

# The Uniting Church in Australia



## Revesby Uniting Church A Community Centre



**Annual Report**  
**October 2022**

# Church Council Report

If you are anything like me when you think back on the last 12 months, it's all a bit of a blur. So much was happening at church, in the local community and on the news that it made your head spin. Reviewing the minutes of Council over the last 12 months did nothing to ease my dizziness! Indeed, the last two years have been unprecedented not only in our church's history, but in our country's history. We need to go back to 1919 to find similar restrictions, though thankfully, we didn't replicate the devastation that influenza brought back then.

Not surprisingly it has been a hectic time for Council this last 12 months. We began in lockdown with Council having to put in place a number of extraordinary measures

- We purchased a number of Zoom licenses so we could continue to operate our bible study and Sunday evening services
- We set up the infrastructure so that our services could be recorded including prayers of the people and the reading- all put together and distributed via Youtube and also DVD for those without Internet.
- We mobilised our pastoral care team to keep in contact with our congregation and where necessary provide whatever assistance was required.
- We closed our Kidsplay@Revesby sessions and created Youtube content for the children, including craft packs that we distributed to our families.
- When we were able to reopen our church Council organised an outdoor gathering service in the garden with a luncheon, to welcome everyone back in a COVID-safe environment.
- We reorganised our church seating and morning teas to allow for social distancing
- We purchased face masks and sanitiser available at the front door
- We complied with all state government regulations regarding COVID, including taking names of people present and creating a COVID Safe plan.
- As restrictions have been eased, we have maintained caution for our members, encouraging the wearing of masks and social distancing in the church.

COVID has certainly taken the headlines. But despite this burden, Council has also continued to operate in other areas of church life.

Of course, the biggest news is the retirement of our minister Rev Michael Barnes. Michael has been instrumental in leading us through the pandemic and keeping us all together as a community throughout this time. His leadership, guidance, wisdom and vision for our church has been appreciated by everyone. We congratulate him on 33 years of ministry and wish him all the best in his retirement, but also feel a deep sense of regret at our loss. We could have achieved so much together if not for the terrible blight of COVID, but at the same time, Michael was the right man at the right time to see us through such a difficult time. From all of us on Council a huge thank you and best wishes for you, Phyll and all the extended family.

This last 12 months also saw the retirement from Council of Yvonne Lawrence. Yvonne has moved to Townsville to be with her daughter and grandchild. We miss her dearly, but know she is loving being close to her family.

Council began the process of selling the Bluegum manse to purchase a newer property in the local area. This is a time-consuming process that requires approval from both Presbytery and Synod.

More recently Council approved a number of groups using the church throughout the week. These include a Dungeons and Dragons gaming group that meets several times during the week and on Saturday afternoons, and the Panania Free Rangers who use our church for food distribution.

Finally, in the wake of Michael's resignation, Council has formed a working Party to oversee services for the remainder of the year, including Christmas services. We have taken the opportunity to trial a number of new ways of being church including outdoor services (weather permitting), contemporary, traditional and inter-generational services. We trust you will enjoy these 'experiments' and look forward to your feedback.

Council looks forward to 2023, eagerly anticipating and hoping for a COVID-less year, or at least a COVID reduced year.

Yours sincerely

Ian Bertram

On behalf of the Church Council

# Treasurer's Report

As we are all aware, this last year has been full of highs and lows for many countries around the world, for Australia, for Sydney and so it has been for Revesby Uniting Church.

There have been several periods of inactivity/lockout at Revesby UC.

Many congregations have not survived the ups and downs of the last couple of years. We have been very fortunate to have been able to maintain our viability and also to be able to provide assistance to several individuals and families doing it tough in our local community.

The highs and lows have had a knock-on effect on our financial situation. Often, when our church has had to be closed, there was no immediate cash income – although many people did do a 'catch up' with cash and envelopes when our church re-opened. We have been very fortunate that many congregants opted for online direct debit contributions rather than the traditional cash and envelopes in the offertory plates each Sunday. This has provided us with a steady source of income which has greatly helped us to maintain our viability. Unfortunately, the regular bills and costs continued even when our church was premises was closed.

