

RIVERVIEW 2022

Annual Review



RIVERVIEW 2022

We don't go to church. We ARE the church.

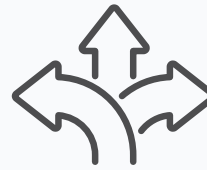




GENEROSITY



HUMILITY



CURIOSITY



CREATIVITY



HOPE

Our ethos.

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Riverview 2022

Riverview Review is a publication initiated by the Riverview Board in 2020. The intention of the Board was to ensure that there was a way of providing the Riverview community with good, clear transparency about how we operate as a church.

This is the third publication and whilst the original intent of the Riverview Board continues, you will see that this is now far more than a governance generated document. Riverview Review has grown in that it reflects not only how we operate, but who we are as a community of faith in Jesus Christ.

As you turn through these pages, we hope that you notice that we have tried to capture individual snippets of stories from Riverview people and why it is that they participate in Riverview Church. We hope that as you encounter these stories, your heart and mind will hear the vision echoed: Everyone Known in community; Everyone formed in Christ, Everyone a blessing in the City!

Riverview Mission, Vision & Ethos

The most significant event in the life of Riverview Church in 2022 was the presentation of our mission, vision and ethos. These guiding words and statements were formed over several months as we listened to the voice of God through the Word, prayer and one another in community.

The Riverview vision was presented to the church in the form of a short film which was screened at a Sunday night gathering. At the conclusion of the film launch, the room was filled with a wonderful sense of “yes and amen”. Our mission and vision are clear and sound. As a staff and Board, we can already see the evidence of change in our community as we live into the community design that the Spirit has helped us to create.

Ethos

Earlier in the year, we introduced five ethos

Statements:

- ✝ GENEROSITY
- 🌿 HUMILITY
- 🌐 CURIOSITY
- 🏠 CREATIVITY
- 🌟 HOPE

This was followed by the framing of:

Mission

*“We are a Good News community on mission:
Loving God.
Following Jesus.
Being transformed.”*

Vision

*Everyone known in Community.
Everyone formed in Christ.
Everyone a blessing in the City.*

Together, the ethos, mission and vision provide a blueprint for the church staff and the Riverview Community as we exercise the ministry of helping every person who is connected to the Riverview community to be shaped and formed into Christ. The mission, vision and ethos shape every part of our community life together, from thinking about how we arrive and park our cars at Riverview, through to how we support connect groups, choose worship music and the preaching plan.

Riverview Joondalup

The Joondalup campus of Riverview held its final gathering at the end of June 2022. The closure of the campus was a culmination of a gentle and genuine process. From early 2020, the Riverview Joondalup community journeyed through many changes and challenges which necessitated the creation of a Joondalup Community Leaders team. It was the partnership of the Joondalup

Leaders and Joondalup pastoral staff that held and loved the Joondalup church so well through to the mutual decision to close the campus.

The consistent characteristic of the Joondalup community was the evident love for one another as a part of Riverview Church. Their joy and commitment to gathering was a blessing and an encouragement to the Riverview Burswood community. Their passion to help disadvantaged neighbours in Joondalup was steadfast. Let this then be a record of that consistent love sown generously and faithfully into the Joondalup neighbourhood. Our prayer is that the seed sown by the Holy Spirit, through His people will grow in the hearts of all who came in to contact with the Riverview Joondalup Community.

2022 in Review

2022 was what I see as the 3rd year of a season of challenge and change. It’s hard to remember how very uncomfortable the early months of 2022 were as COVID mandates placed the WA community in isolation and division. It’s stunning to think that we went from uncertainty at Easter to the certainty of packed celebrations at Christmas Eve. So it’s important to celebrate life and learning, pausing to give thanks for the many good things that happened in 2022. For example,

- 2022 was the year Steve reminded us that “We don’t go to church: we are the church!”
- 2022 was the year that we introduced Alpha and we reframed our youth ministry. We recalibrated our lives through the Re teaching series and celebrated Life Sundays with baby dedications and baptisms. We continued to strengthen kids’ ministry and we finally cleared the top floor above the kids’ ministry rooms and had the new roof installed. God willing in 2023, we will see progress on securing the first floor so that we can add more opportunities as we live into

the vision. These are just some of the highlights you can read about in the pages that follow. We hope that you are encouraged and excited as you join us on the next part of the adventure as we seek to live well into our Jesus fuelled mission and vision in 2023.

Blessings.



DR TANIA WATSON
Riverview Executive Minister



*“Unless the Lord builds the house,
the builders labour in vain.”*

Psalm 127:1

Board Chairperson Mal Cooke

This very simple verse speaks a profound truth, and it is one that guides Riverview’s Board. We recognise that we have a responsibility as overseers, but we do not build Riverview Church. That is way above our pay grade. Building the Church is God’s responsibility. We embrace the opportunity we have been given to participate in God’s great plans and stand with our community in gratitude as those plans are revealed in our midst.

What has been most encouraging about serving on the Board is the confidence in this truth, whatever the challenges being encountered in the moment. God’s peace has been present in our meetings, in the relationship among Board members, and in our decision-making, for several



years. God has been building the church, and as Steve reminds us – ***“we don’t go to church, we are the church”***. God has been present and building, refining, pruning, preparing throughout every stage of our journey as a Riverview Church family.

We are encouraged by a current sense of momentum, and we are also thankful for every challenge and hardship that has built strength into our shared character. We face the year ahead with a deep confidence in the love and provision of God and the shared responsibility we have as God’s family to live out the vision that has been presented to every one of us – to know and be known in community, to be formed in Christ, and to be a blessing in our city.





2022 Focus

- **Vision and Ethos:** A focus throughout the year has been collectively discerning the themes and shared language that will help us mature as a church and fulfil our part in the mission of God. We sense a clear and unfolding narrative in the history of our Church as we take the next steps in our shared journey. The language is new, our focus has been refreshed, and we step forward in faith and hope and with a deep desire to see God's Kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.
- **Welcomed new Board members:** At our AGM in June, we welcomed four new Board members – Lynda, Graeme, Greg and Muriel. They have added fresh energy, new perspectives, powerful questions and renewed joy in our shared times together.
- **Board retreat:** The Board members spent a weekend together on retreat in the Perth hills as we prayed and discussed our vision and ethos. A prayer walk – alternating between yarning and contemplation – was a particular highlight.
- **Financial hygiene:** If you want to see Tania's face light up, ask her about the feedback from our external auditor this year! Tania and the finance team, supported by the Finance and Audit Committee of the Board, have been working hard to simplify and streamline our internal systems and financial reporting. This work is giving us increasing confidence that our budgeting and other financial structures effectively serve the mission of the Church.
- **Risk framework:** The clarification of our shared vision, and the framing of the strategic priorities we will pursue together as we live that vision, are also helping us identify and effectively manage the risks that we carry as a community. We are a community of faith and of diligence – a necessary tension to hold.
- **Governance model:** We hold ourselves to a very high standard of governance. Poor governance (including in Christian organisations) can have a very real human cost. For this reason, we continually seek to strengthen our approach, and have been collectively reviewing and implementing a recently published international governance standard.



