

South Port UnitingCare

Annual Report

2008

Connecting Community



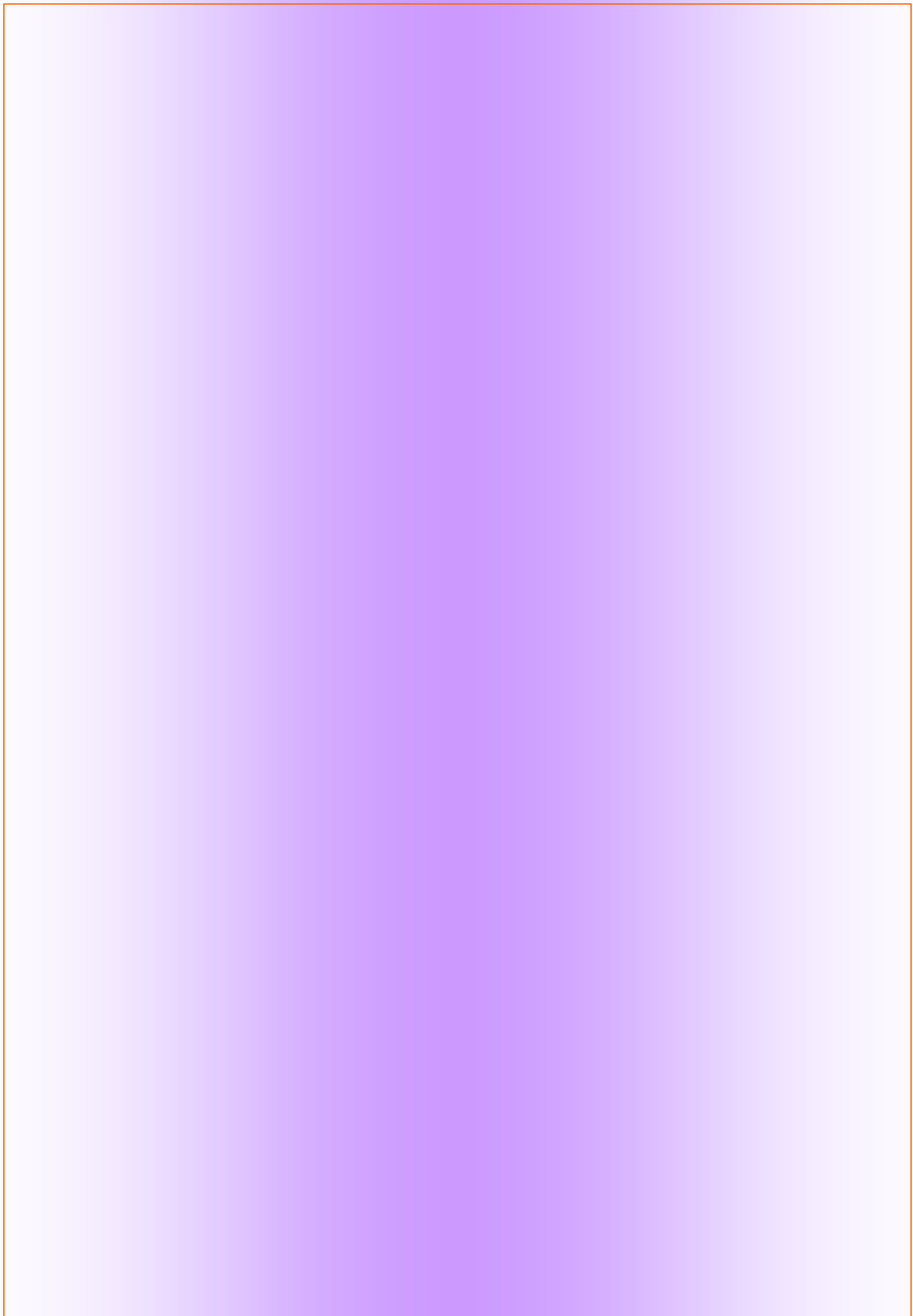


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Board, Staff and Volunteers 2008

Chairperson
Deputy Chairperson
Treasurer
Director
Community Worker

Rev. Ross Carter
Katherine McPherson
Arthur Vale
Anne Garrow
Rev. Peter Batten

Board of Governance

Rev. Ross Carter
Katherine McPherson
Rev. Peter Batten
Elizabeth Eadie
Graeme Mulvey
Arthur Vale
Eva Breward (July'08 - Nov'08)

Nancy Gray
Rev. Peter Greenwood
Janet Hoare (Retired Jan'08)
Heather Johnson
Nancy Price
Ragini Rajaduri

Office Staff

Sandra Vassel
Bill Collins
Steven Kerek
Millie Leveni
Carmelina Djordjevic
Jeannette McNair
Yelena Silkova (Relief)

