

118TH ANNUAL REPORT

2022 – 2023



Somervell
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Members of Som Youth at the top of Rangitoto

BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS

Baptisms, weddings and funerals conducted at Somervell, taken by the minister at other venues or conducted by other ministers at other venues since the last Annual Report

Baptisms

McKayla Elizabeth McQueen Harris 25 September 2022

Weddings

Elisa & Tommy Tayler 18 February 2023

Funerals

Gwynne Urquhart 21 October 2022

Brenda Kirk-Jones 28 June 2023



Advent Wreath

SESSION REPORT

This year, session has completed the process to document the church mission and vision, and we now have five statements to describe the values of our church. These statements were written after church meetings in the Sunday service, where the members participated in workshops, to express what was important to us as a congregation, these are known as the post-it note sessions. The five statements below are now displayed on banners in the church foyer:

We are Christian. Jesus inspires our life together, teaching love, joy, peace and justice.

We are Open-minded. Faith is a journey & we are all at different places on that path. God loves you no matter what.

We are Whānau. We are all children of God. We love and respect each other, just as God loves us.

We are Spiritual. We are a church that thinks & acts but seeks to be led by God's grace & generous spirit.

We are Evolving. We look for new ways of knowing God, trusting God is always working for the good of all.

For many years now, Somervell has hosted a ministry intern and this year we carried on this tradition. We hosted Elyse Horn, a Ministry Intern from Princeton Theological Seminary, NJ, come to Somervell during the summer break for US Universities. Elyse spent 10 weeks with us from May to August. During her time with us she joined Ivan with leading worship and also delivered two very interesting sermons based on her area of focus - disability theology.

This year our outreach to the community has continued to support the Sunday Blessings, a monthly meal for the Auckland homeless run by Fiona Crummey, and support to Island Child, as well as and PSN foodbank. We are also working to assist the refugee community led by Vivienne Wilson.

One of our longest standing outreach missions is the Op Shop, which is still continuing to meet the community need, and we are constantly looking for new volunteers to join the team to deliver the amazing work keeping the church OP shop running and interacting with their clients.

The Art exhibit Waiata Manu, "bird song", which was original displayed during Covid as an online exhibition in 2021, went on tour to the Parliamentary Gallery – Te Papakura, as an exhibition which was enjoyed by MPs, staff and visitors to parliament. As the original exhibition was held online at Somervell, this version of the exhibition allowed the works to be displayed in the Te Papakura. Organised by the Art Committee Dorothy Laing Bhanabhai and Martin Lauder, the exhibition was well received.

It was great to have Rev Malcolm Gordon lead the Music Group workshop in September and bring his talent and music to the Sunday worship service.

Everyone is now very familiar with our regular updates from David Laxon, the youth leader, as he keeps a small but dedicated group of youth engaged in a variety of activities. We are blessed as a congregation to have a youth leader that has energy and dedication to keep up with our highly active youth.

During the year we appointed David Anderson as the Chair of the Kindergarten Committee. As the Kindergarten continues to recover from the significant downturn throughout Covid-19 pandemic, we are now operate in a challenging environment. David and the team, are making great progress on growing the role and the critical mass of the daily attendance, which is allowing the Kindergarten to keep on operating. This is in a sector where there are more than 300 private kindergartens that are currently in the process of closing or up for sale. The teaching team is work incredibly hard to provide a nurturing environment for our students . Uplands Kindy has a very high reputation in the local community for the centres attention to their students. The feedback from parents is overwhelmingly positive and testament to the calibre of the teaching staff and programme run.

At the end of 2022 David Ward and John Kernohan retired from Session, and at a Sunday service in September 2023, they were presented with a wooden cross made from timber from the old church, to thank them both for many decades of service. Heather Laxon joined the session during the year as we refresh the session makeup.

In 2023 we launched the new church logo and brand. We are

We give a special thanks to Christine Clark for the pastoral care, visitation and support she provides to many in the congregation.

We would like to thank the Ministry Team and Office staff: Ivan, David, Tsana, Grace, Jamie, Esther, Heather, Andrew and Tim, and the many singers who helped deliver our services this year.

At the beginning of May, Ivan informed the congregation that he has accepted an offer to move to a new role as Dean at KCML in Dunedin, and will resign as our minister at the end of the year. Ivan and Amanda are looking to relocate at the end of 2023, before the start of the teaching year at KCML. We will be sad to see Ivan and the family move on, as we have been privileged to have them here in Somervell since the start of 2020.

The Ministry Settlement Board has been formed, and the convenor Rev Kris Heale, the minister at Glendowie Presbyterian is leading the Board to begin the search for a new minister.

We look forward to the last few months of Ivan and Amanda's time with us as a parish before we farewell them at the end of the year. Both Ivan and Amanda have continued to bring their own thoughtful ministry to our congregation and community, in addition to all the extra activities that you are involved with. We are so appreciative to have you leading the church.

To all of you who have prayed, preached, taught, cared, volunteered, entertained, organised, and served.

God Bless

Craig Brown
Session Clerk

MINISTER'S REPORT

In some ways this past year has been the most normal since coming to Somervell nearly four years ago. You will recall that we arrived just after Christmas from Japan and settled in well. A few months later we were thrown into the COVID lockdowns and that lasted for two years. I am proud of how the church weathered the pandemic. While we didn't emerge unscathed, it could have been a lot worse. We embraced technology, reconfigured pastoral care, and found a way forward.

I can honestly say that my family was so well supported during that time. I can't imagine what it would have been like to be somewhere else during that time. Along the way we've grown in fits and spurts. We've added new people and widened our sense of welcome to all people. Our values on the foyer wall tell a powerful story of what we believe and who we want to be in the future, with God's help.

In a few months I'll be moving to Dunedin to join the Knox Centre faculty. This is a move that is equal parts exciting and sad. We will miss our Somervell friends but know that the relationships we have built will bridge the distance.

This report is filled with reminders that Somervell is brimming with purpose and possibility. The work we are doing young people in the community, food insecurity, Island Child, amaze me. Our times of conversation and exploration have had a profound impact on me and I thank you for trusting me with your stories.

