



# From the Senior Pastor



2021 continued the 2020 trend of being a year of change and flux at Wagga Wagga Evangelical Church (WVEC). Not only did we face the on-going challenges of navigating the impacts of COVID-19 on the life of our gatherings, but more significantly, we farewelled our senior pastor, Peter Blanch and his family from our midst. This was indeed a 'bitter-sweet' occasion. We joyfully and gladly supported their decision to leave and take up a new and important gospel opportunity with Reach Australia, and yet at the same time we grieved and lamented the personal impacts of their departure. I have certainly felt the impact of this change personally. It has been a privilege to work under and alongside Pete for the last 5 years at WVEC, and while I wholeheartedly supported their decision to shift, I, like others, was very sad to see them go.

Despite the personal grief, I am extremely grateful to God for the way he has worked through the Blanchs during their time at WVEC. I am directly indebted to Pete for first preaching the gospel to me in 2009, personally investing in me and training me as an MTS worker in 2011-12 and then giving me my first opportunity as a pastor post-college in 2017. It is only because of God's grace (through Pete's influence) that I was willing, ready and excited to step into the role of new senior pastor at WVEC as he transitioned out.

My prayer is that God will continue to work equally as powerfully by His Spirit, through His word in this new season at WVEC; to continue to grow and shape our church in the likeness of Christ all to His praise and glory in Wagga.

And this remains our vision and certain hope as a church; that despite the changes and challenges on the surface, God is good and is sovereignly in control of all things. As a church our desire and commitment therefore remains the same; that as we collectively keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, and as we constantly seek to plant and water seeds of the gospel here in Wagga, we can be prayerfully assured that God will give the growth in accordance with his good pleasure and sovereign plans. What a privilege we have to be totally reliant on God for all things!

As you read through this report as summary and a snapshot of 2021 and as a vision for the future, please let me encourage you to continue praying for God's work in, on and through our church family as we continue to grow together in Christ, for His glory!



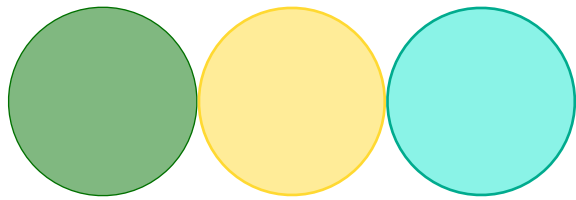
**Tim Flint**  
WVEC Senior Pastor

# Contents

- 1** From the Senior Pastor
- 2** Contents
- 3** The 5 M's
- 4** Membership
- 6** Maturity
- 8** Ministry
- 10** Mission
- 12** Kids & Youth Church
- 13** Special Religious Education (SRE)
- 14** Christian Youth (CY)
- 16** 2021 Financial Report
- 17** WWEC Committees
- 18** Farewell Blanches
- 19** Future Focus - 2022 & beyond

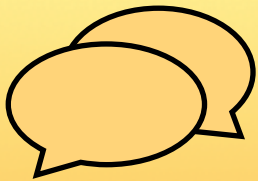






# What are the 5m's?

## Mission



Moving from death to life through Jesus Christ.

The Christian life is a journey. Colossians 2:6-7 puts it like this: 'so then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness'.

Christians come to know Christ Jesus as Lord, but our story doesn't end there. We continue to grow into mature disciples: people who are part of a loving community, changed by God's word, gladly serving our Lord and involved in his mission in the world - all with a soft heart that seeks to glorify God in all things.

## Membership



Fully connected into a caring, vibrant community of faith and love.

The 5 Ms - Magnification, Mission, Membership, Maturity and Ministry - break this journey down into stages, each one building and overlapping with the others. Together, they remind us how God works to build his church. They also help us to focus holistically on people and all aspects of our ongoing journey: from seeing people saved to helping them continue as healthy disciples of Jesus.

## Maturity



Transformed by the word and prayer

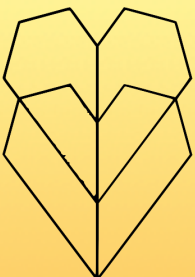
The 5 M purpose model has been adopted and used at WVEC since 2011. It ultimately enables us to be intentional as we seek to live out the Great Commission to make disciples, and the Great Commandment to love God and each other.

## Ministry

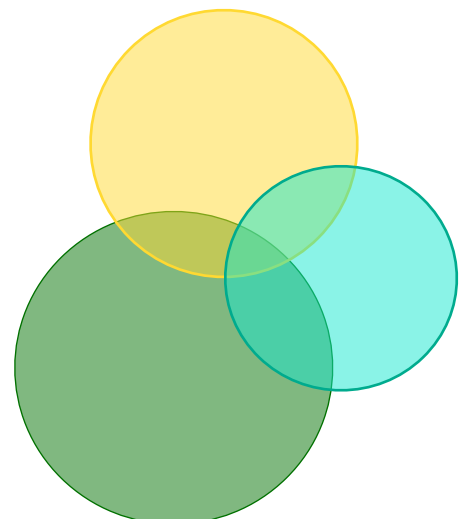


Using our whole lives to gladly serve God and others

## Magnification



Glorifying God and devoted to Him, by loving, worshipping and delighting in Him.



