

Bellbrae Annual Report for February 2017

WORSHIP

We have had a year of inspiration and variety in our services over the last twelve months and that Helen, our guest ministers and our worship team for their dedication. As always we have enjoyed the company of visitors from the Bellbrae Time Share and others from Melbourne on occasions. Our church is always a place of welcome to all who plan to come or who just wander in. We think of our church as a place of community, companionship, support and warmth. We thank Doreen for her work with making warm rungs and comfortable cushions so that we can be warm on cold mornings, and those who go up early on Sunday mornings during winter to get the heating going. We thank all those who bring morning tea, clean the church and toilets and do all the other tasks that make Bellbrae a place where we can truly call ourselves a family.

OP SHOP AND BOOK ROOM

The Op Shop and Book Room have had a wonderful year. Thanks to the willing work of a small group from Bellbrae we have been able to open over several holiday weekends and other very busy times during the year with enormous success. The shops go from strength to strength and as always we are very grateful to all those who contribute time to making the Op Shop and Book Room so successful. We thank the faithful workers from outside the church community who give so much of their time. Without them our job would be so much more difficult. We have a new volunteer with special knowledge of fabric and a love of children's toys, so we are very pleased to have her. We particularly thank the small team of workers who so tirelessly spend many hours every Tuesday afternoon doing the sorting. It is often a challenging and frustrating job as bags of rubbish continue to be dumped on occasions, but this team manages to have a lot of laughs and great fellowship. We also thank the "backstage folk" – the chaps who put up the signs on Saturdays, those who sweep the paths and make the area look tidy, those who crush boxes and take them home to their own recycle bins, those who take home washing and ironing, those who take bags of rubbish home to their own bins, those who mend jewellery at home and to Raymond Lancaster for the lend of his trailer and to those who lend a hand to load it. The list goes on. Thank you to all of you. We also acknowledge the wonderful help of Uniting Care who collect and pass on our excess goods.

SHEDS

We have been delighted with the 2 new sheds that have been placed beside the church and the Op Shop and thank John Stevens for his energy in organising these for us and for sealing them and doing other handy-man work on them. The Shed between the Op Shop and the Book Room has been a life saver since its erection. We have placed all men's clothing on the racks in it and have a wonderful wall of glass ware on one side as well. Men seem to like shopping outside, often while they wait for their wives to finish their treasure hunt inside.

ARTS TRAIL

The church shed was not only done with the need to make our kitchen a comfortable and uncluttered work place but with the needs of the Arts Trail in mind. We are run off our feet producing Devonshire teas over that weekend and need all the space we can get. The art works from our very successful participation in the Surf Coast Arts Trail in August were able to be displayed very effectively because of our professional hanging system. Thanks to John Adams, Fran Griffiths, Mike Lambkin and Maxine Flakemore for all their work leading up to the Arts Trail. Thanks also to the wonderful team of Bellbrae workers who worked all weekend managing the art display, making the teas and running the two shops. Over 300 people came through the door and we were run off our feet serving Devonshire teas. Our Taise service, on the Sunday morning before we opened our doors for the Arts Trail, was a much needed time of quiet fellowship before the second day of frantic activity. We look forward to participation in this year's Arts Trail in August.

MUSIC

One of the special features of the services at Bellbrae continues to be the small band of musicians. On some Sundays we have enjoyed a five-piece band with a recorder, piano, violin, trumpet and cornet. Our singers have really risen to the challenge of singing with such a large band and we are all enjoying the harmonising that takes place with the brass section. Our Christmas Eve service was a moving and beautiful event, as always, with the church looking beautiful in the candlelight and much joyful carol singing and music playing was enjoyed by all. The Bellbrae Ensemble was also delighted to play for the Carol Service and children's Nativity Play at Aireys Inlet in December. It was a wonderful evening with the donkey that carried Mary stealing the show.

On behalf of the congregation of Bellbrae
Carleen Thoernberg