



Parramatta
Mission



NEW BEGINNINGS

ANNUAL REVIEW
2021 - 2022



**uniting
church**
in Australia,
Synod of NSW & ACT

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About us

Our Vision

“A Community Transforming Lives”

Our Mission

Ministry: To live out the gospel of Jesus Christ through worship, evangelism and caring for one another.

Recovery and Hope: To transform lives by building resilience and capacity in members of our community subject to mental illness and homelessness.

Hospitality: To provide a broad and inclusive range of hospitality services across the community of Western Sydney.

Sustainability: To develop strong organisational capacity through a committed workforce, broad community support and a diverse funding base, and to honour Parramatta Mission's responsibilities for economic, social and environmental sustainability.

Our Values

Grace: We seek to be gracious to our neighbour.

Inclusion: We are welcoming to all people and invite participation.

Dignity: Everyone is of infinite worth and has a dignity which cannot be taken away from them.

Faith and Hope: People's lives can be transformed by compassion and be given both meaning and hope.

01

Chairperson's Report

Parramatta Mission continued its transformational journey during 2021/22, both in its congregational life and in its community services. It is significant that the Mission continued to reinvent itself at a time when it was celebrating its 200th anniversary on the site at Paramatta, and when its Leigh Fijian and Westmead congregations were each celebrating their 30th anniversaries.

Community Services

As reported in last year's annual review, following a decision of the congregations, the Mission's government funded community services, conducted at various locations within the State, were transferred to Uniting with effect on 30 June 2021. The reporting year accordingly dawned on the scaled down "new" Paramatta Mission, centred on the Parramatta LGA.

Meals Plus remained in operation at our Fellowship Centre in Parramatta. We continued to put together a consortium of partners to ensure that the clients of Meals Plus could receive not only breakfast and lunch, but provision of food parcels, access to showers and laundry, legal advice, assistance with housing, information from Centrelink, vaccinations, haircuts and other support.

Paul Moussa's dedicated leadership is inspirational and corporate partners and volunteers were essential to its operation. Due to COVID, meal provision continued to be by way of take away containers. Bula Feeding Ministry, an activity of the Leigh Fijian congregation, provided meals and listening ear for people at Blacktown.

Wesley Apartments continued to provide accommodation directly across the road from The Children's Hospital at Westmead for families with children receiving treatment at the hospital.



Also, at Westmead, 175 Hotel, under the able leadership of Cameron Westman, continued to provide "hospitality with heart", though its operations were seriously impacted by COVID. Bookings were substantially down, but the hotel gave valuable service in providing accommodation near Westmead Hospital for medical staff required to isolate.

In establishing the "new" Parramatta Mission, Mark Newton and the executive team implemented changed administrative arrangements, which included outsourcing many of the corporate functions to the Synod Office of the Uniting Church, an operation that is providing a valuable pilot program that may be rolled out to other parish missions of the Uniting Church.

We are all grateful to Lyall Weaver, the long serving General Manager of Finance and Corporate Services, who has steered us through complex financial adjustments.

With the successful completion of the work of the Implementation Board in overseeing the transfer of operations to Uniting, it was renamed the Paramatta Mission Board. Consistent with the aim of Synod to bring uniform governance standards to parish missions, the Mission Council adopted a new model constitution for its public benevolent activities, now called Parramatta Mission Community Services (PMCS).

Governance responsibility for PMCS was undertaken by the Parramatta Mission Board, which also had delegated responsibility for finance and property matters. These latter functions reverted to the Mission Council on 30 June 2022.

On the same day, Paul Linossier's very professional tenure as Chair of the Board came to an end. We are grateful that Paul agreed to stay on as a member of the Audit, Finance and Risk Committee. We are also fortunate that Bhavya Nantha, Deputy CFO of Uniting, agreed to assume the role of Chair of that committee, which will provide support to both the Mission Council and the Board.

To enhance governance and financial accountability and transparency, the Mission established separate ABNs: one for the congregations, and one for PMCS.



Congregations

As important as the community services and governance of Parramatta Mission are, the heart of the Mission is its worshipping congregations, alive in the Holy Spirit.

The activities of Leigh Memorial, Leigh Fijian and Westmead congregations are reported separately, and I commend a review of those reports. Of course, a pervasive feature of worship was the online "Zoom" service. While this format was undertaken of necessity, it actually enabled many to attend services who, for mobility or other reasons, could not have physically attended a service.

During the reporting year the congregations commenced a process of prayerful discernment as to whether they would join together with Northmead and Parramatta Centenary congregations to form a single congregational entity, provisionally called the Parramatta City Uniting Church (PCUC).

The Leigh Fijian congregation also embraced this discernment. Enthusiasm began to build as members of the existing congregations met one another at shared activities and combined church services, and started to appreciate the possibilities and opportunities that may be in store for the PCUC. This process was led by a joint committee known as the Vision and Strategy Action Group.

Congregational leaders of each of the congregations (including Northmead/Centenary) came together monthly as the Combined Congregational Leaders Meeting to make decisions about congregational matters on behalf of the Mission Council.

The PCUC discernment period brought together Rev Vladimir Korotkov and Rev Suzanne Stanton, in supply (temporary) ministries at the Mission, with Rev Dr Rhonda White in supply at Centenary and Rev Niall Reid at Northmead. They formed a Transitional Ministry Team. Rev Stanton's ministry concluded in December 2001. Suzanne made a substantial impact on our congregations even though, in this time of COVID, most of her contribution was online. Rhonda concluded her supply ministry in February 2022 and Niall retired in April 2022. We are grateful for their contributions to the formation of the PCUC. Rev John Barr and Pastor Fil Kamotu joined the Transition Ministry Team on a temporary basis, as we commenced the process for seeking a Lead Minister. We had recognised the need to identify that person first, and to then build a ministry team with complementary gifts. Pastor Sarah Bishop continued as chaplain for The Children's Hospital at Westmead.