# Membership

In God's kindness we continue to see many people visit, connect and join our church family at WVEC. In 2021 we had a total of 71 visitors come to WVEC looking for a church to attend regularly. 59 of these folk (43 adults and 16 kids) decided to call WVEC home! With great delight we also welcomed 5 new babies to existing church members. Sadly we said good-bye to 34 members (18 adults, 16 kids): 2 families moved to pursue gospel employment outside of Wagga, 7 families moved towns for work, 3 families joined other churches in Wagga.

Despite overall numbers at WVEC increasing the average weekly church attendance is slightly concerning. We have 175 adults and 120 kids who consider WVEC 'their church', however our weekly attendance average for 2021 was 125 adults and 85 kids (9am and 11am combined). This means that week-to-week 50 adults and 35 kids are missing from church! The bounce-back from COVID has certainly played a part in this, but it remains an area we ought address as a church. Given that we are the 'body of Christ' we need to ensure that we are taking this seriously, for the good of the body and the glory of God.

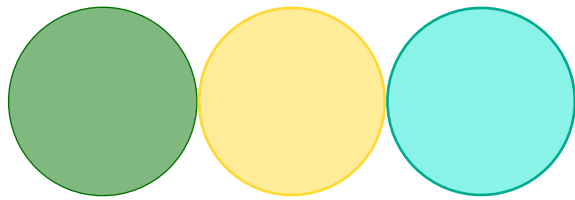
*"The Lunch@Ours in February was an informal, relaxed way to get to know other church members better. Sometimes after church there's not enough time to chat to people. Over lunch I enjoyed catching up with old friends plus getting time to meet new people to WVEC. I look forward to the next one."*  
**Erwin Moore**



*"Newish was a great way to see others in the Church who were in the same boat and enabled us to catch up with people more deeply, over a meal. It was a great encouragement to see the growth of WVEC and to be a part of it. I pray for consistency with those numbers for future years."*  
**Jarrold Dafter**

One of the things we value greatly at WVEC is the deepening of our fellowship with one another. We have continued to build this into the 'fabric' of our church by running whole church lunches at times throughout the year. 'Lunch@Ours' was a roaring success with over 130 church members meeting in 12 different households on the same day to express and celebrate our unity in Christ.

Our 3-week membership course, 'Newish', continues to be a wonderful way for those who are new or newish to hear more about our church. It's a chance for people to ask questions about church governance and structure, as well as the areas of ministry they may be involved in serving or being trained in the future. Newish ran twice in 2021, with 29 adults and 12 kids (from 19 different families) attending.



*"We were greeted in the car park, at the rego table, at the door, and then again by a couple sitting behind us. This couple chatted about the church and their bible study group. After the service we were introduced to others, and left feeling very welcomed and certain we were exactly where the Lord wanted us - and still believe we are!!"*

**Rodney & Marion Dobinson**

Members who have attended WVEC for some time can be invited by the Senior Pastor to consider becoming formal Partners. Being a Partner of WVEC is about committing to the mission of our church through prayer, service and financial support. Partners also have the responsibility for appointing people to fill offices and to vote at formal meetings. In 2021 we had 18 members join us as partners, increasing the number of partners to a total of 68.



*"WVEC was very welcoming from our first Sunday attending we were very quickly linked in with a bible study and Sunday touch footy. We were also invited along to 'Newish' which was fantastic and a great way to meet other new member and get a real feel for what WVEC was on about."*

**Abby & Nic Van Honk**



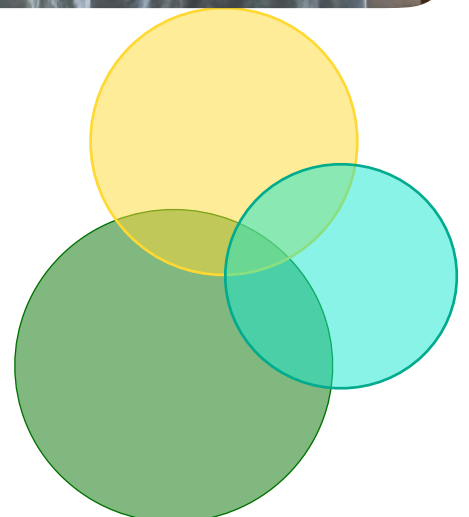
*"The major thing I felt when I first came to WVEC was welcomed. I didn't have to work to find people to speak to or to become part of the church family. It was really great to get connected so quickly once I established WVEC would be my church."*

**Emma Pearson**



### **Goals for 2022**

- Continue to encourage fellowship and connection through church lunches and whole church activities
- Continue to run 'Newish' so new members to church are welcomed and connected quickly.
- Build and diversify our membership team with appropriate leadership and oversight to see these areas continue to grow.