2023 Priorities

Some of the areas that the Board expects to give focussed attention to in the year ahead include:

- **External evaluation:** The Board has conducted regular self-evaluations. Next year we have agreed to engage an external provider to give us an objective assessment of our governance.
- **Strategy and metrics:** We have begun to frame the most significant priorities that we will invest in as part of the expression of our vision. The clarity of our areas of focus will encourage the whole church family to take their part and play the unique role that God has given them in the body. We are also exploring the indicators of health that will give us the most reliable read on the progress that we are making together on what matters most.
- **Vision for our building:** Considerable progress has been made at the western end of our building in the upstairs section which is currently not usable. It has the capacity to be a wonderful community resource, after we raise the necessary funds to complete the renovation work and activate the space as a blessing in our city. We will be seeking to clarify that future use and will welcome the engagement of the

Riverview family in that shared endeavour.

- **Kids, youth and young adults:** We anticipate a renewed focus on our next generations and their participation as we shape our future together.

We have been reminded again and again over recent years that our best plans will need to change and adapt as reality unfolds. And yet we have unshakeable confidence that God is with us, we are deeply loved, and that God is building this Church!

MAL COOKE
Riverview Board Chair



Mal Cooke



Deane Gilmour



Michael Pailthorpe



Dave Hack



Asha Bowen



Graeme Cross



Muriel Oliver



Lynda Burnett



Greg Pennells

“Scripture places
a consistent
emphasis on
unity...”

Senior Minister

Dr Steven McCready

At the beginning of every year, I always ask the Lord for a word, or a theme, or a thought. I'm listening for an idea that will help me make sense of the twelve months ahead and tether me to Jesus and cause me to trust his activity in and through my life. As we embarked on our first year of life, and ministry in Perth and at Riverview, my family and I knew that this would be a year of new things, new relationships, and new experiences. The word on my heart for 2022 was transformation. As I reflected on this word over the course of the year, I was aware that God was on the move, and working deeply, and I was aware that the transformation that was on my heart was to do with the renovation of my heart. The change that God had in mind in 2022, was his work in me!

As we partnered together in ministry, the staff, the board, and the community of ministers of the Gospel who are Riverview Church, and as I set about learning, listening, and leading alongside you, the first thing that happened in my life, was the deep love that the Lord put in my heart for you, our church family. Over the year, what was once a crowd, became my congregation, a group who were once strangers to me, have become my calling and my community. I'm so thankful for you, and I'm so thankful for the love that the Lord Jesus, our chief shepherd, has put in my heart for his people at Riverview.

Secondly, the Lord Jesus, has put in me a deep love for this city where we have been placed together. Just a few short years ago, Perth was not even on my radar. Now, I find myself waking up at night with prayer on my heart for our great city. Even though I still have to use google maps to get everywhere, and I am still aware that I am a guest in this place, the burden of being a good



news ambassador here is so real for me. Only the Lord could do that deep work in my heart, and for that I am truly thankful.

Finally, I want to testify to the sense of peace and hope that God has placed within me, for us, for the family of Riverview Church. As we have spent the last year, realigning mission, and vision and ethos, and as we have prayed and worshipped together, financially sacrificed, served together and journeyed side by side, one of the great gifts that the Lord has put in my heart is a strong sense of his peace and an even greater sense that there is a great part of the Riverview story ahead. I would never say, the best is yet to come! That is so hurtful and disrespectful to the generations of amazing people and pastors who have laid the foundation that we now build on, but I do have a very real sense of days ahead filled with faithfulness and fruitfulness.

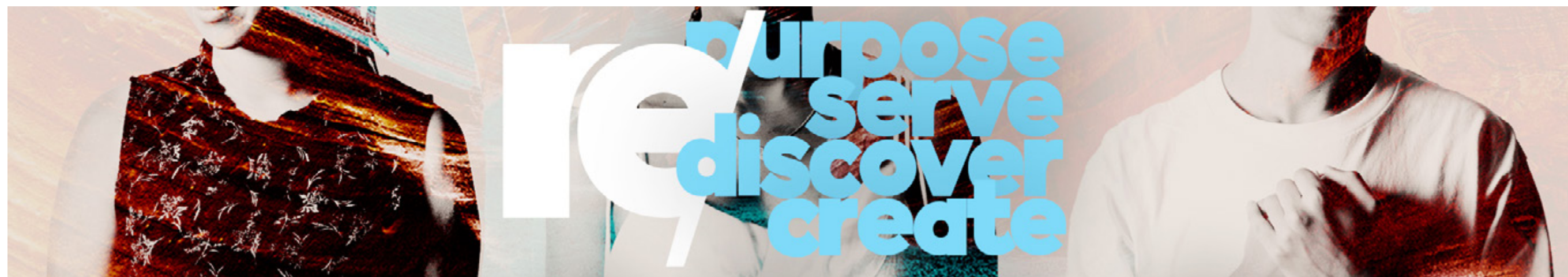
Thank you for being a part of my story in 2022. Becoming your pastor has helped me grow deeper into God. I am truly thankful and honoured that we get to follow Jesus together.

Much love in Christ.

Steven McCready

DR STEVEN MCCREADY
Riverview Senior Minister







Recruitment & Senior Leader Performance Committee

The Recruitment and Senior Leader Performance Committee helps the Board by:

- Coordinating the ongoing process of refreshing the Board with new candidates who have the desire, capacity and spiritual maturity to serve our church through contributing to quality governance and oversight
- Leading any process to appoint a new Senior or Executive Minister (*hopefully a fairly rare event!*) and
- Facilitating the regular structured review of the performance of the Senior and Executive Ministers.

This is a shared and deeply relational exercise. The responsibility of introducing new leadership into the Church (*both in Senior Ministry and Board roles*) extends to walking with them as they serve the Church in fulfilling their role.

We recognise the collective responsibility to express our gifts and fulfil our responsibilities as part of the Body of Christ, and this demands a shared commitment to God, our community, and one another. Scripture places a consistent emphasis on unity, and we take that very seriously with structured, intentional mutual accountability.