We have also been helped financially by payments that the State Government made available for small businesses. We applied for reimbursement for a couple of our business payments – for example, our church and manse rates (in part) – and we were successful in all our applications.

However, as we have seen over the last couple of years, our monthly costs (which is only on essential costs), usually exceeds our monthly income.

A new budget for the 2022-2023 financial year has been put together – mostly with input from our church accountant.

We have been trying to use the grant provided to us for replacing the guttering, fascia and downpipes on the church building for a couple of years with no success, due partly to covid lockdowns, storms and associated damage which occupied the gutterers time, and cost increases in materials over time, which have meant that our grant was well and truly exceeded. Fortunately, the grant providers allowed us to change the focus of the grant provided from guttering etc, to replacing/upgrading the lighting in the church building, which was badly needed. This has now been completed and information needs to be reported back to the grant providers by 31st October. This has saved us a LOT of money, as the associated costs of the lighting upgrade were expensive – which Revesby UC could not possibly have covered on our own. Fortunately for us also, some very badly damaged and dangerous wiring was exposed in the upgrade. This has all now been eliminated from the lighting circuits.

As the latter part of the year so far has progressed – and we have gone back to something like normality – several outside groups have sought the use of our premises during the week. It is great to see our premises used by the local community and this generates extra, much needed income for us.

The sale of the manse has continued to be problematic. In part, trying to find time for all the necessary processes has been hard with lockdowns and so many other things going on. Synod property have not been very helpful at times in the process, in fact they caused us to go backwards in the sale process. Multiple times they have asked for information that we have already supplied. Our likely selling agent has stayed with us and has been very helpful with guidance and advice through the selling and future purchasing processes so far. Hopefully, we will have some resolution in the next couple of months.

As also occurs at this time of the year our financial records are under external audit. Once again, Barry O'Connor has generously agreed to do our required annual audit. When our audit is signed off,

it needs to be reported to Uniting and Presbytery. It will also be part of our ACNC (not for profit charities) report due in January.

The Child Care Centre have been experiencing financial problems for most of this year – partly because of declined enrolments and the lack of income through the Covid lockdowns. Uniting Early Learning have taken over control of the Child Care Centre. The financial problems that they were experiencing impacted us because RUCCCC could not afford to pay their staff and our monthly rent. That has been sorted out now and Uniting Early Learning pay our due rent, but it is a slow process receiving the monthly rent payments.

We are expecting a sizable 1/3 share cost of the electrical repair work that took place out the front of the church a couple of months ago. It was an expensive repair and will cost us about \$10,000 for our 1/3 share.

After Michael's retirement Church Council and our church accountant expect that our financial base will slowly build up, giving us a much more solid financial situation, assuming that all of our income streams continue as they are at present.

Attached is a copy of the monthly financial report that I received from our church accountant for the end of the last financial year.