# Maturity

At WWEC we aim to be a church family who love God's word and are growing in trust and obedience to it daily. We continue to keep God's word central to all that we do, ensuring that we are growing as mature disciples of Christ.

The preaching plan for church in 2021 included the following series:

- A topical series called 'Half Truths' looking at common, seductive and mistaken half truths that are popular in our day
- New Testament letters: James & 1 Thessalonians
- Gospel: Luke (Ch 1-10)
- Old Testament: Isaiah

We also launched the WWEC Podcast in 2021 which has been a huge blessing to our congregation locally and to the many who were unable to attend church face to face.

*"The meat we're fed here is so stark in contrast to the water crackers we were fed at some other churches. A standout sermon series was Isaiah. We went in with much trepidation. What a book to conquer! But oh my, the reward was great. After the first introductory sermon I went home and in response prayed as Paul did in Eph 3:14-21*

*"When I think of the scope and wisdom of God's plan, I fall to my knees and pray to the Father... May He be given glory forever because of His master plan of salvation for the church through Jesus Christ."* **Christina Callander**

*"I always look forward to sermons on Sunday because I find it so helpful to be grounded in God's word each week. It has made it possible for me to keep going everyday no matter what is happening in my life. My hope for WWEC is for the Bible to continue being taught so faithfully and that we'll all be constantly refined by the Holy Spirit through it, and grow in our understanding and love of God."*

**Lydia Deacon**



*"The prayer group has deepened my relationship with God over time. When we pray alone we often pray about our own personal needs. But when we pray together on a Friday morning we pray for God's work in our church, city and world. This lifts my eyes from myself and onto God's great purposes in the world!*

*While the prayer group has been a personal benefit to me, we should remember that our expectation is that God will answer our prayers! So if God is the one who builds the church, then prayer group is the engine room of our church and there's multiplied blessings from praying first and working second."*

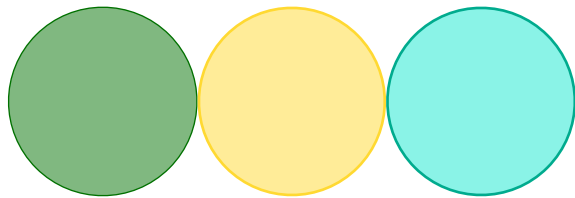
**Curtis Madeley**

Prayer Matters is a prayer meeting commenced in early 2019 and has continued throughout 2021 (outside of covid lockdowns).

The group meets every Friday at 7:30am, all year round. We've laboured in prayer for our church, our city of Wagga, our nation, and so many things that trouble our world.

Prayer matters has often seen just 2 or 3 gathered to pray, however the joy is deep in bringing these concerns before God.

Hearing the prayers of others shows a glimpse into personal life with God, sparks new thoughts and new things to entrust to God in prayer.



*"There are a couple of things I really love about our Bible study group. Firstly there's the teaching. And also the interaction and the fellowship. But I think we're the only Bible study group which has someone from every age range - from teens to people in their 70's. And I think that is such a blessing."*

**Meg Riley- Group member**

*"Seeing the desire of my Bible study group members to know and understand God better through digging into His Word is super encouraging. It has been a joy to lead them in understanding God's Word in ways that cause changed priorities and plans which reflect living with Jesus as King."*

**Luke Hipwell- Group leader**

### **Goals for 2022**

- Build a pipeline for training, equipping and developing new leaders.
- Multiply and grow our current number of Bible study groups.

Bible Study groups continue to be the engine room for discipleship in close-knit groups. The core aims continue to be learning from God's word, encouraging and challenging each other and caring for each other through the ups and downs of life.

In 2021 we had 12 Bible study groups running each week, 9 held during evenings and 3 daytime groups (including men's, women's and mixed groups). Over 125 members were a part of a regular Bible study group in 2021 and we greatly desire to see these groups thrive in 2022.

*"I'd never experienced bible study groups until I was a young adult - but I've been part of one ever since then and they're an integral part of my life. Meeting with others to read and reflect and pray about the meaning of God's word to us is a really important part of my week. Even if I lack energy or motivation before I get there, I am always encouraged, inspired and challenged and leave with a renewed awareness of being a part of a Christian family and God's plan. This year in particular bible study has had a big impact for me, as someone living on my own. During periods of Covid restrictions, Bible study with my church family, face to face or virtual was an invaluable connection with brothers and sisters in Christ."*

**Jodi Culbert- Group member**





# Ministry

What a privilege, honour and joy it has been to be able to serve our great God and saviour alongside wonderful brothers and sisters in Christ. 2021 was an exciting year and WWEC underwent many significant changes. With the departure of the much loved Blanch family and our continuation of 2 full services meeting in the morning, our ministry teams had to almost double so that both services could run properly. We are very thankful to God for the way our church family has jumped in to serve and work, to not just maintain what we are doing but looking to the amazing possibilities for the future. Each of our ministry teams has been thinking about our dreams for the future and exciting opportunities we have to reach more people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

As a church family we are very thankful to God for those who serve regularly and faithfully with willing hearts. We simply could not do the kingdom work before us without the gracious volunteering of so many people.