Our focus in 2022

Our attention in 2021 was heavily focussed on identifying our new Senior Minister, formalising Steve's appointment, and facilitating the McCready family's travel to Australia.

In 2022, we returned our attention to more regular priorities:

Board renewal: After a shared discernment process, we recommended the appointment of 4 new Board members, all being committed members of the Riverview Community:

- **Muriel Oliver**, a Director of Primarius Financial Solutions, who accepted the responsibility to act as our Treasurer, and Chair of the Finance and Audit Committee

- **Graeme Cross**, the CEO of Swan Christian Education Association
- **Greg Pennells**, the Founder and Chairman of Purple Circle Financial Services and
- **Lynda Burnett**, a geologist with executive and board experience in the mining industry.

Each was recommended by the Board and appointed at our Annual General Meeting for a 3 year term.

Senior Leader appraisal: We refreshed the process of reviewing the performance and encouraging our Senior and Executive Ministers. We now schedule twice-yearly review meetings guided by an appraisal document similar to that used by all Riverview staff. It creates opportunity for



reflective discussion on the priorities that have been pursued, any support needed to continue to serve effectively, and the collaborative relationship between our most senior leaders. We embrace the opportunity to stand with and celebrate our leaders as they serve our Church.

During the year, we handed over some responsibilities previously carried by this committee to the Governance and Risk Committee, including evaluation of Board effectiveness. We continue to reflect on how to strengthen the transparency of Riverview's governance, and promote a shared sense of ownership and engagement throughout the Church.

We also farewelled Stephanie Lee from this Committee and welcomed Michael

Pailthorpe. Ongoing members are Asha Bowen, Tania Watson, Dave Hack and Mal Cooke. The Board Chair and Deputy Chair are now standing members of this committee.

Priorities in 2023

Board renewal will remain a key focus in 2023, particularly the succession of the Chair and Deputy Chair.

Both Mal and Michael are scheduled to conclude their second and final terms on the Board in June 2024. We are prayerfully approaching this process, recognising the importance of the relationship between these roles and our senior ministry leaders.



Governance & Risk Committee

The purpose of the Committee is to assist the Board with its responsibilities by providing oversight of Riverview’s governance infrastructure, board performance, board training and skills assessment, policies, procedures and risk management functions.

Our focus in 2022

During 2022, the Committee comprised Michael Pailthorpe, Mal Cooke, Tania Watson and Lynda Burnett (Chair). During the year Michael Pailthorpe moved from Risk and Governance to the Recruitment and Senior Leader Performance Committee and Stephanie Lee moved from the Recruitment and Senior Leader Performance Committee to the Risk and Governance Performance Committee at the October 12 meeting.

Committee meetings were held quarterly with 3 meetings held 17 March, 17 August, 12 October 2022.

The Committee continued to look at a range of governance areas and review topics:

- Key Risk identification and Mitigation
- Review of Risk Framework with gap analysis
- Annual review of Insurance Program
- Review of various policies such as Board Delegations, Board Charter and Modern Slavery
- Strategic Partnerships
- Reporting templates.

The Risk and Governance Framework has

been further advanced this year with key risks prioritised and focus placed on these. The gap analysis continues and identifies areas where further work is required in conjunction with a forecast review of our Risk Appetite. A schedule of review of our major policies was established.

Policies/position statements such as Modern Slavery were created in response to evolving requirements in the wider community and corporate environment. The new WA Government WHS laws were also reviewed in the context of our Risk and Governance Framework.

The review of Strategic Partnerships continues with relational owners identified and review processes under establishment.

Future priorities

During 2023, the Committee is planning to:

- Continue to improve and review the Risk and Governance Framework
- Organise an external risk/policy audit
- Review Policies and training requirements under a specific review schedule
- Organise an external board review
- Review new Policies where required
- Address areas of risk and governance as directed by the Board from time to time.


 LYNDIA BURNETT
 Committee Chair

Finance Committee

The committee’s purpose is to provide financial oversight of:

- Riverview Church
- Riverview Community Services
- Riverview Media
- Riverview Trust
- Riverview School Building Fund.

During 2022, the Committee comprised of Muriel Oliver (Chair from August), Deane Gilmour (Served as interim Chair), Tania Watson and Alistair Abbott.

The Committee was assigned various responsibilities including oversight of:

- Audit
- Cashflow
- Remuneration
- Monthly Accounts
- Review of debt and investment strategies
- Budget and Capex.

1. Audit

Butler Settineri were appointed as auditors for the 2022 year. Riverview and its entities were delighted with the Audit report for the 2021 year. We wish to record and celebrate here the commendation from the Auditors for the very competent work done by Amy Rinaldi (Accountant) ably supported by Mag Wong (Operations Manager).

All recommendations from the Audit report have been implemented including a change from individual entity reporting to consolidated reporting from FY 2022. Practically, this means that Riverview will no longer produce and submit 4 individual entity reports to ACNC and to the Church community. In addition to following regulatory best practice, this change means

that in presenting a single consolidated set of financial reports at the end of each financial year, there will be a clearer overall view of the financial position of Riverview.

2. Cashflow

The cashflow forecast for 2022 remained unchanged from 2021 reflective of the ongoing uncertainty generated by COVID and the economic outlook. It was pleasing to see cashflow improving through 2022. However, the Board and Committee continue to note the relatively low percentage of people who are regularly and faithfully participating in the furtherance of the Riverview mission and vision through financial giving. To this end, we have expressed a goal to see an overall increase of participation based on eft transactions rather than set a purely financial goal. For example, reflective of focussing on engagement, regardless of the actual amount, we would like to see the number of weekly eft gifts move from under 200 per week towards 400 per week.

3. Salaries

The Executive Minister, Tania Watson, continued her review of the staff remuneration as a part of ongoing work in reshaping the Riverview pastoral and staff team.

4. Monthly Accounts

These were delivered in a timely manner and the process of refining disclosure, including the methodology for inter-entity charges continues as the Committee works towards providing financial reports in a clearer and easy to read format.

5. Review of Debt & Investment Strategies

The Committee met with our Commonwealth Bankers in November 2022 to discuss the current interest rate forecasts and possible strategies to minimise our interest impost during a rising interest rate environment. It was resolved that there was no need to make any changes in the short term, however as 2023 unfolds the aim of the Committee is to continue to monitor the situation and work closely with our Commonwealth Banking team.

6. Budget & Capex

The Committee, in liaison with the Executive Minister continued to refine the budget during 2022. We continue to hold to the discipline of “core spend”.