Mark Gordon

Treasurer

Revesby Uniting Church

**Revesby Uniting Church**

219 River Rd  
REVESBY NSW 2212

11 Aug 22

**Income & Expenditure Summary**

June 2022							Year to Date						Full Year
Actual	Budget	Var \$	Last Year	Var \$	Var %		Actual	Budget	Var \$	Last Year	Var \$	Var %	Budget
<b>8,803</b>	6,544	2,259	4,632	4,171	90.0%	<b>INCOME</b>	<b>56,002</b>	71,950	(15,948)	60,628	(4,624)	(7.6%)	71,950
	558	(558)				Congregational Offerings		6,700	(6,700)				6,700
<b>4,138</b>			4,138	4,138		Wider Work Donations	<b>23,061</b>	18,655	4,406	67,131	(44,070)		18,655
<b>9</b>	25	(16)	1	8		Grants and Other Ministry Receipts	<b>49</b>	300	(251)	55	(6)		300
<b>3,231</b>	5,930	(2,698)	5,152	(1,921)		Interest	<b>48,221</b>	69,770	(21,549)	63,413	(15,182)		69,770
<b>245</b>	250	(5)	135	110		Property Income	<b>1,144</b>	700	444	1,314	(170)		700
<b>16,426</b>	<b>13,307</b>	<b>3,119</b>	<b>9,921</b>	<b>6,505</b>	<b>65.6%</b>	Other Income	<b>128,477</b>	<b>168,074</b>	<b>(39,597)</b>	<b>192,540</b>	<b>(64,063)</b>	<b>(33.3%)</b>	168,074
						<b>Total Income</b>							
<b>9,969</b>	9,964	(5)	9,680	(289)		<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>120,108</b>	119,568	(540)	116,161	(3,947)		119,568
<b>5,862</b>	978	(4,884)	1,656	(4,206)		Ministry Staffing	<b>22,188</b>	31,104	8,915	52,426	30,237		31,104
<b>2,800</b>	558	(2,242)	2,500	(300)		Property Related Costs	<b>8,352</b>	11,191	2,839	10,818	2,466		11,191
<b>1,265</b>	828	(439)	1,065	(201)		Mission Costs & Giving	<b>12,774</b>	10,450	(2,324)	12,433	(342)		10,450
	52		52			Administration & Congregation	<b>633</b>	625	(8)	594	(39)		625
<b>19,896</b>	12,379	(7,517)	14,900	(4,996)	(25.1%)	Congregation/Church Services	<b>164,055</b>	172,938	8,883	192,431	20,376	17.3%	172,938
<b>(3,470)</b>	928	(1,398)	(4,981)	1,510		<b>Total Expenses</b>							
						<b>Net Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	<b>(35,578)</b>	(4,864)	(30,714)	109	(35,887)		(4,864)

**What's in the Bank?**

	Balance at 1 Jul 2021	Movement	Bal at end June
UFS At Call Account	32,413	12,477	44,890
UFS Cheque Account	4,205	1,231	5,436
Ministers Emergency Fund (Cash)	300		300
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>36,918</b>	<b>13,708</b>	<b>50,626</b>

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

Funds Held in Advance	(1,000)	1,000	
GST Collected	(950)	(989)	(1,938)
GST Paid	3,350	(2,647)	703
PAYG Payable	(2,055)	(156)	(2,211)
Trade Creditors		(5,628)	(5,628)
Deposits Paid	27,228	(27,228)	
Government Grants	(10,075)		(10,075)
Loans from Members		(10,000)	(10,000)
Playgroup 2021	(5,722)	5,161	(561)
Playgroup 2022		(8,800)	(8,800)
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>10,776</b>	<b>(49,286)</b>	<b>(38,510)</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>47,694</b>	<b>(35,578)</b>	<b>12,116</b>

Seeds of Growth + Insurance  
Community Building Partnership Grant  
Revesby Workers Club grant 2021  
Revesby Workers Club grant 2022

Ministers Benefit Account	2,612	322	2,934
Ministers Benefit Account Liability	(2,612)	(322)	(2,934)
<b>Net MEF Liability</b>			