## Serving on a Ministry Team

*"I have been on the Music Team at WWEC since 2009 initially playing bass guitar and recently singing. I love getting to know others through co-operating and helping others to praise God for His goodness through song."*

**Trudy Riley** (Music Team)

*"Much like my experience in following God I find serving on the Computer team both challenging and rewarding. It's great for those who like technology (especially when it all works!) and a welcome opportunity to serve the Lord who has sacrificed so much for us."*

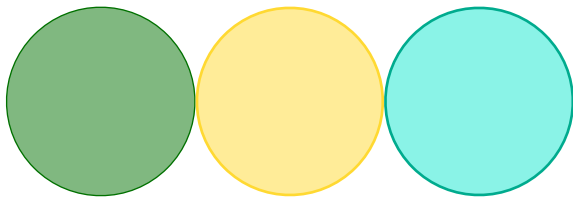
**Ian McDermott** (Computer Team)



*"As a member of WWEC who loves serving the Lord and participating in service I enjoy being part of the morning tea team. Offering hospitality as part of the Sunday morning services is providing a homelike atmosphere where people can enjoy morning tea and great conversations perhaps personal, sometimes sermon oriented or prayerful whatever evolves it's a precious opportunity to bring glory to God."*

**Elaine Michael** (Morning Tea Team)





At the end of 2021 we had 15 ministry teams. In these teams we have over 120 people actively engaged in serving. This represents 75% of suitable adults serving in ministry, an increase of 7% from 2020.

In 2021 our new flywheel system was established to create a proactive way of recruiting and training our volunteers for effective service. Every three months our various teams attend training days to help equip members. As well as these days, on the job training continues for those new to serving in each area as people share their wisdom and experience.



## Serving on a Ministry Team

*"We love serving on the Welcoming team as it gives us the opportunity to get to know more of our WVEC family and to joyfully welcome newcomers, just as we were once welcomed.*

*We are still learning faces (so exciting to see everyone's smiles without masks!) and who is connected to who, but we count it a privilege to serve our church family in this way."*

**Bec and Aaron Touzel** (Welcoming Team)

*"Being a Service Leader at WVEC has been a challenging and satisfying experience. The challenge is to introduce the teaching topic of the day and arrange all aspects of the service to echo that theme. But it becomes very satisfying to see all the elements of the service working together through God's people to lead up to the teaching of God's word."*

**Murray Baker** (Service Leading Team)



# Mission

At WWEC, we have a genuine desire for many in Wagga to come to know Jesus as their saviour and king. Our mission goal is to enable church members to urgently pursue evangelism personally, locally, nationally and internationally motivated by God's love for the lost. God has given us the great commission in Matthew 28 to make disciples. We are convinced that mission should continue to be a priority for us as a church and are seeking to think creatively about how to enlarge our impact for the gospel in Wagga.

## Our goal for christians:

To grow in the **conviction**, **confidence** and **competence** to be on mission in their everyday life.

## Our goal for non-christians:

To create opportunities to **contact** non-christians, **connect** them with christians and gospel teaching, and prayerfully see them **converted** to become followers of Christ.

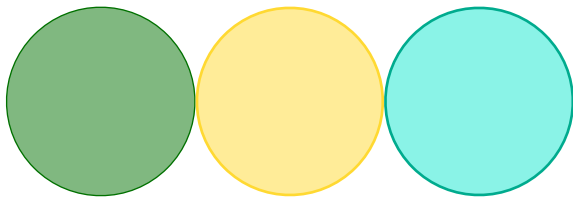
## WWEC Mission Partners

Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches (FIEC)  
Church Planting (Singleton Evangelical Church)  
Overseas Council of Australia (OCA)  
Australian Fellowship of Evangelical Students (AFES)  
Scripture in Schools  
Pioneers (Cameron & Lara Blair)  
Voice of the Martyrs  
Mission Aviation Fellowship (Jake & Liz Newth)

We want everyone, both in our community and abroad, to know Jesus and the real hope that he brings. We also seek to show God's love to others by helping those in need. Our mission partners work in three key areas: proclaiming God's word globally, show God's love to those near and far and equipping the church.







