



# 2022

## ANNUAL REPORT

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# 2022 SNAPSHOT



**760**  
Members

**4362**  
Friends

**1127**  
Supporters

**14**  
Baptisms



**320**  
Youth  
Reached

**48**  
Youth  
Serving

Kids From  
**22**  
New  
Families

**96**  
Young Adults  
Serving



**+14%**  
NHBC  
Engagement

**+75%**  
NHCC  
Engagement

**+61%**  
NHYA  
Engagement



**10.7k**  
Hours  
Watched

**132**  
Videos

**35.9k**  
Views



**9078**  
Medical  
Appointments

## Letter from CHAIR OF CHURCH COUNCIL | Chris Meyers


It is good, at the end of another year, to celebrate our glorious and faithful God. He is so kind to us all. As we put isolation and lockdowns behind us early in 2022, and began to meet and worship together, we were all reminded what a precious gift God's family truly is. We have a loving saviour who has placed us in an incredible community, and given us the promise of a new and living hope in Christ Jesus (1 Peter 1:3). This, more than anything else, sustains us on the journey. Hallelujah, Amen!

Your church council governs with much prayer and lots of robust conversations. We invite input from our members and supporters and we work in close partnership with the Pastoral Team, giving oversight and strategic direction. Our role is "to direct and protect"\* NewHope. In 2022 we hosted a 'Vision Conference' for all our members and supporters early in the year. We also commissioned a 'Spirituality Appreciative Inquiry', did some survey work, and invited a BUV consultant to review our Young Adult Ministry. All of these inputs, together with an abundance of informal feedback, made it possible for us to weigh up strategic options and discern together wisely. Council's annual strategic planning conference, held last year in September, set the strategic themes for 2023 and the overall direction for the next season of NewHope's ministry. This was important and demanding work, coming out of the challenges of 2020-2021, and the good fruit of this work is already evident in the early weeks of 2023.

We also have a few challenges that we have been addressing together with you all. First, the giving which funds our Christian ministry and pastoral work has been falling behind. We can see reasons for this in the short term, given the events of recent years and the current economic climate. But we need to see growth in the giving in the next 12 months. Second, we have not been able to find and engage medical professionals to staff NewHope Medical and this resulted in a call, of the whole church, to prayer and fasting. Thank you to all who participated! We will have more feedback about this soon. Please continue to pray!

As I have done each year, on behalf of the Church Council and the Pastoral Team, I pass along heartfelt thanks and much encouragement for your engagement and support of our shared work. Every volunteer and every hour served and every life touched is a reason to say, "Thank you God". And to all who give so generously to this ministry, we say a huge thank you. There is so much good fruit to celebrate. Finally, may I encourage you personally to spend time with Jesus. This is how we will become the church God calls us to be. As we hear so often in the teaching and so powerfully in the many NewHope testimonies, spending 30 minutes a day with Jesus is the path to deep joy and real hope. My prayer is that you hold fast to Him and the things that never change, for His love endures forever.

**Chris Meyers**  
Chair of Church Council



\*This is a quote from an excellent book that we read and discussed together, a few chapters each meeting throughout 2022. "The Imperfect Board Member" by Jim Brown.

## Letter from **SENIOR PASTOR** | Allan Demond

Warmest greetings in Christ,

I am pleased to present the annual report for 2022, a year of both blessings and challenges. I hope you will be encouraged as you read this report and that it will help you to pray for our church with insight and faith. Thank you for taking time to read.

The best things about 2022 were undoubtedly emerging from lockdown, coming back together again, and reconnecting. It was a joy to see the church community reunite to worship and minister together.

Some 2022 highlights. Maintaining online worship, while returning to in-person gatherings, provided opportunities for various individual needs and established a foundation for a wider ministry of the church.

Our Chinese (9am) and Farsi (11am) Congregations embraced new opportunities as they were able to align their meeting times with the Sunday morning Kids Church program. We also held a well-attended Members Vision Conference, conducted a Spirituality Appreciative Inquiry, and consulted on Young Adult Ministry, all of which provided helpful findings for our continued growth together. And in March, Lance Blythe was ordained to the Christian Ministry following several years of study and formation. Congratulations Rev Blythe!

The extensive pastoral work, and the relaunch of many great ministries throughout 2022 has been wonderful. Stories of spiritual renewal, journeys of faith, and testimonies of God's forgiveness, help and power abound. You can read some of these stories in the pages that follow.

There were also challenges that we faced, including a return to COVID restrictions in January and many people finding it hard to join gatherings and re-establish their rhythms throughout much of the year. Attendance and giving patterns lagged behind our 2019 pre-COVID benchmarks. It was a tough environment in many ways, but we are so grateful for God's loving care and the mutual support of the church community caring for one another.

The NewHope Medical Centre experienced continuing losses as we have been unable to find staff. There are challenges across the industry, and this is forcing our hand. However, we have faith. We called the church to 30 days of prayer and fasting in late 2022 and we know that God is at work amid these challenges. We will provide an important update in early 2023.

It is fantastic to see Christians in our city thriving together. As a church community, we invest significantly in the vision of 'One Church' in our City of Whitehorse. We

contribute funds, volunteer hours, and core leadership to the collaborative activities shared by over 30 churches in the network. We also invest in the Baptist Movement and other denominational bodies, leveraging relationships and resources for greater kingdom impact. Our pastors sit on governance boards, provide mentoring, train at conferences, teach in theological schools, and speak in worship gatherings.

Prayer is a constant focus at NewHope, both individually and corporately, and we saw this become even stronger in 2022. Prayer is the most important thing we do! We praise God for growing participation in Sunday prayer, our various prayer ministries, the city wide prayer activities in May, the prayer walk in Oct, the special prayer and testimony meetings throughout 2022, and much more.

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to the Church Council, my staff colleagues, our supporters, givers, and volunteers for their hard work and dedication. Without you, none of this would have been possible.

On a personal note, I count it a privilege to serve this church, and 2022 was a year of blessings for Janet and me. We welcomed Hamish, our second grandchild and a little brother for Hannah – pure joy! I had the privilege to teach the preaching course at Whitley College and enjoyed numerous opportunities to mentor, consult and speak with individuals and groups around the country. And I completed the AICD Company Directors Course to strengthen my contribution in the boardroom.

Lastly, in the words of Paul, I thank my God every time I remember you (Philippians 1:3). May God continue to bless our church community in 2023.

Abundant Blessings,

**Allan Demond**  
Senior Pastor



## Letter from **FINANCE DIRECTOR** | Andrew Gale

2022 was another financially challenging year for our NewHope local and global ministries, while tax deductible giving has been strong. Our financial statements for 2022, to be presented at the Annual General Meeting in May, will show a deficit (inclusive of loan repayments).

In the past two years, local ministry offerings have fallen short of target. In the short term we can maintain our local ministries by making lower than desired repayments on our loans. However this is obviously not sustainable for an extended period since we do need to meet minimum loan repayment obligations.

Giving to our global ministries, which supports our global mission partners, fell to historic low levels before recovering towards the end of the year, however, needs to increase further to support our current mission partners.

Tax deductible giving increased by 5% in 2022 and exceeded our expectations. Use of these funds is primarily limited to NewHope's charity work through NewHope Community Care and cannot be used for other church activities.

2022 saw the completion of the three year Embracing the Future additional giving programme which raised a total of \$470,000. Thank you to the many people who responded to the financial needs of our local ministries through special giving during this period.

2023 will bring additional costs with higher interest rates increasing our loan repayment obligations. For our local ministry to achieve a breakeven outcome we need giving to return to pre-Covid levels.

I am so thankful to the hundreds of NewHope people who give regularly to support our ministry and community work. Your faithful stewardship is a blessing to many people. We continue to encourage everyone in our NewHope family to regularly contribute to our local ministry. If NewHope is your church, we ask you to financially support NewHope. As we each make a prayerful, considered plan and follow through with committed action, NewHope grows spiritually and our kingdom impact in our community is increased as God works through our generosity.

Many have found that the simplest practical approach to regular faithful giving is to organise a weekly or monthly direct debit gift to NewHope. Making your NewHope offering from your bank account ensures we receive all of your gift, as a merchant fee is deducted from credit card giving.