**Revesby Uniting Church**

219 River Rd  
REVESSBY NSW 2212

**Income & Expenditure Statement**

11-Aug-22

June 2022						Year to Date						Full Year
Actual	Budget	Var \$	Var %	Last Year	Var \$	Actual	Budget	Var \$	Var %	Last Year	Var \$	Budget
4-0000 INCOME												
4-1000 Ministry & Missions Income												
253	524	(271)	(51.7%)	2	251	4,253	4,700	(447)	(9.5%)	2,695	1,558	4,700
1,700	1,664	36	2.2%	765	935	7,299	15,000	(7,701)	(51.3%)	11,000	(3,701)	15,000
6,850	4,337	2,513	57.9%	3,840	3,010	44,350	52,000	(7,650)	(14.7%)	46,719	(2,369)	52,000
	19	(19)	(100.0%)	25	(25)	100	250	(150)	(60.0%)	212	(112)	250
<b>8,803</b>	<b>6,544</b>	<b>2,259</b>	<b>34.5%</b>	<b>4,832</b>	<b>4,171</b>	<b>56,002</b>	<b>71,950</b>	<b>(15,948)</b>	<b>(22.2%)</b>	<b>60,628</b>	<b>(4,624)</b>	<b>71,950</b>
	558	(558)	(100.0%)				6,700	(6,700)	(100.0%)			6,700
	<b>558</b>	<b>(558)</b>	<b>(100.0%)</b>				<b>6,700</b>	<b>(6,700)</b>	<b>(100.0%)</b>			<b>6,700</b>
4-1200 Wider Work Donations [R2]												
4-1210 Received for UCA Organisations												
4-2000 Other M&M Receipts												
4-2100 Synod Grants/Reimburs [R3]												
2,488	2,488			2,488	2,488	17,250	18,655	(1,405)	(7.5%)	28,500	(28,500)	18,655
1,650	1,650			1,650	1,650	5,811	5,811			9,731	(3,920)	18,655
4,138	4,138			4,138	4,138	23,061	18,655	4,406	23.6%	67,131	(44,070)	18,655
<b>12,941</b>	<b>7,102</b>	<b>5,839</b>	<b>82.2%</b>	<b>4,632</b>	<b>8,309</b>	<b>79,063</b>	<b>97,304</b>	<b>(18,241)</b>	<b>(18.7%)</b>	<b>127,757</b>	<b>(48,694)</b>	<b>97,304</b>
4-3000 Interest Income												
4-3200 Interest UFS Invest [R7]												
9	25	(16)	(63.4%)	1	8	49	300	(251)	(83.8%)	55	(6)	300
<b>9</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>(16)</b>	<b>(63.4%)</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>(251)</b>	<b>(83.8%)</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>(6)</b>	<b>300</b>
4-4200 Property Income [R10]												
4-4210 Use of Church/sanctuary												
3,231	3,231	(0)	(0.0%)	3,152	79	2,727	4,000	(1,273)	(31.8%)	591	2,136	4,000
	2,265	(2,265)	(100.0%)	2,000	(2,000)	38,768	38,770	(2)	(0.0%)	37,823	946	38,770
<b>3,231</b>	<b>6,930</b>	<b>(2,699)</b>	<b>(45.6%)</b>	<b>5,152</b>	<b>(1,921)</b>	<b>48,221</b>	<b>69,770</b>	<b>(21,549)</b>	<b>(30.9%)</b>	<b>63,413</b>	<b>(16,192)</b>	<b>69,770</b>
<b>3,231</b>	<b>6,930</b>	<b>(2,699)</b>	<b>(45.6%)</b>	<b>5,152</b>	<b>(1,921)</b>	<b>48,221</b>	<b>69,770</b>	<b>(21,549)</b>	<b>(30.9%)</b>	<b>63,413</b>	<b>(16,192)</b>	<b>69,770</b>
4-5000 Other Income												
4-5220 Insurance Claims												
245	100	145	145.1%	135	110	108	108			108		108
<b>245</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>145.1%</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>656</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>64.1%</b>	<b>454</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>400</b>
4-5264 Knitting Room Donation												
						150	150			200	(50)	150
4-5270 Donation Miscellaneous												
	150	(150)	(100.0%)			230	300	(70)	(23.3%)	460	(230)	300
<b>245</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>(5)</b>	<b>(2.0%)</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>1,144</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>444</b>	<b>63.5%</b>	<b>1,314</b>	<b>(170)</b>	<b>700</b>
<b>16,426</b>	<b>13,307</b>	<b>3,119</b>	<b>23.4%</b>	<b>9,921</b>	<b>6,505</b>	<b>128,477</b>	<b>168,074</b>	<b>(39,597)</b>	<b>(23.6%)</b>	<b>192,540</b>	<b>(64,063)</b>	<b>168,074</b>