As we look expectantly towards the future, we also remember many loyal members of the congregations who passed way during the year, including Olive Wright, Bruce Streatfield, Coral Norris, Andriu Rogoimuri and Jean Mitchell.



Our properties

A design excellence competition concluded for a building to replace the Fellowship Centre next to the Leigh Memorial Church. The winning design for the new centre, to be called the Gathering Place, was submitted by architects Durbach Block Jaggars. It was designed to be recognised as a distinct architectural statement, set apart from the growing cluster of glass towered commercial buildings in Parramatta CBD. Its innovative design will present a soft silhouette, reminiscent of a banksia pod, and will include a rooftop chapel and reflective garden. The Gathering Place will have a human scale and will be a welcoming, inclusive place where the people of Parramatta can meet, on a site used by First Peoples for that purpose since well before European settlement.

Development of the building, and refurbishment of the historic adjoining church, will be possible if the Uniting Church is able to reach an agreed position with Parramatta Council to compensate for the loss of development potential of the site resulting from the Civic Link, a pedestrian precinct planned to join Parramatta Square with the Powerhouse Museum on the river. From 30 June 2022, responsibility for the development was transferred to Synod, though the Mission will be represented on the Development Control Group.



In order to repair its balance sheet, and secure its ongoing financial sustainability, Parramatta Mission made the decision to sell a number of properties. One such property was a heritage house constructed in the late 1870s, known as 'Ellengowan', opposite the Parramatta River in George Street. This had been purchased by the Uniting Church in 1973 and was used by the Mission for many years as the base for Lifeline Western Sydney. We were very pleased that the property will continue to be used for God's purposes, having been purchased by the Greek Orthodox Church.

**by God's grace,
David Norris
Chairperson, Parramatta Mission Council**

Executive GM's Report

I am writing this Report to supplement the report of David Norris, current Chair of the Parramatta Mission (PM) Board. Another change from the prior year's report is to note my changed title to that of Executive General Manger, this took place in July 2021 as part of the restructure following the major changes that took place at the end of the prior year.

This year has been a year of very significant activity as we have consolidated the services and corporate infrastructure of PM following the divestment of our government funded services on 30 June 2021.

During the year we have realigned our activities with those of the congregations and repaired the disconnection that had become apparent between the congregational life of PM and the services life.

We have "right-sized" the administration and become closer to our colleagues in Synod who now provide most of our corporate support. This has included the renewal of our management and teams with some significant departures and appointments.

We have reviewed our service offerings to ensure that we are doing all we can to maximise their efficiency and effectiveness; this has included our fundraising and volunteer coordination activities in support of our Meals Plus service, with new team members in both functions. In Meals Plus we have implemented the consortium model bringing partnerships and cooperation, leveraging these benefits for the welfare of our clients.



At 175 Hotel the external review has enabled us to develop a program of operational enhancements, whilst demonstrating the strong performance of the service, beyond that of its competitors, during the challenges of the pandemic.

On the financial front, we have undertaken the work to repair the balance sheet, including some significant property sales and achieved agreement as to the use of the sales proceeds. We have re-oriented the accounts of PM so as to create two separate Australian Business Numbers (ABNs) to bring clarity and transparency to the finances of both the congregational life on the one hand and the services life on the other, whilst being able to consolidate the reports to provide a "whole of PM" picture.



We achieved an annual financial result favorable to budget, and the annual audit found no issues of concern, despite the complexity of the process, given the significant transactions flowing through the accounts this year. The Accounts section contained within this Annual Review gives testimony to the significant adjustments.

In the background we have made preparations for the major capital developments that offer the real potential for renewal and re-birth at the heart of the new Parramatta city. This will involve a new working relationship in the coming year where PM becomes the client of the Synod governed Development Control Group who will deliver the project to be returned to the beneficial stewardship of the PM Council at completion.

In short, we have prepared PM for the next chapter of its journey of worship, witness and service, ready for the incoming lead minister to work among the congregations to bring renewal and vitality. We have provided continuity and stability during a period of discernment which has been ongoing, as discussions with our friends at Northmead and Centenary churches continue regarding the possibility of a combined future.

All of the above has been achieved against the uncertainty of the pandemic bringing anxiety and disruption to clients and services alike and impacting our revenue streams. It has also been achieved across a geographic footprint in which our two major service locations at Macquarie Street, Parramatta and Hawkesbury Road at Westmead have been severely impacted by the construction of light rail, with its noise, dust and access/logistical consequences.

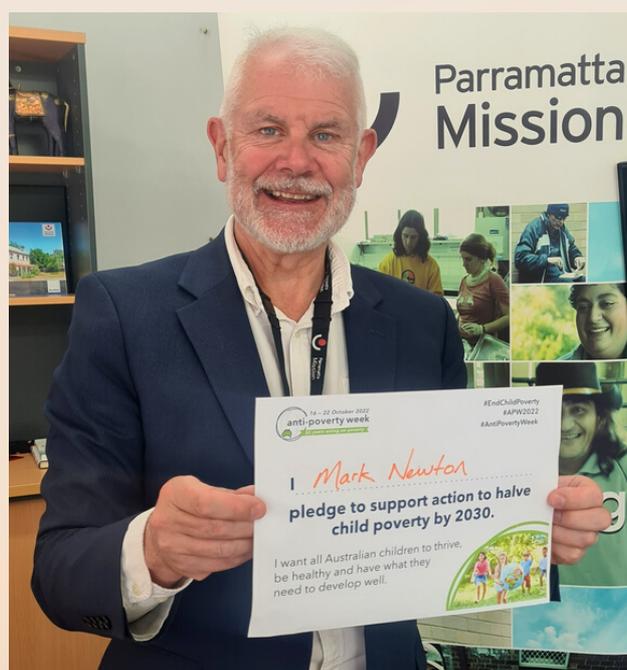
As a closing comment I note that at the end of June 2022 Paul Linossier stood down as Chair of the Board and I would like to express my gratitude for Paul's professionalism and support for me in my role over the last two years.