- Asset identification and recording was completed as one of the priorities.
- The Committee has recommended to the Board that the church continue to pursue the current modest debt reduction program during 2023.
- The Committee also reviewed the internal inter-entity transactions to ensure that we operate with commerciality, transparency and accountability.
- A market valuation of the building was completed and retained for both financial disclosure and financing requirements.

Capex planning continues to be developed for the following purposes:

- General facility and equipment maintenance.

This is important to ensure present and future capacity to appropriately care for our building and equipment.

- Focus on finalisation of the works to the first floor on the West end of the building above the Kids church area to enable the church to utilise this space.

Meetings are conducted efficiently and continue Committee Effectiveness

to be characterised by open, effective, and caring deliberation. The Committee continues to be focused on providing the Board with recommendations and solutions with the highest level of financial governance and accountability.

During 2023 the Committee is planning to: Future Priorities

- Continue the process of rationalising historical giving platforms.
- Continue to monitor interest rates and to keep a close eye on the economy.
- Prepare consolidated reports for more meaningful disclosure.
- Ongoing consideration and planning to ensure financial sustainability.

MURIEL OLIVER
Finance Committee Chair

Finance Data

	2022	2021
INCOME	\$4, 809, 439	\$5, 111, 719
EXPENSES	\$4, 639, 442	\$4, 888, 570
SURPLUS/DEFICIT	\$169, 996	\$223, 149
CURRENT ASSETS	\$3, 517, 259	\$3, 082, 611
NON-CURRENT ASSETS	\$14, 505, 193	\$15, 519, 850
TOTAL ASSETS	\$18, 022, 451	\$18, 602, 460
CURRENT LIABILITES	(\$746, 938)	(\$949, 464)
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	(\$3, 913, 521)	(\$4, 461, 000)
TOTAL LIABILITIES	(\$4, 660, 459)	(\$5, 410, 464)
NET ASSETS	\$13, 361, 993	\$13, 191, 996
EQUITY	\$13, 361, 993	\$13, 191, 996

Riverview Venue Income

Income derived from Riverview partners accessing Riverview Church facilities for events: \$14, 469.

We share our facilities in a way that ensures basic maintenance and cleaning costs are covered whilst offering our friends a rate that supports their ministries. In real terms this means that Riverview Church was able to provide a discount of \$33, 311 to the following organisations:

- Micah Women Leaders
- Global Leadership Networks
- Oasis People & Culture
- Destiny Rescue Australia
- Carey Baptist Executive Team
- Regent College

Riverview average monthly giving throughout 2022:
\$268, 431

REACH 2022:

\$400, 935

Distribution to Reach Partners:
\$399, 835

Riverview Sector 3 Building Fund *(as at 31 December 2022)*:
\$1, 168, 533

2022 Donations to the Building Fund:
\$202, 713

Riverview Building & Infrastructure Loans *(as at 31 December 2022)*:
\$6, 700, 000

Lotterywest Grant for Emergency Relief:
\$100,000

Community Visitors Scheme Grant:
\$87, 500

All financial information is current prior to the completion of the 2022 Audit. Audited Financial Reports for 2022 will be available on the ACNC website from 30th June 2023. Historic financial reports are also available on the ACNC website by clicking on the following links:

RIVerview CHURCH INCORPORATED
CLICK HERE

RIVerview COMMUNITY SERVICES
CLICK HERE

THE TRUSTEE FOR THE RIVerview TRUST
CLICK HERE

RIVerview MEDIA
CLICK HERE

Riverview Staff



Dr Steve McCready
Senior Minister



Dr Tania Watson
Executive Minister



Ryan Gageler
Associate Minister



Rhys Machell
Gatherings



Molly Lewin
Kids Minister



Meighan O'Connor
Youth Minister



Chris Fourie
Youth Minister



Matthew Edland
Welcome Host



Lance Chicote
Arts & Design



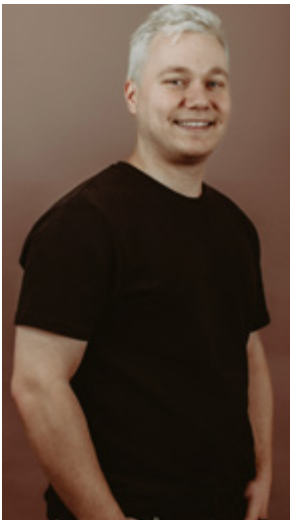
Magdelene Wong
Operations



Carolina Aquino
Gatherings



Joshua Greaves
Worship Minister



Luke Suter
Systems Technician



Nikki Bowles
Community & Prayer



Adrian Lee
Digital Media



Jennifer Lee
Emergency Relief



Jamie Galley
Community Minister



Paula Hadfield
Integration Minister



Lauryn Potger
Connect Minister



Amy Rinaldi
Accountant



Amanda Stallo
Graphic Design



Sharon Ahern
Arts & Design



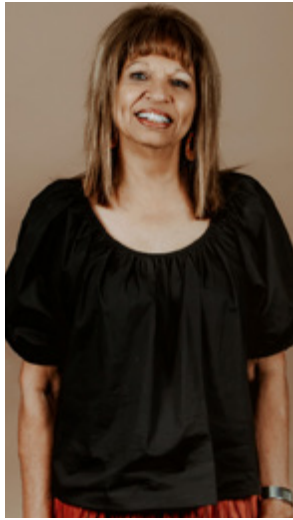
Michelle Bhana
CVS Coordinator



Liz Woodford
Riverview Kids



Allen Browne
Teaching Minister



Sheryll Flynn
Counselling



Emily Nikoletti
DUO Co-ordinator



Lyn Devlin
Community Minister



Esther Soo
Cafe Co-ordinator



Sofia Juanita
Cafe Assistant



Renee Gageler
Community Minister



Andrew Worung
Worship



Hannah Shaeq
Riverview Kids



Chloe Gilson
Riverview Kids



John Wyatt
Building Maintenance





Riverview Ministries



Riverview Kids

Riverview Kids continues to flourish and grow as families make Riverview Church their faith community. We are thankful for the participation of the Riverview community who are committed to supporting families as they raise their children to know Jesus, through faithful and faith-filled service in our kids ministry teams. We want to always celebrate and give thanks that the Riverview community is blessed to have so many children in our church. This blessing has been on display through 2022 as we have shared in baby dedications as a part of Life Sunday.

