

The Uniting Church In Australia



Revesby Uniting Church A Community Centre



Annual Report October 2024

Church Council Report

Another year has come and gone and we are once again meeting for our Annual General Meeting. It seems such short time ago since our last AGM. After Michael's retirement we have been very busy indeed not only to 'keep the lights on' as they say, but also to keep our church community moving forward.

Council formed a worship team to coordinate services each and every week. This committee's work in providing ongoing thoughtful and worshipful services, including communion has been wonderful and I'm sure much appreciated by all. Council also organised the Rev Young Dae Lee to minister to us in a 50% capacity for 6 months.

Council formed a task group to oversee the sale and purchase of a new manse. The tireless work of this group of dedicated people has resulted in a quality home for a new minister in Chipping Norton with the prospect of little ongoing maintenance in the foreseeable future.

Council endorsed the creation of new signage out the front of the property and liaised with Mirambeena and the Childcare regarding the sign. The Property committee erected this sign just recently and it looks fantastic. Thanks to all the members of the committee who worked on that project.

Costs for the sign, along with new garden furniture and shade were purchased from a \$10,000 grant organised by Council. If you haven't used the garden furniture yet, the weather is for perfect for a sit in the garden.

Members of Council, the Congregation and Presbytery are currently involved in the selection of a new minister for our church. Called the Joint Nominating Committee, or JNC, this group will be meeting with ministers and seeking someone to present to the congregation in the near future. We are seeking a 50% placement as proposed by Council and approved by the congregation.

A number of position descriptions have been created for our church including Council Chairperson; Council member; Morning tea roster; Pastoral carers; Property committee and Secretary. These will be uploaded to the church website in the near future.

The church newsletter and social media postings have continued throughout the year. Many thanks to the people involved in this important task.

The church's new website www.revesbyuniting.org is online and operational. New information is being added to this site.

Our services continue to be posted online to Youtube with an average of 25-30 views.

All members of Council have completed mandatory safe church training run by the Uniting Church, and all members are working with children check endorsed.

Ian Bertram

Ministry Committee Report

Over the past year, our Sunday morning services have continued to be a safe place for exploration, learning and questioning, as we have explored biblical texts and worked to deepen and strengthen our spiritual practices. From January to July 2024, we appreciated the half time supply ministry of Rev Young Dae Lee, and the wonderful musical contribution his talented family brought to our community.

Our church is fortunate to have a committed team of service leaders- thanks to Ian, Julie, Peter, Jackie, Barry, Jenny, Christine and Fiona. Our community has also enjoyed hearing from visiting speakers from UnitingWorld, Frontier Services, Sydney Alliance and Presbytery as well as speakers from other churches. We are grateful to have so many folks from our community willing to help out with Sunday morning music, readings, prayers, communion, stewarding, our MAD kids program and morning teas - thank you to each one of you!

Fiona Morgan

Treasurer's Report

This last financial year (1/07/2023 – 30/06/2024) has seen a more stable financial environment in the world economies. Similarly, Revesby Uniting Church has seen a very stable financial period during this time with our financial position showing growth and becoming stronger.

Much of our stronger financial position is due to the continued giving through our Direct Giving, donations, and weekly offertory to Revesby Uniting Church. Rental of our premises on a weekly basis to a couple of external groups does contribute in a small way as well. Also, the monthly rental we receive from Revesby Uniting Church Child Care Centre (RUCCCC) helps our bottom line. However, this monthly rental may change when a new agreement/ MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) is introduced between us and RUCCCC through Uniting Early Learning.

The purchase of a replacement manse property in December '23/ January '24 provided us with a very good potential manse, or if no minister in placement at Revesby Uniting, a very rentable property. Renting of the Chipping Norton property would provide income for Revesby Uniting. With the sale of the old manse property at Picnic Point and then purchase of the property at Chipping Norton, we were left with a sizeable amount of money (as the purchase cost was less than the sale amount), which was placed into a 'Manse Sale Proceeds Account' by Synod Property. The funds in this account can only be used for "Mission" purposes by us. This means we cannot use these funds for a Minister, but we can use them for things like building maintenance – on either the manse or Revesby Uniting itself.

The RUC Property Committee has looked at utilising some of the Manse Sale Proceed Account funds for manse maintenance, guttering replacement at RUC and to replace the 3 long timber windows in the eastern wall of the church north of the vestry, which are rotting. New carpet is also a consideration.