### **Jesus Seriously**

Our 5 week 'Jesus-Seriously!?' course continues to be the engine room of conversion for our church. It has been wonderful to see existing Christians come along to be re-grounded in their foundations of belief and new/non Christians be invited to explore the claims about Jesus more closely. 'Jesus-Seriously!?' ran 3 times in 2021 and was attended by 10 non/new Christians and 5 committed Christians. Excitingly 5 attendees made expressions of faith and 4 of those began to attend WVEC regularly.



### **Goals for 2022**

- Provide a platform for intentional training in evangelism through Bible study groups and Jesus Seriously.
- Clarify and develop a 'Newcomer Pathway' that is communicated to all regulars at WVEC.
- Provide regular update to church members regarding our mission partners & WVEC mission activities.

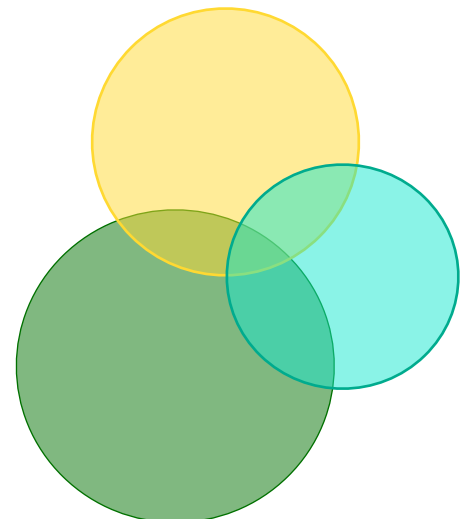
*"I was approached after a couple visits to WVEC with an invite to the 'Jesus-Seriously!?' course. Tim explained to me the purpose and scope of Jesus-Seriously and I decided to attend as I was still on the fence about Christianity at the time.*

*The first session involved Tim teaching us on the historical and biblical claims of Jesus to lay out context, as well as getting us all to share what our assumptions were. This helped us establish where our knowledge gaps were, and what topics of interest to focus on.*

*The discussion was always two-way which was great for all participants, including myself. By the end I had a greater understanding of Jesus and why he died for our sins. It has helped me understand the preaching better as I continued to attend WVEC and it eventuated in me being baptised.*

*In retrospect, it is one of those courses I would gladly attend again just to experience and perhaps pick up some details I may have missed. My hopes for the future is WVEC offers similar or more advanced courses in this format."*

**Alex Metcalfe**



# Kids & Youth Church

In Kids and Youth Church in 2021 we continued to work toward our vision of growing children together in Christ for God's glory. This is done by prayerfully teaching & modelling the gospel to children, pointing them to Jesus as Saviour & Lord & supporting parents in their role as primary shepherds.

In 2021 we had 28 children in the preschool program (age 2 to school age), 35 in the infants program (school age K-2), 29 primary children (school age 3-5) and 25 in youth church (school Year 6-8). We thank God for 45 WVEC members who faithfully served our children by teaching Kids & Youth church.



In 2021 we established a new Kids Talk team. This team is involved in writing, preparing and presenting the Kids Talk during the 9am and 11am church services.

At the end of 2021 the Kids Church leaders felt the loss of Sarah Blanch who led kids ministry at WVEC over many years. Please pray for the ongoing adjustments in the area of Kids church and Kids talks into 2022 and beyond.



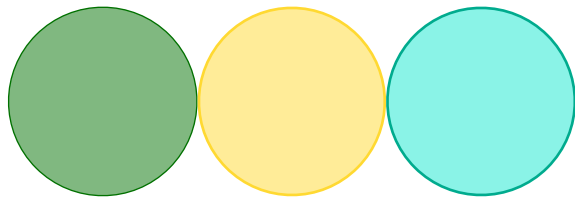
*"It's great to be able to see these kids grow and learn each Sunday. Seeing them understand God's love and even accept Jesus as their Lord and Saviour is such a blessing."*

**Miffy Everingham**  
Kids Church Team Leader

*"When my son first started going to preschool kids church he was cranky and did not want to go. We were supported by the kids church leaders and now he loves kids church and always wants to go! He comes back and explains all that he is learning about Jesus which we love to hear."*

**Jackulin Maschak**  
(parent)





*"I love being involved in the preschooler kids ministry team at WWEC. We have to be ready to answer tricky questions (but why?! ) and also be ready to meet a variety of needs that allows us to practically show the love of Christ to others. It's not always easy, but the growth we see in the kids from a very young age is so encouraging and impactful. It is a great reminder that God's word is important for everyone, no matter what age."*

**Kim Baker**  
Kids Church Leader

*"My children have benefitted in many ways from attending kids church. They have been able to learn about the fundamentals of God and how and why they should maintain a relationship with Him. My children have been able to not only learn the word of God but also how to be an ambassador of Christ."*

**Youngju Anderson**  
(parent)

***Benefits of Youth Church:***

*Fellowship, hanging out with other teenagers. Having fun and learning about the bible Having the bible explained well for our age group Having the opportunity to ask questions.*

**Rosie & Lilly Ward**  
(youth church attendees)

**Goals for 2022**

- that WWEC kids & youth would come to know Jesus as their king and saviour
- that God would raise up more leaders for kids & youth church
- that all those serving in the kids & youth church ministry teams would adjust to the changes in pastoral leadership and continue to bond and grow as teams

# Special Religious Education (SRE)

We had 7 people from WWEC teaching regular Special Religious Education (SRE) classes (also known as scripture) at a number of Public Primary Schools across Wagga. WWEC has provided regular SRE newsletters, updates, have trained new teachers for 2022 and support SRE both in prayer and financially. Peter Blanch and Lexi Ward have been involved in WICCET (Wagga Inter Church Christian Education Team.) This board oversees SRE in Wagga.

