

Belgrave Heights Convention Annual Report 2022

As a convention we exist to inspire and equip Christians to love and live for Christ in this world. Our **Vision** is to see the spiritual renewal of God's people for His mission in the world. Our **Mission** is to develop spiritually mature Christians, whose faith and practice is anchored in the Bible, through the teaching and practical application of God's Word.

The year 2022 started with a sense of uncertainty as communities were still under various restrictions due to the Covid virus. Most of these were finally lifted on 21 April, 2022 though there were some on-going ones still in effect. For a ministry that conducts conventions, camps and retreats there was a need to constantly pivot and adapt through the many changing conditions. None of what was accomplished in 2022 would have been possible without the wonderful work of the board, staff and many volunteers who coped with the challenges of the year.



We continue to recognise that the 'major core' and strength of our ministry is closely linked to securing the best possible speakers who can model expository Bible teaching and bring relevant application and challenge to our daily discipleship. This Annual Report demonstrates yet again that God continues to bless and encourage the mission of BHC. We are reminded, *'Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding, in all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct paths.'* Proverbs 3:5-6. Let these words continue to encourage us all.

BHC Board Chairman Report

The Board has continued its role in having oversight and watching our legal responsibilities under the ACNC, and in the areas of environmental compliance, Taxation, Workplace health and safety, Privacy, Fund raising processes, Consumer protection legislation etc. Checklists including the ATO Self Governance Check List are useful in this process of review. This frees up our Ministry Committee to focus on the ministry and ministries of the wider Convention.

We continue to be accredited with the Christian Management Australia (CMA) Standards Council. This means we are able to be held accountable to changing requirements and standards within the Christian community and compliance with community standards.

We are blessed by the committed and tireless work of our CEO, Geoff Gawler and staff. We thank him for the way he approaches this ministry with enthusiasm and care. The work of the Convention is varied and demanding, and Geoff does an excellent job in tying all the different requirements and pieces together. A major area for consideration is the structure and staffing roles that will be required, not just for current ministry, but also for anticipated growth and use of our facilities with the completion of the new Accommodation block. The Board is considering these opportunities but also with a responsible eye on the practicalities and finances.

Andrew Fisher was appointed as Ministry Manager from 1 August 2022 to take a load off Geoff Gawler (CEO) and will also be involved in promoting the Convention to churches and pastors around Melbourne and Victoria.

It is incredible to have property and facilities that is so close to the city of Melbourne. We are very grateful to have Tony Evans as our Project Manager and, together with the Property Committee, we have been blessed to have different people with outstanding gifts and abilities to lead the Convention through our new accommodation project.

We continue to grow our team of willing volunteers, who help in a multitude of ways, and we give thanks for each one of them. We are conscious of how much of our ministry is enabled through the work of volunteers, much of it unseen. Thankyou.

It continues to be a very great privilege to be able to serve in the role of Chairman for the Convention and its ministries. The Convention continues to major on and have a significant ministry for the faithful preaching and exposition of God's word for the encouragement and building up of God's people in Melbourne and Victoria particularly, but also a much wider reach across the world due to the move to on-line presentations and streaming.

Richard Coombs – Chairman on behalf of the Board

BHC CEO Report

The year to September 2022 marks my twelfth year as CEO. The year started with the final Covid lockdowns, and the rest of the year saw us working out what post lockdown normal looked like. External bookings have recovered slowly with none of the occasional national big events returning as yet.

There were many staff changes and new staff positions that started in 2022.

On the property, the accommodation project continued through the year with progress slowed at times due to supply issues and lack of funds with an acceleration at the end of the period with the availability of the Baptist Financial Services loan. Work was done on some our rental properties and to the Southern Amenities block, which was a credit to all our volunteers.



The number of property volunteers has increased as have the office volunteers. Jane Rhyder has taken the position of compliance officer and Gill Williams will assist with volunteer administration.

We continue to be accredited with the CMA Standards Council.

The plans for 2023 include: Governance, Ongoing review of staffing as the building project moves to completion and operations commence. The ramp up of promotion activities and the launch of new conventions. Tony Evans will continue to manage the Accommodation project to completion, late 2023.