Our 2023-2024 Annual Financial Return (AFR), our annual audit and the ACNC (Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission) report have been completed and submitted where necessary.

Since the AGM is in October 2024, some of these will have been completed already for the next financial year – namely the AFR and annual Audit. Again, my thanks to Barry O'Connor for conducting our annual external audit. Along these lines we are very ably supported by Greg McKay, our external accountant and his assistant Jill White.

A 2024-2025 budget has been drawn up, initially provided by our accountant, and then looked at by me and RUC Church Council. Some small changes were made and it was then presented to and approved by the RUC Congregation.

At the end of the 2023-2024 financial year, RUC were 16% unfavourable to the budget with an overall receipts (Income) for the FY being \$108,094, while the budgeted amount of total receipts (Income) was \$128,883.

With expenditure included, RUC had a full year surplus of \$21,083, compared to the budgeted surplus of \$19,272.

I have included a copy of the June 2024 financial statement from our church accountant. The above figures are referred to as “Operating Surplus” and do not include interest from the Manse Sale Proceeds Account.

Any surplus we might have may change with a minister in Placement at RUC. Some costs were included in the last budget – and also in the present budget for a 50% minister at RUC.

The Manse Property Committee are waiting to hear as to whether or not they can proceed with organising rental of the unused manse. Synod Property have given the go ahead for rental and the Manse Property Committee are ready to speak to a local real estate agent about renting of the premises. Rental of the unused manse would generate considerable income for RUC – about \$900.00 per week – potentially.

It is important for our continued viability if we want, at least, a 50% minister that our Giving Direct and weekly offertory continue.

After nearly 10 years of being Treasurer at RUC, I have decided to have a break from this task. My profound thanks to those in the RUC community and externally, who have helped me with the multitude of tasks that come the way of the Treasurer and to those who have encouraged me in this work. Much of my thanks goes to Colin Graham and Simon Steinfurth who do a lot of the authorising of payments for me – often at short notice.

Mark Gordon
Treasurer



ABN 95 857 544 255

21 Lime Kiln Rd
LUGARNO NSW 2210
0457 930 920
greg.mckay86@gmail.com
20 July 2024

Mr Mark Gordon
Treasurer, Revesby Uniting Church
By email: mark.gordon1805@gmail.com , ian@igbphotos.com.au,
council@revesbyuniting.org

Please find attached Income and Expenditure Statement for June.

Receipts & Payments

Total income for the month was \$8,257 consisting mainly of electronic and cash offerings (\$3,312) plus Child Care Centre rent (\$3,394), Hall Hire (\$1,195) and a Knitting Room donation (\$223).

Overall receipts for the year are \$108,094, which was 16% unfavourable to the budget of \$128,883 and lower than \$130,988 for 2022-23.

Total costs of \$18,081 were mainly ministry stipend costs of \$4,761 paid to Jannali UC, annual property insurance (\$10,271) and manse strata levies (\$1,091).

Overall, Revesby recorded an operating deficit of \$9,823 for the month to bring the full year surplus down to \$21,803 compared to a budgeted surplus of \$19,272.

The balance of funds held from the Revesby Workers Club grants from 2022, 2023 and 2024 remains at now \$18,941.

What's in the Bank?

Cash in the bank (plus petty cash) at the end of the month was \$92,704. Net operating cash less net liabilities are now \$73,525. In addition, the Sales Proceeds account balance is now \$67,261 which is available for property related purposes.

Quarterly BAS Return

Attached are workings for your Business Activity Statement for the quarter. You owe the ATO \$538 for the quarter which needs to be paid by 26 August.

Year End Matters

Also attached is a draft Annual Financial Return for 2023-24 using the Synod Finance template. Could you please review this document, particularly office bearers and other non-financial information and advise of any amendments. As your income is in the \$100,000 - \$500,000 category you have the choice of having your accounts audited or engaging 2 independent people to undertake an assurance review of the accounts.