*"I have been teaching scripture at Kapooka primary school for a number of years. It is an absolute pleasure and privilege to share the gospel with precious little ears that may not be hearing it anywhere else."*

**Rob Owers**  
(SRE teacher)

# Christian Youth (CY)

## Youth Group

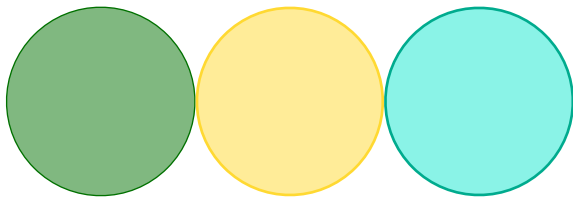
Our goal at youth group (CY) is to see teenagers become mature in Christ, growing in how they know, love, trust and serve Jesus. Most Friday nights, you'll find us hanging out, playing games and spending quality time in God's word.

Recently we've enjoyed seeing the number of teens getting along to CY increase, largely due to our existing members inviting their friends along. We've also had a growing number of CYers taking an interest in taking on mentoring roles and being more deliberate in sharing their faith with their younger peers.

We find great joy in seeing the teens come to terms with the reality of Jesus, recognising Jesus' loving call on their life and responding to him in faith.







*"Since joining CY the community has welcomed me as a child of God and helped me grow. I've seen people come and go and all of them have touched my heart, aiding me spiritually and mentally. I've learnt the importance of good leadership and of finding your place in a church environment where you can use your gifts to serve others and God. I only hope that everyone can experience CY the way I have."*

**Zoe Riley**  
(CY member)

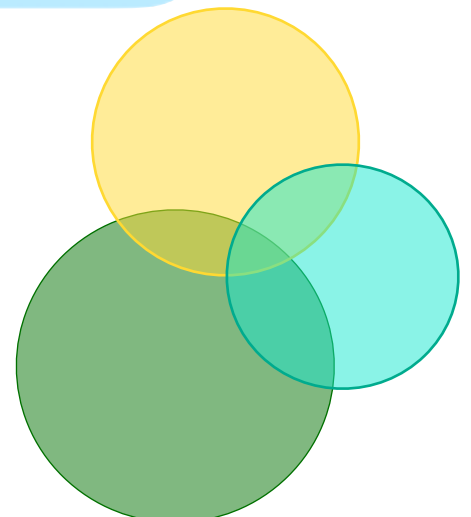
*"I've loved going to youth group over the last few years. It's been a great place to learn more from God's word and build strong friendships with other Christians my age. CY gave me so many opportunities to share the gospel with my friends and I've gathered so many precious and hilarious memories along the way."*

**Trinity Cox**  
(CY member)



*"Youth group is one of the highlights of my week. I love that so many of the youth are enthusiastic about growing in their understanding of the Bible and are willing to serve! It is exciting watching our youth group grow in number often with youth from non-WWEC families but are keen to come and check out the Bible. We pray that youth group will continue to faithfully proclaim the gospel and grow people in their maturity in Christ!"*