Throughout 2022, our teams continued to deliver engaging Sunday Kids programs and environments. Each Sunday was framed as an adventure as children learned about Heroes of Faith, the Promises of God, the Life of Jesus, Unknown Heroes of the Bible, the Armor of God in and around focus weeks for Easter and Christmas.

Throughout 2022 our team focused on facilitating spaces for families and kids to connect throughout the week and outside the time confines of Sunday

gatherings. In the July school holidays we had a disco which saw 120 kids enjoy an afternoon of fun, food, and friendship. Our annual camp for our year four to year six students was a huge success in the September school holidays, with 49 kids (several not from a church background) in attendance. Families gathered in October for a Saturday picnic which was a wonderful time of community for young and old. There was a terrific afternoon of gingerbread and sugar prior to Christmas where families shared in the fun of making and decorating gingerbread houses.

Kids ministry spaces continue to be refreshed and resources reviewed as a part of aligning kids ministry to the overarching Riverview mission and vision. Anthony Stallo, Riverview Kids Pastor for 6 years through to June 2022 was a driving force in ensuring that our facilities reflect the desire of Riverview to do all that we can to help children and families grow in faith in Jesus.

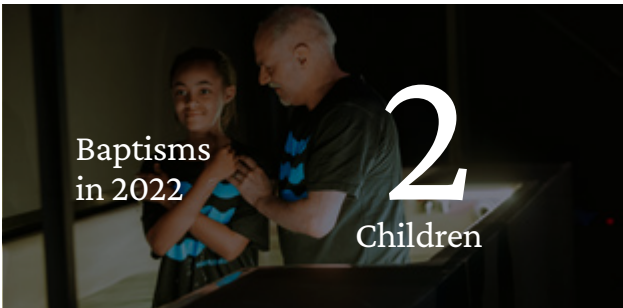
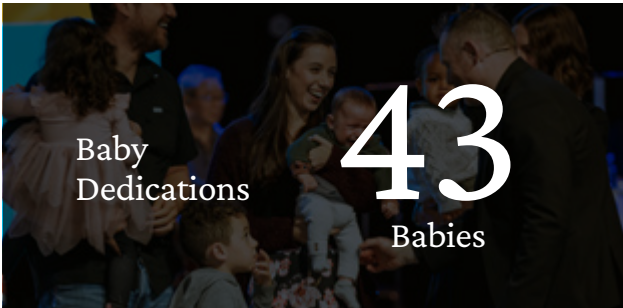
Anthony handed over leadership of Riverview Kids to Molly Lewin in a transition process that



has ensured consistent and confident ministry development for Riverview Kids. As Anthony moves into fulltime teaching, we thank him for his wonderful ministry and look forward to his ongoing participation as a part of the weekend teams.

In 2023 we are looking forward to launching a sensory room – The Star Room. This room has

been carefully designed to support children with additional needs. We look forward to sharing how this ministry will function within Riverview Kids in early 2023. We're looking forward to the Riverview Families Camp and some new Riverview Kids staff members. We have new children's ministry teaching resources that we will be introducing as we continue to help kids discover the awe and wonder of who God is.





Riverview Youth



"I love that teenagers in our community are able to come together and talk about God, as well as having fun and meeting new people."

"It's a really cool experience and a great opportunity."

Evangeline Hadfield (Yr 7)



"I love coming to youth for various reasons. One of them is the fact that my mates and other teenagers can come together as a community and follow God alongside each other on a Friday night every week."

Youth has helped me to strengthen my relationship with Christ and I am extremely grateful for the leaders there."

Chris Martin (Yr 9)



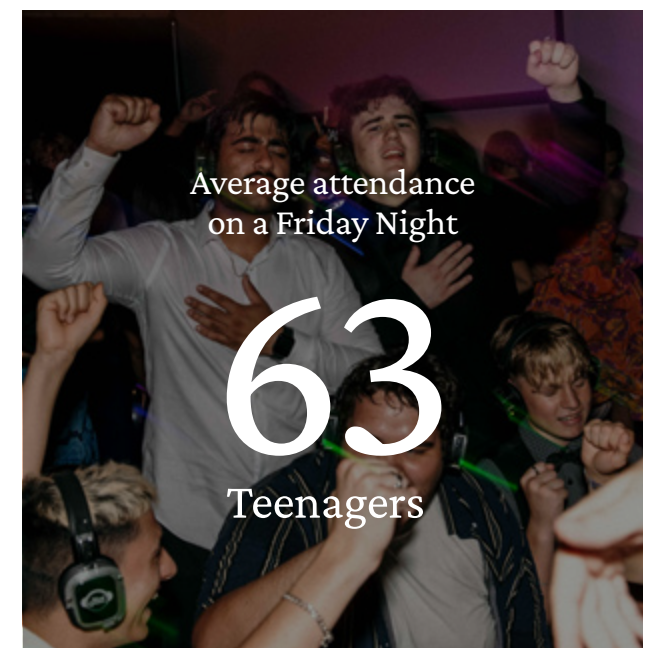
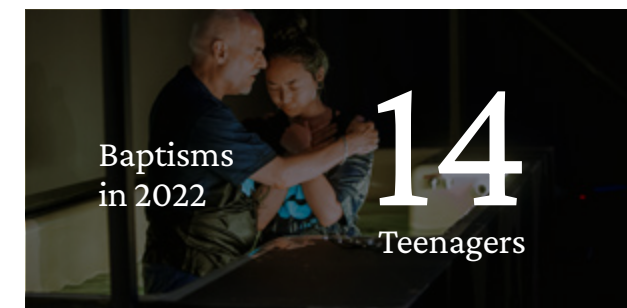
2022 has been an encouraging year as we got to work recalibrating our youth ministry to align with our mission and vision. January Summer Camp 2022, kicked off a great year with a focus on developing friendships, worship, prayer and growing deeper in Christ.

The following two terms were filled with some exciting changes as we began to reshape priorities to see every teenager known in community, formed in Christ and living as a blessing. We made a significant shift from facilitating worship framed services on Friday nights towards facilitating a weekly gathering focussed on journeying together with Jesus.

In term three we commenced Sunday Youth Church. There's a great program that enables teenagers to remain engaged with Riverview Kids as mentors once they move into highschool. So, working in partnership with Riverview Kids ministry, our goal in creating Sunday Youth Church is to support teenagers and their families to access spaces where relationships with Christ and his

people can be strengthened in age appropriate ways.