I commend the Annual Review as evidence of the continuing progress of the organisation and look forward to the continuing journey ahead.

“

It has been a period of very significant change for PM with many challenges overcome, laying the foundations for the next chapter of this amazing organisation, doing God's work in our place and time.

”



Mark Newton
Executive General Manager

Leigh Memorial Congregation

During the 2021-22 year, COVID caused additional lockdowns, the suspension of some programs, inc. Open Church, and various challenges for the congregation. However, a proactive pastoral care network established in 2020, input from the transitional ministry team and meaningful Zoom connections, enabled a prayer chain, worship and additional support to continue despite physical separations and other limitations. Attendance also prevailed in the face of surrounding Light Rail and Parramatta Square construction projects. During the period, Leigh Memorial continued to be represented on Mission Council, VSAG (Vision Action Strategy Group), and the 'CCLM' (Combined Congregational Leaders Meeting), while members participated in various discernment processes, combined services and 'Vision' days relating to the proposed PCUC ('Parramatta City Uniting Church') alliance.



Leigh Memorial also joined the combined PCUC worship committee and the online services roster. Between July–December 2021, the congregation continued to celebrate the 200th anniversary of Parramatta Mission, and the Westmead and Leigh Fijian 30th anniversaries. Prior to Christmas, a biographical collection based on the 'Ministers Board' in Leigh Memorial Church was released to the congregations: *Voices for the Common Good – Missionaries and Ministers of Parramatta Mission in the 19th and 20th centuries*. In May 2022, a leaders' team from Leigh Memorial & Leigh Fijian formed a task group to assist at a Parramatta Mission-Sydney Alliance Federal Election Candidates Forum, while in June, the congregations gathered for a heritage service to acknowledge the 200th anniversary of Rev Walter Lawry's landmark mission from Parramatta to Tonga. Throughout the reporting period, Leigh Memorial continued to advocate for Meals Plus, Parramatta Mission and associated support services via direct giving, a 'Rugs Giving' program, donation drives and a prayer ministry. It also faithfully participated in multiple exploratory forums regarding the future of Parramatta Mission and the Macquarie Street site.

Westmead Congregation

Throughout the reporting period, Westmead maintained pastoral care and support to members in need, and kept in contact with those unable to attend worship in person, including via Zoom worship and a phone/visiting program. Dedicated, ongoing support from the congregation continued for the 175 Hotel, Wesley Apartments, Meals Plus, the Women's Refuge and World Community Day (Australian Church Women, NSW state unit) – including via a prayer ministry and various donation drives. During the period, Westmead also continued to be represented on Mission Council, VSAG and the CCLM, with members simultaneously participating in various discernment processes, combined worship (inc. Palm Sunday) and 'Vision' days for the proposed PCUC congregational alliance.



Westmead also joined the combined PCUC worship committee and participated in multiple exploratory forums regarding the future of Parramatta Mission and the Westmead site. During 2021-22, the congregation utilised and valued the recorded reflections prepared by Northmead Uniting and was especially appreciative of pastoral team support and leadership throughout a time of change and challenge. Westmead also remained committed to the care and inclusion of members with special needs. When COVID limitations allowed, Tai Chi resumed, with Zoom Christian Meditation and Bible Study continuing throughout the reporting period. In July, 2021, a Zoom worship celebration was held for the Westmead congregation's 30th anniversary at the Queens Road site, including the release of a commemorative book, *The Westmead Journey - from Cotswold to Queens*. In December, a Christmas lunch was held to complete the 30th Anniversary celebrations. In March 2022, Westmead mourned the passing of inspiring 100 year-old senior member and long term contributor, Miss Jean Mitchell (1921–2022).

Leigh Fijian Congregation

Beyond formal lockdown periods, the activities of the Leigh Fijian congregation continued in-person during the reporting period, with one of three “Cell Groups” leading services on a regular basis. Youth Services occurred on the second Sunday of each month and Youth group met each Friday, with a well-attended Sunday School also in place. Fasting and Chain Prayers continued on the 1st Wednesday of each month, and pastoral work also continued amongst the congregation – including via phone calls and a visiting schedule. During the reporting period, Leigh Fijian continued to be represented on Mission Council and the CCLM, with representatives also participating in various PCUC discernment processes, combined worship services, and ‘Vision’ days canvassing the proposed ‘Parramatta City Uniting Church’ alliance.



Leigh Fijian also participated in exploratory forums regarding the future of Parramatta Mission and celebrated a 30th anniversary in September 2021, which included a special worship program and the release of a commemorative book, *Tolu Decades – a Collection of Talanoa, Leigh Fijian Congregation of Parramatta Mission, 30th Anniversary: 1991–2021*. An English language book (third edition) tracing the life story of inspiring senior congregation pioneer, Mr Adriu Rogoimuri (1926–2022), was released earlier in the year. A Combined worship event and luncheon In April 2022, Leigh Fijian participated in the ‘Pasifika Climate Change Pre-Election Forum’ at Penrith, and continued in its vital support of the Bula Feeding Ministry at Blacktown. with the Leigh Memorial and Westmead congregations took place in May 2022 and included special guests from Fiji, inc. ex-Prime Minister, The Hon. Mr Rabuka and Mrs Rabuka. This event was followed by a Bula Feeding Ministry ‘Prayer Walkathon’ in June. Some members are commissioned Pastors, while others remain engaged in theological studies and periods of discernment.

Parramatta Mission Heritage Committee Report

The Parramatta Mission Heritage Committee (est. 2009) acknowledges the traditional custodians of the lands on which we gather: the Burramattagal people of the Darug nation. We express gratitude for their care of these lands from time immemorial and pay respect to elders past, present and emerging.