Finance and Property Manager
Accountant
Property Maintenance Officer
Cleaning
Reception Administration Officer
Bookkeeper Administration Officer
Reception Administration Officer

Burra Club Programs

Sandra Atherton

Co-ordinator

Burra Club

Patricia Valesquez
Omega Pott
David Holmes
Lydia Brown
Michael Leon
Vincent Mithen
Jill Bates
Shirley Slingo

Activity Worker
Music Therapist (Violin)
Music Therapist (Guitar)
Activity Worker
Activity Worker
Activity Worker
Activity Worker
Emergency Staff

Burra Strengtheners

Lyn Dennis
Anna Gora

Knit 'n' Knatter

Pat Crofts

Knit 'n' Knatter Volunteer

Emergency Relief

Elaine Wilkinson

Community Worker

Goodwill Opportunity Shop

George Jeffreys
Ruth Hopkins
Diane Barker
Shirley Browitt
Annie Metzlin
Pat Bruce
Val Constable
Libby Cook
Sally Dobson
Martha Zamanis
Margaret Gosling

Sheena Voyage
Ethel Semmens
Janet Leckie
Euan Browitt
Bonnie Gelman
Mary Cull
Noela Pearson
Shirley Easton
Margaret Read
Ozlem Dogan

Living Well Programs

Rev. Peter Batten
Ruth Copp

Outreach Worker
Volunteer

Port Melbourne Uniting Kindergarten

Heather Larter
Margery Tape
Marky Marsden

Director
Assistant
Relief Assistant

Sharing the Spirit of Christmas Program

Ruth Copp
Chris Major
Tracy Johnson
Bernie Harders

Jeffrey Castles
Kim Dorney
Nancy Gray

BAC Bikes

Mark Horner
Kevin
Jeremy
Mike
John

Co-ordinator
Volunteer
Volunteer
Volunteer
Volunteer

Chairperson's Report

In 2008 the Board of Governance of South Port UnitingCare met six times in order of exercise oversight of the Agency. I am pleased to report that the members of the Board of Governance have been diligent in the exercise of their responsibilities of overseeing the work of the Agency.

South Port UnitingCare operates within the parameters of a Strategic Plan that is formulated by the Board of Governance. The Strategic Plan is the framework that shapes the policies and priorities adopted by the Board in order for God's mission, embodied in Jesus Christ, to take provisional form in the programs of the Agency. The current Strategic Plan expires at the end of 2008. In early 2009 the Board of Governance will participate in a process of formulating a new Strategic Plan.

The South Port UnitingCare Board of Governance operates, as do all agencies of the Church, under the management procedures formulated by UnitingCare Victoria and Tasmania. It is the responsibility of boards to familiarize themselves with these policies. The South Port UnitingCare Board is compliant in this task.

The Board of Governance works to ensure that its members are able to exercise the various skills that ensure good governance. The Board has been fortunate in identifying people with appropriate skills who have been prepared to join. In 2008 three new members were appointed – Ms Eva Breward, Ms Margaret Douglas, and Ms Shirley Rutherford. Unfortunately Ms Breward resigned as she was not able to continue her membership on the board.

South Port UnitingCare sees its mission arising from, and being sustained by, the crucified and risen Jesus Christ whom is worshipped and proclaimed in the life of the Port Melbourne and South Melbourne Congregations. Without this integral connection with the life of the congregations the vitality of the Agency would be impoverished and its vision diminished.

Finally I thank the members of the Board for their commitment to their responsibilities in 2008. On behalf of the Board I also thank the Director of South Port UnitingCare, Ms Anne Garrow, for her leadership in implementing the Board's Mission. The Board thanks the staff of South Port UnitingCare for their commitment to the ethos of the Agency which is expressed in the professional, skilful, and caring way they exercise their responsibilities.

Rev Ross Carter



Director's Report

The theme of this report is connecting community. It is what lies at the heart of much of our work and is inspired by our vision that "South Port UnitingCare will work to build compassionate and inclusive communities in which each person is valued and values others". This vision resonates with the knowledge that inclusive, compassionate, connected communities will foster and allow life in its fullness to be enjoyed by all.

We live in a beautiful part of Melbourne that over the last decade has become a very popular place in which to live and with the increased popularity has come a new social landscape. Rapid gentrification has resulted in the lower and middle income earners being priced out of the area and a huge increase in high income housing stock. Those on low incomes now tend to reside in public housing where there is not a high turnover of residents or are older long term residents on low incomes living in their own homes. This has created an income divide and a divide between the different histories and backgrounds of recent and long term residents. The challenge has become how to be present for those who are the most marginalized and vulnerable and to do so in ways that do not further marginalize and alienate people but which are actually building belonging, caring and connection.