We have done important work to ensure we care for the teenagers of our community with intentionality and purpose. We have reviewed our duty of care processes and have implemented a greater emphasis on direct pastoral care. Since enacting some of these changes we have seen young people grow in confidence as they pray for one another and as they engage in the Word. We have seen a lift in the sense of curiosity and wonder as teenagers ask great questions about what it means to follow Jesus in the world that they experience. What has been most encouraging is seeing young people lean into a call to mission and live out their faith in their unique environments. We are really encouraged as teens express how they experience God's presence in their lives and their growing desire to walk closely with Him. To walk this journey alongside teens is an incredible privilege and we cannot wait to see how God continues to build Riverview teenagers into resilient disciples of Jesus.





Young Adults



Riverview Church has a large, involved and diverse community of Young Adults.

Between the ages of 18-30, Young Adults covers people who are living through significant moments, many ages and stages.

We've come to understand that there are really four distinct communities that fall within the broader community that consider themselves to be Young Adults:

- Young Professionals
- Young Marrieds
- Young Families
- Young and Free.

In each of these groupings we know that every person has a unique story, gifts, aspirations and journey of discipleship.

We recognised, that we cannot approach 'Young Adults' with a one-size-fits-all approach. So, 2022 has been about working strategically to create spaces and places that help every young adult become known in community, formed in Christ, and a blessing in the city.

There are a few key parts to outworking our vision within the young adults community.

Pastoral Practice

Firstly, embracing *pastoral practice*. As pastors at Riverview Church, we feel it is extremely important that we are available to our community. We have begun working hard to build margin in

our lives for people.

This may look like sitting with an engaged couple as they prepare for marriage. Perhaps it's meeting with someone who's new to Riverview and new to the city to hear more about their story and help them become known in community. Maybe it's simply being available for faith-forming conversations.

Intentional Formation Spaces

Secondly, *intentional formation spaces*. Alongside meeting with individuals, we find great value in group-life. Meeting together in smaller groups with faithful intentionality is key to becoming formed in Christ.

We sense, that for many young adults, committing to be in a group for a year or beyond, is a little too much to ask. Formation Groups meet for a shorter window, for a more specific purpose.

It's our hope and goal that across any given year, almost every young adult will be invited to be a part of a specific formation group.

Community

Lastly, *community*. We recognise that there is something special about simply being together. We are doing our best to organise regular community get-togethers on a frequent basis.

This helps Young Adults become known in community beyond smaller groups. There's something special about having fun together and sharing a meal.



"In June, I met together with 8 other young men to pilot a Spiritual Formation Group. We met together for eight weeks in a local pub and explored life with Christ.

We journeyed together through some meaningful topics (led by Renovaré's Spiritual Formation Workbook), practiced new rhythms of faith and had some significant conversations that led to transformation."





Gatherings

“...we want to keep drawing from the deep wells of all of the God-breathed inspiration...”

Every Sunday, the Riverview doors open wide for gatherings at 9 am, 11 am, and 5 pm.

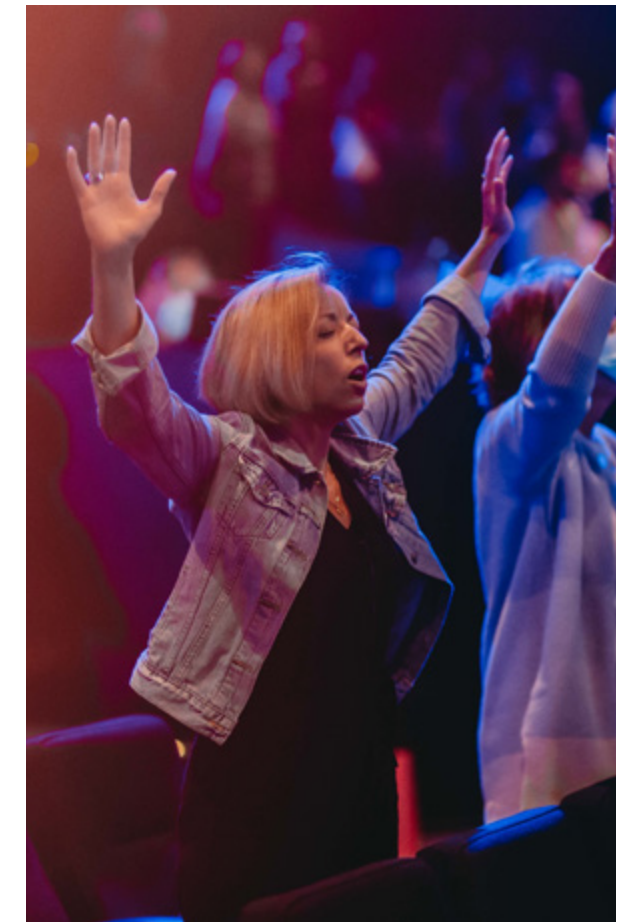
At 6:30am, the first of over 100 people walk in the doors to play their part in preparing for our gatherings. The coffee machine is fired up, burners are lit, parking signs are put out, leaves are blown off the footpaths, and the worship team rehearses. During the day, the Riverview community and our guests are welcomed and assisted with questions, people are prayed with and encouraged, our church is led in worship and engagement in the Word, and kids and teenagers are loved and strengthened as they learn to walk with Jesus. As the day draws to a close, Jesus-stories are shared while the road cones are put away, the café is cleaned, and production systems are shut down.

In a church like Riverview, there are many preferences and desires for gatherings to have a certain flavour, and we try to design our Sundays with care and inspiration. Sunday services and large events (e.g. Christmas and Easter) require different approaches. We always aim to carefully

discern the balance between what our strengths are, tried-and-true methods and inspired new ways of expressing our love for Jesus. Whether a Sunday service or a big event, we desire authentic Holy Spirit-led gatherings.

As our Joondalup community was discerning its future shape following the closure of the Joondalup facility in June 2022, we put the same intentionality into hosting two Northern Suburbs gatherings. These gatherings were helpful in the process of discerning capacity and in supporting the Joondalup community in the transition. We are thankful for the process and engagement of the Joondalup community as we trialled gatherings in smaller settings as an experiment as to how we might potentially strengthen the Riverview community through niche neighbourhood gatherings in the future.

A new year has begun and as we continue to plan and design our gatherings, we want to keep drawing from the deep wells of all of the God-breathed inspiration and creativity that the Lord has given to Riverview Church.



Serving at Riverview Gatherings

It takes a lot of people to help us meet as a worshipping community at Riverview Church. We'd like you to meet some of the people who serve in ways that you may not have noticed.

Worship Team



Steve Kaufman

How long have you been serving on the Worship Team? 8 yrs in choir & vocals.

What does your contribution look like? Worship team has given me those opportunities to be engaged in real relationships with the community.