My thanks also goes out to the members of session past and present. Eldership in the Presbyterian church is an essential part of how the church functions. We've faced many ups and downs over the past four years. I have learnt much and am humbled by your commitment to the church and its mission.

I wish you all the best for your next chapter. I am confident that it will include challenges and opportunities to grow in faith and wisdom. I will be eagerly watching to see what's next for this amazing community of faith. You will be in my prayers, always.

Grace and Peace,

Ivan

SOMERVELL STATISTICS JUNE 2023

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Members:	102	96	103	103	101
Associate Members:	46	45	46	46	42
Average Worship Attendance					
Adults:	55	48	67	64	58
Children and Youth:	6	9	14	11	25
Online:	8 live (40 each week)	10			
Average Youth Group Attendance	8				



Kiwiana beach – Christmas 2022 – with Christmas appeal items for Island Child

LIFE AND MISSION COMMITTEE

The following reports have been written by those most closely involved with each area of our church's life that the committee oversees.

PASTORAL/SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Pastoral Care comes under the umbrella of the Life and Mission committee. Life and Mission committee members during the last year have been Ricky Waters, Sharon Sweeney Lauder, Tim Watkin, Debbie Watkin, Christine Clark, Heather Laxon, Brian Rowley, David Laxon, Rev Ivan Martinez (minister). Meetings are held bi monthly during the year.

During the year the following people were welcomed into full membership: Sylvia Miller-Hardie, Sonia Wyngaard (transfer from St Heliers), Benard Ritchie, Emima Peter and son Sean, Corbett Anderson, David Anderson, Shaw Anderson, Helen and Kevin Impson, (transfer from St Davids). Ben Timothy was welcomed into Associate membership.

We were saddened to lose our long-standing, faithful member, Gwynne Urquhart from our roll this year. Gwynne Urquhart died on 21st October 2022. Gwynne played a big part in the life of Somervell. Over the years she served on Session, helped in the Op Shop, Sunday School, and other Church committees. Gwynne would often pop into the Church office to lend a hand.

We were also sad to lose member, Brenda Kirk-Jones, who died on 28th June 2023.

A visitor's book continues to be available on the entry table in the hall way on Sunday mornings and we would like to encourage visitors to write in it.

In December a morning tea was laid on for our volunteers from the Op Shop and walking group and helpers were given a goodie bag as a thank you.

During the year as covid restrictions have been lifted we as a congregation have been able to gather again and enjoyed a shared lunch in March and shared morning teas.

During the year I have continued to work alongside Ivan in visiting members of our congregation. Our intern Elyse, in her time with us, has joined us on visits. The elders continue to have a pastoral care group of people to keep an eye and keep in touch with.

Pastoral visits are always available. If there is anyone who you are aware of who is in need or would like a pastoral visit, please let myself or Ivan know.

Christine Clark
Pastoral Care Coordinator

SOMERVELL SUNDAY SCHOOL TRIPLE S REPORT

Just as with other local churches in the area, the number of children attending Sunday School at Somervell has continued to dwindle, especially post COVID. While there is typically a small collection of children and youth who continue to show up each Sunday morning, it is rarely large enough to justify running a Sunday School programme on a weekly basis. Instead, this year, Triple-S has offered sessions specific to a season, festival or event. These have sometimes pulled in rangatahi from Som-Youth or even adults from the congregation brave enough to take part.

These sessions have often been held in the chapel instead of the back rooms allowing those children who might be anxious, to move back and forth from the teaching sessions to their whanau in the church.

Sessions have included:

Christmas – December 2022

A unique 'kiwiana' version of the Christmas story that followed the festive Summer beach theme was presented to the congregation as a powerpoint pageant – created, illustrated and performed by the children of Somervell (plus a few adults) on Sunday 18th December as part of the carol service.

Cyclone Gabrielle – February 2023

Just like the silt and mud left behind after cyclone Gabrielle, the children were reminded of ancient people in Israel who had to deal with sand and dust every day. Just like Jesus who washed the disciple's feet, so were they as children of God encouraged to consider how they could tend to other's and that of their health and welfare.

Easter:

Palm Sunday – another action-rich performance by the children and youth depicting Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a donkey.



Grandparent's Day – May 28th

Valuing whanau and the role that grandparents can play in supporting their mokopuna, a teaching session was held, linked to the Sunday of Pentecost. It included stories, crafts that used fingerprints to create cards, as well as the usual collection or word-finds, cross-words and creative art work. There were 4 new children who attended.

Other celebratory children's activities were regularly embedded into the weekly church newsletter sent out by Tsana and hopefully motivated parents to consider and discuss different aspects of community life; for example, Coronation Day, Mother's Day and Matariki.

Action going forward:

As agreed to at a recent Life and Mission meeting, now post the pandemic and as a way to tend to the current children of Somervell, a Triple-S Sunday School session will be held on the first Sunday of each month; the first of which was led by the Somervell intern, Elyse Horn, on 06/08/2023.

Debbie Watkin
Triple S Co-coordinator

SOM YOUTH (Year 7-13 Youth Programme)

SomYouth has continued into its third year running with a new generation of youth and has continued to flourish.

The lack of lockdown has made consistency far easier to achieve this year and we have maintained a regular programme of games nights and other fun activities during the term. Highlights include a tramp to the top of Rangitoto and a scavenger hunt around Cornwall Park in the pouring rain.

We have branched out into service, and one Sunday night was spent preparing vegetable soup and stewing apples that would then be served by Sunday Blessings. This experience was valuable as it combined service for our neighbour with sustainability in rescuing food, and also a good chance to practice cooking skills. I'm looking for new ways to incorporate serving as part of youth group going forward, and a sausage sizzle fundraiser is on the horizon.

In July we returned to the Matariki camp which was again a great success, and although we had smaller numbers from Somervell, the camp had grown. The camp focused on the Parable of the Sower and everyone seemed to take away something from the camp, whether a practical tip to help them manage stress or another step in their faith journey.

There is an opportunity to engage with other cross denominational youth groups in the area. The first event is hosted by Kohimarama Presbyterian church and is happening at the end of the term. This should provide a good opportunity for the youth to discover other Christian young people, with the added advantage of proximity for future meet ups.