On the Financial side, our final target for the public campaign for the Accommodation Project is our biggest challenge due to the timing required as construction proceeds more quickly.

Again, I thank you again for the opportunity to serve as CEO. It is great to be part of the many teams which make the ministry possible.

Geoff Gawler, CEO

Ministry Reports

Summer 2020-21

The Summer Convention was able to be held on-site but still under restrictions because of Covid. For this reason, the seating was sparse, and masks had to be worn, but we were grateful to be together. The theme of the Convention was 'Foundations'.

We were grateful to have Michael Jensen (Sydney) who was able to speak from Romans 12-16 but had to record his last two messages because of catching Covid while the Convention was on. Three younger speakers preached twice each – Adam Ch'ng (Cross and Crown), Nick Coombs (City on a Hill), and Akhil Gardner (Redemption). The Global Missions meeting speaker was Bernie Power from Interserve and MST.

Three afternoon seminars were held as well as an additional one for the HopeBuilders project. Mission spots were available at afternoon and evening meetings, and these were filled by a number of various Mission agencies by a mixture of video and in person. All these messages were streamed and broadcast on-line.



Easter 2022

With the lifting of Covid restrictions we were able to have the Easter Convention on-site. There were on-site restrictions such as pre-registration required, and some social distancing required for seating. The theme of the Convention was 'Heroes and Hope'.

Originally, Don Carson (USA) was going to be one of our main speakers but had to withdraw in late February because of illness. After contacting several potential replacement speakers, we were grateful to have David Robertson (Sydney) come and speak from Romans 8, at late notice. Guy Mason (City on a Hill) was the other speaker and his texts were from the Old Testament book of Judges.



Barry Bornemann (Wycliffe Bible Translators) spoke at the Global Missions meeting. Three seminars were held and Mission spots were again available and filled by people in person and by video.

Our thanks go to the enormous team of helpers who assisted with Preschool Program, Primary Program (OAC Ministries), Youth Program (Capernwray), Young Adults, Music Team led by Jeff Calaway, Bookstore, Seminars, Kiosk and Café, Mission Spots, Mission representatives, Prayer Team, the Grounds and Office team, Phil Abbott who provides our excellent sound and visual services for our Conventions and the media team who were responsible for the live streaming. We are so thankful to God for the way in which the body of Christ have served to enable Easter 2022 to be used by God in the lifting up of the name of Jesus Christ!

Richard Coombs
Summer / Easter Convention Chair.

VCYC 2022

One Night Event(s):



We started the year with the decision not to run a ONE in the first term. With covid uncertainty still around and some hesitation for meeting, we delayed. This also enabled the newish team to find its feet with planning for the convention.

We returned to running a ONE in Term 4 – we were hosted by Holy Trinity Doncaster. The event was a great encouragement after a long break of ONEs (our first one since Term 1 2020). It was really well attended with several new churches and over 280 present. This put our host church at its seating capacity.

Convention: May 13th-15th



VCYC returned to a full weekend convention after the one-day convention of 2021. It was the biggest attendance for a VCYC event in over 10 years, with 33 churches and just over 580 present. This included several new churches. This growth was particularly encouraging as lots of the new churches were recruited by existing churches that find the ministry a benefit for them and want others to benefit from VCYC too. Ed Surrey from WA returned and preach on Daniel. He was well received and a great encouragement to us.

While the attendance was encouraging, the growth did stretch our

resources on every level. We had 52 volunteers, a significant drop from the 78 in 2019 (our last full weekend convention). This also stretched our accommodation and catering resources. For the first time we also used two off-site accommodation options (Camp Belgrave and Mt Morton Lodge). While this was a great help for the number of youth and leaders we could put in beds, it did have some challenges. Bring on the new accommodation building!

I am thankful for the hard-working VCYC team and pray that there will be continued zeal for large meetings that unite youth ministries in the Gospel.

Andrew Wort
Chair

Men's Convention

By the time the Men's Convention came around in May, some people were still hesitant in meeting together in large groups, as different COVID virus strains were still spreading in the community. We also had the Federal election, which was held on the Saturday of the Convention. We took all steps to make men aware of this and advertised the nearest polling booth to the Convention grounds, which some men took advantage of.