During the July 2021 – June 2022 year, the rich heritage of Parramatta Mission continued to be a subject of special interest – and a point of celebration, reflection and reassurance for the Mission’s members, supporters, staff and clients, and our local communities. Impacted by the ongoing challenges of the pandemic, the year involved continued new directions and expressions for Parramatta Mission and the gradual evolution of the provisionally-named ‘Parramatta City Uniting Churches’ alliance, involving the Parramatta Mission congregations and those of Northmead-Centenary Uniting Church.



(‘Buraga’ ‘Arise’ - by Leanne Watson, Darug Custodian Aboriginal Corporation, 2019)



(First Parramatta Mission Chapel, 1821)

Further transitional change at the Mission, planning for the Macquarie Street site’s ‘Gathering Place’ building, and the presence of PM’s heritage church, Leigh Memorial, within the burgeoning Parramatta Square and Light Rail developments – have necessitated both the management of varied heritage resources and an increased level of community interest in Parramatta Mission as a whole. In all its efforts, the Heritage Committee gratefully acknowledges the time and input of its members (representing the PM congregations) and the ongoing support of the Mission’s congregations and staff, in addition to the Parramatta community – Dr Elizabeth de Reland.

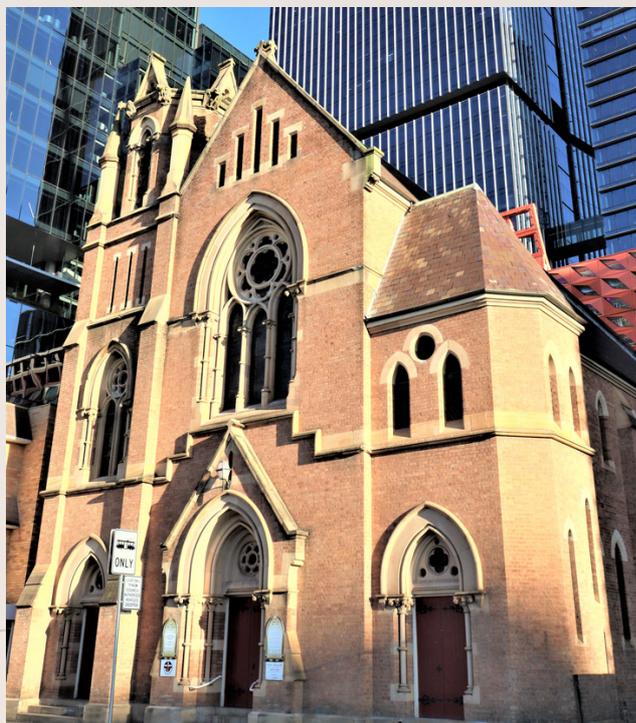
Key Achievements

Throughout 2021, Parramatta Mission celebrated its 200th Anniversary, which was focussed on the opening the first Wesleyan Chapel and Sunday School in Parramatta at the Macquarie Street site in 1821. The year also saw celebrations for the 30th anniversaries of the Westmead and Leigh Fijian Congregations (July and September) and the release of six, additional heritage books. These were: *We Will Remember Them: The First and Second World Wars & Between the Wars – Parramatta Mission, 1914–1945*, *All Loves Excelling (First & Second Editions)*, *The Boy from the Mangrove Swamp – Adriu Rogoimuri Autobiography* (English language edition), *The Westmead Journey: From Cotswold to Queens – Westmead Congregation, Queens Road, 2021*, *Tolu Decades: A Collection of Talanoa – Leigh Fijian Congregation of Parramatta Mission, 1991 – 2021*, and *Voices for the Common Good – Missionaries & Ministers of Parramatta Mission in the 19th and 20th centuries: A Biographical Collection*.

The Mission's total of 20 heritage books (2010–2021) are now held in UCA, local, state and national libraries and are available online via the Camden Theological Library's 'illuminate' repository and the 'About Us' portion of the Parramatta Mission website.

The Mission's primary heritage acknowledgement of 2022 is the 200th anniversary of Rev Walter Lawry's landmark 1822 mission to Tonga – celebrated at a Leigh Memorial service on 19 June.

Also, in June and following a formal Heritage Committee request to the Parramatta Heritage Centre, the 1885 opening of Leigh Memorial Church was added to the official 'Parramatta Timeline' (an online listing of major events & significant buildings in Parramatta from 1788 to the present day).



In October 2021, the Heritage Committee and congregation members participated in the final, pre-sale clean-out of the Mission's historic property, 'Ellangowan,' at 153 George Street, Parramatta. During 2022, the Committee has provided heritage-related information to the property's new owners, the Greek Orthodox Church of Parramatta, and the architectural firm responsible for proposed future refurbishments.



(Ellangowan', 153 George Parramatta, 2021)

2021–2022

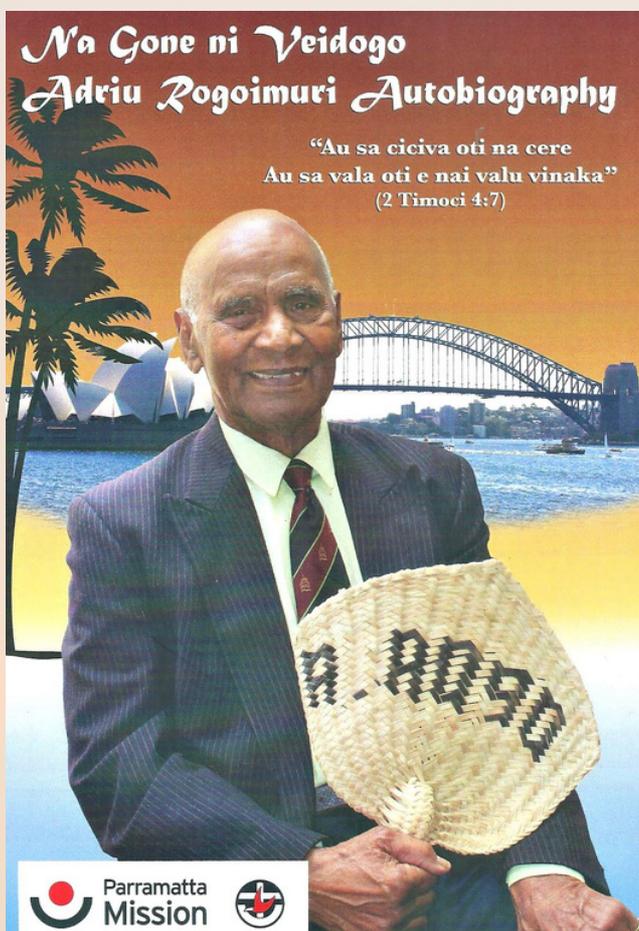
A dedication ceremony for the Mission's commemorative 'Catherine Leigh' plaque took place at St. John's Cemetery, Parramatta, on 5 March, 2022. Coordinated by the Parramatta Mission Heritage Committee and attended by the Friends of St. John's, plus congregation and community representatives – the dedication represented an important coming together of church and community heritage interests and an acknowledgement of the Mission's and Parramatta's key female pioneers.