David Laxon
Som Youth Coordinator

MUSIC @ SOMERVELL

It has been a year of consolidation for music and worship at Somervell, after a long period of disruption during Covid. We now have a regular roster of singers, backed by two guitarists and three keyboard players, who provide cover on different Sundays across the month. In May we had another workshop with Malcolm Gordon and learned some new songs, which we have been introducing to the congregation. We are updating our hearing aid loop with a new system that works via Bluetooth and mobile phones. Our sound engineer has recommended a gradual move from analog to digital equipment as gear needs to be replaced, which we plan to follow.

Andrew Laxon
Music Coordinator

ISLAND CHILD CHARITABLE TRUST

Island Child 2023

Maintaining our links with the Island Child transitional housing centre in Glen Innes remains an important project for Somervell after nine years of collaboration. In the past 12 months we have done three major collections for Island Child – two winter pajamas and slippers donations, plus a beach-themed Christmas present drive.

Winter is a particularly challenging time for the Island Child whanau, as quality bedding and sleepwear can be expensive and are often lost as families move from place to place on their way to permanent housing. Somervell donated a carload of brand new PJs, socks and slippers for all ages, providing warmth and comfort for many. Twice!

With its greater capacity, Island Child was able to host 93 people during the Christmas period in 2022, nearly double the number in previous years. It was difficult to provide gifts for that many people, but as usual Somervell people came to the (Christmas) party, bringing piles of bright beach towels, swimsuits for all ages, shorts, rash shirts, jandals, goggles and beach toys to church. These were laid in a cheery beach scene made by the Triple S children, with a mural designed by Debbie Watkin. It was a real Kiwi Christmas at the beach.

Over the years Somervell people have donated cleaning products, blankets and bedding, clothing, school supplies and Christmas edibles to Island Child. There is an ongoing need but, as I said last year, it would be great to think of some new ways we could help the Island Child whanau in the next 12 months and into the future. They are a valued part of our community.

Eleanor Black
Coordinator

PRAYER CHAIN

There are 17 members of the Somervell Prayer Chain (two additional members having been added during the year).

We have had some long periods between receiving prayer requests, so praying for the Somervell whanau and their connections has not been an onerous task. We did

suggest that requests could be anonymous, but this still did not lift the number of requests. We are looking at some further changes in this next year.

In the meantime, our thanks to those who do diligently pray whenever a request is made, and email sent to the list.

If you would like to be added to our list of pray-ers please let me know.

Ricky Waters
Prayer Chain Coordinator

SERMON LAB

Sermon lab continues to be a source to delve into various perspectives on the Bible readings for the week. Every session has been a rich conversation bringing various theological food to the table to share. Especially when we talked about our human point of view on scripture, particular Bible characters of the time and its culture reinterpreting into our modern diverse culture made it more interesting to discuss. In future, we would love to see more diverse perspectives joining us to deepen our conversation even more!

Ivan Martinez
Minister

SUPPORT TO PRESBYTERIAN SUPPORT NORTHERN

Our main contribution to Presbyterian Support Northern (PSN) continues to be in the regular giving of food to the Foodbank. With the impact of extreme weather events, increased costs of living, especially for food, and flow on financial hardship for many people, these donations are greatly appreciated. We have also started supplying the Foodbank with brown paper bags with handles, which are used to package up the food parcels now that single use plastic bags are no longer available. Food is delivered to the Foodbank by a member of our congregation, Ben Timothy.

The church and especially the Op Shop continue to answer urgent, one-off calls from PSN for assistance for items such as clothing, household goods, and bedding.

Tsana Plessius
Church Administrator

SUNDAY BLESSINGS

Somervell has led the Sunday Blessings meal service once a month since June 2021.

On the last Sunday of each month, a group of volunteers help prepare and serve meals for the homeless and those in need in Auckland city.

Meals are prepared from donated food. This includes produce which is still fit to eat, but not of the quality for sale. Such rescued vegetables have formed the base for delicious soups. Donated fruit has been stewed for use in desserts as many of the guest are unable to eat hard fruit such as apples. Tsana's apple coring machine has

been of great help as have the hands that operated it to prepare litres of stewed apples.

Over the year, we have noticed demand increase as the number of guests has increased from 150 to around 170 regular guests per meal. The demand for meals spiked following the floods of early 2023 when donated toiletries and other basic necessities were provided alongside meals.

It is a privilege to be able to serve in this way to meet such a need and thanks go to all from the Somervell community who donated time, money and remembered the work of Sunday Blessings in their prayers.

Fiona Crummey
Coordinator

SOMERVELL REFUGEE MIGRANT SUPPORT GROUP

Another very busy year for our small but busy team of five supporters has passed supporting refugees settle into the Auckland community under the organization NFACT (New Settlers and Family Trust).

Our support of refugees would not have been possible without the valuable support from the Somervell Op Shop so ably managed by Janet Rowley and her band of volunteers. They have supplied us with furniture, heaters, bedding, household linens, crockery, cushions, pillows, both summer and winter clothing, baby clothes, shoes, curtains, garden tools and plants. All have been gratefully received by the ten families with greatest needs. A big thank you to Jocelyn and Dr Gordon Nicholson, Shirley Bollard, Isabella Tedcastle and the Op Shop for monetary donations which have been used to purchase food parcels, household goods not available in the Op Shop, HOP Cards, exercise books for tutoring purposes, baby items, more tools, sewing machine repairs, sewing needles and thread.

We also thank the Presbyterian Support Northern Food Bank, known as The Store, based in Dominion Road Extension, who have supplied some of our refugee families with food parcels when they have been in desperate need.

The families supported in various way over the past year have been from Pakistan, Eritrea, and Afghanistan, living across Auckland suburbs.

If anyone would like to join our team in our work, they would find it very rewarding, and would have some great friendship and learning experiences.

Vivienne Wilson
Convenor Somervell Refugee Support

WAIATA MANU REDUX

Te Papakura, The Beehive, Wellington 6th February 20th April 2023

Waiata Manu was held in Te Papakura, in the Beehive. It was the third version of the exhibition.