6-0000 EXPENSES												
6-0100 Wages & Salaries												
8,944	8,939	(5)	(0.1%)	8,683	(261)	480		(480)	(100.0%)	104,197	(3,131)	107,268
1,025	1,025			997	(28)	107,328	107,268	(60)	(0.1%)	11,964	(336)	12,300
<b>9,969</b>	<b>9,964</b>	<b>(5)</b>	<b>(0.0%)</b>	<b>9,680</b>	<b>(289)</b>	<b>119,628</b>	<b>119,568</b>	<b>(60)</b>	<b>(0.0%)</b>	<b>116,161</b>	<b>(3,467)</b>	<b>119,568</b>
<b>9,969</b>	<b>9,964</b>	<b>(5)</b>	<b>(0.0%)</b>	<b>9,680</b>	<b>(289)</b>	<b>120,108</b>	<b>119,568</b>	<b>(540)</b>	<b>(0.4%)</b>	<b>116,161</b>	<b>(3,947)</b>	<b>119,568</b>
6-2000 Property Related Costs												
6-2050 Consultants & Contractors [P4]												
173	42	(131)	(75.9%)	1,222	(173)	2,350	9,057	6,717	285.8%	27,273	24,923	9,067
6-2200 General Maintenance [P6]												
						1,227	500	(727)	(59.3%)	2,561	1,333	500
						1,447		(1,447)	(100.0%)	1,222	(225)	
						1,045		(1,045)	(100.0%)	808	(237)	
180	390	210	116.9%	360	180	2,717	4,684	1,967	72.4%	1,093	(1,624)	4,684
	83	83				455	1,000	545	119.8%	5,219	4,764	1,000
										231	231	
<b>353</b>	<b>515</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>46.1%</b>	<b>1,582</b>	<b>1,229</b>	<b>6,891</b>	<b>6,184</b>	<b>(707)</b>	<b>(10.3%)</b>	<b>11,133</b>	<b>4,242</b>	<b>6,184</b>
6-2299 Property Overheads												
5,410		(5,410)	(100.0%)		(5,410)	6,492	7,000	508	7.8%	6,619	127	7,000
	333	(333)	(100.0%)			3,231	4,000	769	23.8%	2,854	(376)	4,000
99		(99)	(100.0%)		(96)	831	800	(31)	(3.7%)	705	(126)	800
						2,058	2,500	442	21.5%	2,577	519	2,500
	129	129		171	171	337	1,553	1,216	360.8%	1,265	928	1,553
<b>5,509</b>	<b>463</b>	<b>(5,046)</b>	<b>(91.6%)</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>(5,435)</b>	<b>12,948</b>	<b>15,853</b>	<b>2,905</b>	<b>22.4%</b>	<b>14,020</b>	<b>1,072</b>	<b>15,853</b>
<b>5,862</b>	<b>978</b>	<b>(4,884)</b>	<b>(83.3%)</b>	<b>1,656</b>	<b>(4,206)</b>	<b>22,188</b>	<b>31,104</b>	<b>8,915</b>	<b>40.2%</b>	<b>52,426</b>	<b>30,237</b>	<b>31,104</b>
6-3000 Mission Costs & Giving												
1,300		(1,300)	(100.0%)	2,500	1,200	1,300	2,600	1,300	100.0%	5,000	3,700	2,600
1,500	558	(942)	(62.8%)		(1,500)	1,891	1,891			1,854	(37)	1,891
						5,161	6,700	1,539	29.8%	1,964	(3,197)	6,700
<b>2,800</b>	<b>558</b>	<b>(2,242)</b>	<b>(80.1%)</b>	<b>2,500</b>	<b>(300)</b>	<b>8,352</b>	<b>11,191</b>	<b>2,839</b>	<b>34.0%</b>	<b>10,818</b>	<b>2,466</b>	<b>11,191</b>
6-4000 Administration & Congregation												
1,120	530	(590)	(52.7%)	1,010	(110)	8,060	6,900	(1,160)	(14.4%)	7,975	(85)	6,900
	58	58				279	700	421	150.7%	507	228	700
64	100	36	57.2%	55	(9)	1,975	1,200	(775)	(39.2%)	1,089	(886)	1,200
	13	13				188	150	(38)	(20.1%)	124	(64)	150
<b>1,184</b>	<b>701</b>	<b>(483)</b>	<b>(40.8%)</b>	<b>1,065</b>	<b>(119)</b>	<b>10,502</b>	<b>8,950</b>	<b>(1,552)</b>	<b>(14.8%)</b>	<b>9,695</b>	<b>(807)</b>	<b>8,950</b>
	58	58				567	700	133	23.4%	2,596	2,028	700
82	67	(15)	(18.0%)		(82)	1,705	800	(905)	(53.1%)	142	(1,563)	800
<b>82</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>53.3%</b>	<b>(82)</b>	<b>(82)</b>	<b>2,272</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>(772)</b>	<b>(34.0%)</b>	<b>2,738</b>	<b>465</b>	<b>1,500</b>
<b>1,265</b>	<b>826</b>	<b>(439)</b>	<b>(34.7%)</b>	<b>1,065</b>	<b>(201)</b>	<b>12,774</b>	<b>10,450</b>	<b>(2,324)</b>	<b>(18.2%)</b>	<b>12,433</b>	<b>(342)</b>	<b>10,450</b>
	52	52				633	625	(8)	(1.2%)	594	(39)	625
<b>52</b>	<b>52</b>	<b></b>	<b></b>	<b></b>	<b></b>	<b>633</b>	<b>625</b>	<b>(8)</b>	<b>(1.2%)</b>	<b>594</b>	<b>(39)</b>	<b>625</b>
<b>52</b>	<b>52</b>	<b></b>	<b></b>	<b></b>	<b></b>	<b>633</b>	<b>625</b>	<b>(8)</b>	<b>(1.2%)</b>	<b>594</b>	<b>(39)</b>	<b>625</b>
<b>19,896</b>	<b>12,379</b>	<b>(7,517)</b>	<b>(37.8%)</b>	<b>14,900</b>	<b>(4,996)</b>	<b>164,055</b>	<b>172,938</b>	<b>8,883</b>	<b>5.4%</b>	<b>192,431</b>	<b>28,379</b>	<b>172,938</b>
<b>(3,470)</b>	<b>928</b>	<b>(4,398)</b>	<b>(473.9%)</b>	<b>(4,980)</b>	<b>(1,510)</b>	<b>(35,578)</b>	<b>(4,864)</b>	<b>(30,714)</b>	<b>631.5%</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>35,687</b>	<b>(4,864)</b>
<b>(3,470)</b>	<b>928</b>	<b>(4,398)</b>	<b>(473.9%)</b>	<b>(4,980)</b>	<b>(1,510)</b>	<b>(35,578)</b>	<b>(4,864)</b>	<b>(30,714)</b>	<b>631.5%</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>35,687</b>	<b>(4,864)</b>