Also in March 2022, the thesis, *Holiness and Hard Work – a History of Parramatta Mission, 1815 – 2015* (E. de Reland, School of Theology, Charles Sturt University 2018), was bound and permanently deposited in the Mission's archival collection (Walter Lawry Vestry, Leigh Memorial Church).



Between January and June 2022, the Heritage Committee conducted guided tours of 'Ellangowan' (153 George Street) and Leigh Memorial Church for members of the Parramatta & District Historical Society.

Following the 2022 passing of senior members, Mr Adriu Rogoimuri (Leigh Fijian congregation) and Miss Jean Mitchell (Westmead congregation) – Heritage Committee tributes to these treasured long-term contributors were formally lodged with the UCA's 'Biographical Archive.'



One Hotels & Apartments



THANK YOU FOR LOOKING AFTER ME THE LAST 3 WEEKS DURING ISO AND POST ISO.

MY STAY WAS A WHOLE LOT BETTER THANKS EACH ONE OF YOU AND YOUR WONDERFUL SERVICE. I'M REALLY GRATEFUL I GOT TO MEET EVERYBODY AT 175 AND WITHOUT YOU AND YOUR KINDNESS. I WOULDN'T HAVE MADE IT THROUGH I WILL MISS MY SECOND HOME VERY MUCH BUT I'LL ALWAYS REMEMBER YOU.

THANK YOU ONCE AGAIN.
MUCH LOVE FROM LINDA ❤️



05

Tilea Heldt

★★★★★

*Booked late, staff were very helpful to accommodate for my stay.
Clean room, comfy beds had everything needed for my stay hot showers ect...
Perfect price for the area! Would definitely recommend!*

Austen

★★★★★

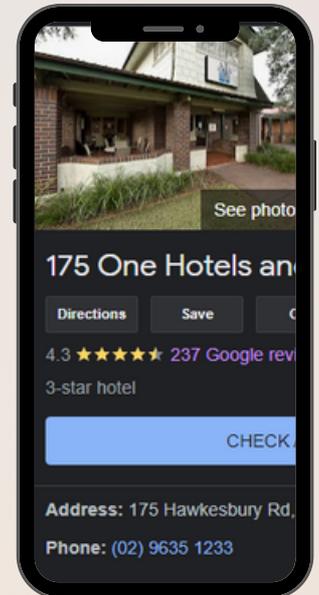
I was very impressed, the room was nice and clean the staff were lovely and accommodating. Location was easy to find and within walking distance of the children's hospital. I will definitely stay here again for my child's next hospital trip

Testimonials

Shazzyx

★★★★★

Excellent quality rooms, modern and clean. Customer service was impeccable, staff bent over backwards to make our stay as comfortable as possible. Thank you for a pleasant, stress free visit.



Lena Brown

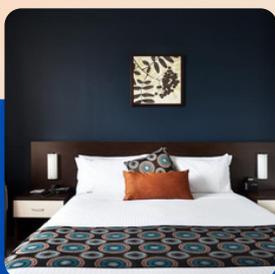
★★★★★

The hotel has complimentary parking. Vending machine was handy for us to get some water at night. Our room has everything we need, it even has plates and bowls too! Comfy beds with extra 2 pillows. The room was clean and quiet too considering school holiday, extra seats in the room was handy. Bathroom was clean with enough towels for all of us plus toiletries, extra toilet roll and hair dryer. Staffs were helpful and friendly. Really value for money. Highly recommended.

Farzana A

★★★★★

This hotel was perfect for my 3 week stay. The hotel has been renovated and I stayed in the Queen room which had a microwave, toaster, kettle and fridge. Everything I needed for a long stay. Laundry is easy, you just need cash but reception are happy to give change. Room was spacious and staff are super friendly. Special shout-out to Cameron (the manager) who allowed me to check out later and had a nice chat with me about my travels.



Hope!



54,060
MEALS

36,890
COFFEES



MEALS PLUS IMPACT



916
WELFARE
CHECKS

2,154
MATERIAL
AID

503
SHOWERS

7,655
FOOD
PARCELS

1,477
HOME
DELIVERIES

417
LAUNDRY

Meals Plus

Paul here – another year has passed, and I am still the Meals Plus coordinator with Parramatta Mission – a role that has become a passion rather than a duty. I have been privileged to journey with many exceptional clients and not only witnessed and celebrated their achievements but also supported them when things just didn't work out. The Covid pandemic is still of great concern. Our MEALS service was required to close for two weeks. We adapted and strengthened the PLUS and continued to offer food parcels, referrals and welfare checks. We became a vaccination hub for covid and flu vaccines.

There have been numerous testimonials over this year but none more impactful than “without this place I would be dead.” Requests for assistance has increased by a further 10 percent – truly a worrying trend. Financial hardship continues to create further stresses for many in our community. Loneliness and isolation are hurting our clients. Covid safe practices continue to deprive our clients of essential social interaction, hopefully there is an end in sight.