You can find more information at [newhope.net.au/give](https://newhope.net.au/give)

## Offerings

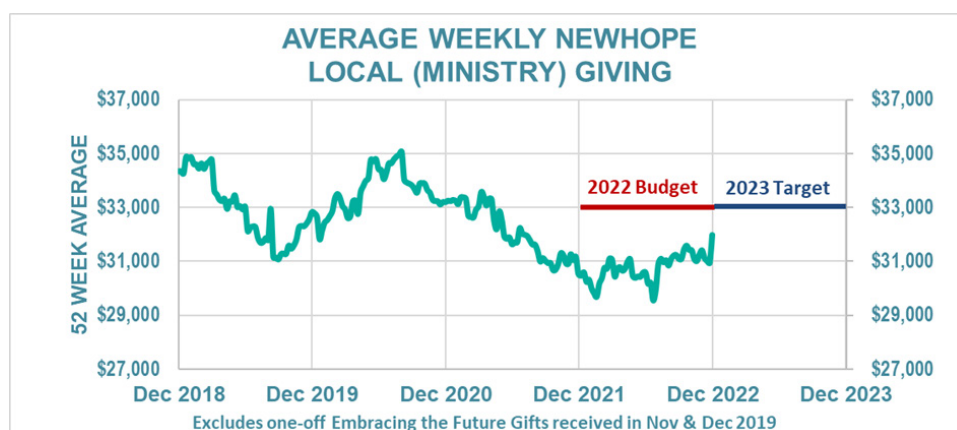
Gifts to NewHope can be directed to either Local, Global or Tax Deductible ministries.

**Local ministries** support sustainable long-term ministry and responsible planning for our worship, pastoral, community centre activities and operations of NewHope Baptist Church.

**Global ministries** supports NewHope global mission partners around the world.

**Tax Deductible ministries** primarily fund our charity work through NewHope Community Care. We are restricted in how we can use these funds as they cannot be used to support our worship, pastoral, community centre operations or global mission partners.

The following charts show the trends in gifts to each of these ministries over the past four years.

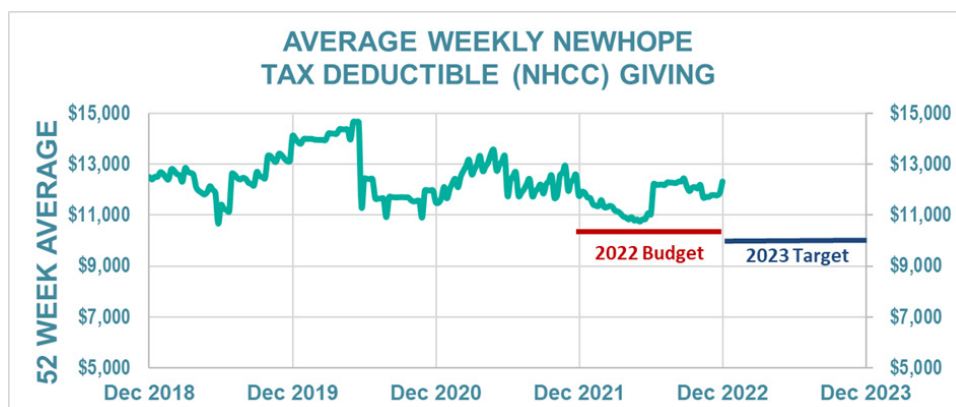


Local ministry giving in 2022 was 4% (\$1,200 per week) below budget.





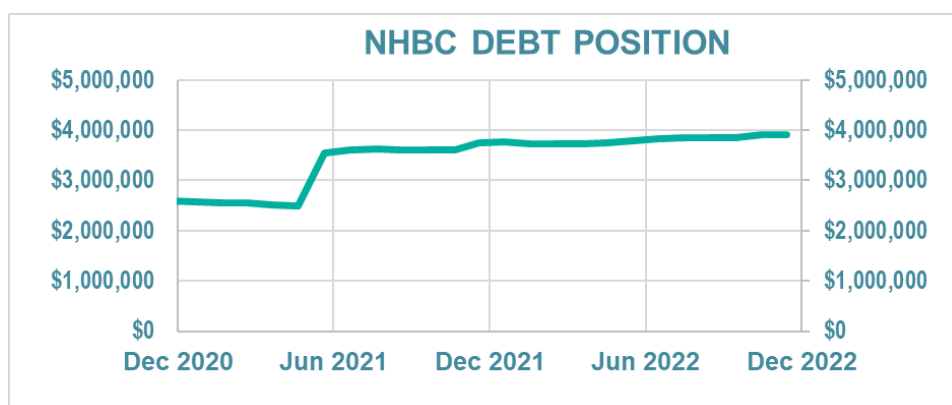
Giving to support our Mission partners in 2022 was 15% (\$250 per week) below budget.



Tax deductible giving in 2022 was 15% (\$1,600 per week) above budget.

## Debt

NewHope Baptist Church's gross debt position increased during 2022 from \$3.7 million to \$3.9 million. Loan repayments and interest make up about 18% of our Local ministry offering or \$6,000 per week.



**Andrew Gale**  
Finance Director

# 2022 Strategic Themes

## 1. Empowering our people to make **CONNECTIONS**

Engagement, relationships, groups,  
Pathways (Everyplace Mission).

## 2. Empowering deeper experiences of **CARE**.

Addressing crisis needs, model care, build networks.  
Elevate 'protection' and 'safety' (e.g. SOC).  
Elevate Creation Care.

## 3. Nurturing (growing) our life in the **HOLY SPIRIT**

Teaching & Experience.  
Appreciative Inquiry (renewal).

## 4. Leveraging new **DIGITAL (ONLINE) OPPORTUNITIES**

Studio, Team (Farsi role).  
Training.

## 5. Empowering one another to take up **OUR MINISTRIES IN CHRIST**

Re-engaging (discerning)/reimagining.  
Participation/service (volunteering).  
Leadership development.  
Capacity building (Stewardship Month).

2022 was a year of reconnecting, re-establishing, revising and renewing as we walked together in the Spirit. The profound disruptions of 2020-2021 gave opportunity for new thinking and important changes. Our Strategic Themes, established at the start of the year by the Church Council and Ministry Leadership Teams with input from members and supporters, assisted us greatly. We returned to these themes repeatedly as an anchor point for our shared activity.

As with all strategic intentions the outcomes were varied.

We celebrate some big wins as we review the robust mutual care and the many life-giving people connections that were fostered in 2022. Our commitment to nurturing

spiritual growth and to stewarding the fresh winds of the Holy Spirit at NewHope in this season, was also effective and bore much practical fruit. These top three intentions were the focus of enormous energy and many people benefited directly and indirectly from this clear focus. We were also blessed by the opportunity to leverage our digital resources in the Farsi Friendship Project which is having an international impact. People are living changed lives because, together, we have strategically focused our energies in order to effectively “proclaim God’s kingdom, make Jesus known, and make disciples” in 2022.

There are disappointments as well. The heavy demands and new urgencies of the year forced some re-prioritisation and this took energy away from our intention to elevate creation care and to optimise digital possibilities (this is ongoing work that has simply been delayed). More disappointing however, is the fact that much energy was invested in capacity building (stewardship) and volunteer support, but these efforts yielded slow returns. Life did not simply ‘return to normal’ for most people in 2022. Consequently many in our church family have embraced personal change in ways that impacts our church. It will take some time to understand these nuances more fully. We are prayerful and hopeful for much stronger results in these areas in 2023.

A less volatile environment in late 2022 allowed us to develop more detailed Strategic Themes for 2023 which you can review at [newhope.net.au/strategic-themes-2023](https://newhope.net.au/strategic-themes-2023)

## **BAPTISMS AND MEMBERSHIP**

### **Additions to Membership Roll during 2022**

Baptisms: 14

Transfers In: 6

Profession: 3

### **Reductions to Membership Roll during 2022**

Transfers Out: 2

Resigned: 2

Reserve Roll: 9

Deaths: 4

**Total Members on 31 December 2022: 760**

# Ministries

## **WORSHIP** | Tim

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As I reflect on the worship ministry in 2022, I am struck by the powerful impact that music can have on building community and fostering a sense of belonging. In the worship ministry our aim is to create a dynamic and engaging time of worship that is accessible to a wide range of people.

If there is one significant statistic that sums up 2022 for our ministry it is this... ZERO. We had zero weeks in 2022 that were Covid-19 affected. It was a big year in that it was the first year since 2019 that we were able to meet and worship together consistently for every week throughout the year.



Building a flourishing and healthy worship ministry requires a great deal of hard work, dedication, skill, and resilience from the whole team. Yet, despite the varying challenges, the ministry succeeded in creating a space where people could come together to worship, learn, and grow in faith week to week. As I look to the future, I am encouraged by the potential of worship ministry to continue bringing people closer to each other and to God.

## **ALPHA** | Phil

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In 2022 we had a total of around 90 people join in the various Alpha Courses that we offered at NewHope. This began unexpectedly early in Term 1 with a swell of enthusiasm from many Young Adults and Older Adults too. Then in Term 2 we kicked off Alpha after the usual Easter curiosity.