The kaupapa or driving motivation for the exhibition was the celebration of birds through various artforms along with raising awareness of the need to care for birds and their habitats. The inclusion of New Zealand bird stamps as an artform extended the reach of interest to philatelic groups and also explored a progression of the ways in which birds have been depicted in New Zealand.

Natasha Fernandez the curator for art in Parliament along with her team did a superb job in the presentation of the exhibits. An exhibition background playlist of waiata and birdsong, taken from the digital exhibition soundtrack was used in the exhibition space. The exhibition was opened by Damien Smith during Cyclone Gabriel. Key people were unable to travel so members of Somervell lead the Lord's prayer waiata and the waiata Hutia te rito.

- 470 viewers registered to see the exhibition. This figure does not include those who did not register or those working in the building. The staff manning the exhibition report that visitors lingered over the exhibits. Te Papakura staff themselves commented on their enjoyment of the exhibition
- The number of views to the digital YouTube exhibition increased in that time and currently stands at around 1500 views.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6lcln1KPmX8>

Full list of artists and works <https://www.somervell.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Artists-Works.pdf>

- The number of listeners to the YouTube waiata Hutia Te Rito increased significantly
- The exhibition(s) purposes aligned with the core objectives of the Presbyterian Church Aotearoa and in particular the duty of care we have for creation. This concern was also harmonious with aspects of kaitiakitanga of Te Ao Māori, and the objectives of wildlife conservation groups. The exhibition connected with a range of people and community groups including ,the Fairy Tern Trust, various bird and conservation groups, through social media, Damien Smith(MP Act), Parliamentary services, Church groups or individuals in Wellington, the various artists behind the works, viewers of the exhibition, musicians involved in the waiata, North Shore Philatelic Society, NZ Post, Te Papa National Museum, Insurance brokers Crombie Lockwood, art freighters Pack Send, and many family members and friends outside of the church.

“... Brilliant Success!” - Tasha Fernandez. (Art Curator- Parliament)



“... The exhibition has been so well received and added new energy to Parliaments Arts offering and brought new people through the door according to the Parliament Tour team.” Damien Smith

“You’ve worked so hard with this exhibition, and I appreciate all the exposure you have given. I hope you are pleased with the outcome...” Amber Smith - artist sgraffito printmaker.



Dorothy Laing
Co-Curator

MINISTRY INTERNSHIP

I was at Somervell for about 2 months and learned a lot. I appreciated everyone's kindness and hospitality as I navigated New Zealand's culture. Through my internship, I had the opportunity to theologically reflect as well as walk alongside people in moments of pastoral care. One of my growing edges was leadership in worship, people affirmed and guided me along the way. Towards the end of my time at Somervell, I was able to lead a worship service mostly unassisted. Also, I appreciated people's openness and engagement with the discussions I led around disability and the church. I appreciated hearing people's perspectives and was grateful that people took time out of their day to attend. Overall, my time as an intern at Somervell was formative and I remain most grateful for everyone's kindness and encouragement.

Elyse Horn
Intern (on placement from Princeton Seminary)

OPPORTUNITY SHOP REPORT

The Op shop has had another successful year, raising around \$23,000 for the church and charities outside the church. We have also supported the community by providing clothing and homeware to the refugee families Vivienne has brought in, and it is good to be able to give these families, who often have so little, some practical support at no cost to them.

At times we have had record daily takings in the last year, and consequently some days I have been wondering if we will have enough stock donated to the shop, but in true Christian form, more goods are donated just when they are needed.

Scarcity of volunteers remains a significant issue, and we have one new volunteer this year. Again I would like to express my huge thanks to all of you who help out, whether it is on the roster or on tidy-up Tuesday, every hour everyone donates to the shop is valuable and appreciated.

We are starting a new initiative this year, offering to open the shop to groups, in the evening, for them to have a fun night shopping and chatting together. This is utilising the shop's distinct features of being small and independent, and providing a cheap fun night out. We are gathering wedding / bridesmaid dresses and hoping to extend this to a "hen's party" option. The other great thing that happened this year is we now have a reliable eftpos machine, no more running out to the kindy gate trying to connect to the wifi.

The Op shop continues to provide unexpected treasures, laughs and great conversations, and a place for time out to browse and rest. I hope it continues to do this just as well in the coming year.

Janet Rowley
Somervell Op Shop Manager

SOMERVELL WALKING GROUP

The Somervell Walking Group met weekly in the past year to June with 13 members, many of whom walk most weeks. Walking routes are varied, but all within about 15 minutes driving time of Somervell. Thanks to David Wards most of the group can travel each week together in his van. Sometimes we just walk in the vicinity of the church. We started off 2023 in February with a trip to the Botanic Gardens in Manurewa and after our walk we had lunch together at the café there, which proved to be a great start to this calendar year. This group has formed warm friendships over walks and coffee time together in the foyer afterwards. We welcome newcomers. They quickly fit in. Inquiries to 021 366451.

John Kernohan
Leader

UPLANDS KINDERGARTEN

The 2023 year has seen both challenge and success. The start of the year saw a post-COVID enrolment decline, falling below the break-even line of approximately 18 children. By the start of the calendar year, the Kindergarten was operating at a financial loss. Years of relying on “word of mouth” advertising along with under investment in promotion could not sustain an enrolment pipeline through an approaching recession and heightened competition. Thankfully with hard efforts from the teaching staff, supported by members of the committee and agreement by Somervell to invest in marketing, this situation has turned around. The final quarter of the year not only saw enrolment numbers returning but the Kindergarten passed the April ERO review with strong praise from assessors. The coming year will see a sustained investment in promoting the kindy, strengthening of the school’ offer, refreshing of playground equipment and teaching resources and a continued focus on health, safety and well-being for both children and staff.