# Property Committee Report

The Property Committee has been busy over the last 12 months. The usual stuff like replacing light bulbs, fixing locks etc have just been a minor irritation. Several working bees have been held by the committee to get things repaired.

The grant that had been obtained to replace the guttering and fascia had multiple problems such as the accepted contractor not getting back to us when we asked him to complete the job. Then we had issues getting another contractor to perform the works at a price matching the grant. Subsequently we obtained permission to transmute the works to upgrading the lighting in the church.

In "light" of this, all of the fluorescent fittings in the foyer, kitchen, hallway and meeting room have been replaced with LED fittings. The old silver coloured cylinder fittings in the church proper on the ceiling have been removed and replaced with either dimmable LED high bay lights (the 4 black circular lights over the alter and the side stage) or LED batten lights on the mezzanine level. (Any light positions not replaced with a light have been terminated in a safe manner).

The old fluorescent lights on the mezzanine level have also been replaced with LED battens. The lights under the mezzanine level were replaced with LED oyster lights as were the lights behind the sliding wall and on the stairwell.

As part of all this, a spare fitting of each type has been purchased in case of a premature failure. The fittings have a minimum warranty of 5 years parts and warranty (i.e., if they die before this time the replacement item and the labour to fix it is covered by the supplier).

In order to bring the church up to modern standards/requirements, the fuse-boards have been replaced and merged into one board with RCD's (safety switches) on all circuits except the stove/oven which is exempt. (If you find that some switches for the lights don't do anything don't be surprised as several switches are now not connected to anything - labels will be forthcoming when all works are complete).

We have survived another fire safety inspection with the only casualty being a faulty exit light in the foyer which has subsequently been replaced.

The ladies toilet pan out the back has been replaced due to a leak through a crack in the bowl. The tinting of the windows in the ladies bathroom is on the list of things to be done. The men's urinal has recently started to leak from the cistern and is currently being investigated to find the source and hence fix.