Kind Regards,

Greg McKay

Revesby Uniting Church

219 River Rd
REVESBY NSW 2212

18-Jul-24

Income & Expenditure Summary

June 2024							Year to Date						Full Year
Actual	Budget	Var \$	Last Year	Var \$	Var %		Actual	Budget	Var \$	Last Year	Var \$	Var %	Budget
3,312	4,690	(1,377)	4,411	(1,099)	(24.9%)	INCOME	45,375	56,363	(10,988)	62,258	(16,883)	(27.1%)	56,363
						Congregational Offerings	440		440				
	4,500	(4,500)				Wider Work Donations	6,859	9,000	(2,141)	13,123	(6,264)		9,000
133	60	73	65	68		Grants and Other Ministry Receipts	1,487	720	767	455	1,033		720
4,589	4,354	235	3,906	683		Interest	51,867	52,250	(383)	50,131	1,736		52,250
223	2,775	(2,552)	261	(38)		Property Income	2,066	10,550	(8,484)	5,022	(2,956)		10,550
8,257	16,379	(8,121)	8,643	(386)	(4.5%)	Other Income	108,094	128,883	(20,789)	130,988	(22,894)	(17.5%)	128,883
						Total Income							
						EXPENSES	26,051	64,076	38,025	34,528	8,476		64,076
4,761	5,340	579		(4,761)		Ministry Staffing	34,754	26,660	(8,094)	41,182	6,428		26,660
12,550	1,110	(11,440)	9,247	(3,303)		Property Related Costs	12,498	6,150	(6,348)	6,536	(5,962)		6,150
	1,442	1,442				Mission Costs & Giving	12,262	12,100	(162)	10,293	(1,969)		12,100
770	925	155	680	(90)		Administration & Congregation	726	625	(100)	1,643	918		625
	52	52	104	104		Congregation/Church Services	86,292	109,611	23,320	94,183	7,891	9.1%	109,611
18,081	8,869	(9,212)	10,031	(8,050)	(44.5%)	Total Expenses	21,803	19,272	2,531	36,806	(15,003)		19,272
(9,823)	7,510	(17,333)	(1,387)	(8,436)		Operating Surplus / (Deficit)							
						Restricted Income	25,637	38,080	(12,443)	17,608	8,029		38,080
234	3,177	(2,943)	3,658	(3,424)		Sale Proceeds Interest	47,440	57,352	(9,912)	54,414	(6,974)		57,352
(9,589)	10,687	(20,276)	2,271	(11,860)		Total Surplus / (Deficit)							

What's in the Bank?

	Balance at 1 Jul 2023	Movement	Bal at end June
UFS At Call Account	40,901	33,987	74,889
UFS Cheque Account	4,051	480	4,531
UFS Grant Funding	8,382	1,820	10,201
UFS Kids Play	711	(206)	504
UFS Knitting Room	1,422	857	2,279
Ministers Emergency Fund (Cash)	300		300
Sub-Total	55,767	36,937	92,704

Other Assets / (Liabilities to be paid)

Trade Debtors	10,928	(10,598)	330
Key Deposits Held	(60)	60	
GST	(593)	25	(568)
Playgroup 2022	(8,800)	5,559	(3,241)
Playgroup 2023	(8,320)	1,300	(7,020)
Playgroup 2024		(8,680)	(8,680)
Sub-Total	(6,845)	(12,334)	(19,179)
Total	48,922	24,604	73,525

Revesby Workers Club grant 2022
Revesby Workers Club grant 2023
Revesby Workers Club grant 2024

Manse Sale & Purchase

Sale Proceeds Account	1,094,629	(1,027,369)	67,261
Manse Purchase		1,050,205	1,050,205

