,282)	75	233	158	211.1%	148	73	700
	640	530	(110)	720	80	306	400	94	30.7%	218	(88)	1,200
	75	58	(17)	55	(75)	27	50	23	86.5%		(27)	150
	55	100	45	83.4%		3,368	3,343	(25)	(0.7%)	3,186	(182)	8,950
	770	701	(69)	775	5	142	233	92	64.5%	2,142	2,000	700
	170	67	(103)	170		1,253	267	(986)	(78.7%)		(1,253)	800
	170	125	(45)	2,000	1,830	<b>1,394</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>(894)</b>	<b>(64.1%)</b>	<b>2,142</b>	<b>747</b>	<b>1,500</b>
	940	826	(114)	2,775	1,835	<b>4,762</b>	<b>3,843</b>	<b>(919)</b>	<b>(19.3%)</b>	<b>5,328</b>	<b>565</b>	<b>10,450</b>
<b>6-5000 Congregation/Church Services</b>						<b>6-5000 Congregation/Church Services</b>						
	52	52				633	208	(425)	(67.1%)	594	(39)	625
	52	52				633	208	(425)	(67.1%)	594	(39)	625
	52	52				833	208	(625)	(73.8%)	594	(239)	625
<b>14,311</b>	<b>12,378</b>	<b>(1,933)</b>	<b>(15.6%)</b>	<b>32,147</b>	<b>17,836</b>	<b>56,489</b>	<b>55,353</b>	<b>(1,136)</b>	<b>(2.0%)</b>	<b>71,193</b>	<b>14,704</b>	<b>172,938</b>
<b>(2,969)</b>	<b>678</b>	<b>(3,647)</b>	<b>(538.0%)</b>	<b>8,289</b>	<b>11,258</b>	<b>(5,646)</b>	<b>(10,983)</b>	<b>5,338</b>	<b>(48.6%)</b>	<b>19,274</b>	<b>24,919</b>	<b>(4,864)</b>
<b>(2,969)</b>	<b>678</b>	<b>(3,647)</b>	<b>(538.0%)</b>	<b>8,289</b>	<b>11,258</b>	<b>(5,646)</b>	<b>(10,983)</b>	<b>5,338</b>	<b>(48.6%)</b>	<b>19,274</b>	<b>24,919</b>	<b>(4,864)</b>

## Property Committee Report 2021

The Property Committee has not met as normal over the last year due to the lockdowns and usage of the church and manse. We have met for meetings via Zoom and occasionally met at the church or the manse to discuss problems that required hands on attention either to make decisions or to make repairs.

One of the big projects was the replacement of the old white brick meter box in the front yard which was damaged during the garden works. This was subsequently removed and replaced by a metal enclosure against the fence and a new power pole in the front corner of the property. This has had the benefit of opening up the garden space and removed an eyesore that has detracted from the property for 40 years.

While the garden was being dug up and remodelled we took the opportunity to install a number of cable conduits throughout the garden connecting to the new meter box and to the church, some of these were for future lighting in the grounds, some for potential electronic signage and some for power circuits to power the water tank pump and power outlets in the grounds.

A new sign is still required for the front of the church advertising the Church, Child Care Centre and Mirambeena. Discussions are currently in the pipeline between the three entities about what is to be installed. At present this will likely be a standard sign similar to what we had before but provisions have been made for an electronic sign should this be required in the future.

While not specifically a Property Committee project, equipment has been installed in the church to allow the video recording of church services and the uploading of services onto YouTube immediately after a church service. While the church has been closed services were pre-recorded and put online at 9:30 on Sunday mornings. Many thanks to Ian Bertram for the hard work that he has done to make this happen.

Up until recently the manse has been occupied with tenants, currently it is unoccupied. There have been many repairs to the manse over the last year and a bit, including repairs to the pool pump and chlorinator, issues with the hot water system which turned out to be the meter in the fuse board. Several lights in the property were replaced due to modifications made by previous occupants. The Mould Doctor was called in several months ago to address and rectify major issues with mould in the building.