Nik Matthews & Monquie Jaksic headed up an Alpha Course with more inquisitive Young Adults and some personal connections in Term 3. Cath De Witt & Rowan Cooper launched a Term 3 Alpha Marriage Course, and Leigh and Kerryn Cameron lead a Youth Alpha Course for our Grade 6 children in view of joining Shift Youth in 2023. In Term 4, a Young Adult group engaged in the course to solidify their group.

Overall it was a fantastic year in Alpha, with people exploring faith, making commitments and even some people deciding to be baptised. We were privileged to have people to pray for those that invited the Holy Spirit into their lives!



## **PASTORAL CARE** | Cathy

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Pastoral Care has flourished in 2022 with many people formally and informally cared for. Many stories of care we will never hear, as it happens behind the scenes by people within the life of our church. This year, once again prayer and pastoral care sat hand in hand with practical, emotional and spiritual healing and care being given in this body of Christ.

WhatsApp support groups encouraged and prayed for people in deepest times of crisis. 'Take them a meal' rosters quietly circulated as needed, to demonstrate love and support. Older Adults continued to be blessed by a wonderful enthusiastic and caring group of pastoral carers through visits, phone contact and catching up at church, this has been so appreciated by them and their families.

The work of our pastoral care team has meant those members who haven't been able to attend church for various reasons have still felt connected, which is so important. We truly are all part of a church that cares.

## **CONNECT TEAM** | Tam

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We have enjoyed a fairly stable year within the Connect Team.

A handful of new team members have joined the existing teams which has been fantastic. Our youngest new member to the team is only 11 years old! We have a few families who choose to come and serve together - an incredible way of passing on to the next generation, the joy and ownership of serving our community.

We contracted Ross Adams to undertake a review of our Connect processes. This was carried out over a 6 week period and then observations and recommendations were submitted to the Strategy team. Some of the recommendations have been implemented and some are still to come!

We have set up an area in the foyer as a Connect Lounge, a space to host newcomers with a coffee, meet people in our community and ask any questions they may have around connection with the NewHope family.

It is a privilege and joy to work within such a great intergenerational team with a heart to welcome and connect with all who come through our doors here at NewHope.

## AWE AND WONDER | Hannah

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The women of NewHope were invited to participate in three amazing Awe and Wonder events in 2022. We had a wonderful time connecting, encouraging one another, and hearing from guest speakers from World Vision, Prison Network Australia, and the Baptist Union of Victoria, as well as testimonies from NewHope women, on the topics of 'People Matter Most', 'There is Always Hope', and 'Grace Changes Everything'. We also had the opportunity to build relationships with the women of One Church who were invited to participate in our final event of the year.



## NEWHOPE GROUPS | Lance

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2022 was a year of groups returning to in person gatherings with more consistency and finding their new rhythms. A number of groups adopted a hybrid approach to meeting where some gatherings were held via Zoom and social gatherings occurred in-person. These groups reported the gift of digital gathering enabled many participants to remain connected despite their busy schedules in life.

NewHope placed a focus on care and connection throughout the pandemic years and 2022 continued to be a year where the groups ministry was a primary area of delivery of these values. Pastoral care, prayer, discipleship and friendship connections were all delivered through the activity of groups.

*"Our group felt prayer and hearing His voice as critical areas that the Holy Spirit wanted us to unpack together. This desire led us to The Prayer Course, which we studied and explored together as a group on Zoom. Through sharing each other's stories and experiences with prayer, we grew a deeper connection with Him and with each other and experienced a refreshed way to pray more boldly. A highlight for our group in 2022 and we continue to pray for a release of fresh wind over all our NewHope groups and a wider hope for more of Him."*  
- Steve & Effie Stavridis

# PRAYER | Cathy

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Prayer ministry at NewHope has again reflected many expressions and focusses. This last year has been so extraordinary in the prayer life of NewHope - seeing breakthroughs and miracles.

The Prayer & Praise Emails continued to be a valuable way for our church family to uphold one another in prayer and celebrate the awesome things that God is doing among us. As the body of Christ joined in praying for one another, we saw God move and blessings flow. There are 138 people subscribed to this weekly email, which is open to anyone from NewHope who would like to be praying for others.

Retreats: “Be still and know that I am God” (Psalm 46:10), has been a theme for retreats and the guided meditation group this year. The first retreat was run by the NewHope team mid year and the Refresh Retreat ran in October. Retreats at NewHope continue to offer time and space for a contemplative approach to prayer and reflection throughout the year.

Guided Christian Meditation groups were offered at Forest Hill Community Space and Pavilions Retirement Living in 2022. In these sessions they practised stillness in body and mind in the presence of God as a spiritual discipline which helps to counter the many distractions of life.

Prayer and Testimony nights ran monthly as extended times of worship, and focussed on learning and growing in the gifts and expressions of the power of the Holy Spirit. We saw gifts being released, people growing in confidence and expectation of what God is doing, and can do.

After service prayer on Sunday mornings continued to see a steady flow of people receiving prayer. That part of the service truly is a powerhouse.

Healing prayer has seen God being wonderfully faithful to us, and every client. We had around 220 appointments again this year and all 24 team members were fully involved nearly every week, dedicating up to 80 hours. The use of technology has meant that we have ministered to people all over Melbourne and country Victoria, Australia, London and Paris flowing in all His creative healing through a few on-site ministries, but many more via Zoom and telephone. We saw God breaking the chains of trauma, unforgiveness, addictions, grief, and lovingly attending to the other needs of clients in release from anxiety and bringing all kinds of healing.

## NEWHOPE GLOBAL | Allan

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God's mission is to the whole world. And so the church's work is always intercultural, international and expansive. God's good news is for every tongue and every nation (Revelation 5:9).

NewHope supports several global partners and mission organisations. We pray for, fund, encourage and support them. And, we learn through them, receive from them, and celebrate God's advancing work together with them. We also seek to maximise the opportunities for wider global impact that emerge within our denominational family and from our Melbourne based congregations and ministries.

### **Our 2022 Denominational Partners**

- Focus Nepal, Baptist World Aid Australia (Allan Demond, Board Director and Vice-Chair)
- Focus Thailand, Baptist Mission Australia (Surette Southwood, Board Director and Vice-Chair)

### **Our 2022 Congregational Opportunities**

- Focus Iran, Farsi Congregation (Sam Farbod)
- Focus China, Chinese Congregation (Edmund Hu)
- Focus Refugees & EAL, NewHope Community Care (Katrina Lambert)
- Focus Child Sponsorships, Kids Church, Father's Day emphasis (Alicia Demond)

### **Our 2022 NewHope Global Partners**

- Dean & Sara Rompis, (Helping Hands)
- Ben Everard, (Operation Mobilisation)
- Danny & Beth Hunt (Baptist Mission Australia)
- Marcus & Michelle Rice (Wycliffe)
- Muana & Villy (Baptist Mission Australia)
- Nik & Sarah Matthews (Youth With a Mission)
- Phil & Carol Short (SIM)
- Richard Beaumont (Entrust)
- Simon & Joy Longden (Pioneers)



2022 was a year of reconnecting and renewing the work. As travel opportunities opened up our partners were able to visit their field work, re-engage with projects, check in on leaders and vulnerable communities in more remote places, and connect face to face. They discovered stories of resilience and testimonies of the Spirit's work during the long months of isolation and disconnect, as well as discovering some challenging new problems to address. Our prayers are needed constantly.

Rosanna Seah – to whom we say a BIG thank you! – compiles a monthly digest of these stories, challenges and mission highlights. This prayer letter is a wonderful resource that will inform you about the work and provide you with guidance on how to pray so you can be a fellow-labourer with our Global Partners. If you do not receive it already, sign-up online or ring the church office.

Giving to NewHope Global in 2022 did not meet the costs and commitments to our global partners. We met these obligations from ministry funds and adjusted the 2023 budget accordingly. We are praying for stronger support in 2023 as we work to grow the church's heart for global mission. Thank you to those faithful supporters who give financially and prayerfully from the heart. We pass along the immense gratitude of our partners, and of those whose lives are eternally changed through these ministries.

In addition to the formal partners and ministries which are funded through NewHope's budget, there are many NewHope members and supporters who serve God with a global focus. Some lead in Christian organisations while others live out their discipleship faithfully in secular roles. We celebrate these often unnoticed mission activities and the many ways in which NewHope people are agents of hope all over the world.

Visit [newhope.net.au/global](https://newhope.net.au/global) where you can learn more about our partners, sign up for the monthly prayer notes and support this vital work with your generosity.

# Multicultural

## FARSI CONGREGATION | Sam

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In 2022 our Farsi congregation welcomed many new members into its community. Three of these new people, after attending baptismal classes, committed their lives to Jesus and were baptised. The Farsi church service moved from afternoon to morning on Sunday in order to develop effective connection between its members and the members of English and Chinese gatherings.