Revesby Uniting Church

219 River Rd
REVESBY NSW 2212

Income & Expenditure Statement

18-Jul-24

June 2024						Year to Date						Full Year
Actual	Budget	Var \$	Var %	Last Year	Var \$	Actual	Budget	Var \$	Var %	Last Year	Var \$	Budget
4-0000 INCOME						4-0000 INCOME						
4-1000 Ministry & Missions Income						4-1000 Ministry & Missions Income						
310	388	(78)	(20.1%)	315	(5)	3,836	4,700	(865)	(18.4%)	5,140	(1,305)	4,700
						600		600		200	400	
965	1,347	(382)	(28.4%)	935	30	11,265	16,163	(4,898)	(30.3%)	15,540	(4,275)	16,163
2,037	2,917	(879)	(30.1%)	3,161	(1,124)	29,675	35,000	(5,325)	(15.2%)	40,878	(11,203)	35,000
	38	(38)	(100.0%)				500	(500)	(100.0%)	500	(500)	500
3,312	4,690	(1,377)	(29.4%)	4,411	(1,099)	45,375	56,363	(10,988)	(19.5%)	62,258	(16,883)	56,363
4-1200 Wider Work Donations [R2]						4-1200 Wider Work Donations [R2]						
						440		440		440		
						440		440		440		
4-2000 Other M&M Receipts						4-2000 Other M&M Receipts						
	4,500	(4,500)	(100.0%)							10,075	(10,075)	
	4,500	(4,500)	(100.0%)			6,859	9,000	(2,141)	(23.8%)	3,048	3,811	9,000
										13,123	(6,264)	9,000
3,312	9,190	(5,877)	(64.0%)	4,411	(1,099)	6,859	9,000	(2,141)	(23.8%)	13,123	(6,264)	9,000
4-3000 Total Other M&M Receipts						4-3000 Total Other M&M Receipts						
						52,674	65,363	(12,689)	(19.4%)	75,381	(22,706)	65,363
4-3000 Total Ministry & Missions Income						4-3000 Total Ministry & Missions Income						
						1,487	720	767	106.6%	455	1,033	720
133	60	73	120.9%	65	68	1,487	720	767	106.6%	455	1,033	720
133	60	73	120.9%	65	68	4-4200 Property Income [R10]						
4-4200 Property Income [R10]						4-4200 Property Income [R10]						
						11,136	8,000	3,136	39.2%	10,394	742	8,000
1,195	667	528	79.3%	595	600	40,731	44,250	(3,519)	(8.0%)	39,737	993	44,250
3,394	3,688	(293)	(8.0%)	3,311	83	51,867	52,250	(383)	(0.7%)	50,131	1,736	52,250
4,589	4,354	235	5.4%	3,906	683	51,867	52,250	(383)	(0.7%)	50,131	1,736	52,250
4,589	4,354	235	5.4%	3,906	683	4-5000 Other Income						
4-5000 Other Income						4-5000 Other Income						
										42	(42)	
										352	(352)	
										394	(394)	
223	125	98	78.6%	261	(38)	1,851	250	1,601	640.4%	2,518	(667)	250
						215		215		1,862	(1,647)	
	150	(150)	(100.0%)							55	(55)	300
	2,500	(2,500)	(100.0%)				300	(300)	(100.0%)	193	(193)	10,000
223	2,775	(2,552)	(92.0%)	261	(38)	2,066	10,550	(8,484)	(80.4%)	5,022	(2,956)	10,550
8,257	16,379	(8,121)	(49.6%)	8,643	(386)	Total INCOME						
						108,094	128,883	(20,789)	(16.1%)	130,988	(22,894)	128,883
6-0000 EXPENSES						6-0000 EXPENSES						
6-0100 Wages & Salaries						6-0100 Wages & Salaries						
						22,018	57,758	35,740	162.3%	30,893	8,875	57,758
3,568	4,813	1,245	34.9%		(3,568)	1,651		(1,651)	(100.0%)		(1,651)	
409		(409)	(100.0%)		(409)	90		(90)	(100.0%)		(90)	
30		(30)	(100.0%)		(30)	30	6,318	6,288	20960.0%	3,475	3,445	6,318
	527	527				2,262		(2,262)	(100.0%)		(2,262)	
754		(754)	(100.0%)		(754)	26,051	64,076	38,025	146.0%	34,368	8,316	64,076