How is this connected to your gifts? God uses me in a pastoral capacity as I support and get alongside people, encouraging them in their life and faith.

How has serving helped you to feel a part of the Riverview community? It has given me those opportunities to be engaged in real relationships with the community.

How has your faith grown over the past 12 months? To be intentional in reading the Bible which I've loved.



Lauren Lyndon-James

How long have you been serving on the Worship Team? 2 years in vocals.

What does your contribution look like? Be available where I can be and maybe even serve as fresh eyes and ears.

How is this connected to your gifts? God's gifted me to help and encourage others.

How has serving helped you to feel a part of the Riverview community? I haven't been able to serve to my fullest capacity. But I've had to constantly remind myself that God doesn't see me for how much I serve on a Sunday when I'm in good health, but how wholeheartedly I serve Him despite and through it all.

How has your faith grown over the past 12 months? Overall, 2022 reminded of the importance of rest and the power of gratitude.

Camera Team



Jeimer Ng

How long have you been serving on the Camera Team? 4.5 years.

What does your contribution look like? I serve as Camera Director and Camera Operator.

How is this connected to your gifts? I'm a visual and musical person, so it all feels very natural!

How has serving helped you to feel a part of the Riverview community? I'm part of a smaller community of volunteers that I regularly serve with. It helps me feel connected in the middle of a large congregation.

How has your faith grown over the past 12 months? Serving has provided me with a consistent avenue to be meditative and committed to taking time aside for my faith amidst a busy schedule.



Barbara Ramiro

How long have you been serving on the Camera Team? 10 years.

What does your contribution look like? It involves organizing and leading the team in capturing the church service.

How is this connected to your gifts? My gifts of leadership and creativity to help share the church's message with others.

How has serving helped you to feel a part of the Riverview community? A great way for me to feel a part of the Riverview community, connect with others.

How has your faith grown over the past 12 months? The past 12 months have been challenging in many ways, but my faith has been a source of strength and comfort for me.

Riverview Safe

Riverview Church is committed to prioritising strong duty of care ministry practices in all areas of ministry. We continued a strategic process of ongoing learning and training through Safe Ministry Check which enables all staff and team members to undertake easily accessible online training as part of the onboarding process. We are strengthening our process of ongoing refreshers to ensure we remain up to date with legal requirements and community expectations. Riverview maintains membership with the National Council of Churches in Australia (NCCA) Safe Church program.

In 2022, we have ensured that all Ministers of Religion on our Riverview staff team have completed required Mandatory Reporting Training in response to legislative requirements.





Parking Team

Our Parking Team seeks to warmly greet those arriving and direct them safely and efficiently to parking. Special attention is given to those needing assistance and on making sure our parking areas are ready for Sundays.



Theo Wilson

“It’s been great to have the opportunity to serve our local church community and hopefully make their visit to church a little bit easier.

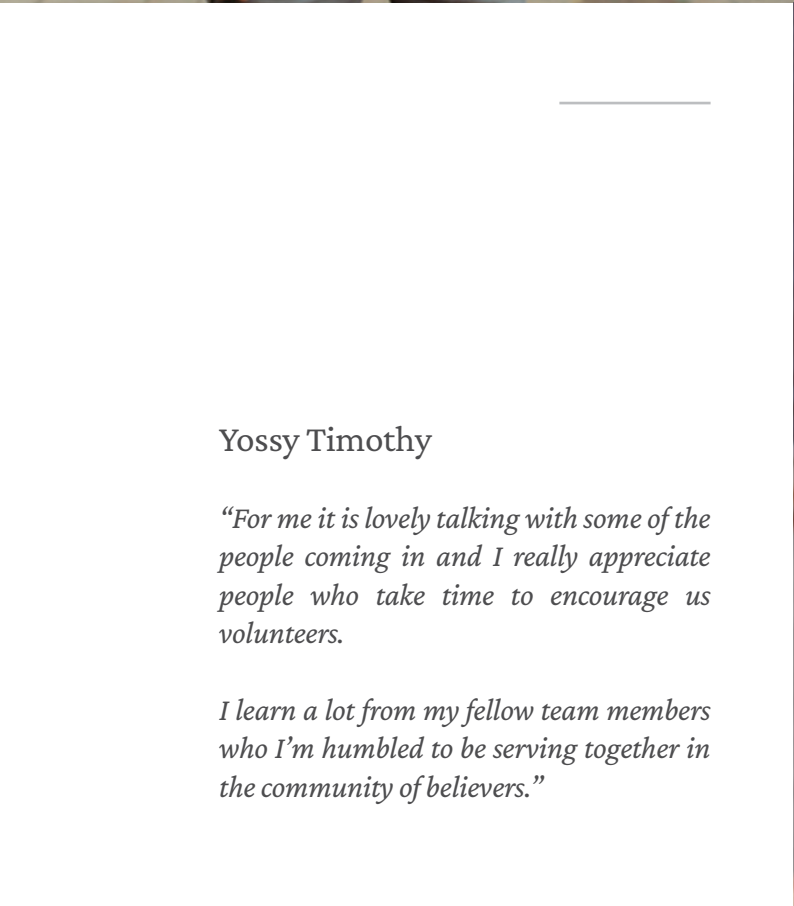
Being a part of the Parking Team has also given me the opportunity to get to know some of the other team members and share our stories. I’m looking forward to another successful year in 2023.”



Mark Limmer

“I see service on parking/welcome as something I can do in appreciation of the good things God is always doing in my life and for His grace.

Serving with Theo and the team has been encouraging and a blessing.”



Yossy Timothy

“For me it is lovely talking with some of the people coming in and I really appreciate people who take time to encourage us volunteers.

I learn a lot from my fellow team members who I’m humbled to be serving together in the community of believers.”



Derrick Tan

“I enjoy helping people at Riverview to find a parking spot efficiently and to park safely.

I also benefited from the fellowship with other members of the team. It’s encouraging to see so many people serving on the wider team to make Riverview a great place to worship.”



Riverview Front Door

Alongside the Welcome Team of Riverview Church, one of the constant and most familiar faces of Riverview Church is Pastor Jamie Galley.

“It is a privilege to welcome people through the doors each weekend at most of our gatherings. This is an opportunity not just to see people, recognise faces and make connection, but has given many opportunities for significant conversations relating to people’s lives, circumstances and sharing insights into how God is at work every day. I have been able to welcome first time visitors, introduce people to key team members and extend the hospitality of a warm welcome on behalf of our Riverview community.