South Port UnitingCare is part in the community with resources and a range of programs that provide the opportunity to build connection and meaning. We seek to run programs that are relevant to, and will make a difference in people's lives, that have meaning and foster inclusion. Bridging and linking diverse groups is one way to be part of a just and inclusive society.

This report celebrates the work of 2008. The contribution this agency makes comes from the effort and commitment of a community of people made up of staff, volunteers, program participants, board and congregation members and supporters. I thank every one for your passion and commitment to the agency. We do make a difference and it would not be possible without you.

Anne Garrow



Community Services

Material Aid

Throughout 2008 we have continued to develop insight into the causes and effects of financial stress and how we can contribute to the development of long term solutions. We work within our budget to provide fair and effective short term solutions for individuals and families. We maintain our connections with other organizations who we share common goals with and who support our ability to provide quality support, information and referral services.

Often people visit our agency seeking assistance to access enough food for a few days due to additional expenses that have impinged on their limited finances. It is these encounters that inform the agency about the diversity of individual and community needs.

Key areas that have a negative impact on limited finances include;

- Rent increases
- Non Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme medication
- Repayment of Centrelink "advance payment" (a once per year advance of \$500 with \$38 per fortnight repayments for six months)
- Public transport costs
- Car expenses including fuel costs
- Healthcare requirements
- Other general expenses that arise periodically such as cleaning products, haircuts, new shoes and clothing, toiletries, etc.

It remains our priority to connect community members to appropriate services and we focus on keeping up to date with new and existing services that provide a range of avenues for people to take to satisfy their needs. The following list provides an example of the more common types of services we have accessed in 2008 on behalf of low income community members.

- Utilities Relief Grant Scheme (Department of Human Services)
- Financial Counselling (Port Phillip Community Group)
- Legal Services (PPCG)
- WIRE (Women's Information Centre)
- Dental (Inner South Community Health Services)
- Housing (Hanover and Homeground Housing Services)
- Traveller's Aid
- Free and inexpensive meals listings
- "Getting Out There" – City of Port Phillip. A publication that lists a range of social activities



Building Community Supports

We are aware that many who visit us are isolated, do not have a sense of meaningful activity or being part of a connected community. Over the year we have undertaken a number of activities to build our community connections and opportunities for those who use our services.

- We joined the Inner South East Primary Care Partnership in Community Health (ISEPICH). We participated in their health promotion strategies including the “*Active Living Festival*” and were involved in a collaborative research project “*A local response to Welfare to Work reform*”.
- We joined the Port Phillip Urban Fresh Food Network (PPUFFN) and attended the forums that focus on the availability and access to food in an urban environment and especially for residents of public housing.
- We organized the “*Connecting Port Melbourne*” forum to increase community awareness of local service providers. This has involved working in collaboration with community members and service providers to identify local issues and discuss strategies for solutions.
- We provided assistance to the volunteers who have compiled a community, on line survival guide, “*One Step off the Street*” which lists a range of service providers and tips for those experiencing financial hardship and homelessness and public housing issues.
- We introduced a social bike riding activity which aims to promote health and fitness and encourages the community to access an affordable means of transport.
- We participated in pancake day with South Port Uniting Church and organized community barbecues; one which coincided with national Homelessness week and one with Christmas. A special word of thanks to Darren of “*Ralphs Quality Meats*” at South Melbourne Market, South Port Uniting Church and volunteers from the local community for making these activities possible. The events have been attended and enjoyed by local residents.



*Elaine Wilkinson
Community Worker*

Sharing the Spirit of Christmas

UnitingCare and Target stores nationwide are involved in the UnitingCare Christmas gift appeal. Christmas 2008 marks the 17th UnitingCare Christmas Gift Appeal, the aim for this year was to collect and distribute 150,000 gifts for low income members of communities.

Despite the onset of the economic downturn, the 2008 UnitingCare Christmas Gift Appeal observed an enormous amount of generosity by all who contributed to the program.

Local organisations that supported the Christmas Gift Appeal 2008 include

- Target
- Medicare
- Melbourne South Rotary
- South Melbourne Community Chest
- Australian Federal Police Headquarters (an employee initiative)
- KRAFT Foods (an employee initiative)

The Sharing the Spirit of Christmas program provides toys, food hampers and Coles vouchers to low income families with children 14 years and under who live in the South Melbourne and Port Melbourne areas. It is made possible through a collective co-operative effort of individuals and organisations.

Target provides the opportunity for shoppers to donate a gift to the UnitingCare Christmas tree, in the Bourke Street store, Melbourne. The gifts are collected, sorted and distributed by South Port Uniting Church and UnitingCare staff and volunteers. Melbourne South Rotary provide the food hampers and a team of volunteers who pack and distribute them and supermarket vouchers are given to every family due to a very generous grant made by the South Melbourne Community Chest. KRAFT Foods employees also collect toys and this year the Australian Federal Police (Melbourne Branch) also organised a workplace Christmas Tree for employees to participate in the UnitingCare Christmas Gift Appeal.