Several months ago, the childcare centre lost power. This was finally found to be a fault in the power cables feeding the centre and the fault was found to be under the foyer of the church. Over the years the changing of the seasons and the special weather we have had in the last year has probably caused this problem to raise its head. To fix this issue the path on the side of the church had to be dug up (you'll notice the new concrete slabs) along with part of the front grassed area. The issue has now been fixed and is complete. At present I believe the church is up for a 1/3 part of the cost but we have not seen an invoice for it yet. Pray that the "Powers That Be" forget about us.

During the repairs a sump pump was installed in the electrical pit to prevent it filling with water and flooding, hence causing the connections to be submerged (while the connections were not affected this time, they could be in the future). This is currently working but needs to be connected to the storm water system so it doesn't flood the gardens and drain back into the electrical pit. This is on the agenda for the Property Committee to look at in the near future.

A heavy theatrical curtain has been installed across the door from the church to the meeting room to dampen the noise made by the Sunday School group. A pelmet covering the curtain track is due to be installed (if it hasn't already happened by the time this report is issued). The pelmet itself has been acquired just recently and we are designing the method of mounting it in the most aesthetic way.



Due to a number of coinciding issues, it was necessary to change one of the back door locks to open on the purple key. This has now been done and the back door now opens with the orange and purple keys.

The sale of the manse is progressing slowly. Synod in particular have placed many roadblocks in our way and due to this we now have a mould issue in the manse again. We are currently investigating the cost of removing the mould and repainting versus the option of selling to a developer.

As part of the sale process, parts of the manse have been repaired such as replacing the sky-dome in the carport storeroom, replacing parts of the pool filtering and cleansing system, the gutters have been cleaned several times and the gardens and lawns are being maintained. Colin has taken charge of maintaining the water level, salt and chlorine in the pool.

I would like to thank Ian Clarke for all the work he has done to help the Property Committee over the last few years. His loss from the committee will be felt well into the future.

There are still a number of audio, lighting, plumbing and gardening issues that the Property Committee have to solve but we are working on ways to complete these. If you have skills in any area that you think might benefit the church through property maintenance, please do not hesitate to contact the committee on email via [property@revesbyuniting.org](mailto:property@revesbyuniting.org)

Kind Regards

Simon Steinfurth

Chairperson Property Committee



the knitting room



As with the previous year, 2021-2022 has been a much-interrupted year. Covid is still with us as is the ladies knitting group. With the church closed for long periods to help keep us safe, the reliable and hardworking ladies mostly worked from home.

When we were unable to be together, we kept in contact via phone.

Our numbers are a little down due to age and illness though our outlook is still the same. We try to do all the good we can, to all the people we can, by all the means we can.



Thanks to the efforts of our ladies, we were able to make the following donations: -

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

7 baby rugs, 10 knee rugs, 4 doll's rugs, 9 children's jumpers, 20 beanie and scarf sets, 4 scarves, 56 beanies, 1 child's set (jumper and pants), 15 baby jumpers, 5 premi baby bonnets, 38 assorted knitted toys, 51 teddy bears, 12 elephants, 10 bunnies, 10 dolls. 15 Barbie dolls, 16 dolls in bassinets and 7 clowns.

#### **Samaritan's Purse**

9 charmers, 7 hair ties and 10 bags for girls plus 54 assorted knitted toys (teddy bears, dolls, elephants, cats etc).

## **Wrapped With Love**

21 full rugs and 6 medium rugs

## **Revesby Uniting Church – Knitting Room**

4 teddy bears, 2 elephants, 1 bunny, 2 baby rugs, 1 scarf, 2 beanie and scarf sets.

## **Cash donations from “the knitting room”**

Samaritan’s Purse (Christmas shoe boxes)	\$150
Exodus Foundation	\$150
Wesley Mission	\$150
Fred Hollows Foundation	\$100
Stewart House	\$100
Revesby Uniting Church	<u>\$150</u>
	<u>\$800</u>

I would like to thank the efforts and dedication of these remarkable ladies who give their time, money and energy to make the life of others warmer and brighter. Thanks also those who help in set up, clean-up, transport and donations.

For anyone who wants to join us in our “knitting room” or contribute in any way, we meet in the church foyer between 1.45pm and 3.45pm Tuesday afternoons. You are most welcome.