Marketing

In November, 2022, the Upland Kindergarten enrolment was 30% below target utilisation and no waiting list. A review and benchmarking of spend found investment of less than 0.2% or \$800 per annum. Benchmarks for education organisations show a spend of 4% to 5% as more common. The brand attributes were over 10 years old and not in line with modern thinking. In a market with heightened competition and a market with oversupply of kindergarten positions, this needed to change. A brand review was undertaken and a marketing plan developed including a one-off spend of \$11,000 for a brand refresh and launch brand and an agreement to increase the annual marketing spend to \$4,400. The plan has been well executed with statistics showing increased social media impressions, click through and lead generation. These efforts as well as teaching team networking has lifted enrolment back to 28 - 29 consistent enrolments across the week and a financial surplus.

ERO Review

The Education Review Office (ERO, Te Tari Arotake Matauranga) conducted the assessment of the kindy during May over several days. ERO’s responsibility is to evaluate the quality and performance of early learning services with reports focused

on improvement, accountability and learner success for equity and excellence. Evidential information was gathered through interviews, site inspection and documentation review. ERO assessed Uplands Kindergarten at the position of “Whakau Embedding” in each of the 3 assessment domains: 1) Outcome Indicators, 2) Learning Conditions, and 3) Organisational Conditions. This is the 3rd of 4 rungs on the assessment ladder (the 4th rung being “Sustaining”) and a major step forward from the previous assessment. The summary of findings was quite complimentary in nature:

The service commitment to bicultural and Te Tiriti based practices is evident in practice. Children experience an environment where Te Reo Maori and Tikanga practices are meaningfully woven throughout curriculum and programme. Children learn in a calm, unhurried environment where they are comfortable with the routines. They are supported by skillful teachers who promote children’s social competence and language learning opportunities well. Te Whāriki , the early childhood curriculum , is embedded throughout the curriculum and assessment practices. Teachers intentionally provide an environment that is inclusive.

The ERO assessment provided clear guidance on improvements which the teaching staff are embedding into their policies, procedures and daily operations including to:

- further develop internal evaluation processes by focusing on how improvements are impacting on identified individual and groups of children’s learning.
- make children’s languages and cultures more visible in assessment records.

Health and Safety

A greater emphasis has been placed on tracking the health and safety of both students and staff. Daily incidences have always been tracked and are now reported statistically to capture any trends emerging. Trends, actual incidences and safety improvements are now reviewed as a separate agenda item at each Upland Kindergarten committee meeting. Major risk assessments will be conducted at least twice per year with major hazards assessed for both likelihood and consequence, then ranked prioritised. The year concluded with the top ranking risk being the front door from several perspectives: not closing properly (allowing a child access to the front of the school which is still an enclosed space), closing too fast risking finger injury on windy days and being unlocked from the outside. Action is underway to investigate for solutions and this process will continue as a common practice.

Capital Improvements: Heating

During the previous ERO assessment, the lack of heating was a major point of failure and needed to be addressed to meet the ERO licensing criteria. A number of solutions were reviewed in collaboration with Somervell Church and a decision was made to invest nearly \$20,000 in a heat pump system. This was partly due to meeting the 18 degrees minimum but to also provide air cooling as the Auckland climate is warming with over 20 days per summer exceeding 25.6 degrees. The heat pump system was implemented in May and well received by teaching staff.

Financial

Uplands completed FY23 with a very disappointing financial performance of -\$1,076 in losses and well below the budget target. This near break-even position covered

wage costs, building rents and all variable costs including accounting fees, cleaning, educational resources, and depreciation. As part of the branding refresh and promotional push, marketing expenses were increased nearly 10-fold to over \$6,000. With the marketing push taking hold through March, April and May, enrolment figures have returned to well above break even and with a sustained investment in promotions the start to the FY24 year is above budget.

Team

As recognised by children, parents, ERO and the committee, the teaching staff is a source of pride and honour for Upland Kindergarten. Through a difficult time having to reverse the enrolment decline post COVID while every other local early childhood school was doing the same, Michele, Jenn, Huiping with the support of Karyn have kept the children at the forefront, creating an atmosphere of learning, warmth and care, exemplifying our Christian faith and values. The children enjoyed grandparents day, Mother's day, Christmas show, visits from St. John's Ambulance, local Auckland Fire Service and from Constable Gordon. Trips were taken to Ambury Farms, the library and the local primary schools while parents spent time with us at shared dinners and an open day in June. With reduced numbers of children, and not replacing the 4th teacher position, both Grace and Tsana regularly provide lunch cover during the week and Uplands is very thankful to them and Somervell for this kind support.

The Coming Year

The Committee will continue to meet twice a term, with a focus on meeting clear objectives of the strategic plan which include:

- To be the first choice for early childhood education for families and teachers in our area.
- To be best practice in developing strength, resilience and manakitanga (showing respect, generosity, and care for people) and whanaungatanga (shared experiences working together) – The child leaves with a strong bond between peers and their parents.
- To have a team of teachers who are warm, engaging, make learning interesting, responsive, reflective, forward thinking, embracing biculturalism, focused on improvement and living the values. And in line with this objective, to invest in their professional development and skills.
- To have a stable enrolment including a waiting list of prospective families that is maintained through all seasons through a baseload marketing spend throughout the year.
- To develop a lasting, symbiotic relationship with Somervell Church where families feel welcome in both the church and kindergarten.

Uplands will aim to consistently keep enrolment in the 29 – 31 student range through the year. As a key strategic initiative for 2024, Uplands will also explore, design, pilot and implement an extended hours offer to ease work/life pressures of Upland parents.

My continued thanks to all for their dedication, resilience and creativity in all weathers. Aku mihi ki a koutou katoa.

David L. Anderson

Committee Chairperson, Uplands Kindergarten
Faith Learning Life



Kindy Service September 2022

PLAYGROUP REPORT

Somervell Playgroup is held each Thursday morning (during term time) from 9.30am-12.00pm in the basement room next to the Op Shop. The teachers at Uplands Kindergarten are rostered on each week to run the morning and the music session with families at 10am. Each teacher (Michele, Jenn, Huiping) brings their own unique love and style of music to the group.

Tsana is always on hand to help with morning tea set up and bank the takings (gold coin donation). Thank you, Tsana.