The combined generosity of all who participated in the program helped in making Christmas time a special time for two hundred and fifty low income families in the local area.

We extend a very special thank you to the members of the Melbourne South Rotary Club and the following church and community members who gave their time and care to the program.

- Bernie Harders –Unruffled driving in Christmas traffic
- David Dawson – Assisting with gathering Food Hamper items
- Tracy Johnson and family
- Anna Rogalina
- Margaret Gosling
- Teresa Warren
- Jeff Castles
- Ruth Copp
- Nancy Gray



Burra Club Programs

We have had an exciting, extremely busy but rewarding 2008, providing recreational opportunities for Older Adults in the City of Port Phillip.

Our aim in the planning of activities and events is to 'Make time Live' and to provide the opportunity and support for each participant to continue their 'Discovery of Life'

Through our 'Getaway' bus trips our participants meet & connect with other people their own age. They travel to places they thought they would never see again and they see places they have never been before.

Rhonda, Gladys & Alice
enjoying the day and →
comfortable in The Church Bus



Michael (Poppins!) Jones at Geelong



It is 'Discovery of Life', rediscovering the old and discovering the new. It's about connecting our participants with the community and wider community. It's about having fun, enjoying food together, sightseeing, music, dancing, theatre and much more. Most of all it is giving people who are isolated a happy day out, a sense of being valued and important to others and the community. We aim through these outings to reduce loneliness and enhance participant's wellbeing and to help them to make 'Time Live!'

Many new people are referred by participants on the 'Getaways'. They say to me "I know someone who just sits at home all day and she/he doesn't go out much, can she/he come on the trips with us?" I love that as then its older adults taking care of each other, watching out for those who they see as lonely and isolated. They are connecting with their neighbours in the community and sharing the good times they have at the Burra Club.

We receive referrals to The Burra Club through the Aged Care Networks, Inner South community health Centre, Council, local doctors, and advertising.

We continue to provide support to Carers, and to those they care for through our 'Burra Upbeats' groups. By planning activities that meet the needs and interest of older adults, 2008 has seen participant numbers grow to approx 75 over all our programs which is very encouraging. Approx 15 attend more than once.



Programs for 2008 were:

- Mondays: 2 'Getaway' Bus outings, Burra Strengtheners, Russian Strengtheners
- Tuesdays: 2 'Tuesday Traveller's bus outings
- Wednesdays: 'Burra Upbeats' Burra Strengtheners
- Thursdays: 'Burra Upbeats'
- Fridays: Burra 'Bloke's Getaway' (Fortnightly)
Knit 'N' Knatter (Fortnightly)
Burra Strengtheners



We were able to offer the extra outings on Mondays and Tuesdays thanks to the generous use of the Church bus. We are very grateful to Rev. Ross Carter and the congregation of South Port Uniting Church for their kind support.

We had two special outings leading up to Christmas. These were supported Christmas shopping trips to enable people to access the larger shopping centre's. These were very successful and we hope to do that again in 2009. In April we started a big monthly Newsletter called 'The Burra Buzz'. This is fun and provides an insight into our programs, where we go and what we are doing.



There are many people who contribute to the smooth running of the Burra Club. I'd like to thank everyone in the agency office for their admin support and for their support of the program. Thanks to Steve for all his help with maintenance and much more.

A special thank you to Anne Garrow, our Director who's ongoing support is invaluable.

What makes our bus outings and the 'Upbeats' so successful is the ability and quality of our staff. They are people who value our participants and care for who they are individually and they work very hard to ensure they have happy experiences.

I cannot thank them enough for their total commitment each day.

Patricia Velasquez has been with the Burra Club for 7 years and has a wealth of experience and love that she gives to the participants and her peers.

A big thank you to Lydia Brown, Vincent Mithin, Dominic Mithin. All bringing unique gifts to the Program, Lydia spent 3 months in Sri Lanka learning meditation in a Buddhist community. She in return taught English to the younger monks, she will continue to work on a casual basis for us in 2009.

We said sad farewells to Vincent Mithin, Domenic Mithen through the year, wonderful people who were kind and caring to our participants and we are grateful for their time with us.

Michael Leon and Jill Bates have joined our team and we are so happy to have them with us. We are grateful to Shirley Slingo who fills in for us when needed. We are very fortunate to have quality people on our staff.

Thank you to Burra Strengtheners Trainers Lyn Dennis and Anna Gora for helping participants with their fitness and wellbeing. Thank you to Davan West who fills in when Lyn or Anna are away. Lyn also works as an activity worker with the Knit 'N' Knatter group. Thank you to Pat Croft. Pat is a caring volunteer with Knit 'N' Knatter. She is a great help to the ladies and staff.