Parramatta has changed -We are in the middle, with construction going on all around us - another headache – But we will survive, because we are supported in Prayer and in kind by UNITING and our family of Uniting congregations from all over. We will continue to be GRACIOUSLY INCLUSIVE affording DIGNITY, a FAITH(TRUST) based service offering HOPE to all.

Sincerely,
Paul Moussa



Thank you



OUR WHY



During the month of August, *Steve passed by Meals Plus, found Paul and thanked him. Paul having no idea of who he was asked him the question - "What have I done for you to thank me?"

Steve replies" 6 years ago I walked through these doors for the first time. I had come to Meals Plus and had hit rock bottom, at a place in mind where I didn't know what to do. You gave me a fighting chance, a ray of HOPE and today I've got a happy family and a roof over my head, thank you"



Another Miracle arises within the doors of Meals Plus where a young lady is once again given HOPE. *Rose is currently pregnant with her 8th child and has not been allowed any contact with her previous 7 children who were taken in by DOCS. Rose has been homeless for months and has finally found accommodation through Meals Plus Services at a Crisis Accommodation where she has been able to prove she has been drug-free and being due soon has been advocated to have the permission to raise her 8th child. It took Rose several weeks before she had the courage to ask for help and with the right guidance, she has been given another chance at life.

TRANSFORMS LIVES

*Carlos, a gentleman in his 40s came to Australia in 2011 after being disowned by his family due to cultural reasons leaving him stranded and homeless. After suffering from PTSD, depression and constant anxiety, he developed several behavioral issues which led to him being barred from several services which would benefit him.

By making the decision of walking through the doors of Meals Plus and working with the team day-in & day-out, Carlos has been able to finally turn his life around after living on the streets for over a decade. With the difficulty of being barred from a majority of the services, the Meals Plus team were able to work with service NSW to obtain identification for him, to create a bank account and most importantly - as of Oct '22 he has paid his first bill of rent!

Yes, through keeping the doors of Meals Plus open ALWAYS, Carlos now has a roof over his head, a stable income, an identity and has the courage to walk the streets with his head on his shoulders despite the constant struggle's life has thrown at him.



*Jean has been visiting Meals Plus for approximately 15 years battling difficulties from all directions. Sleeping in corridors, being homeless, having Tourette like syndrome with a very loud scream, Jean has always been welcomed at Meals Plus which she would call her safe space. Due to her unfortunate addiction, it had always been a challenge to help turn her life around and assistance was provided in terms of material aid, food and most importantly social aid.

A day came when Jean had visited Meals Plus completely Sober, and a change was made. The change to keep her sober and stable and she accepted!

The acceptance of helping herself transformed her life and the decision has not only helped her enhance her education further, obtain a job she never thought she would have and to be able to house herself on her own, she is now one of our biggest advocates.

Jean makes the effort to look after people who were once in her position and refer them to Meals Plus - go see the "old man with white hair" and he'll look after you.

For 15 years Jean visited, it took time, it was difficult, many things changed along the way, but one thing always remained the same and always will - the doors of Meals Plus.

Fundraising

The image God has given me of Parramatta Mission is a bush that is being pruned. The Gospel of John states, "Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit."

Over the last 3 years our organisation has been through some significant challenges that has tested our resolve. A pandemic, major construction all around us and a transferring of all our government funded services. We have been pruned right back to the core, but as the verse says, "he prunes it so it may bear more fruit."

I believe God has big plans for Parramatta Mission. Plans to use our organisation as a light in a fast-growing city. Plans to be a safe place where His people can gather and access the support, they need to help them on their journey. To be a place where people can tangibly experience Gods love for them which is what ultimately brings healing.

Grace & Peace,
Davyn De Bruyn
GM - Community and Fundraising



Parramatta Mission relies on the generosity of our congregations, donors and supporters to continue to deliver its' services to the community. It is only through your giving that we are able to extend a hand of help to others.

Over the past year we have been, at times, unable to hold events and come together in person, but support for our services has only grown stronger, as our donors came up with inspiring ways to continue their support including online fundraisers and collections.

As we begin to open up again we hope to invite more of the community into Meals Plus through our sponsored lunches and other engagement events.

We would also not have been able to do all of this without the drive, passion and purpose that our people bring to work every day. Following the transition of services, there also came big changes to the team behind fundraising and volunteering. Sadly we said goodbye to Jo Armstrong and Bianca Ferrari - who both made huge contributions to sustaining business during Covid lockdowns and uncertainty.

Davyn de Bruyn took on the new role of General Manager, Community and Fundraising - leading the team in delivering and supporting the functions of Meals Plus. Jenny Fuda extends her skills to a new position in Fundraising and Consortium Manager, and we welcomed new team members Chao Zhou, Volunteer Coordinator, and Mikhail Chowdhary, Fundraising and Marketing Coordinator.

We look forward to the new team engaging the community to build further support for Parramatta Mission and those we serve.

Volunteering

A thank you most sincerely goes from us at Parramatta Mission to all our volunteers.

The past year was marked by crises that devastated communities across Australia and confined so many to isolation and despair – seemingly without end. Only with the vital contribution of our volunteers, were we able to keep the doors of Meals Plus open to people in need and to persevere through all challenges.

In 2021, our volunteers served over 54,000 meals and delivered countless much needed donations directly into the hands of people in need, culminating in a two week Christmas celebration bringing all groups of the community together.

In addition to the extra meals, our volunteers have allowed us to improve the quality of our services to better serve our guests with culturally and linguistically diverse background. Our effort in building strong supportive relationships with our guests have resulted in a shared community space of inclusivity without fear, allowing more people to ask for and receive the help they desperately needed.



In the first half of 2022, our volunteer program grew with a renewed vigour, due to goodwill and connections gained throughout the crisis that have enabled us to develop and improve our volunteer experience.