Attendance has built back to 5 families per week (7 children) post Covid, a drop from around 10 families in 2020. The families who attend enjoy the small group size, our friendly welcome, the space, the parking, the change of equipment for children to play with each week, the teachers, the flexibility of attending and paying (more one week and none the next due to cash in the wallet). We do, however, have stiff competition from Remuera Library who draw a large crowd of children on a Thursday morning. After researching alternative days and canvassing our parent group, we made the decision to stick with Thursday mornings.

Marketing is through Uplands Kindergarten, word of mouth and social media (Neighbourly/Facebook). We estimate, on average, one child per year feeds through to Uplands from playgroup.

Michele Morrissey-Brown
Head Teacher
Uplands Kindergarten
Faith Learning Life

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

The Administration Committee of Session is charged with finance matters, supervision of non-ministry staff, all property matters including insurance and compliance, use of buildings and repairs and maintenance, and Health and Safety. Routine property matters are handled by Tsana Plessius, our Church Administrator.

The past year from July 2022 continued to be uncertain as the whole of New Zealand began to return to normalcy as much as possible including churches. Activities of the Committee were focused on supporting the reorientation of church life. While Sunday services have re-established following lockdown and routines were reestablished, many aspects of the Committee's work particularly in the Uplands Kindergarten, use of our buildings for fees, and Op Shop continued to be affected though with less disruption than the previous year.

There have been no injuries which required reporting to WorkSafe during the period. Staff are trained in the importance of recognising and addressing health and safety matters and the Committee considers Health and Safety at each regular meeting.

Once again we are especially grateful for those who have given time to weed gardens and tend the buildings and grounds. Our thanks to Jim Feist, Darryn Rae and others who have assisted including for removing trailer loads of rubbish to the transfer station. To Jim in particular we offer thanks for his efforts in reestablishing the Biblical Garden. And thanks, Jim, for the pamphlet which tells its story.

One of Somervell's important activities is the operation of the Kindy. Financially, Somervell depends very much on annual surpluses from Uplands Kindergarten. It is by far our largest single financial activity and has been affected by lockdown and then by Covid and flu in 2022. It was a difficult year for the Kindergarten. We note many Kindergartens such as ours have been closing as rolls have not increased as expected following Covid 19. While by no means the only benefit of the Kindy, the Kindy surplus this past year was well below expectations, and the previous year, but our Kindy remains an important part of Somervell's mission activity. Volunteers serve the Kindy Committee and again have assisted in the upkeep of the Kindy rooms and its facilities. We thank the staff, led by Michele, all of whom continued to provide outstanding learning and caring support to our students throughout the year while affected themselves at times. Like many other kindergartens we are going through a difficult enrolment period. We also thank the Committee, Chairman Elliott and his replacement, David Anderson, and all those who work so hard to make our Kindy a success. We are pleased to report an excellent ERO report following a visitation in May. The Committee reports a slowly increasing roll following new advertising efforts and signage.

The Administration Committee notes that the Op Shop has been able to continue due to dedicated folk. Maintaining income is increasingly difficult in spite of great effort to maintain its revenue. And the Committee commends a particularly good financial result for the report period. We give thanks for the contribution of our Op Shop and recognise that it is not solely a contribution of funding for outreach activity.

For some years members have been concerned about Auditorium heating in the winter months while the Foyer and Hall seem to be very warm with the system working well in those locations. We were also made aware of shortcomings in the

Kindergarten area by the 2022 ERO visitation and report. The Committee commissioned a mechanical engineering consultant review of the whole system including Kindy heat and sought recommendations. The report in mid-December indicated that the system when installed was more than capable of performing to expectation except for the Kindergarten room. However, the mechanical baffles which are designed to direct airflows as required to the different areas have not been properly maintained so that inadequate heat is supplied to the auditorium. At time of writing we had just received a proposal from the original supplier and installer (of some 24 years ago) to rectify the system. The consultant's report also recommended that we install heat pumps into the Kindergarten. This latter work has been completed in May at a cost of about \$28,000. Staff and students are all very happy with the result.

We are pleased to report that the building unlike a lot of others, has stood up to the many rainy months this year with no material leaks.

During the year we obtained a main building valuation for insurance purposes and our replacement (like for like) valuation went up from \$7.5 million to \$12.5 million. Our insurance premium soared accordingly. Craig Brown has done some investigation of alternatives allowed by the Presbyterian Church Property Trustees and recommendations for a more economical approach, while still approved by the Trustees, were made in a separate paper and approved by the Congregation at the meeting to approve the 2023/24 Budget in June.

The Treasurer's report is included separately, and we are indebted to Brian Rowley for continuing the role during the year.

Although we had budgeted a loss for this financial year just concluded, the outcome is quite a bit worse than expected.

The Committee once again expresses its indebtedness to the Church Administrator Tsana Plessius and to Grace Liu.

The Committee's membership changed during the 2022/23 year through the addition of David Anderson. The Convenor, John also advised of his retirement after many years in the role and Martin Lauder joined as Convenor at the end of June.

We give thanks to God for all of those both paid and voluntary who have assisted the Committee in its work during 2021 and 2022.

John Kernohan and Martin Lauder, Brian Rowley, Craig Brown, David Wards, Ivan Martinez, Elliott Kernohan, CJ McEwan. David Anderson.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Treasurer's Report for Financial Year Ended 30 June 2023

The Financial Statements (unaudited) are attached as an Appendix to the Church's Annual Report. These detail the activities of the church for financial year up to June 2023 as compared to budget. The budget approved for the year ended June 2024 is also included.

FY23 Operating Result

An operating deficit of **\$123,531** (Somervell Church and Uplands Kindergarten) has been declared for the year. This deficit is more than the **\$49,848** deficit budgeted and the prior year **\$60,069** deficit.

Major Variances vs Plan		Notes
Offering Income	-19,046	
Rental Income	16,646	
Interest Income	9,504	
Legacies and Grants	25,600	Includes 5,600 Waita manu grant
Personnel costs	12,928	No music co-ordinator
Outreach expenses	-4,172	Includes Waiata Manu NZ Parliament expenses
Depreciation Church	-12,971	
Insurance	-7,870	
Kindy Fiscal Performance	-101,076	
	-80,457	
Deficit budget	-49,848	
Deficit actual	-123,531	
Difference	-73,683	

Offering income overall was down due to the loss of some significant donors. We have new members join; however, at present offerings are below that of previous years.