We are very proud of the vibrant programs, activities and support we provide to our carers, those they care for and our frailer older adults. We delight in knowing our participants are less lonely and isolated through spending time with us and each other.

Sandy Atherton
Burra Club Co-ordinator

Port Melbourne Uniting Church Kindergarten

In 2008 the kindergarten had two full groups of children; the 4 year old morning group and the 3 year old afternoon group. Opportunities for social play and developing confidence were a major theme of the program. Activities were set up to encourage learning in the areas of science, maths, art, music, drama, language, fine and gross motor. Activities were incidental and formal, in small and large groups. Home and block corner are always busy areas of play and conversation. The play gave opportunity for sharing, learning language, conflict resolution, and organisation skills. Children learn through play and the program is based on this.

The morning group enjoyed having singing concerts, acting stories, group games, dancing, and working together on art pieces. Both groups participated in a drama workshop. Morning children enjoyed acting five short stories for their parents and showing them our dances. The childrens' confidence blossomed. Afternoon children were eager to try new activities and often small group activities became full group activities. Both groups enjoyed science and nature activities, especially experiments. Making a volcano, colour mixing, making a rocket, using magnets, activities using air and light, encouraged children to question and discover.



The children went exploring with bags full with compasses, torches, note pads, binoculars and magnifying glasses. We dug up rocks in our exploring, washed them, weighed them, and held discussions about where they came from, their uses. We dug for dinosaur bones but didn't find any. We did though have a visit from Museum Victoria with a collection of bones and interesting facts to tell us about dinosaurs. Literacy experiences gave opportunity to practise and expand skills. Children listened, talked, discussed, sung, read, acted, created puppet shows, used rhyming and opposite words, wrote stories and poetry, wrote letters to each other. The children learnt to recognise their name, other childrens' names, and to know writing has meaning.



Numeracy skills were used daily with counting, estimating sorting, measuring, sequencing, adding, subtracting. There were complex block buildings with children counting, estimating size, and asking for a tape to measure with. Children worked together, gave ideas, compromised and solved problems. Both groups were interested in money, and shops. We had a bank where children stamped money, and shops. On our international lunch days the children paid \$3.00 to the "kinder restaurant". After a French Day lunch some children built the Eiffel Tower with the large blocks and payed their entrance fee to go to the top.

Small groups played board games, learning the language of number, more, less, same, different, first, second, third, in front, behind, next to, bigger, smaller, counting, adding and subtracting. We practised our gross motor skills. Morning group children participated in physical education where physical skills were practised and learnt how important it is to look after your body with good food, water and exercise. We learnt about healthy foods. The dentist visited and checked the teeth of the children and morning group had a visit from a tooth fairy. A Healthy Eating Program was offered to parents.

Morning group had a visit from The Responsible Pet Program reinforcing the messages we learnt about playing with and approaching dogs safely. They also participated in a road safety program. Thank you to Anne Garrow for dressing as the road safety mascot, Thingle Toodle.



Children need to learn about our environment and how to care for it. We are making our kindergarten environment friendly. Our worm farm is in operation with the children using their fruit scraps to feed the worms. We have a paper recycling box. Sometimes I hear a voice behind me say "Remember Heather, we need to look after trees. They make our city beautiful, the trees make our air clean". We discussed water and rain. Hopefully we will have a water tank next year. We have introduced rubbish free lunches and use natural cleaning products when possible.

We celebrated special occasions such as birthdays. For Mother's day the children prepared afternoon tea and lunch and for Fathers day we had a Fathers night. We had a Teddy Bears picnic and an Easter hunt. Afternoon group had a Christmas play and party and morning group a Nativity Play and dinner. So much happens during a kinder year I cannot possibly talk about it all.

In closing I must thank the staff I work with, Margery, Simone, and Anne-Marie. It is a pleasure to come to work with people who have the same goal, to help care for and help the children to love and be excited about learning. To help them be confident and reach their potential. Without a committee there is no kindergarten, and I thank you. To the people of this church who support us and pray for us, thank you. To the office staff, thank you for your interest and assistance. Thank you to the children who make our work so enjoyable. Thank you to the parents who allow us to care for and participate in their child's education.

*Heather Larter
Kindergarten Director*



Rev Deacon Peter Batten

*We shall not cease from exploration
And the end of all our exploring
Will be to arrive at where we started
And know the place for the first time.
Four Quartets T.S.Elliot*

After two years of planning, travelling with a paperback version of *The Complete Works of T.S.Elliot*, two bicycles, one bicycle trailer and our camping equipment Jenny and I flew out of Melbourne bound for the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland. Our plan was to cycle our way through these countries. Yes, we certainly cycled, approximately 1700 miles, as for the camping, well, not as much as we would have liked, the wet English, Scottish and Irish summer ensured that we stayed in lots of B and B's.