After the tenants moved out recently an audit of the manse was performed and further issues were found with the manse which we were unaware of previously. These issues have been forwarded to the Church Manse Committee for further consideration.

I would like to thank all the Property Committee members for their hard work in helping to maintain the Church's properties but especially Mark Gordon who has had to deal with a huge amount of difficulties with the manse in the last year as he was the primary contact with the Real Estate agents managing the manse rental.

Simon Steinfurth

Chairperson Property Committee



## Kidsplay@Revesby Playgroup

Funding Body: Revesby Workers Club: ClubGRANTS \$8,580

Facilitators: Yvonne Lawrence Julie Bertram Rae West

Morning Tea Co-ordinator: Maureen Robertson

Videographer: Ian Bertram



Kidsplay@Revesby is a playgroup for children 0-6 and their families.

Each week we have a range of activities that include storytelling, music, and art/crafts.

Due to continued Covid lockdowns in 2020-2021, our playgroup has primarily been presented online for three terms. We have posted 28 Kids Play videos to Facebook and YouTube, filled with stories, games, songs and fun activities. Rae has provided 25 children with 27 craft packs to accompany the videos. This equates to an incredible 575 individual crafts during this time.

Our Facebook views have proven to be around 45 - 50, with a record number of 109 views for one video. When you consider we have 54 people following our Facebook page, having a video that received 109 views is a good reach. Considering this, we have started putting templates on our Facebook page with the video so anyone watching can do the activities. The comments section has developed into a mini gallery for the children to share their artwork each week. We have also delivered 19 'care gift bags' to our playgroup parents and grandparents and have had a zoom session.

In December 2020 we were able to run a one-off Christmas celebration and another for Easter in 2021. Both days were well attended and enjoyed by all.

We were able to resume Face to face playgroup in Term 2 of 2021 and everyone was thrilled to see each other once again. One of the highlights for the children was the introduction to our new garden. We had a regular time where we watered plants and played in our new space. The children and adults thoroughly enjoyed this time.

At the end of 2020, Yvonne stepped down as the Monday playgroup facilitator. I would like to acknowledge her tireless work over many years in facilitating our Monday group. Her knowledge and expertise in working with children, particularly those with additional needs, has been a significant asset to our playgroup program. Yvonne also established long term relationships with grandparents from our groups and continued meet regularly with them for coffee long after they had left playgroup. We will miss her in our playgroup spaces. Thank you, Yvonne.



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We would like to acknowledge and thank the Canterbury Bankstown Club Grants Committee and Revesby Workers Club for their continued encouragement, ongoing financial support and for enabling flexible use of our funds throughout Covid lockdowns. This grant enables us to continue our support for local children and families through Kidsplay@revesby.

Julie Bertram





## The Knitting Room



2020-2021 was another year of disruptions for “the knitting room” and our ladies. Because of Covid lockdowns we were only able to meet for a total of 15 weeks. Communicating by phone with many diligently working from home, we were still able to make many and varied valuable contributions to the community. However, the social aspect and comradery was sorely missed.



Through the efforts of our ladies, donations were able to be made to the following organisations: -

### **Westmead Children’s Hospital and Ronald McDonald House**

76 children’s beanies, 54 children’s jumpers, 4 children’s beanie and scarf sets, 9 knee rugs, 6 baby rugs, 5 baby jackets 5 baby jumpers, 28 scarves, 2 adult beanies, 43 adult beanie and scarf sets, 40 pairs of bed socks, 6 coat hangers, 38 teddy bears, 79 knitted toys and 10 Barbie dolls.

### **Revesby Uniting Church – Share the Love Christmas Hampers**

15 knitted toys.

### **Samaritan’s Purse – Christmas Shoe Boxes**

58 knitted toys.