**Hannah Kingsland** (CY Leader)

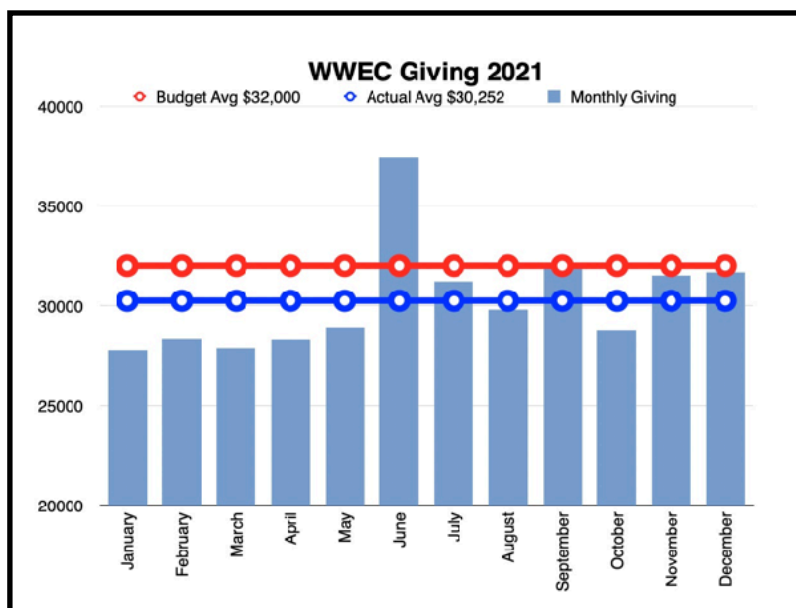


# 2021 Financial Report

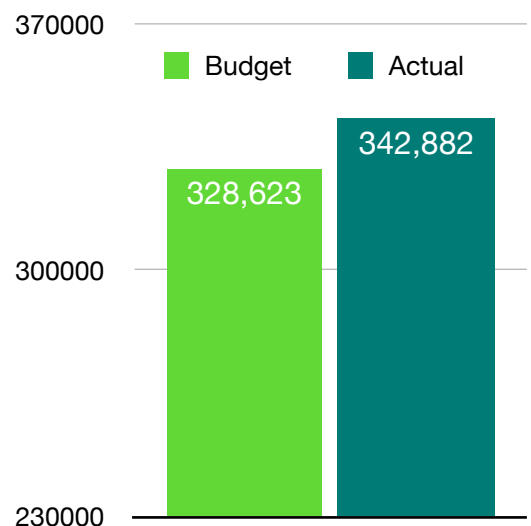
In 2021 the Administration Committee set an ambitious income target of \$32,000 per month. The aim was to achieve a surplus to allow us to recoup some of the savings that were spent in previous years. There were some ups and downs with regard to the monthly giving. Throughout the year we received an average of \$30,252 per month. This left a shortfall of about \$1,750 each month, which over the year totalled \$20,971.

With regard to expenditure in 2021 we did actually spend more than our budget. This was mainly due to Peter Blanch resigning as Senior Pastor and the associated costs of paying out leave, superannuation etc.

Total Income for 2021 = \$363,029  
Total Expenditure for 2021 = \$342,882  
Surplus for 2021 = \$20,632



## WVEC Expenditure 2021



## Looking Ahead to 2022

- Aim to receive income of \$32,700 per month
  - This is the amount required to pay the wages of 3 ministers.
  - It is a \$700 increase per month than in 2021
  - Are you able to increase your giving to support the work of the gospel through WVEC?

## Giving @ WVEC

### Cash / Cheques

can be given via the red toolbox at church

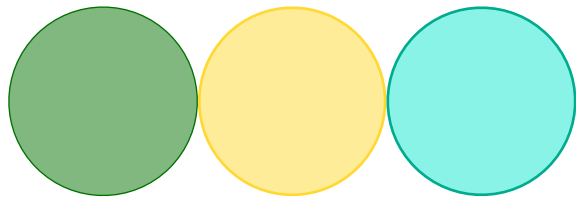
### Online giving

can be done directly to our bank account:

Wagga Evangelical

BSB: 032 769 Acc No: 321387





# WWEC Committees



## Administration Committee

**Tim Flint (Pastor & Chair)**  
**Nicole Russell (Secretary)**  
**Sheridan Evans (Treasurer)**  
**Murray Baker**  
**Ian McDermott**

WWEC's Administration Committee is charged with the responsibility of managing the financial and legal affairs on behalf of the members of WWEC.

The committee meet on a bi-monthly basis (six times) during the year. In addition in 2021 the Administration Committee had two additional special meetings and a zoom meeting with the WWEC Board of Reference.

The committee met to pray and consider a number of issues in relation to the financial and operational needs of WWEC including; WWEC's budget, policies and procedures, appointment of a new senior pastor, covid-19 impact, safe church and incident reporting and management, partnership, resource/finance and staff planning. Minutes of the Administration Committee meetings can be inspected by partners upon request to the Secretary of the Administration Committee. WWEC's current Policies, Procedures & Guidelines, our Code of Conduct and Constitution can be accessed on our website: [wwec.org.au](http://wwec.org.au) under 'resources'.

## WWEC Board of Reference

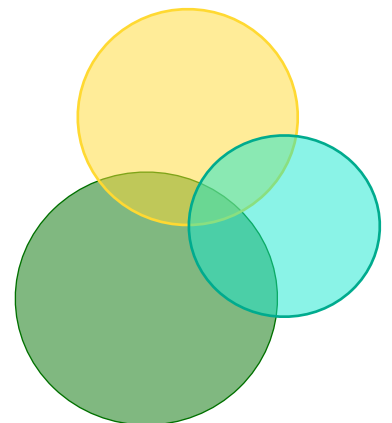
The WWEC Board of Reference (BOR) is an external group of godly Christian leaders with a range of experience in ministry who can share with us their wisdom and experience. The Board are available to WWEC with the power to mediate a dispute or even call a General Meeting to resolve serious issues. They were consulted in 2021 when we were recruiting a new Senior Pastor. Details of the current BOR are below.