Packed in Ireland.



We returned with many stories, having met lots of interesting people, discovered the Guinness gets better the closer to the source of brewing in Dublin, and worshipped in many different churches. The experience of worshipping in a charismatic Baptist church in Oban Scotland compared to Evensong at Westminster cathedral London, is very different, and I felt the presence of God in each service, and I thank God for this variety of worship styles. Staying on the island of Iona and being part of the rhythm of the monastic life was a very significant experience; it is truly a *thin place* where heaven and earth meet. Travelling light was our theme; it is amazing how little we managed to need to live in those three months, since returning home this theme continued for the year.

Standing cross Iona Scotland

One of the joys of this ministry is the privilege of hearing other people's stories. As we travel by bus to Williamston or the Christmas lights on the boulevard as part of the **Living Well programmes**, stories are shared and conversations range from the latest film, football, best shopping deals in town, current music, and the latest "antics" of Centre Link.

There are also the stories I hear in a more formal setting, through **counselling/arts therapy**. When John first rang seeking an appointment he was in a distressed state. 'My life is going around in circles' was his opening remark. John and I meet weekly and over time using art as the medium, he discovered some clarity as to what he wanted to achieve at least in the short term. John represents many of the people who seek out this service.

During the year there was an increase in people seeking both counselling and financial assistance for education and health care expenses.

Art Attack continues to be a place of healing, sharing of stories, tears and laughter. The group has remand stable with a core of eight participants. During the year we have played with photo collage, paint, felt tipped pens, charcoal, pastels, movement and percussion. Topics have focused on our place, death, drawing mandalas, and painting to music. At the end of each session we check in with the art making of the day and comments from the group have included: "I am on the way" "Sunny day walking through the trees" "I do not know what I am doing" "a bit of fun".



'My Life' By Estelle



'Tears in Heaven' By Linda

For the first time the **labyrinth** was opened as part of the Blue Christmas service in December. A good number of people attended this year, all the participants walked the labyrinth and there have been some positive comments about the experience. Over the year the Thursday night labyrinth opening has attracted a number of people who find the labyrinth a meaningful form of Christian prayer.

Ministers are required to attend ongoing **professional development**. During this year as well as continuing work on my Master of Arts I attended the Diakonia UCA (DUCA) conference in Adelaide, InterPlay training in Sydney, and the inaugural minister's retreat of the Port Phillip East presbytery, at Millgrove.

During the year Jenny and I received two invitations to lead church camps, for Wodonga and St.Kilda Uniting Churches. Using the **InterPlay** forms the camps explored the theme of "Finding the Sacred in the Ordinary".

With these activities alongside my regular commitments to church council, South Port UnitingCare board, presbytery synod, and the wider community the year has been very full and productive.

I always marvel at the way God's grace abounds in this ministry as people are healed and transformed, sometimes in very small ways, at other times by taking huge risks that lead to a renewal of mind, body and spirit.

I would like to thank all those people who have supported this ministry of outreach over the year.

And travelling light...well.....that is an ongoing challenge.

Peace and Grace to you all
Peter Batten

BAC Bikes

BAC Bikes has been in operation for nearly 2 years, and during that time has grown from a weekend afternoon spent fiddling with bikes to a two and a half day a week operation, which has sent nearly three hundred donated bikes back out into the world as fully serviced, refurbished vehicles. We have had many people participate at BAC Bikes, some as regular volunteers, others occasional, others who like to drop in for a chat. People connect with each other around their interest in bikes and what is happening in the workshop.



The distinctive BAC Bikes sticker is seen on bikes all round Melbourne, as those on pensions and benefits, students, backpackers and other people who have a fondness for good, cheap transport realise that value and reliability are not necessarily found in the sports section of a nearby chain store, nor at an expensively lit and shop fitted bicycle emporium.

We have accounts with several local bike parts and accessories wholesalers, and can now supply new (as well as second-hand) accessories such as helmets, locks, luggage racks and baskets, and lights with the bikes we sell, as well as sourcing a wide range of new replacement parts to get them safely out on the road again.



The evolving team of volunteers is overseen by myself as the Co-Ordinator, and everything they do passes muster before it gets our oblong green 'stamp of approval' sticker on it. If you want an ecologically sustainable ethic built into your transport, ditch the expensively accessorised soft-roader 4WD and come and check out our shabby-chic (but mechanically competent) selection of lovingly done-up fashion statements – you may find a classic or a bargain amongst them.

BAC Bikes Co-Ordinator Mark Horner



Simply Living Garden

South Port UnitingCare has a long history of finding ways to respond to the different challenges which face the marginalised and those on low incomes in our local community. The latest challenge is finding ways to deal with the effects of climate change on those residents who are already challenged by low incomes and a lack of access to resources. Changing weather patterns and increased costs of energy are driving up the costs of food, energy and transport.