In spite of this we still had about 450 men attend on the Friday night and Saturday, which was slightly down from pre COVID numbers. However, an encouragement was a large number of men attending for the first time, which included a younger generation of men.

The theme for the Convention was 'Stand Firm' and our 2 main speakers, Andrew Grills, City On A Hill Geelong and Ben Pfahlert, National Director of Ministry Training and Strategy, spoke on Daniel and Elijah and on how these man stood firm in their faith. Andrew and Ben gave us some great examples of how we can also stand firm. Both were very well received. Along with Andrew and Ben, Mike Baird, ex- premier of NSW, gave the keynote speech on the Friday night, sharing especially about challenges he had been confronted with to stand firm, especially in public life.

Andrew and Ben both lead seminars and were joined by Brett and Kate Ryan from Focus on the Family. All seminars were well received. Some great feedback with regard to seminars included ideas from some of the younger men for topics for 2023, some of which we are planning to incorporate.



Music for the Convention on both the Friday Night and Saturday was organised by Joel Creek and involved some of his muso's friends from City On A Hill, East. Again, Tim Grant did a great job as MC. In general, feedback with regard to the Convention was very positive.

I have enjoyed and received much blessing attending and viewing Men's Convention over the past 25 years. I have also enjoyed the opportunity of being on the Men's Convention Committee over the last 6 years helping to steer and guide the Men's Convention into the future.

Tony Burgum
Chair

Women's Convention

We held our convention In the Image of Our Creator, on Sat October 8th, 2022. It was exciting to meet in person again after 3 years. A big thankyou especially to all our volunteers and office staff who made the day run smoothly.



Our Bible teacher for the day was Erica Hamence, Associate Minister at St Barnabas Broadway in Sydney. She spoke from Genesis 1 about what it means to be made "In the Image of our Creator", and from Colossians 3 about living "In the Image of Christ". We were encouraged to understand that we are made and loved by God and that our goal is to become more Christlike. We were exhorted as women to be active in the church.

Our second speaker was Safina Stewart, who through storytelling and art, testified to God's love and grace in her own life as an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander woman artist made in God's image. We had a variety of electives that helped us to apply our main teaching with a diversity of leadership. It was encouraging to see that women of all ages, stages, cultures and denominations attended convention. There was a significant shift of demographic from past conventions. We had over 200 people at convention in 2022. We would have liked more, but as with many events this first year post covid, numbers were not as expected. We were encouraged however, that there were many first timers. Our intention is to now establish partners in different denominations and in regional areas - women not necessarily on committee but who would be supported throughout the year to promote convention.

It was clear both from feedback this year and the high number of women who attended the creative and reflective electives, that this is something desired and helpful for our women. To move teaching from the head to heart, and to support women to grow in spiritual disciplines. We intend to make more of the Friday evening before convention, and to provide more electives which focus on the reflective/creative processing of the teaching received on the day.

I give thanks to God for the women's convention team. Our committee was smaller this year but worked well to host our first in person convention in three years.

Beck Miller
Chair

50s+ Getaway

The Belgrave Heights 50s+ Getaway (Seniors Convention) was held on 11-13 November 2022.

The committee had secured Bill Brown as speaker for 2020 and 2021 which did not go ahead and he was our speaker in 2022. His four messages from Luke were on the theme "Who do you say I am?". In addition the program included three seminars – Akhil Gardner, Influencing the next generation, David Price presented a book review and discussion, "The Art of Dying: Living Fully Into the Life to Come" by Rob Mall, and Paul Arnott, Using your retirement productively.



The total number attending was 52. The joint impact of a young event and the Covid pause means that we have work to do to build momentum for the 50s+ Getaway.

Geoff Gawler
Chair

Seniors Retreat

Seniors Retreat – 2-6 May 2022. The speaker for 2022 was Gary Lockyer who spoke on Resources for Life's Crises. There was a total attendance of about 20 after several last-minute cancellations. The week ran well to an established format with the feedback being very positive.

Sue Gawler has been regularly contacting those who attended as this seems to be successful in keeping contact and maintaining interest in attending next time.