Gail O’Connor

Co-ordinator

# Kidsplay@Revesby

Revesby Workers Club-Club GRANTS : \$8,800

Program Facilitators:

Julie Bertram, Lorrae West, Maureen Robertson, Susan Lindsay

Although this has been a challenging year for our playgroup community around lockdowns, we have continued to engage with all of our families. Funds were diverted to continue playgroup with videos including stories, music, and linked art/craft activities in packs. We delivered numerous craft packs to over 25 children at their homes and we did a special Halloween craft and goodies drop off in October. In December we ran a Crafty Christmas gathering which was well attended. Playgroup continued online until March when we returned to face to face programs. A huge thank you to Lorrae West for developing beautiful craft packs and to Ian Bertram for putting together our playgroup videos.



Since March our playgroup has met weekly in school terms.

We are thrilled that all our regular families returned and we have had a huge growth in new families joining. Our current registered numbers are 27 children, 24 adults including 12 grandparents. We are indeed an intergenerational playgroup.



Each week our activities include, free play, story time, singing/ musical instruments, morning tea and a craft time. We also like to spend time in the garden and the children actively care for the plants. They love to play in this space.

Throughout our program we embed Aboriginal perspectives into our weekly program and bring attention to significant National days.

We have had numerous special events such as an Easter Egg Hunt, a taste testing morning, Book Week Dress up day, and a Winter celebration drinking hot chocolate around our pretend campfire.



We finished the term with a Teddy Bear's Picnic where we had songs, stories and crafts about teddies.



The children and their teddy or toy friends, packed their own little picnic boxes and had a lovely picnic on the front lawn.

At Kidsplay we have a wonderful community of children, parents and grandparents. The group care for and support each other both at playgroup and in other contexts. The children love the time to meet and engage with friends through play. We also know that playgroup is a very important space for adults who enjoy time to chat and connect with others, building strong friendships and support networks.

We are very proud of the work we do in our Kidsplay playgroup and we thank our congregation for their interest and support. Thank you also to Revesby Worker's Club for their continued financial support and encouragement.



Julie Bertram

# Community Garden Report

Our new Community Garden has been attracting a lot of attention from our local community.

We have numerous locals stopping by to have a chat, Matt our volunteer attending each week to water, children regularly sitting in the arbour waiting for buses and our garden is being used by the various groups using the church. The Kidsplay playgroup love to water the plants and play in the space. The new Book Library has made a welcome addition to the garden space.

The Garden Management Plan took us a considerable time to put together but is now completed and has been approved by Church Council. We would like to acknowledge the assistance of Miranda-Gynea Uniting Church Community Garden. Council has approved Rae West to be our first Garden Co-ordinator and a Garden Committee will be established within a year for garden members. The Garden Management Plan can be found on our church website. We will be having an official opening in November after which a garden club will meet weekly.



We continue to seek funding to extend the front arbour enough to allow for the installation of a bespoke gate. Sensory spaces within our garden are developing with the addition of river stones to our giant snake and the planting of grasses and beautifully scented natives. Thank you to those involved in our working bees to date.

Over the past few months both Rae and I have been working alongside a team of design students from University of Technology, Sydney in the Shopfront Project. The team called Verdant Studio consists of Kaitlyn Davies-Scourfield, Jason Tran, Leo Tren, Phil Reyestan and Erica Roberts. The students are developing branding, style guides and a logo for our Garden space. This has been a wonderful journey with these very talented students and we look forward to the collateral such as flyers and posters that we will receive at the final presentation to be held at UTS at the end of October. This has been a wonderful opportunity for our church and we thank the students for their expertise and the assistance they have given us.

I would like to acknowledge the incredible work done by Lorrae West to keep the garden spaces maintained whilst the governance structures have been put into place, and for the working bees she has organised. Thanks to the property committee for their maintenance of the lawns and to Rachel Bertram for her assistance in both the management plan and Shopfront project.

The next year will be an exciting time for us as our Garden continues to flourish and grow. We look forward to meeting new people, eating delicious fresh produce, Harvest days, Long Table Lunches, and the joy of gathering together around a garden.

Julie Bertram