In 2008 South Port UnitingCare was involved in several projects that had an environmental theme that were aimed at engaging people around this collective concern, building an inclusive connected community, improving health and wellbeing and developing links with other agencies and groups within the South Port area.

The **Simply Living Community Garden** at Port Melbourne was built in 2008 and the aims include to provide access to a low cost recreational activity for people of all ages and backgrounds, to improve food security by improving access to locally grown fresh food and to lessen greenhouse gas emissions by reducing food miles and recycling food and garden waste. The garden was built, planted and maintained by volunteers, including a number of current and former clients of UnitingCare. People worked together and shared their skills and learnt new ones.

Through this project the congregation at Port Melbourne have been more closely involved with the activities of South Port UnitingCare. In the planning and development of the garden links were also made, or strengthened, with the Port Melbourne Neighbourhood House, Port Phillip Urban Fresh Food Network, various departments of the City of Port Phillip and the Port Phillip Eco Centre.

A **gardening activity** program for families from Port Melbourne Uniting Church Kindergarten was begun at the garden on Wednesdays during the second half of term 4. The children and their carers (parents and grandparents) planted seeds, weeded, watered the plants and ultimately tasted the food they had helped to grow. This further developed the relationship between the kindergarten, church and wider community and built on the environmental activities program within the kindergarten.

In response to a survey of clients which indicated an interest in food and gardening programs the **Fresh on Friday** program was planned to begin in 2009. Based at the Simply Living Community Garden, this program will build on the success of the Living Well outings to the Footscray Market and provide an opportunity for people to learn together to grow fresh food and plan and cook healthy, low cost menus using the food from the garden and market. Planning for this program was carried out with the dieticians at Inner South Community Health Service.



We look forward to developing the garden and food programs further in 2009 and seeking other ways to respond to changes due to drought and the various government and community responses to issues of water supply, energy pricing and carbon reduction schemes.

*Janet Hoare
Simply Living Project Worker*



The Goodwill Opportunity Shop

The Goodwill Opportunity Shop provides more than the opportunity to find something affordable or to recycle a gem that someone else no longer needs. It is also a place of caring where customers enjoy the friendly atmosphere and companionship. All the proceeds go towards South Port UnitingCare's work in providing assistance to those in the community who seek our help.

The Op. Shop has had another very successful year. This would not be possible without the wonderful support of donors and the dedication of our volunteers who give their time so generously. The shop is open 5 days a week thanks to the commitment of volunteers, some of whom have worked at the shop for years, while others are more recent or are available to fill in on a casual basis.



In December everyone involved at the Op Shop and South Port UnitingCare were very proud when the community work of Ethel Semmens who has worked at the shop for over 20 years, was recognized when she received the City of Port Phillip Senior Citizen of the Year award.

The contribution that is made to the work of South Port UnitingCare is quite remarkable for a small shop that is run with the enormous goodwill of volunteers and the involvement of friends and customers who support it through their contributions and purchases. We thank you all.

Space@southport

Space@southport is a weekly program that aims to give people over 50 access to the internet and email by teaching them how to use computers. We are most grateful to Robin Alfredson for generously giving his time to run space@southport every Tuesday morning. It seems that participants want to learn more than just internet access and Robin has introduced people to other programs such as word. Thank you Robin for making this program possible.

Carbon Cut

Energy bills can cause financial hardship and for many people seeking material assistance they are the straw that broke the camel's back. Many people we see have physical problems, live in housing that is poorly insulated and have inefficient heaters that are cheap to purchase but expensive to run.

As a result of these observations we had discussions with the Port Phillip EcoCentre and applied as partners, with the EcoCentre as lead agency, for a City of Port Phillip community grant to run a pilot project to retrofit 20 homes of older low income residents. Retrofitting involves switching to energy efficient light bulbs, weather stripping doors, changing shower heads and some other education.

Six young people were trained and South Port UnitingCare recruited many of the residents. An evaluation found the pilot program was very successful both from the point of view of participants who appreciated the service and the reduction in energy consumption. The Port Phillip Eco Centre used the pilot project to successfully achieve funding to extend the program in 2009.



SOUTH PORT UNITINGCARE FINANCE REPORT 2008

The 2008 Finance Reports show that South Port UnitingCare is in a sound financial position. Net Assets increased by \$13,251 as at the end of December 2008.

The net surplus from operations is reduced in comparison to 2007 due to the decrease in the value of investments. The decrease of \$59,878 reported is an adjustment to our accounts to reflect the UCA Growth Fund unit price as at 31 December 2008. This is a book entry loss only and not an actual loss realised.