Rental income was up on expectations, and this has helped service the increasing costs maintaining the building. Most property operating costs have jumped in the last year, the most significant being insurance cost. As the replacement cost of our buildings has increased significantly so too have the costs to insure our premises. Insurance costs are now over \$30,000 per annum with a large % increase also expected in the coming year due to impact of cyclones and floods.

With lower attendance at church, we have come to increasingly depend on income generated from the kindergarten operation to offset church losses. In the 2023 fiscal year the kindergarten, though paying \$34,000 in rent, have not generated any income above that rent contribution. This is due to a few factors: government funding not keeping pace with ECE wage/salary cost increases, lower kindergarten attendance numbers and children attending fewer sessions and favouring the funded 20 hours.

There has been a concerted effort to market the kindergarten more intensively, and they have great new signage and web presence. This is starting to pay good dividends with a steady increase in enrolments over the last 3 months. The July Kindergarten performance exceeded the 2024 budget for the month which, though early days, augurs well for a better result in the coming year.

FY24 Budget

A loss of **\$124,206** has been budgeted for the coming year to 30 June 2023 which will translate to a forecast \$47,000 drawn down on reserves.

	2024	
Budgeted Deficit	- 124,206	
Add back depreciation	72,168	
Add back R&M long term maintenance	30,000	R&M spend expected to be 30K, plus a \$30k contribution to long term maintenance
Less capital spend	- 25,000	Sound sytem upgrade and other capital projects
CASHFLOW IMPACT	- 47,038	

Brian Rowley
Treasurer

Profit & Loss
Somervell Presbyterian Church
For the 12 months ended 30 June 2023

	30 June 2023	30 June 2023	Var NZD	30 June 2022	30 June 2024
	ACTUAL	BUDGET		LAST YEAR	BUDGET
Income					
Offering Income					
Donations	1,605	0	1,605	2,038	996
Offering - Envelopes	9,350	7,600	1,750	7,480	9,420
Offering - Envelopes Direct Credit	120,620	142,000	-21,380	139,200	122,208
Offering - Plate / Other	4,979	6,000	-1,021	5,776	5,340
Total Offering Income	136,554	155,600	-19,046	154,494	137,964
Outreach Income					
Avalon Donations	0	0	0	300	0
Other Mission Donations	22,125	0	22,125	2,780	0
Outreach - Opportunity Shop	23,012	20,000	3,012	20,741	22,579
Outreach - Playgroup - MOE	17	1,000	-983	587	0
Total Outreach Income	45,154	21,000	24,154	24,408	22,579
Property Income					
Rental Income	98,146	81,500	16,646	65,166	97,877
Total Property Income	98,146	81,500	16,646	65,166	97,877
Sundry Income					
Dividend Income	303	300	3	303	303
Interest Income - Church	17,504	8,000	9,504	4,508	20,004
Sundry Income	15	0	15	8,174	0
Total Sundry Income	17,822	8,300	9,522	12,985	20,307
Grants	5,600		5,600		
Legacies	20,000		20,000		
Total Income	323,276	266,400	56,876	257,053	278,727
GROSS PROFIT	323,276	266,400	56,876	257,053	278,727
Less Operating Expenses					
Church Expenses					
ACC levies - Church	331	330	1	424	336
Accounting and Audit Fees	4,384	3,000	1,384	4,244	3,108
Advertising	2,226	150	2,076	120	1,344

Assembly/Conferences	148	2,000	-1,852	0	156
Bank Fees	285	150	135	114	300
Catering and Kitchen	2,298	1,500	798	1,227	1,932
Christian Education	694	1,500	-806	0	756
Computer Maintenance	894	4,000	-3,106	4,118	984
Consulting & Accounting	1,865				1,920
Entertainment	31	500	-469	388	36
General Expenses	672	1,200	-528	909	744
KiwiSaver Employer Contributions - Church	1,854	3,800	-1,946	3,873	2,088
Minister Kindergarten Fees		0	0	5,330	0
MSD Wage Subsidy - Non-Taxable Income		0	0	-15,703	0
Office Expenses	1,868	1,000	868	612	1,944
Plant Hire	920	869	51	843	948
Printing & Stationery	5,136	4,750	386	4,761	5,268
Salaries - Church Administration	60,854	60,000	854	42,977	63,936
Salaries - Ministry and Worship	89,514	102,000	-12,486	108,464	93,012
Staff Health Insurance allowance	2,844	2,156	688	2,440	2,916
Staff Training - Church	2,193	1,500	693	1,100	1,800
Superannuation - Beneficiary Fund	3,147	3,186	-39	3,063	3,240
Telephone & Internet - Church	3,311	3,303	8	3,245	3,420
Telephone & Internet - Manse	2,354	2,655	-301	2,578	2,400
Travel National	344				384
Website - Church	901	0	901	1,575	1,008
Worship costs	4,461	3,500	961	3,814	5,256
Total Church Expenses	193,528	203,049	-9,521	180,516	199,236
Outreach and Wider Church Expenses					
		16,832	124	16,294	17,460