A new online bible study group and a monthly fellowship gathering were initiated. The aim of these gatherings is to help to develop connections with communities in our neighbourhood. In addition, the Farsi congregation continued extending its outreach activities through social media platforms and has been able to reach, serve and disciple the wider Farsi-speaking Muslim communities (Iranians and Afghans) in Melbourne, Australia, inside Iran, Afghanistan and overseas.



# Outreach

## CHINESE CONGREGATION | Edmund

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2022 was a year of excitement and significant change but we truly experienced Philippians 4:19 in that God supplies all our needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus. A momentous change was the moving of the Chinese service from 6pm Saturday evening to 9am Sunday morning, after 15 years, and overcoming many challenges. The first Sunday service was held online on 6th February and from 20th February we began in person, alongside streaming on Zoom each week! We have an average of 66 people attending the service in person. This created an excellent opportunity for us to worship, serve and connect with Kids Church, English and Farsi congregations as one multicultural body of Christ at the same time and place. For the first time in 10 years we successfully organised a Chinese Church family camp of 80 people from 23rd to 25th April which led to closer relationships and connections being built amongst brothers and sisters in Christ.

Another key change was that with effect from June 1st, Edmund Hu, the Interim Pastor was appointed as the new Pastor leading the Chinese congregation. A historical combined English and Chinese Baptism Service was held on 28th August and witnessed four adults being baptised. Touching and beautiful testimonies were shared. On the day, we had a total of 90 people from the Chinese congregation, friends and family members attending the Baptism Service followed by a communal morning tea.



As we finished 2022, we are again thankful to God for the support of the church leadership team and provision of leaders and volunteers to help run the Chinese ministry, worship service, small groups, and all activities. May all the glory be to God alone, throughout time and eternity. Amen!

# Generations

## NEWHOPE KIDS | Alicia, Jazz and Ellie

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We were so grateful for a full year of face-to-face ministry for NewHope Kids in 2022. We ran 39 weeks of Kids Church with an average of 100 children and almost 60 leaders attending each week. We saw many familiar faces returning and welcomed 22 new families who went on to become regular attenders.

The year began with a fun curriculum on Superheroes and the children were invited to contribute to their own learning as they voted for the Bible Heroes they most wanted to learn about in Term Two. Esther, Noah and David came out on top!



One of our focuses for the year was to create opportunities for connection and community. We ran several exciting events including the Kids Winter Party in July. 137 people came along from across NewHope ministries like Kids Church, mainly music, Playspace, Preschool, Farsi and Chinese. There were even families from the local community who had never been to NewHope before and heard about the event online. We gave away 9 children's Bibles to people who didn't have one at home.



At the end of Term Two we had a Family Service at the 11am gathering. This was a special time of being together across the generations as all the kids joined the adults in the auditorium for fun songs, talks and prayer. We also got to celebrate the baptism of one of our Grade 6 boys together.

Another big project for 2022 was the implementation of the 11 new Child Safe Standards set forth by the Commission for Children and Young People. We worked hard to strengthen our policies and practices, and train up our team, to ensure our Children's Ministry remains a safe place for everyone to encounter the love of Jesus.

The end of the year saw some changes for NewHope Kids as we said goodbye to Jazz Coughlin and Alicia Demond as they take up new roles, Alicia within NewHope and Jazz with a new role at another church. Ellie Riley remains in her role of Junior Kids Church Leader and we are excited to see what God has in store for Children's Ministry for a new season in 2023.



# PLAYSPACE | Alicia, Spencer and Megan

*“I love everything about Playspace, I get to have a break and have real conversations with my friends. As a mum with young kids the space enables me to have time and space to be with other mums.”*  
- Playspace Parent

2022 saw Playspace continue to shine in our neighbourhood as a safe and welcoming place for children and their families to connect. With an average of 80 people attending Playspace and Melody Time each week, we are so thankful for the opportunity to grow friendships with returning families and also form connections with new families who’ve come along for the first time this year. Our prayer is that these would be life-giving relationships that point people to the hope we have in Jesus.

In Term Two we partnered with other Kids and Families ministries of NewHope to run the Kids Winter Party. This was a fun and non-threatening way for families across our NewHope community to get to know each other, experience the hospitality of our church and explore next step opportunities.

2022 also saw the 11 new Child Safe Standards be implemented across all our ministries to Children and Young People at NewHope. At Playspace we sought to make our commitment to safety clear and provide families with relevant information and opportunities to contribute via updates to our webpage, a strategic communication plan, surveying families for their input and developing our policies.

At the end of Term Three, we said a sad goodbye to Chris Somers as he finished in his role of Playspace Coordinator after 8 years of amazing service. Chris had a key role in starting Playspace and his leadership has seen it grow into a flourishing ministry. We thank Chris for his faithful service over so many years and praise God for his blessings in 2022!

# MAINLY MUSIC | Angela

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*“Thank you so much for the fun and fellowship that she has had with her friends and teachers at mainly music in 2022”  
- mainly music parent.*

Starting from early 2022, mainly music playgroups became popular as soon as people started sharing their experiences with others. It provided a great opportunity for families to come together and form a community, especially for those who have recently migrated to Australia and are seeking ways to connect with others. The playgroups have a diverse mix of people from different cultures and generations, where they can have fun, bond with their children and grandchildren, and learn about God.

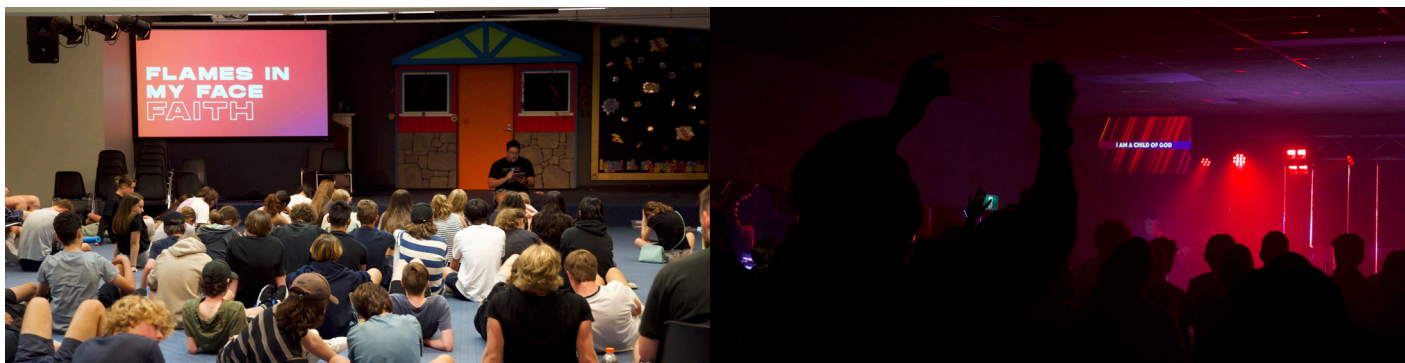
One mother who attended the playgroup shared her story of her husband’s battle

with cancer, and the group was able to offer prayers and support. She was grateful for the mainly music sessions as they brought a smile to her child’s face and she often shared her joy with the group.

In 2022, two additional volunteers joined the Tuesday group, both of whom had prior experience with mainly music. The playgroups serve as a great entry point for those who have never been to a church before, and provide a way to connect them with other ministry programs.

## SHIFT YOUTH | Adam and Tim

Shift Youth was back to regularly running programs on Fridays during the school terms in 2022. Our Friday night youth program has remained a key point of connection and engagement for our young people, and acts as a gateway for further connection into church life. We continue to see many of our young people serving at church in various ways. Regularity and consistency has also meant that we could explore aspects of the faith journey and 'go deeper' than previous years. This has led to us seeing young people more engaged. We want to celebrate the amazing testimonies of our many youth who have taken key steps in their faith journey this past year. We finished off the year with an intentional focus on Justice & Advocacy and considered how injustices impact our Head, Hearts and Hands.



Our camp program was back in full force, seeking to provide opportunities for young people to build friendships, journey together, have fun, and to encounter Jesus. In February our annual Year 7 Camp was double the fun as the Year 8's who missed out in 2021 joined in on the action. This camp is an intentional opportunity to foster and strengthen friendships in the early years of high school. Our all-in Youth Camp in April was epic with lots of young people connecting with the games, activities, and worship alike with powerful messages from guest speaker Joel McCoy. Queen's Birthday weekend brought with it State Youth Games for the first time since 2019. SYG was an incredible weekend of sports and community; intergenerationally within our youth and young adult and parent helper team, but also with other local churches.