These days, our new volunteers find themselves joining a community well supported by our staff and other volunteers that really believe in our cause and actively want to create the best community in Parramatta. What is done today will surely become the backbone of who we are as a people, and all of us are very proud to be a part of this growing family.

With wholehearted gratitude, we congratulate our volunteers on all they have achieved in the 2022 financial year, and eagerly look forward to the future.

Financials

On 1 July 2021, all government funded services of Parramatta Mission (PM), including clinical, psychosocial and community services transitioned to Uniting.

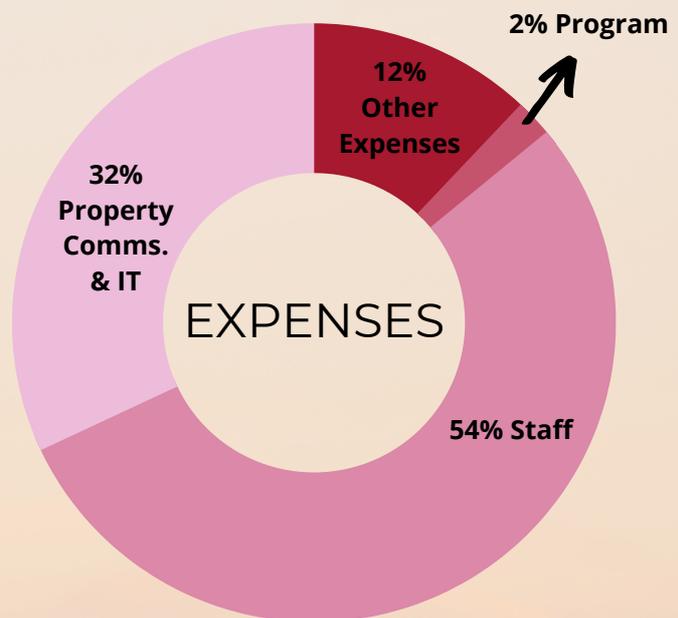
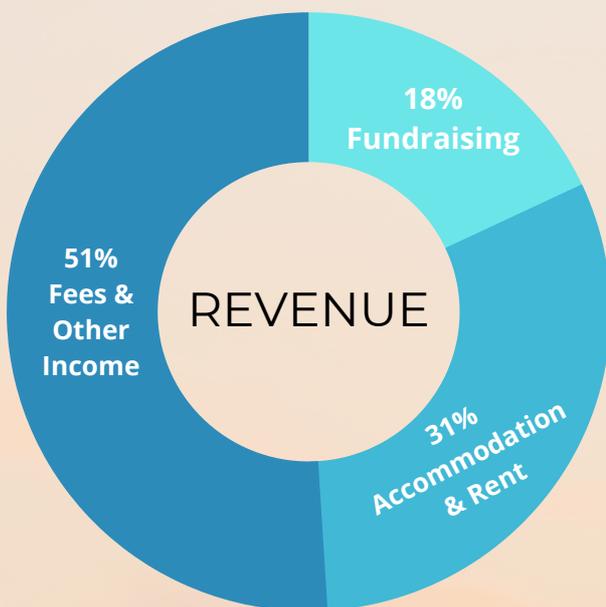
The activities continuing are:

- Congregations / Pastoral
- Meals Plus
- Fundraising
- 175 Hotel
- Wesley Apartments
- Management of owned properties

09

The Parramatta Mission results for the year ended 30 June 2022 (FY22) for the Continuing Services are summarised as follows:

- Total Income in FY22 of \$4.2m was down by \$1.5m (27%) on FY21. COVID contributed significantly to the income reduction in FY22, and in particular 175 Hotel and Wesley Apartments accommodation income.
- Total Expenses in FY22 of \$3.2m were down by \$1.6m (33%) on FY21.
- \$3.4m revaluation of properties and gain/(loss) on sales of assets included in the \$4.4m FY22 surplus.



Profit and Loss for the year ended 30 June 2022

	FY22 Total \$'000	FY21 Total \$'000
Revenue		
Accommodation and Rent	1,297	1,722
Fees and Other income	2,116	3,025
Fundraising	731	968
Total Revenue	4,145	5,715
Expenses		
Staff	1,722	2,053
Property, Communications and IT	1,008	1,653
Program	49	141
Other Expenses	397	947
Total Expenses	3,177	4,794
Operating Surplus / (Deficit)	968	921
Property revaluations and gain/(loss) on sale	3,436	2,359
Total Surplus / (Deficit)	4,404	3,279

Balance sheet as at 30 June 2022

	FY22 Total \$'000	FY21 Total \$'000
Assets		
Cash & cash equivalents	6,087	4,846
Trade & other receivables	654	483
Prepayments & other	30	283
Assets held for sale	-	887
Property, plant & equipment	72,982	74,026
Total Assets	79,753	80,525
Liabilities		
Payables	892	3,140
Contract liabilities	30	384
Provisions	422	1,447
Total Liabilities	1,345	4,971
Net Assets	78,408	75,554
Equity		
Retained earnings	23,924	22,247
Mission reserve	600	-
Asset revaluation reserve	53,884	53,307
Total Equity	78,408	75,554



With teamwork and a well-planned approach, Parramatta Mission made the jump from the 6th to 7th Edition QIC Health and Community Services Standards to achieve the sixth cycle of QIP accreditation.

The *QIC Health and Community Services Standards 7th Edition* has recently rolled out across Australia and a handful of community organisations have successfully achieved accreditation against the new QIC Standards 7th Edition. Among these organisations is NSW based, **Parramatta Mission**. We spoke to Parramatta Mission's Quality & Risk Manager, Devin North, to find out more about the organisation and their accreditation experience against both the QIC Standards 6th and 7th Editions, along with other insights into their ongoing quality improvement journey.

Parramatta Mission has extensive experience in successfully establishing and managing community-based services for vulnerable populations, from the Blue Mountains to the Hunter Valley region. With a focus on working with client populations who experience homelessness or mental health issues.