4,761	5,340	579	12.2%		(4,761)					160	160	
4,761	5,340	579	12.2%		(4,761)	26,051	64,076	38,025	146.0%	34,528	8,476	64,076
6-2000 Property Related Costs						6-2000 Property Related Costs						
						2,136		(2,136)	(100.0%)	9,159	7,023	
436	167	(269)	(61.8%)		(436)	6-2200 General Maintenance [P6]						
6-2200 General Maintenance [P6]						6-2200 General Maintenance [P6]						
						6,363	2,000	(4,363)	(68.6%)	4,681	(1,682)	2,000
										91	91	
				8,691	8,691					8,775	8,775	
366	447	80	21.9%	555	189	6,079	5,360	(719)	(11.8%)	5,142	(937)	5,360
385	83	(302)	(78.4%)		(385)	3,195	1,000	(2,195)	(68.7%)	1,450	(1,745)	1,000
1,188	697	(491)	(41.3%)	9,247	8,059	15,636	8,360	(7,276)	(46.5%)	20,138	4,502	8,360
6-2299 Property Overheads						6-2299 Property Overheads						
						10,271	10,000	(271)	(2.6%)	7,872	(2,399)	10,000
10,271		(10,271)	(100.0%)		(10,271)	2,442	5,000	2,558	104.8%	2,802	361	5,000
	413	413				252	800	548	217.6%	160	(92)	800
						1,186	2,500	1,314	110.9%	1,050	(135)	2,500
1,091		(1,091)	(100.0%)		(1,091)	2,832		(2,832)	(100.0%)		(2,832)	
11,362	413	(10,949)	(96.4%)		(11,362)	16,982	18,300	1,318	7.8%	11,885	(5,097)	18,300
12,550	1,110	(11,440)	(91.2%)	9,247	(3,303)	Total Property Overheads						
						34,754	26,660	(8,094)	(23.3%)	41,182	6,428	26,660
6-3000 Mission Costs & Giving						6-3000 Mission Costs & Giving						
	1,300	1,300				950	2,600	1,650	173.7%	3,300	2,350	2,600
						1,678		(1,678)	(100.0%)	400	(1,278)	
						1,851	1,850	(1)	(0.1%)	1,950	99	1,850
						1,400		(1,400)	(100.0%)	500	(900)	
	142	142				5,559	1,700	(3,859)	(69.4%)		(5,559)	1,700
						1,060		(1,060)	(100.0%)		(1,060)	
										386	386	
1,442	1,442					12,498	6,150	(6,348)	(50.8%)	6,536	(5,962)	6,150
6-4000 Administration & Congregation						6-4000 Administration & Congregation						
						8,755	8,000	(755)	(8.6%)	8,385	(370)	8,000
680	600	(80)	(11.8%)	680	(90)	727		(727)	(100.0%)		(727)	
						168	500	332	197.2%	351	182	500
90	38	(52)	(57.8%)		(90)	1,527	500	(1,027)	(67.3%)	434	(1,094)	500
	29	29				158		(158)	(100.0%)	139	(19)	
770	667	(103)	(13.4%)	680	(90)	11,336	9,000	(2,336)	(20.6%)	9,308	(2,028)	9,000
	58	58				662	700	38	5.8%	985	323	700
	200	200				264	2,400	2,136	807.5%		(264)	2,400
258	258					926	3,100	2,174	234.7%	985	59	3,100
770	925	155	20.2%	680	(90)	12,262	12,100	(162)	(1.3%)	10,293	(1,969)	12,100
						6-5000 Congregation/Church Services						
						589	625	36	6.2%	612	23	625
						137		(137)	(100.0%)	1,032	895	
				104	104	726	625	(100)	(13.8%)	1,643	918	625
18,081	8,869	(9,212)	(50.9%)	10,031	(8,050)	Total EXPENSES						
						86,292	109,611	23,320	27.0%	94,183	7,891	109,611
(9,823)	7,510	(17,333)	(230.8%)	(1,387)	8,436	Operating Surplus / (Deficit)						
						21,803	19,272	2,531	13.1%	36,806	15,003	19,272
234	3,177	(2,943)	(92.6%)	3,658	(3,424)	25,637	38,080	(12,443)	(32.7%)	17,608	8,029	38,080
(9,589)	10,687	(20,276)	(189.7%)	2,271	11,860	47,440	57,352	(9,912)	(17.3%)	54,414	6,974	57,352