Our 59 incredible youth leaders, along with our 2022 youth intern Billy, made Shift Youth possible in 2022 and we are so thankful for our amazing team.

## NEWHOPE YOUNG ADULTS | Lance

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2022 was an excellent year for the NewHope Young Adults Ministry. Lance Blythe served as the Young Adults Pastor and in April Laura Doan was appointed as a Community and Connections Coordinator focused on supporting young adults in finding a small group. The Young Adult planning team consisted of 8 young adults and focused on planning and implementing young adult focused events throughout the year.

A vibrant weekend retreat at Phillip Island saw 72 young adults in attendance. Lance Blythe presented the Wesleyan Quadrilateral as a tool for faith reflection and across 3 sessions applied this tool to reflect on the themes of Science and Faith, Sexuality and Environmentalism. Young adults then utilised the tool in small groups to explore their own theological thoughts while hearing from others.

*"I really loved the retreat. The solid, practical teaching combined with stripped back worship and an opportunity to mix with young adults all across the ministry made for a truly fulfilling weekend."*

*- Hamish*

The Young Adult Planning team led 7 highly successful Combined Events throughout the year. These events focused around a variety of themes and always sought to focus on building strong relationships between groups. Social events included a park launch, Holey Moley bowling, Christmas in July (in August) and BBQ and Bowls Finale.





Our Justice and Advocacy event was led in partnership with Baptist World Aid and allowed young adults to select an elective of their choice relating to First Nations, Creation Care or Asylum Seekers. Each session provided interactive content and the opportunity to take practical steps of advocacy in response. In June a combined event was hosted at the Now and Not Yet Cafe in Warrandyte where Derek Bradshaw (cafe manager) shared his heart for mission and the story of the N.A.N.Y. cafe. A seed funding initiative was launched on this night, allowing young adults to apply for \$200



individual grants to support a missional idea. This initiative resulted in a combined church effort between young adults at NewHope, One Community and St Alfreds to provide 220 care packages to graduating Year 12s at Blackburn High School on their final day. Each care package contained a handwritten encouragement note and some snacks for study.

NewHope Young Professionals was launched near the end of the year as an initiative to connect with and serve young adults as they transition into the next phase of life. Pub nights, The Lounge and Coffee and Chat were hosted at various intervals to create environments of hospitality, community and connection for young adults.

A series of young adult forums were hosted in October by Kimberley Smith from the BUV. These sessions were focused on gaining feedback from young adults and supporting the intention of the ministry, allowing young adults to influence the vision of their ministry. There was strong attendance at these sessions and Kimberley's report has provided useful feedback for the ministry in 2023. The report prepared by Kimberley will be made available on the young adults webpage in Term 1 2023.

# NEWHOPE OLDER ADULTS | Katrina

Prime Timers have enjoyed meeting together monthly during 2022 and it is obvious how important it is to connect with one another for friendship and encouragement after the interruptions of Covid during the previous two years.

Morning tea is a good time to interact and catch up. This is followed by speakers who have shared their life stories and ministries.

- Max and Jo Meyers, shared wide experiences both in PNG and USA.
- Amira Azab told of her work as a Mental Health Social worker in our NewHope Medical Centre.
- Marcus and Michelle Rice joined us ‘On Line’ from Thailand.
- Deb McQuilkin told of her experiences in ministry in USA and as an author.
- In August we enjoyed a morning of Hymn singing remembering the hymns we loved and grew up with.
- Samantha Lo spoke of her work as a Chaplain at Epworth Eastern and Karana using her harp as part of bringing comfort to sick and elderly.
- Marilyn Burke spoke on being ‘Surprised by God’.
- Danny & Beth Hunt told of their work with Baptist Mission Australia serving in Outback Australia.
- And we always look forward to having our own Pastor Allan Demond at our Christmas gathering in December as our year came to a close.

We look forward to another year and realise our numbers are declining as our folk are reaching a stage in life where medical conditions compromise their abilities, but are aware of the importance to challenge older adults to keep their commitment to God strong and to face the future with confidence.

Committee members: Rev Katrina Lambert, Jenny Fearn-Wannan (chair), Vera McIlroy, John Fearn-Wannan, Greg Schumann, Lee Schumann, Leon Norsworthy.

# Leadership

## INTERNSHIPS | Lance

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Internships at NewHope are focused around giving people the opportunity to experience ministry, develop in their leadership and serve with areas of responsibility. They often will incorporate an aspect of study or learning as a part of the internship process. In 2022 NewHope had 3 interns who served in various capacities and areas within ministry.

### **Billy Dyett, Youth Intern**

Billy served the youth team in many significant ways in 2022. Billy was instrumental in key planning and running our youth program. His contributions added greater capacity to our youth staffing team and enabled the development of new strategies and innovation within the youth program. Billy also helped develop some of our teaching plans and small group study guides throughout the year, along with being a key contact and support for many of our youth leaders.

*“Last year’s internship not only allowed me to see how our Youth Group was run behind the scenes, but equally gave me the experience to grow my confidence and leadership skills through my interactions with the youth and leaders alike”*  
- Billy

### **Ethan Stebbins, Production and IT Intern**

Ethan provided significant support to NewHope’s production and IT capacity in 2022 supporting Isaac Winter in his staff role. With increased technical requirements in the delivery of ministry and hiring of facilities in 2022, Ethan’s contributions were incredibly valued and appreciated. Ethan completed 6 months of the BUV emerge program as a part of his internship.

### **Ivan Low, Playspace Intern**

Ivan served a 6 month internship within Playspace on Fridays seeking to support the running of the program. Ivan’s role was to provide support to the Playspace leader in set up and pack up, complete tasks required during sessions and to offer hospitality and care for families utilising Playspace.

# Social Enterprises

## NEWHOPE COMMUNITY CENTRE EVENTS | Angela

The NewHope Community Centre was abuzz with event bookings in 2022, particularly after restrictions were lifted. Many internal ministries resumed and over 360 external events were hosted at NewHope, including school graduations and performances, musical concerts, conferences, training workshops, community groups, and university research groups. It was wonderful to have our auditorium full on numerous occasions with over 700 people attending!



*'Thank you for all the hard work the NewHope team provided in making the Melbourne Christmas Concert a success!'*  
- Colin Buchanan

Most new clients came to NewHope after attending other events and were impressed with the facilities. 11 new clients booked their events at NewHope this year and many asked to book again annually. New clients visiting for tours were often pleasantly surprised by what NewHope has to offer and its versatility to accommodate their events. This led to discussions about the diverse range of ministries run by NewHope Baptist Church, including the Community Care food relief packages.

In November, an Events Report was created, and efforts have been made to improve room hire marketing by conducting SEO analysis and showcasing the facilities through a new Events video ([newhope.net.au/hire](https://newhope.net.au/hire)). The video highlights the catering options and technical support from the production team.

Due to the high demand for room hire, the 2022 budget was exceeded, and the goal for the next year is to increase bookings and income for NewHope. We look forward to another successful year and for NewHope to be a light on a hill for many people to connect to Jesus.

*'We would like to thank you for making the Staff Day a great success. The organisation, venue, food and service were excellent and we will definitely be using NewHope for further staff days & interviews'*  
- Blackburn High School



# and Organisations

## MIDDLE GROUND CAFE | Eva

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During 2022 the vibe in Middle Ground Cafe has been a year of re-unions. We have served so many folk catching up with friends and family for the first time in a very long while as Covid restrictions eased. People were overjoyed to be connecting with each other face to face. We have seen confidence, hope and joy returning.

I was chatting with a lady recently, while taking her order, and she shared with me some of her memories that she had of our cafe and of fond memories shared by her family about their time spent in our cafe and how they always felt a peaceful, welcoming feeling whenever they visited.



We had just started to build momentum with catering events as clients confidently met in large groups again. It has been wonderful to welcome back clients and serve their catering needs. Unfortunately though, we did have a major maintenance issue that saw the cafe close for the best part of three months.

The cafe team is forever changing and growing. Connie Rizutto hung up her chef's hat in October. After much prayer God has provided yet again. We welcome Matthew Aeschlimann to the team. I don't know why I'm so blown away by God's provision. He is our rock and never disappoints.

Middle Ground Cafe's main aim is to serve people and support the ministries of our church. We are thankful to our many volunteers who help make this possible. We are also passionate about teaching people new skills. We look forward to empowering people seeking to learn new skills, whether to join the workforce, gain confidence, meet new people or to learn English, just to name a few. As we head into 2023 the cafe will run under the banner of NewHope Community Care putting us in a better position to fulfil these goals.