National Church Levy	16,956				
Op Shop Expenses	1,220	1,300	-80	1,222	1,308
Other Overseas Missions	1,694			300	
Outreach Expenses	6,672	2,500	4,172	3,795	2,136
Outreach NZ Mission Contributions	24,917	6,000	18,917	5,000	5,004
Playgroup Expenses	232	250	-18	191	252
Presbytery Expenses	4,427	4,000	427	4,038	4,560
Total Outreach and Wider Church Expenses	56,118	30,882	25,236	30,841	30,720
Property Expenses					
Church Facility					
Cleaning - Church	12,905	16,500	-3,595	8,916	13,428
Depreciation - Church	59,221	46,250	12,971	41,164	59,148
Insurance - Church	26,397	19,500	6,897	16,339	32,316
Light, Power, Heating - Church	10,910	8,000	2,910	6,506	11,724
Rates - Church	2,584	2,100	484	2,043	2,556
Repairs and Maintenance - Church	60,000	60,000	0	27,152	60,000
Security - Church	4,646	4,500	146	4,720	4,800
Total Church Facility	176,663	156,850	19,813	106,839	183,972
Manse					
Depreciation - Manse	13,014	13,500	-486	14,466	13,020
Housing Allowance	15	0	15	-10	0
Insurance - Manse	2,939	1,966	973	1,890	3,588
Light, Power, Heating - Manse	2,578	0	2,578	1,102	0
Rates - Manse	(1,325)	0	-1,325	-24	0
Repairs and Maintenance - Manse	2,201	10,000	-7,799	43,081	2,400
Total Manse	19,421	25,466	-6,045	60,505	19,008
Total Property Expenses	196,084	182,316	13,768	167,344	202,980
Total Operating Expenses	445,730	416,247	29,483	378,701	432,936
OPERATING PROFIT	-122,454	-149,847	27,393	-121,648	-154,209
Non-operating Income					
Kindy Result	-1,076	100,000	-101,076	61,580	30,004
Total Non-operating Income	-1,076	100,000	-101,076	61,580	30,004

Non-operating Expenses					
Interest and Tax					
Interest Expense	1	1	0	1	1
Total Interest and Tax	1	1	0	1	1
Total Non-operating Expenses	1	1	0	1	1
NET PROFIT	-123,531	-49,848	-73,683	-60,069	-124,206

Balance Sheet
Somervell Presbyterian Church
As at 30 June 2023

	30 Jun 2023	30 Jun 2022
Assets		
Bank		
ANZ - 00	18,460.39	\$17,317.81
ANZ - 03	3,770.55	\$1,920.29
ASB - Uplands	2,740.07	\$672.40
Kindy - 50		\$0.86
Total Bank	\$24,971.01	\$19,911.36
Current Assets		
Accounts Receivable - Church	\$22,245.54	\$4,399.29
less Provision for Doubtful Debts	-\$500.00	-\$500.00
ECE Funding Due	24,088.74	\$195.80
Fees Due - Kindy	\$0.00	\$13,067.99
Insurance Pre-paid	2,528.60	\$1,521.96
Petty Cash	163.60	\$326.60
Prepayments	518.86	\$629.79
Total Current Assets	\$49,045.34	\$19,641.43
Fixed Assets		
Accumulated Depreciation on Fittings and Equipment - Church	(99,198.80)	-\$97,162.30
Accumulated Depreciation on Organ	(128,430.65)	-\$128,225.98
Buildings - Church	3,001,561.30	\$2,994,661.30
Less Accumulated Depreciation on Buildings - Church	165,465.52	-\$131,859.51
Buildings - Manse	55,397.37	\$165,465.52
Less Accumulated Depreciation on Buildings - Manse	45,861.87	-\$30,912.30
Computer Equipment - Church	110,318.12	\$30,582.37
Less Accumulated Depreciation on Computer Equipment	82,810.17	-\$18,225.81
Equipment and Fittings - Manse	(177,555.69)	\$45,861.87
Less Accumulated Depreciation on Equipment and Fittings - Manse	(41,230.47)	-\$37,662.25
Fittings and Equipment - Church	(29,509.50)	\$105,043.12
Fixed Assets - Kindergarten	(40,357.93)	\$61,604.17
Less Accumulated Depreciation on Fixed Assets - Kindy	(35,296.67)	-\$31,874.47
Organ	129,053.91	\$129,053.91
Total Fixed Assets	\$3,038,888.55	\$3,056,349.64
Non-current Assets		
PIF Kindy	245,000.00	\$245,000.00
Presbyterian Investment Fund	199,088.96	\$267,042.67
Total Non-current Assets	\$444,088.96	\$512,042.67
Total Assets	\$3,556,993.86	\$3,607,945.10
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable -Church	47,955.03	\$6,202.65
Accruals	4,408.59	\$2,897.55
Avalon - Payable	\$0.00	\$355.57
Employee Benefits	38,412.78	\$28,877.38
GST - Church	(4,011.17)	\$489.04
Long Term Maintenance Provision	16,179.32	
Ministry Fund	4,136.44	\$4,136.44
PAYE Payable	10,479.14	\$9,501.25
Special Reserves payable	\$11,474.10	\$5,863.51
Wages Deductions Payable	447.24	
Wages Payable - Payroll	18,788.50	\$17,363.57
Total Current Liabilities	\$148,269.97	\$75,686.96
Non-Current Liabilities		
Accumulated Funds - Church	1,846,816.72	\$1,990,350.97
New Church Pledges	1,440,417.44	\$1,440,417.44
Reserves - Centennial Fund	89,228.66	\$89,228.66
Reserves - Legacy	20,000.00	
Reserves - Outreach	11,743.04	\$11,743.04
Reserves - Youth Fund	518.03	\$518.03
Total Non-Current Liabilities	\$3,408,723.89	\$3,532,258.14
Total Liabilities	\$3,556,993.86	\$3,607,945.10
Net Assets	\$0.00	\$0.00
Equity		
Current Year Earnings	-\$123,534.25	-\$60,069.11
Retained Earnings	\$123,534.25	\$60,069.11
Total Equity	\$0.00	\$0.00

Cash Flows from Operating Activities

Cash was received from:	2023	2022
Donations, fundraising and other similar receipts	184279	208853
Fees, subscriptions and other receipts from members		0
Receipts from providing goods or services	452875	520117
Interest, dividends and other investment receipts	17821	4811
Net GST	-1120	-205

Cash was applied to:

Payments to suppliers and employees	650724	701657
Donations or grants paid	33283	-864

Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities

-30152 32783

Cash flows from Investing and Financing Activities

Cash was received from:

Receipts from the sale of property, plant and equipment*		
Receipts from the sale of investments	67954	0

Cash was applied to:

Payments to acquire property, plant and equipment	32905	9403
Payments to purchase investments (PIF movements)	0	89469

Net Cash Flows from Investing and Financing Activities

35049 -98872

Net Increase / (Decrease) in Cash

4897 -66089

Opening Cash

20238 74053

Closing Cash

25135 20238