INCOME STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2008

	Note	2008	2007
Revenue from operating activities			
Government contributions	2a	259,010	247,293
Service fees	2b	88,915	66,668
Gifts, donations, bequests and trusts		81,390	56,268
Uniting Church contributions		155,050	155,050
Albert Park Goodwill Shop		148,801	122,388
Other revenue from operating activities		<u>5,175</u>	<u>13,247</u>
		<u>738,341</u>	<u>660,914</u>
Revenue from outside the operating activities			
Interest		14,736	8,722
Increase/(Decrease) in value of Investments		(59,878)	8,236
Proceeds from the sale of non-current assets	2c		
Other revenue	2d	<u>1,441</u>	<u>2,839</u>
		<u>(43,701)</u>	<u>19,797</u>
Total Revenue		<u>694,640</u>	<u>680,711</u>
Expenses			
Employee benefits expense		408,981	326,873
Depreciation expense	2e	8,616	13,812
Consulting and legal fees		5,659	5,477
Motor vehicle and travel		10,224	7,792
Repairs, maintenance, property expenses, rent		13,694	25,287
Postage, telephone, printing and stationery		8,757	11,886
Transfer to provisions, doubtful debts & bad debt write off		94	1,302
Purchased services		-	-
Welfare Costs		84,447	70,817
Accounting & Audit fees		12,470	2,427
Administration expenses		19,190	15,134
Program Costs		109,149	116,739
Other expenses		108	1,343
Total expenses		<u>681,389</u>	<u>598,889</u>
Surplus/(Deficit) from continuing operations	2	<u>13,251</u>	<u>81,822</u>

The above Income Statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

BALANCE SHEET**AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2008**

	Note	2008	2007
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	3	184,887	218,840
Trade receivables	4	1,834	2,188
Investments	5	109,048	18,377
Other current assets	7	7,313	13,521
Assets classified as held for sale	10	-	-
Total Current Assets		<u>303,082</u>	<u>252,926</u>
Non-current Assets			
Available-for-sale investments	6	98,062	150,863
Receivables	8	-	-
Property, plant and equipment	9	42,048	42,484
Total Non-current Assets		<u>140,110</u>	<u>193,347</u>
Total Assets		<u>443,192</u>	<u>446,273</u>
LIABILITIES			
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	11	28,330	41,073
Short-term provisions	12	39,079	43,470
Other current liabilities	13	-	-
Total Current Liabilities		<u>67,409</u>	<u>84,543</u>
Non-current Liabilities			
Interest bearing liabilities		-	-
Long-term provisions	14	2,521	1,719
Other non-current liabilities		-	-
Total Non-current Liabilities		<u>2,521</u>	<u>1,719</u>
Total Liabilities		<u>69,930</u>	<u>86,262</u>
Net Assets		<u>373,262</u>	<u>360,011</u>
EQUITY			
Accumulated funds		373,262	360,011
Asset revaluation reserve	15	-	-
Unrealised gains	15	-	-
Total Equity		<u>373,262</u>	<u>360,011</u>

The above Balance Sheet should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2008

	Note	2008	2007
Total Equity at the Beginning of the Year		360,011	278,189
Available-for-sale investments:			
Unrealised valuation gains/(losses) taken to equity			
Transferred to profit or loss on sale		_____	_____
Net income recognised directly in Equity		-	-
Profit for the Year		13,251	81,822
Total recognised income and expense for the period		_____	_____
		13,251	81,822
Total Equity at the End of the Year		<u>373,262</u>	<u>360,011</u>

The above Statement of Changes in Equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

CASH FLOW STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2008

	Note	2008	2007
Cash flows from operating activities			
Receipts from government		250,240	247,293
Service fees		115,713	67,536
Donations, bequests & trust receipts		81,390	56,268
Uniting Church Contributions		155,050	155,050
Albert Park Goodwill shop		148,801	122,388
Other Revenue		6,616	7,217
Payments to suppliers and employees		(700,570)	(581,853)
Interest received		14,736	8,722
Interest paid			
Proceeds from sale of property			
Net cash inflow from operating activities	16	<u>71,976</u>	<u>82,621</u>
Cash flows from investing activities			
Payment for property, plant and equipment	9	(8,180)	-
Payments for investments		(97,749)	(138,404)
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment			
Proceeds from sale of investments			<u>145,876</u>
Net cash outflow from investing activities		<u>(105,929)</u>	<u>7,472</u>
Cash flows from financing activities			
Proceeds from borrowings		-	-
Repayment of borrowings		-	-
Net cash inflow (outflow) from financing activities		-	-
Net (decrease)/increase in cash held		(33,953)	90,093
Cash at the beginning of the financial year		<u>218,840</u>	<u>128,747</u>
Cash at the end of the financial year	3	<u>184,887</u>	<u>218,840</u>

The above Cash Flow Statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