We are always excited to welcome new volunteers. Anyone interested in volunteering at the cafe please contact Eva Gillam via [eva.gillam@newhope.net.au](mailto:eva.gillam@newhope.net.au)

# NEWHOPE COMMUNITY CARE | Katrina

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Eric, a man in his late 20s came to the Relief Centre. His life was chaotic and full of challenges: out of work; experiencing domestic violence; estranged from family; and self-medicating with drugs. He came to NewHope because he heard we have food.

At our Relief Centre he connected with our team and began to come in regularly. Eric talked, we listened and provided practical support and prayed with Eric.

Phil believed in Eric and carried the hope that things could change for the better in his life when Eric couldn't. The Relief Centre became one of the few places Eric knew would be there for him.

There are many ways to talk about the purpose and impact of NHCC, but the one that resonates most this year is the way the contexts of care we offer are really just pretexts to be with people.

This is the unspoken need people like Eric have as they come to the Relief Centre. This is what the children who are being mentored through Kids Hope want. A person to be with them in the middle of it all is what makes a difference to participants of Coach.

Jesus knows how important this is, so he makes this promise, 'I will be with you always.' (Matt 28:20) It makes sense that we, as followers of Jesus, are called to do the same.

Marilyn Burke and her amazing team who launched 'Learn English at NewHope' this year, get this. They're meeting a genuine need for language learning, but they understand the real power lies in being with the people who come. I'm grateful to say, all of our NHCC volunteers do.

On the next few pages are some reflections from different aspects of Community Care's work.

Here's a summary of the areas we've been working in this year.

|                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| <b>RELIEF CENTRE</b>                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Operates 10am - 2pm Monday to Friday</li><li>• Form relationships, establish trust, triage needs</li><li>• No. of Clients in 2022 = 148</li></ul>   |
| <b>FOOD</b>                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Food Pantry</li><li>• Food Parcels to other Organisations (Police, Whitehorse Council, Jubilee Housing)</li><li>• Monthly Food Swaps (neighbours sharing the abundance of their gardens)</li><li>• Christmas is Giving (\$5,000+)</li><li>• NEW: Community Cupboard (outside)</li></ul>   |
| <b>ASYLUM SEEKER &amp; REFUGEES</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Support for the Farsi Congregation:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Monthly Food Vouchers</li><li>• Farsi Food Pantry staples</li><li>• 1 Day a week for Pastor Sam Farbod</li><li>• Tools for Work Project (Bunnings Vouchers)</li></ul></li><li>• House of Hope Project (3 Dale Court) with Baptcare</li></ul>   |
| <b>ENGLISH CLASSES</b>              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Beginner English Bible Study</li><li>• NEW: Learn English at NewHope launched</li></ul>   |
| <b>COMMUNITY MENTORING</b>          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• COACH Program</li><li>• KidsHope at Kerrimuir Primary School</li></ul>  |
| <b>HOMELESSNESS</b>                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Jubilee Housing</li></ul>   |
| <b>MENTAL HEALTH</b>                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Flourish Course at NewHope &amp; WCC Hub</li><li>• Mental Health Support with NewHope Medical</li></ul>   |
| <b>WHITEHORSE CHURCHES CARE</b>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• NewHope has the highest number of regular volunteers at the WCC Forest Hill Chase Space</li><li>• We ran a 'Flourish Course' at the space</li><li>• On Mondays our Kids Ministry Team lead a regular program for kids</li><li>• We continue to support 800+ Whitehorse Residents through the Support Register with phone calls and food hampers delivered by local Police</li><li>• NHCC Team participates in the WCC Care and Food Teams</li><li>• We are involved in preparing the launch of a community meal for the residents of the social housing around Luckie Street, Nunawading.</li></ul> |

## Food Pantry | Hannah

Throughout 2022, the NewHope Food Pantry was a source of food and other material relief for those experiencing hardship. Volunteers put together hampers of food and other essentials. Most of these items are donated from members of our NewHope community or purchased from Food Bank Victoria. This year, we also had generous contributions from St Thomas' Anglican Church Burwood, Blackburn Vikings Basketball Association, and Everyday Independence, who all chose NewHope to be the recipient of their giving month.

Once assembled, the pre-made packs are then distributed, primarily to visitors to our Relief Centre, and also to other organisations including Victoria Police, Whitehorse Churches Care, Whitehorse City Council, and Jubilee Housing.



## Food Swap | Hannah

The NewHope Food Swap met monthly in 2022. This ministry is a great connection point with the broader community and it has been wonderful to see it grow in numbers, reach and fruitfulness throughout this past year. Each Swap involves great conversation, sharing of homegrown produce, and many opportunities to learn from one another. This ministry has also inspired the creation of a 'NewHope Community Cupboard'; a space where food sharing can continue throughout the month. We are also supported by a local food rescue charity, Food Filled, who help us by sourcing fresh produce to share with our community.

## COACH | Miranda

2022 was an amazing year for our COACH program. We were blessed to have 11 volunteer mentors and 5 participants this year!

Subitha, one of our COACH mentors shares - "In this one year I have spent mentoring my COACH participant, we've managed to achieve all her main goals! We've helped her become a more confident, strong and independent lady, who seems stronger to face daily challenges rather than give up and hide. Her faith has also given her hope that God will always provide a way. COACH pointed her in the right direction! She has built a safe community around her and is so thankful."



## **Kids Hope | Miranda**

Throughout 2022 NewHope partnered with Kerrimuir Primary School to provide the Kids Hope program, with nine mentors each volunteering time out of their week to mentor a child in need of extra care and support.

The staff of the school are very supportive of the Kids Hope program and see a huge improvement in the children that are mentored through this program. One student mentioned his mentor in the highlights of his years at school during his graduation speech at the end of the year. We are very thankful to our volunteers who do such an amazing job each week!

## **Relief Care | Phil**

In 2022 NewHope Community Care served 629 visits for food parcels to the Relief Care Desk to just over 200 individual clients. We saw 60 new people that had never visited NewHope before. We gave away \$6500 worth of Grocery Only Gift Cards. We also made 23 assisted visits to the Eastern Emergency Relief Network, helping people with white goods and furniture and in most cases helped them get their goods delivered to their home. This is a vital service that helps people experiencing homelessness get a new start, or a family suffering from a domestic violence situation to quickly relocate into a safe house or to help an aged or disabled pensioner with needs that their finances can't cover.

Providing relief care in these ways is an extraordinary opening to conversations about life, faith, and shows our heart and care for people in a very practical way. In 2022, Robyn Stokes and Julia Baynard-Smith volunteered to cover 2 separate weekdays at the desk to help our staff team meet the demands of those who presented at the Relief Care desk. Both Robyn & Julia made outstanding contributions in their volunteer roles, offering a kind, caring listening ear, practical food parcel support, referrals to local support services, such as NewHope Medical and showing hospitality, often giving out free "Pay It Forward" coffees from the Middle Ground Cafe which have been paid for by our generous NewHope community.

## English and the Bible | Swee

Since lockdown was lifted last year, our lives have started to return to normality. We thank God for His protection over those difficult years and now look forward to His leading in the coming years.

In addition to our usual Zoom bible class on Saturday, we launched a face to face class on Friday to offer an option for the English class students to meet Jesus. It was a great joy to reconnect with a few students and to meet new ones at the same time. To our delight, an ex-student accepted Christ during Covid lockdown and is now worshipping in a church close to where he lives. We can see the transformation in him who used to be sceptical about Christian faith and now is so positive about Jesus.

Currently we have a few seekers in class. We listen to them, support, offer our friendship and assistance whenever possible; we grow closer with one another as we share the bible's stories, learn who God is and about His love for us. Journeying alongside them is not easy, but the Holy Spirit is our helper and strength.

At the end of last year, another student, who is a medical doctor, returned to China after being with us for 3 years. He expressed his thanks for introducing Christ and His love to him. He hopes to share the good news with his family and friends. He will continue to join our Zoom class when possible.

One of our co-workers said, "We all can do global mission in our local church. God is faithful. He can multiply the work of our hands even though it is as little as 5 loaves and 2 small fish."

A lovely lady, from Horsham expressed interest in offering Easy English bible classes to new migrants in her area. We shared our experience and materials with her. May God bless her heart and continue to lead her.

Lately, we have been working closely with our Chinese congregation. We hope to invite all Mandarin-speaking students to the coming Alpha course. We thank God for giving us the opportunity and privilege to share God's word and make Jesus known. We believe in Isaiah 55:11, "So is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it."

## Learn English | Marilyn

Learn English @ NewHope re-launched in April 2022, after being closed during the Covid 19 lockdown years. English classes are now offered on Friday mornings from 9:30-11:30. Several of the previous LEARN team were delighted to help again, joined by a few new team members. On the first morning in Term 2, five students arrived but the numbers did not stay small for very long. Students attended regularly, invited others to join them and by the beginning of Term 4 five classes were offered each week with more than 30 students attending! So often a student, with limited English, would bring someone to the welcome table for a name tag, point to them, smile and say one word, “friend”. How wonderful that students feel welcome, comfortable in our church, and that their classes are worthwhile.