They successfully empower their clients to engage with their community through employment, education and support activities. Underpinned by a person-centred, recovery focused approach, Parramatta Mission delivers a range of prevention, early intervention,

SYDNEY, NSW Change Location ▾ **Events Projects News Reports**

BAPS Charities donated approximately 1064 kilograms of Weetbix and 2600 litres of long-life milk to Parramatta Mission in December 2020 and Addi Road in January 2021.

Parramatta Mission is a part of Uniting Church in Australia providing meals, accommodation and mental health support including the homeless, at risk of homelessness, facing a crisis and living with mental illness. Jo Armstrong, Director of Fundraising, Marketing and Volunteering, gave a special message for the donation.

"Thank you for your donation to Parramatta Mission for our 2020 Christmas Hampers and Festival of Christmas activities. Your giving has enabled us to provide hampers across our community, mental health, and hospitality services, giving food and gifts to individuals and families in need... Thank you for your collaboration in the work of transforming the lives of so many, we look forward to your continued support in 2021."

Design competition winner announced for new Parramatta Mission building

Written by **Jarrod Reedie**

Parramatta Mission and **City of Parramatta Council** has announced the winner of the design competition for its central site at Parramatta Square, which sits adjacent to the Leigh Memorial Church.

Dubbed The Gathering Place, the winning design was crafted by **Durbach Block Jagers** (DJB). The site is a sacred meeting place of the Burramattagal people of the Darug nation pre-settlement. A Christian church has sat on the site for approximately 200 years.

In contrast to the surrounding high-rise glass towers, the innovative design will present a soft silhouette, reminiscent of a banksia pod, and will include a rooftop chapel and reflective garden. The winning design will be complemented by the rebuilding of the spire on Leigh Memorial Church.

New Parramatta Mission to be iconic building in Parramatta's heart



A unique and innovative addition to Parramatta's CBD is on the horizon, with a winning design for the new home of Parramatta Mission selected.



Michael Cruikshank was the recipient of a fresh haircut. Source: SBS

"I hadn't had a haircut since the end of the last pandemic," Michael told SBS News

"I come in and looked like Santa - I had the grey hair, the big beard. They did the haircut, but I didn't ask them to do the beard."

Mr Cruikshank says the struggle that came with 2021 was unpredictable.

Parramatta Mission's Online Op-Shop Supporting Community and Environment

Parramatta Mission launch their new online op-shop, **Reinspired Threads**, after a decline in financial support but increase in community need.



The free haircuts making a big difference this Christmas

Australian charities are embodying the Christmas spirit, with some organisations providing much-needed haircuts to people in need.



Meals Plus logo and text: 11 NOVEMBER 2020 • POSTED BY EDITOR

PARRAMATTA MISSION PIVOTS

font size Print Email

Meal service for needy goes take away

IT used to be the place for the homeless, rough sleepers and the lonely to come together for two meals a day and some social interaction.

But now Covid-19 has forced Parramatta Mission to stop its five-day-a-week sitdown meals at its Macquarie St Parramatta headquarters - having takeaway instead.

There are usually 70 seeking breakfast and 100 for lunch each day.

Meals Plus will operate as a takeaway service until the Covid crisis is over.

That of course raises social well-being issues, a concern for Parramatta Mission which has been even busier with counselling and outreach services.

Mr Grey is hopeful that not only will the mission's constituents and broader community embrace the new building as theirs, but also, that it will become an iconic place marker in a city that should be bustling once everyone gets back to the office and once the leaseholds of many new retail outlets are taken up.

"This will become one of those buildings about which people will say, 'I'll meet you at the banksia building'."

"It will be a building that's not caught up in being all about bigness but about people and community. And that, I think, is a mark of a mature city."



Charities are providing free haircuts to vulnerable people in the lead up to Christmas. Source: SBS News

The project will also include a rooftop chapel and a reflective garden.

"Through the life and witness of its congregations and through its delivery of social services, Parramatta Mission is seeking to redevelop this site to be a source of inspiration in the life of Sydney's 'central city,'" said Parramatta Mission board and church council member Ian Gray. "The Gathering Place will be accessed by people from all walks of life."

City of Parramatta lord mayor Steven Issa added, "The Gathering Place is a remarkable design and will be a wonderful addition to Parramatta's Civic Link - a green, pedestrianised pathway that will connect the heart of the Parramatta CBD to the river."

The architects will continue to work on the design in preparation for a development application. The Uniting Church is keen to start construction on the building as soon as possible.



Meals Plus has remained open throughout the pandemic, serving 60 breakfasts and 150 lunches five days a week. Source: Parramatta Mission

Statement regarding Parramatta Mission site

City of Parramatta Council would like to assure the community that it has no intention of shutting down the services of the Parramatta Mission or preventing them from building on their site as some media reports have suggested.

Council recognises the valuable role that Parramatta Mission plays in our community and wants to assure all those who use and rely on the Mission's services that it is committed to working with the Mission to it can continue

The Gathering Place in Parramatta to be a building for those on the margins

JENNY BROWN | FEB 09, 2022

An inspiringly beautiful structure designed to evoke the traditional Darug owner's use of the site on which it will be built, has the ambition of putting real heart back into the centre of Parramatta's fast-evolving multibillion-dollar tower-scape.

At present just the winning concept drawings of a recently-declared architectural competition - the conical building called The Gathering Place, that Parramatta Mission board member Ian Grey compares to a banksia cone - will house administrative offices, deliver services to "the people on the margins", and as importantly, appear as an open-armed invitation to "anyone in the community to feel free to enter".



There's enough to eat here. I don't worry about having not enough food," she says.



Many older Chinese immigrants regularly attend Parramatta Mission's free meals service. Source: Parramatta Mission



Many older Chinese immigrants regularly attend Parramatta Mission's free meals service. Source: Parramatta Mission



Parramatta
Mission



**uniting
church**
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