The next Seniors Retreat will be held on 1-5 May 2023. The speaker is Bruce Bickerdike who will speak from 1 John - Being Transformed by God's Love.

Geoff Gawler
Chair

Songs of Praise

After some deliberation post Covid, SoP 2022 was held on the Sunday afternoon of the Women's Convention weekend. Attendance was around 440. Although fewer than the previous SoP (held in 2019) enthusiasm was not lacking and the feedback very encouraging.

Our theme was Resurrection, and the guest artists were the Evans family and the Couriers. Both were very well received.

Sally Minett
Chair



Property Report

2022 Projects

In 2022 we received another small grant from the Melbourne Water Stream frontage program to do clean-up work on German Creek, which was to engage a contractor to supplement the work already done by BHC. This program has been going for several years with good results.

We continued to oversee an extensive planting program during 2022, with privacy and screen planting being done. A nature trail has been designed around the property for people to use as a quiet, reflective time. The local nursery has been very supportive and have been able to advise on plants and obtain them for planting. Our rental properties had several minor projects undertaken to improve and maintain them.

General maintenance works were carried out at the Diamond Valley campsite including drainage improvements. We upgraded the front porch bedroom in the property's managers house to make it more liveable. Other repairs and painting were also carried out on the house. In our Southern Amenities Block a new bathroom and shower facilities have been installed along with painting and tiling works.

Following the most recent arborist's report a few trees were deemed to be dangerous and have been removed. A lot of tree removal was done around the oval, and surplus fill placed on the oval area. This work was restricted due to wet weather and will be completed when the site dries out.

Major Development Project

An important activity of the Property Committee has been to provide support and guidance to our Project Manager, Tony Evans, who attends the fortnightly meetings. Good progress has been made on the construction of both the accommodation and dining facility, with Tony managing all of the onsite contractors effectively during the challenging times of COVID restrictions, material shortages and lack of finance



Both dining and accommodation buildings have the ground floor and first floor walls done. Trusses have been installed in the dining area with the roof scheduled for late October. Windows have been installed in the dining and ground floor accommodation buildings. The exterior colours have been chosen with the dining area to be rendered and painted in October.

MMM manufactured our steel roof trusses, and these were assembled on site by our volunteers. Jim Finger is arranging further supply of windows, bathroom furniture and other items from China, with another shipment due in early 2023.

Our volunteers have helped Tony with the installation of retaining walls and other associated construction activity. Security on the site has been strengthened with the installation of cameras in strategic locations to help prevent theft of materials.

The construction loan with Baptist Financial Services is in place to enable construction to proceed on multiple fronts without being restricted by finances.

The Finance Committee is continuing to source funds through loans and donations, both large and small.

During 2021/2022 a good number of projects were completed largely due to the skill of our staff and the generosity of our volunteers. We need God's continued guidance in 2023 as we continue with construction of the major accommodation project. We need prayer and wisdom to ensure that work can proceed to completion on time and within budget, to ensure that the best possible facility can be completed to further develop God's work at Belgrave Heights.

David Webb
Chair

FINANCE

INCOME STATEMENT	TOTAL
Ministry income	\$981,367
Property income	\$314,427
Other income	\$30,128
Total Revenue	\$1,325,922
Ministry expenses	\$136,845
Property expenses	\$357,681
Administration overheads	\$140,238
Operating Expenses	\$634,764
Operating Result	\$691,158
Depreciation	\$91,537
Interest expense	\$0
Employee leave provisions	\$9,669
Subtotal	\$101,206
Property revaluation	\$3,311,774
NET INCOME	\$3,901,726

BALANCE SHEET

Assets	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$124,073
Trade and other receivable	\$105,673
Other current assets	\$97,215
Investments	\$0

Property plant and equipment	\$13,242,236
Total Assets	\$13,569,197
Liabilities	
Trade and other payables	\$396,416
Customer deposits	\$29,698
Employee provisions	\$61,707
Borrowings – member loans	\$265,379
Borrowings – project loans	\$950,000
Interest bearing loans	\$0
Total Liabilities	\$1,703,200
EQUITY	\$11,865,997