Most students have no prior connection with our, or any, church so we have an opportunity to reveal God’s love for them. As well as teaching English, we offer morning tea each week, help students learn a little of Australian culture, outline other ministries available at NewHope and help them connect into Whitehorse Churches Care or their local community. Our Christmas party was a highlight, with joyous carol singing and one of the students bringing his Chinese stringed er hu to play for us.

As well as adding more English classes, in Term 3 we also started an Easy English Bible Study immediately after English classes finished (in addition to the long-running Saturday Bible Study class). Students can choose to stay on to learn more English through reading and discussing Bible stories. A light lunch is provided at the start of the lesson and the class finishes about 1:00pm. Numbers attending varied from 4-9 and we can see God working in these students’ lives.

Learn English @ NewHope on Friday mornings has become a very happy part of the week for both students and volunteers. We look forward to seeing what God has in store for us in 2023.



# NEWHOPE MEDICAL LTD. | Tony

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2022 was a difficult year for many medical practices due to a shortage of staff, especially doctors, and increasing profitability challenges. Despite this, we continued to serve the local community and beyond, through the love and care shown by all at NewHope Medical.

Patient numbers have grown a further 6% to be above 4,300; total appointments were 9078. Our doctors continued to feel a sense of calling to the ministry of NewHope Medical and regularly provided a doorway to other NewHope Ministries. There were many stories of connecting the elderly and lonely patients in our community.

In May, our Practice Manager, Denise Forsyth finished up after 4+ years. After a lengthy search, a new PM was appointed, but she resigned after less than 3 months. We were blessed that Heather Coleman stepped into the role on an interim basis to see us through a critical period. We were also grateful to Genine Schumann for helping out at reception.

In 2022 both our Registered Nurses resigned, and a new RN joined us at the end of November.

In December, we farewelled Dr Genny Walker who retired after 4 years with the practice.

Future viability of NH Medical remained a serious issue, such that two emergency actions were initiated:

- A time of focused prayer and fasting, firstly by the Board, then joined by Church Council and culminating in a call in October to all the church family to participate to seek God and discern His plan.
- A working group comprising members of Church Council and the NH Medical Board began identifying possible alternate business structures and operating models.

The application for PBI was denied by the ACNC, but we are challenging that decision.

As NH Medical goes into 2023 facing an uncertain future, the encouragement and prayers of the NewHope family will be greatly appreciated as we seek to maintain the vision for NH Medical of providing Jesus-led holistic care to our community.



# NEWHOPE BAPTIST PRESCHOOL INC. | Lance

NewHope Baptist Preschool had a fantastic year in 2022. We were blessed to have enrolments at close to full capacity and were able to return to a more normal classroom environment after 2 years of Covid-interrupted education. While illness impacted many families and staff throughout the year, the Preschool was able to continue to offer ongoing pastoral care. Updates were made to the playground area and a number of new staff were appointed during the year.

Our Director Mel Adam, went on long service leave during term 4 of 2022. During this period Miranda Lee did an excellent job stepping into the role as an Interim Director at the Preschool. Miranda’s leadership enabled a smooth term 4 as families celebrated Christmas and the conclusion of Preschool education for many of our 4 year old children.

Mel Adam concluded her role as Director of the Preschool at the end of 2022. We thank Mel for her years of contribution and leadership of the Preschool. The Preschool is in a healthy position and is well placed for the years to come as the early learning industry goes through many changes and adaptations.



# BNFC | Lance

BNFC had a successful year both on and off the field. For the first time in the clubs history the Men’s Seniors and Reserves sides won the title in the Premier division and in addition won the Parry Shield. In addition to this a number of other teams across Senior and Junior competitions also won their respective leagues.



Off the field, Lance Blythe served the club as the Interim President throughout 2022, after Craig Steven retired from the role at the end of the 2021 season. Throughout the season the club developed an Operational Committee to oversee the week to week workings of the club. The Operational Committee was comprised of both NewHope representatives and members of BNFC.

Through collaboration with Blackburn South Cricket Club (co-tenants), BNFC was able to secure financial commitments from both Federal and State Labour and Liberal parties during the election campaigns of 2022 to enable the redevelopment of the clubrooms at Mirabooka Reserve. As a result, over \$4 million dollars has been committed by Federal and State governments for the redevelopment of the facility which will ultimately create greater access for female participation and a much needed improvement to the facilities. Collaborative work with Whitehorse Council is continuing to move the project forward.

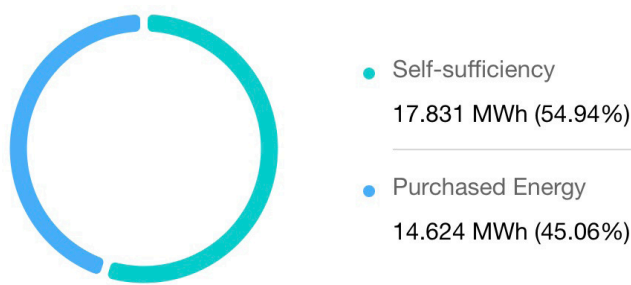



# SOLAR PANEL INSTALLATION | Michael

In February the installation of a solar panel system at NewHope was completed. The 99kw system consists of over 200 panels and has been installed on the roof of the Auditorium and Function Room 3. The system was funded in part from a grant provided by Sustainability Victoria.

The anticipated life of the system is over 20 years. Arrangements have been made with our local energy provider to export any additional power produced back into the electricity grid. The system will dramatically reduce NewHope’s carbon footprint by sourcing renewable power from our own system. There will also be a significant financial offset of costs and long term financial savings for NewHope over the life of the system.

Snapshot of data obtained from our solar panels - year ending 2022



 CO<sub>2</sub> Reduction 99,449 kg

 Save Standard Coal 40,298 kg

 Tree 5,430 trees

# Enabling

## **FACILITIES** | Michael

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2022 has been a busy year. Even though we had some restrictions placed on us in the earlier part of the year, we still had to have business as usual. The normal essential maintenance was carried out to support NewHope ministries, and to keep our building safe and compliant. During 2022, in addition to day-to-day maintenance, a number of projects that needed to be done to enhance our facility were undertaken.

- Installation of solar panels. The new solar panels are a great asset and cost reduction measure which will greatly benefit NewHope going forward.
- Upgrades to Events Room 6. Numerous updates were carried out to Events Room 6 to modernise the space, to support the ministries and community of NewHope. This included A/V upgrades, repainting the front wall and the blue carpet that has served us since 2006 was replaced with modern grey carpet tiles similar to the carpet in the auditorium and other spaces.
- LED lighting upgrades. The ceiling lighting on the mezzanine and in Function Rooms 1 and 2 have been replaced. This now lights the area more effectively, making these spaces look more inviting to our internal ministries and our external clients, and they are a safer option. These lights are all LEDs therefore they are more environmentally friendly and also help to reduce the electricity costs of running the building. The majority of the first floor is now on LED lighting!
- Exterior painting. You will notice as you drive into the carpark that the green wall has changed colour to burgundy to match other exterior areas. This was needed as the old paint was looking quite aged and damaged.
- Cafe maintenance. Repairs to the cafe kitchen and bathrooms were undertaken, which took longer than anticipated. In the end, once repairs were completed, the cafe now looks magnificent.

2022 was a very busy year, with many of these projects completed with assistance from a team of wonderful volunteers who play a key role in assisting with the upkeep of our amazing facility!



# Infrastructure

## **NEWHOPE COMMUNICATIONS** | Alicia and Adam

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2022 saw the continued implementation of our strategic roadmap to develop Communications as a ministry which supports the vision of NewHope and engages our mission.

The rollout of NewHope's branding refresh continued. Our website, an important first point of contact for many visitors to our church, was updated with new content and clearer pathways to make it easier for people to engage with the things that really matter and explore next steps of faith.

NewHope News continued to be a valuable avenue for keeping up to date with the good things that are happening in the life of our church. We celebrated many stories of God's goodness. We also began the NewHope Family Notice Board, a place for NewHopers to share news, needs or opportunities. This provided a great way of staying connected as a church family.

The communications team also had the privilege of partnering with many of NewHope's ministries and departments on various projects, events and campaigns, such as the WhatsApp Bible Reading Group, the monthly Engagement Cards and the Encounters in the Psalms Social Media series.

In 2022 we continued automating several of our processes with tools like Zapier and Asana to see an increase in efficiency and the team's capacity. Our goal is to continually be learning and developing as we seek to make processes as easy and smooth as possible.