Property Committee Report

This past year saw the committee work through purchasing a new manse for the church to replace the old manse. The new manse is part of a townhouse complex which means some of the upkeep of the property becomes the responsibility of the owner's corporation and is handled by a Strata Manager. Unfortunately, there are still many things that are left to the committee to rectify and maintain.

In the short time that we have had the manse we have had to make a large number of changes and repairs to make the place ready for a minister (or tenant as the case may be). The dishwasher has been replaced, the ensuite bathroom sink has been replaced as we found it was cracked, the tiles in the ground floor toilet have been re-glued to the wall behind the sink, worn out grout and silicon replaced, new hose reel installed in the front garden, a new security screen door has been purchased and installed on the front door, all the door locks have been re-keyed to suit one key, the data and TV cabling in the building has been tested repaired and cleaned up and is now working properly. Many other smaller items have been repaired/replaced as well, not to mention regular gardening and attending Strata Management meetings.

Moving back to home ground, the church has had problems with roof leaks over the years and while many attempts have been made (involving liaising with UnitingCare and the child care centre, problematic tradesmen, insurance companies and much paperwork in the background) to find them and fix them, this last year has seen what will hopefully be the last time we have to fix roof leaks for many years to come. We have replaced the lead and aluminium flashing all around, installed Colorbond fascias over all the old timber fascia boards and had the guttering and downpipes replaced.

After roughly 5 years without a sign out the front, we now have a new sign advertising the church, Rivergum Garden, Child Care Centre and Mirambeena. Thank you to Fiona from Church Council for organizing the purchase of the signs.

Many thanks to Colin and Mark for all the hard work they have put into fixing the manse and looking after the church building and grounds.

Simon Steinfurth

Chairperson Property Committee



the knitting room



The “knitting room” comprises a group of dedicated ladies who get together once a week to do all that they can to help improve the lives of others by their love of knitting and crochet. We try to do all the good that we can, in the way that we can, for as many as we can, as long as we can.

Our group exists of 12 – 16 ladies (more welcome) who meet on Tuesday afternoons between 1.30 and 3.30 in the church foyer. We socialise over tea/coffee and nibbles as well as doing some serious work.



Through these efforts the “knitting room” during the past year, 2023-2024, was able to make the following donations: -

Wrapped With Love

12 full bed sized blankets.

Stewart House

6 large and 15 medium teddy bears, 2 dolls, 7 beanies, 20 scarves and 16 beanie and scarf sets.

Revesby Uniting Church – Knitting Room

2 beanie and scarf sets, 3 childrens beanies, 2 adults scarves, coat hangers, 1 baby bonnet, 1 baby sock set, 1 child jumper, 1 large and 2 medium teddy bears, 1 clown 1 reversible doll and 1 snowman.

Westmead Children’s Hospital and Ronald McDonald House

11 giant and 42 medium teddy bears, 18 assorted toys, 2 dolls, 2 adults and 18 childrens beanies, 10 beanie and scarf sets, 32 scarfs, 32 premi baby bonnets, 29 baby bonnets, 2 baby hoodies, 20 baby bootie sets, 1 baby mittens set, 1 mitten/beanie and bootie set, 10 baby jumpers, 5 childrens dresses, 5 baby rugs, 5 knee rugs and 2 medium rugs.

Cash donations from “the knitting room”

Samaritan’s Purse	\$150
Exodus Foundation	\$200
Wesley Mission	\$200
Fred Hollows Foundation	\$100
Stewart House	\$150
Revesby Uniting Church	<u>\$200</u>
	<u>\$1000</u>

My sincere thanks to all the wonderful people involved in the “knitting room” who gave their time and money in the endeavour to help others in need. Again, thank you to those who help with transport, set up, clean up or donate, without them we could not continue.

For anyone who wants to join us in our “knitting room” or contribute in any way you are most welcome.

Gail O’Connor – Co-ordinator

Rivergum Community Garden

It's spring and the garden is coming to life after some much needed rain. Right now in the garden we have lettuce, Japanese mustard, rocket, sorell and spring onions all growing in the raised salad bed. In the herb bed we have mint, parsley, chives, oregano, thyme and lemon balm. The first of our tomato seedlings are in the ground and we've planted marigolds, dwarf nasturtium and calendula throughout the raised beds to aid in repelling bugs and attracting bees. We have planted garlic with the broccoli to help ward off the caterpillars. We have pots of rose, citrus and peppermint scented geraniums growing throughout the veggie patch. At the moment the bee garden has snapdragons, chamomile, borage and delphiniums flowering. Our native finger lime has been amazing and is covered in buds at the moment. We've have had some lovely Atherton raspberries that we eat straight off the vine that was gifted to us by the Gonyah Community Garden and we have a productive worm farm and composting system in place. Over the year we have shared produce with neighbours, playgroup families and others in our community. We have had many wonderful morning teas in the garden, eating together and celebrating the abundance of the garden.

We have had two families use the garden for children's parties, as they love the space so much.