### **Revesby Uniting Church Child Care**

10 adult beanie and scarf sets, 10 children's jumpers and 6 children's beanies

(These were to be sold to gain monies for defibrillators).

### **Wrapped With Love**

18 full rugs and 2 bags of knitted squares (enough for 6 more rugs).

### **Bush Fire Relief – Balmoral Southern Highlands**

12 children's jumpers and 10 adult beanie and scarf sets.

### **Chester Hill Neighbour Centre**

5 full rugs, 6 knee rugs, 21 beanies, 13 beanie and scarf sets and 5 scarves.

### **Cash Donations from “the knitting room”:** -

Samaritan's Purse (Christmas Shoe Boxes)	\$150
Uniting Church Revesby	\$200
Fred Hollows Foundation	\$100
The Exodus Foundation (Bill Crews)	\$150
Wesley Mission	\$100
Stewart House	<u>\$100</u>
	<u>\$800</u>

I once again would like to thank those wonderful ladies; they give their time and energy to try to make a brighter life for those less fortunate. When lockdown is lifted, we hope to meet in the church foyer once again from 2pm to 4pm Tuesday afternoons.

If you want to join us or help in any way you can – it would be much appreciated.

Gail O'Connor

Co-ordinator

## Greenspace Revitalisation Project/Community Garden

**Funding Body:** Uniting Innovative Community Grants Fund:

Capacity Building Grant x 2: \$30,000

**Committee:** Jacob Nowland (Project Manager)

Yvonne Lawrence, Julie Bertram, Rachel Bertram

The dream of our community garden began with an application to revitalise our green spaces. We initially received a Uniting Capacity Grant for \$15,000 to enhance our existing community garden and seek consultation for improvements for the large empty green space at the church. A sub-committee was formed, headed by Jacob Nowland to action the grant.

Over the past three years we have been able to achieve the following.

- A sub-committee was established to action grant outcomes.
- Consultations were held with the congregation and specific groups within, local indigenous elders, community members and the local greening space officer from the Royal Botanical gardens.
- Various professionals were consulted to develop a design that met our strategic outcomes and our church community agreed on the concept design.
- Another Uniting Capacity Grant application for \$15,000 was submitted to establish the garden which we were fortunate to receive.
- We sought costings from various landscapers and choose the Dredge Brothers to carry out the work.
- After a slow start and then disruptions due to Covid, our garden has been established. We have had two community working days with Brendan Moore and another planting out the bush tucker/native garden. The Dredge Brothers and Lachie's skills with Stonemasonry have enhanced our original plan with sandstone edging and under the guidance of Jim Dredge we have added a large underground water tank that captures run off from our roof and saves water.



to



Our \$30,000 grant was acquitted in December 2020 and an extensive report sent to Uniting.

By the end of term 2, 2021 all actions in our strategic plan had been met except for our opening which has been delayed by Covid. We are currently writing up a governance plan for the garden which will be presented to church council and we hope our official opening will be held very early in the New Year. This will be followed by a community engagement day for all interested in becoming a member of the garden.

We would like to acknowledge the work done by the following people. Rachel Bertram in writing and submitting two grant applications to secure the \$30,000 in grant funding. Jacob Nowland for the enormous amount of work done in consultation and planning with professionals and managing the project;

Jim Dredge for his professional advice and assistance; the Dredge Brothers and Lachie for the work and assistance given in landscaping; local Elder, Aunty Carol Brown for her practical support and advise and to Brendan Moore, Greening Officer for his advice, sharing of Indigenous knowledge, and for supplying many of the plants cost free.

We would also like to thank the property committee for assistance in laying the electrical lines and having the power poles replaced and to Rae West for her loving care of the garden in Covid lockdown.

We would like to acknowledge and thank Uniting for funding this project over a three year period. Our dream for this garden space would not have been possible without their financial assistance.

Our Community Garden- A Space and Place for all