We look forward to even more opportunities to strengthen Communications at NewHope in the year to come.

### **Social Media** | Jazz

We have been so abundantly blessed with the increased reach our Facebook pages have had over the years. Our NewHope Baptist Church Facebook page reached 1,700 people which was a 14% increase. NewHope Young Adults Facebook reach increased by 61% and NewHope Community Care Instagram reach increased by 75%. This increase means that more people are seeing posts from NewHope including those who don't follow these social media accounts. Social Media is an incredible ministry tool that not only provides informational and inspirational content for our NewHope family, but also is an incredible evangelistic platform for us to utilise as a church.



## Video Production | Kent and Phil

Our video production team was able to create a very large number of videos, supporting the work of NewHope and its ministries throughout 2022. All of this was carried out with the aim of sharing encouragement, hope, inspiration, information and the glory of our God to NewHope. Many of these long-form videos were edited specifically for social media too. Our staff team of Kent Pittendrigh-Smith, Jacob Winter and Phil Gaudion co-ordinate filming and editing of these videos weekly with the communications team assisting with the scripting for videos.

Along with our English speaking videos, in 2022, we welcomed Maryam Babaali to the team through the Farsi Friendship Project to assist with the creation of Farsi language videos that were used by both the local & international community as a means of outreach for our NewHope Farsi congregation. Maryam put in a full year of excellent production and concluded at the end of 2022, pursuing other work opportunities. In mid 2022 we welcomed Majid Soltanzadeh and Marjan Marjani to the Video Production team and they underwent training in the use of our cameras, lighting and studio for The Farsi Friendship project to continue in 2023.

## OFFICE MANAGEMENT AND RECEPTION | Surette

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Liane Viljoen took over the role as Office Manager mid-year. Post COVID we found ourselves with no reception volunteers and activity increased all throughout the year. We are looking forward to 2023 as we rebuild a team of receptionists for our NewHope Community Centre.

Reception, as the first connection point, sees a myriad of faces on a daily basis from cafe patrons, to visitors meeting with our ministry and support staff, external hirers of our facilities, preschool parents, attenders of our weekly ministries, the patients of NewHope Medical coming to the wrong end of campus as well as Community Care clients.

Office Management keeps the community centre running - from stationery orders to dishwashing, from organising archives to mopping the community kitchen floor, from collecting the mail at Kerrimuir post office to watering the plants, from doing building tours with potential events' clients to booking sessions for prayer healing, from responding to website requests and creating workflows for staff members to action to filling water jugs for church council meetings, from running reports to filling out annual reporting for the BUV and on it goes!! Supporting all visitors, staff and volunteers is the core function.

***As we went to print, Liane was recovering from a severe health crisis and was a walking testimony of God's miraculous response to our prayers.***

# IT SERVICES | Isaac

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2022 was a quiet year for IT services at NewHope. A large part of the day-to-day work is simply maintaining the network infrastructure that is essential to much of the operation of the community centre, and provisioning tools and resources which are utilised by the staff team every week.

A few upgrades were made to network equipment where necessary but we were blessed to make our way through 2022 with no significant faults or incidents.

Cyber security is an ongoing focus for IT services. Various policy changes were planned and implemented to stay on the front foot in this area.

Use of third-party software and services is a core part of the operations of NewHope. Careful research and decisions were made into considering alternate vendors to enable more efficient use of staff time and church resources.

The progress in documentation that began in 2021 was continued throughout 2022. This is a much needed resource for the future of IT services at NewHope.

A quiet year is a good year in this neck of the woods!

## HUMAN RESOURCES | Surette

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We saw the staff returning to the office after the restrictions were lifted in early in 2022 with the majority of staff members still maintaining some hours working from home as and when possible.

Middle Ground Cafe closed down for several weeks mid-year to repair some significant water damage that paused the momentum gained earlier in the year and saw our staff taking some extended annual leave or unpaid leave.

Training happened face-to-face again with a focus on:

- Change or Suppression (Conversion) Practices Prohibition Act 2021
- Workplace behaviours by Garside Consulting
- Duty of Care & OH&S
- Global Leadership Summit

NewHope Medical successfully went through their accreditation process in mid-December. Dr. Joanne Teo is the acting interim Practice Manager reporting to Surette Southwood and the board of NewHope Medical.

Melissa Adam, the Director of our Preschool was on long service leave for Term Four and Miranda Lee stepped in as the acting Director.

We celebrated the births of:

- Lincoln Adam Southwood, son of Adam & Kelsey
- James Ian Blythe, son of Lance & Laura, brother to Eden & Levi

Lance Blythe celebrated his ordination through the Baptist Union of Victoria.

Kingdom work flourished through several staff members engaged as speakers at external events as well as serving at Youth Alive, State Youth Games, Red Frogs and Beach Missions. The NewHope Leadership Team also serve on other Baptist boards:

- Allan Demond - Baptist World Aid Australia (vice chair)
- Surette Southwood - Baptist Mission Australia (vice chair)
- Lance Blythe - Baptist Financial Services
- Katrina Lambert - Whitley College (chair)

As at 31 December 2022 the **full time staff equivalent** for the entities were:

|                                |                             |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| NewHope Baptist Church         | 19.23 (2021) > 20.55 (2022) |
| NewHope Community Care Inc.    | 2.20 (2021) > 2.32 (2022)   |
| NewHope Medical Ltd.           | 2.27 (2021) > 2.15 (2022)   |
| NewHope Baptist Preschool Inc. | 3.42 (2021) > 4.01 (2022)   |

NewHope Staff Members concluding their roles in 2022:

**NHBC**

- Cathy De Witt (Pastor of Prayer & Care)
- Judy Louie (Finance Manager)
- Heather Coleman (Office Manager)
- Jazz Coughlin (Snr. Kids Church & Social Media)
- Kerry Roberts (Middle Ground Cafe Barista casual)
- Tracey Frost (Middle Ground Cafe Cook)
- Connie Rizzuto (Middle Ground Cafe Cook)

**NHCC**

- None

**NHBPS**

- Melissa Adam (Director)
- Rachel He (Educator)
- Clare Gooding (Educator / Teacher)
- Laura Dodani (Educator)

**NHMed**

- Denise Forsyth (Practice Manager)
- Marisa Pernace (Practice Manager)
- Heather Coleman (Interim Practice Manager fixed term)
- John Shackleton (Nurse)
- Jennifer Berryman (Nurse)
- Deb Schilling (Nurse)
- Kate Glynatsis (Receptionist)

NewHope Staff Members commencing in 2022:

### **NHBC**

- Liane Viljoen (Office Manager)
- Hannah Freeman (Awe & Wonder Facilitator)
- Matt Aeschlimann (Middle Ground Cafe Cook)
- Maryam Babaali (Persian Communications fixed term)
- Majid Soltanzadeh (Farsi Friendship Project)
- Azam Marjani (Farsi Friendship Project)

### **NHCC**

- None

### **NHMed**

- Marisa Pernace (Practice Manager)
- Heather Coleman (Interim Practice Manager fixed term)
- Jennifer Berryman (Nurse)
- Mary Gionta (Nurse)
- Veronica Chai (Receptionist)
- Genine Schumann (Receptionist casual)

### **NHBPS**

- Catherine Bezemar (Educator)
- Teresa Leigh (Educator)



# FINANCE AND RISK MANAGEMENT | Sanette

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‘Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?’ We give thanks for God’s provision for all our needs during 2022.

Expenses were managed in accordance with available funds. Giving in 2022 was slightly down from the previous year, and we saw local ministry giving at 96% against budget, Global Missions at only 85% against budget and Tax Deductible Giving at 94% against budget. We finished off the year with a giving deficit of \$114,670. All entities for NewHope will be audited by RDL Accountants in March 2023 and the 2022 financials will be published on the NewHope website after the annual general meetings.

We’ve implemented several automated processes in Finance and these were rolled out successfully to all staff. We’ve moved towards becoming a ‘paper-free’ environment as far as possible and we’ve been reviewing all our processes to ensure that we stay up to date with new technologies and allow staff to focus on ministries, rather than paperwork.

We’ve been encouraged to see that many activities return to on-site at NewHope and we encourage all our members to review their giving on a regular basis and reach out to our team to assist you with the easiest way to tithe for your circumstances. We’ve seen a big portion of our congregation move to online giving and thank God for our faithful supporters.

The Risk Management function at NewHope continued to collaborate with ministries to ensure the early detection and/or implementation of mitigating measures.

Judy Louie finished at the end of November as the Finance Manager and Sanette Wood took on the position of Finance and Risk Manager in December 2022 and Jono Hill rejoined the team in January 2023 as the accountant.



**NewHope Baptist Church**

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