We have a mini sized yarning circle that is enjoyed by the KidsPlay children each Wednesday. Repurposed from some old sandstone children's furniture.

The Friday group have had outings to Casula Power House and some purchasing trips to Bunnings. We hope to add some days visiting other gardens in the coming months.

Recently we received a Synod Missional Project Grant for \$10,000. This grant has supported the purchase of signage, shade and seating to improve the visibility, accessibility and comfort of our garden. We thank Synod for their support as it will enable us to transform our garden into an even more enjoyable space.

Many thanks to Julie and Fiona for all their hard work in securing this grant. Thanks also to those that did the shopping and comparing prices and organising and accepting delivery of these items.

Thanks to everyone who has made a purchase or a contribution to our Trade Table it has kept us growing.

We are in the process of planing a garden 'open' day to raise funds for the garden. We hope this will encourage more people to come into the garden and enable us to share what we do each Friday. A big thank you to Karen and Fiona for planning, organising and coordinating this day.

There are lots of folk to thank. The regular Friday group, without you the garden would not keep flourishing and growing as it does.

Thank you Ruth, you bring a unique touch to the garden making it a magical place to visit.

A special mention to Ross for having a go at constructing pretty much anything we ask him too.

Thanks also to our Friday afternoon volunteer Matt and to Anna and Charlie, Matt's carers. We love your enthusiasm for the garden Matt.

Thanks to the ongoing hard work of the property committee they keep the lawns and hedges looking great all year round, we are all very grateful.

Thank you to Fiona, your vision, energy and hard work in promoting the garden is invaluable and greatly appreciated.

Thank you Barry for your time and involvement in the 'Garden Conversations' sessions that are helping to guide us into a sustainable future. Lorrae West

Social gardening is ... connecting, healing, story sharing, grounding, learning, building friendships, increasing self esteem and confidence, growing together and cultivating hope.



Kidsplay Annual Report

Funded via a grant from Revesby Workers Club Grants: \$8,680

Program Facilitators Julie Bertram, Susan Lindsay, Margaret O'Connor

Early Childhood Support Worker: Felicity Steinfurth

Kidsplay@Revesby brings together children, parents, and grandparents every Wednesday during school terms for indoor and outdoor play, art/craft activities, music, and storytelling. It has grown significantly in recent months, with new families joining through referrals from friends,

Playgroups NSW and Centrelink.



Currently, we have 38 families, including seven infants under six months old. We recently bid farewell to two older children who have transitioned to preschool, along with their mother and grandmother, who have been integral members of our group for over nine years. Felicity, our dedicated support worker, continues to provide invaluable assistance, particularly with the care of babies and children with additional needs.



Our group proudly reflects a diverse range of cultural backgrounds, contributing to a rich and inclusive community atmosphere.

This year we have had many special events. We had a reptile show that was thoroughly enjoyed by parents and children alike. We celebrated Christmas with a party where two of our long-term children left playgroup to attend school. They received a

certificate and a gift pack of school supplies. In the new year we celebrated International Women's Day with a scrumptious morning tea and we marked Harmony Day by wearing something orange. Families





bought along something to share for our “Taste of Harmony” morning tea. We were treated to delicious food from various cultures. During Easter we held an “Eggstavanza” where we made baskets, coloured eggs and held our traditional and much loved egg hunt.

We celebrated Reconciliation Week with artefacts and storytelling, and enjoyed a 'Bush Tucker' themed morning tea. We also joined children nationwide in reading 'Bowerbird's Blues' for 'National Simultaneous Story Time.' Our activities have included painting,

baking biscuits, weaving with plants and flowers, and creating wonderful craft projects.

The community garden remains a focal point of our activities, with children eagerly harvesting produce (especially tomatoes) for morning teas and home use.

Additionally, we hosted a Friday night Dance Party/BBQ attended by approximately 100 people, where children and adults alike danced joyfully throughout the evening, with two grandparents stealing the spotlight with their spirited dance moves.

We are heartened by the supportive and caring environment fostered among our participants, where everyone contributes and supports one another, both within and outside of playgroup activities. We cherish the camaraderie and shared celebrations of special events.

Finally, Kidsplay extends our sincere gratitude to Revesby Workers' Club for their ongoing support of our playgroup and the local families it serves.

Julie Bertram