<b>Archie Poulos</b>	Moore Theological College, Newtown	<a href="mailto:archie.poulos@moore.edu.au">archie.poulos@moore.edu.au</a>	(02) 9577 9999
<b>Greg Lee</b>	Hunter Bible Church, Newcastle	<a href="mailto:greg@hunterbiblechurch.org">greg@hunterbiblechurch.org</a>	(02) 9625 8527
<b>Chris Little</b>	Albury Bible Church, Albury	<a href="mailto:minister@alburybiblechurch.com.au">minister@alburybiblechurch.com.au</a>	(02) 6021 1910
<b>James Leitch</b>	Focus Ministry, ADFA, Canberra	<a href="mailto:james@focusmilitary.org.au">james@focusmilitary.org.au</a>	0413 088 975
<b>Belinda O'Shea</b>	Lighthouse Church, Gorokan	<a href="mailto:belinda@lighthouse.net.au">belinda@lighthouse.net.au</a>	0404 482 093

## Selection Panel

WWEC's Selection Panel is responsible for selecting a Senior Pastor whenever the position becomes vacant. For this reason the Selection Panel were very busy in 2021 when WWEC's Senior Pastor, Peter Blanch, resigned in November 2021.

As of 31 December 2021, the membership of the Selection Panel was: Michael Lance, Peter Hibbard, Peter Russell, Jeff Ward and Erwin Moore.



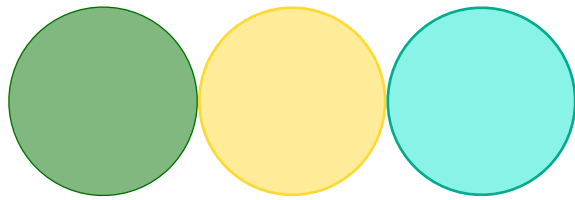
# Farewell Blanches



*Peter, Sarah, Jasmine, Ethan and Baden Blanch have been a part of our church family since its inception in 2007. Peter was the Senior Pastor for close to 15 years and Sarah led WVEC's Kids Ministry. Over this time the Blanch family formed many close friendships so it was with great sadness that we farewelled them in November 2021. We held a special farewell dinner on the 20th November and farewell service on Sunday 28th November. All who attended WVEC have been blessed by their leadership and their love for our church family during their time in Wagga. We pray their God given skills will continue to bring Him glory as they serve at Reach Australia and in their new church in Wollongong.*







# Future Focus... 2022 and beyond

Since 2020 both Peter and Tim have been involved with Reach Australia (RA) by participating in their Leadership Development Program. As part of this, in November 2021 a team from RA came to WVEC to do a church assessment and consult (with both staff and key leaders). The aim of this was to assess the health of our church against key growth indicators. Additionally the RA team sought to identify what present blockages to growth & vitality existed at WVEC. From this they recommended a range of goals to ensure WVEC's long term health as a church.

The RA team generated a report that revealed some interesting insights for us to consider as a church moving forward. There was much positive member feedback about the clear priority of our church to be Biblically faithful, Christ-focused and God-glorifying. There were also a number of challenges identified. Chief among these were the limitations we face because of (1) our current staffing shortage and (2) not having our own property to meet in. Both of these areas need to be addressed in the short to medium term and will require prayer and generosity from WVEC members.

Another area of concern was the trend in attendance data. This suggests WVEC may be moving from a long period of stable growth and beginning to plateau. This needs to be addressed quickly for the long-term spiritual health of our members, fellow Christians throughout Wagga, and those who don't know Jesus yet.

Two areas need to be addressed that relate to attendance.

- ✦ WVEC Service Times: The current 9am & 11am service times are a continued holding pattern since covid interruptions began in 2020. While they served us well for a time, they're now hindering the ability of members to deeply connect with each other (due to limited time between the two service times, and the lack of a distinct separate space for fellowship). This is being discussed in order to have possible solutions in the near future.
- ✦ Continued Growth & Christian Conversion: We must be overtly committed to seeing people in Wagga come to faith in Jesus. By God's grace we've seen several locals become Christians at WVEC and we all must continue to be passionately and creatively reaching Wagga with the gospel. As well as increasing our visible presence in Wagga, we have a goal to further equip our church members for mission personally. We want WVEC to do more than just survive. We want WVEC to thrive under God.

## Praying for the future

Please pray that:

- We would set ambitious growth goals with the aim of seeing more people in Wagga come to a saving faith in Jesus.
- We would be more deliberate in our mission to outsiders
- We would be more creative and effective at caring for those already connected into WVEC.
- God would provide suitable pastoral staff to meet the growing needs of WVEC.
- We would make wise plans so that the impact of the gospel increases through Wagga and beyond.