The privilege of being a Pastor at Riverview for more than 19 years has allowed me to support people in significant life events, in both celebration and challenge, joy and grief, health and sickness.

One of my favourite opportunities has been to Baptise many people into our faith community, and celebrate with them as they publicly make their declaration of faith as followers of Jesus.

I have officiated at numerous wedding and funerals, met with many people and recognise the tremendous privilege of representing Jesus, and reflecting His image, as He has loved people through me. To be able to laugh, celebrate, cry and mourn with people, I have borne witness to, and deeply experienced, His promise, that His Grace, truly is, sufficient for all our needs. He is present in our every day, the special and mundane, and meets with us in our houses, workplaces, prisons, schools and more. Wherever we go, He is always waiting to meet with us.”



Building Oversight



Noel Porter

“I have served on the Building Oversight Team for almost 3 years. The purpose of the Building Oversight Team, is to ensure the safety and experiences of people who come through the Church doors as a priority.

The way that this is done is by ensuring the things that people don’t see are done. This involves walking around the premises, checking for graffiti, building and window damage and car park. We check on the lighting, sound and mimic screens within the foyer are turned on and functioning. Throughout a gathering, we check toilets for handwash, hand towels and cleanliness. We take care of any spills, ensure dropped food is cleaned up and make sure that risk and hazards (like wet floors) are well signed so people can move safely through the facility.

It is a great role along with greeting, and helping to make sure people find their way if they are first time visitors. It is a role that can positively affect people

who visit for the first time, so is very important to have a friendly smile and welcoming body language.

I enjoy serving in the Building Oversight Team as I believe that a smile and hello can make even the most reticent person who walks through the door feel at home. It really is an honour being able to serve at Riverview Church. I enjoy Building Oversight, as it’s a role that is important through value adding without being on the front line. I feel like I make a difference at Church through this important role, without fuss. I accept my roster when it comes through and fill in where I am able to over and above this.

My faith has been a journey and has been growing. I have learnt to be patient and wait on the Lord. I have also learnt this year, that feeling distant from God doesn’t mean that God is far from me.”



Shane Farquharson

“I have served on the Building Oversight team at Riverview for just over 1 year – prior to that I was on the parking team for 19 years, which was also a super opportunity to serve and connect with Riverview family.

As volunteers on this team we ensure that the building is well presented, and is safe and functioning correctly for all of our Riverview family attending, we also have a primary role in responding to emergency situations if they arise.

I love the opportunity to serve with others to present the Riverview venue at its best and ensure that everyone gets to enjoy and be blessed by their experience with us at Riverview - taking care of spills, keeping areas clean, emptying bins, filling an urn ... No matter what the task, it gives opportunity for me to serve our Riverview family with the same grace that God so lovingly lavishes on me!

I think for me, growth in the last year has been more a process of translating knowledge into action. I think the simple truth that “we don’t attend church, we are the church” hit home with me. This means my life should reflect what the church is all about: loving people for the sake of the gospel so that others would also flourish in faith.

For an introvert like me, this is a perfect role! You get to serve alongside and connect with a range of other team members in a supportive environment. I also enjoy the occasional visits to our booth where members of the Riverview family just come and have a friendly chat and say hi. You get to know that Riverview is filled with awesome folks and get the feeling that this is more than a community: this is a “heavenly” family, where we share the same spiritual DNA and are on the same heaven-bound journey.”



Info Hub

Lauryn Potger supports the people who make up the Info Hub Team. This important ministry team is strategically located in the centre of the foyer, adjacent to the refreshment counter. Here people can come and ask questions about courses, connection, serving, who we are at Riverview and how to go about getting relationally connected.



Zac Bowles

“I enjoyed meeting people in the church community and learning more about the different groups and services that church has to offer.

I feel I’ve grown in confidence when meeting and chatting to new people who I haven’t met before, and I’ve also been able to grow and improve my active listening skills.

Whether it be listening to someone’s questions or queries, to assisting them in finding specific answers or just to lend an ear to someone in need, Info Hub has been a fantastic place for me to grow in these areas.”



Kerryn Weerasekera

“I love and appreciate the help, support, encouragement and friendliness from being a part of the Info Hub Team. I have grown through listening to people and their questions, and conversations.

Whilst helping people can be challenging, being a part of the Info Hub team has given me confidence in dealing with similar questions in secular situations.”



Paul Brown

“I enjoyed being part of a ministry team and serving our church community and visitors. Hearing stories, sharing experiences and helping people connect are the things I find personally satisfying in my role. I have discovered that I am resilient and that challenges are opportunities for growth.

Even if I didn’t get some information 100% right or the outcome could have been better, I can still learn from failing as much as from succeeding. Relationally, I feel a good connection with my fellow team members and more confident in talking to others.”



Milk & Honey Kitchen

The Milk & Honey Kitchen is a volunteer-run operation supported by 2 part-time staff: Esther Soo and Sofia Juanita. Milk & Honey serves as a platform to help our community have fellowship opportunities before and after services over food and coffees. In 2022, we welcomed 9 new members to the team and hope that we can see more people join our team and experience the joy of fostering community.

The Milk & Honey Team love to have fun together. In 2022 the team has hiked, gone running, barbequed, dined, and served beyond the church community. This is doing life together!

Baked
735
Palmiers

Fried
624kg
Chips

Served
11,058
cups of coffee



Priscilla Tan

"I love serving! I love being part of the church community and doing life with others."

Serving is my way of expressing my faith and gratitude for all that God has done in my life, is doing and about to do. It allows me to "give back" and serve others with a spirit of generosity. It has grown me as a person and broadened my perspective of Christian living.

I love our Milk and Honey team! We are all like-minded in that we are there because we love God and we want to serve his people."



Audrey Brown

"Serving at Milk + Honey Kitchen has been very rewarding. I have met many people from church whom I would not have met due to the size of Riverview."

New friendships have been formed amidst lots of laughter. It gives me a sense of belonging to a community who cares for and helps people from all walks of life without judgement. I look forward to every event/roster where I am serving in the hospitality side of church life. It makes me happy that I am able to give my time."



Sahina Heuw

"Because of my love of cooking and baking, I absolutely love being a part of Milk + Honey Kitchen team. Since I joined the team, I have learnt a lot of new things (making coffees, perfecting chip frying, discovering new recipes and many more). I also love how serving and being part of the team has helped me to grow spiritually."

I experience the love from the church community and more importantly just how good Our God is! This makes me want to serve Him more. Thank you for allowing me to serve and be able to give back to this community."



Refreshment Team

Adjacent to the Milk & Honey Kitchen is the Refreshment Stand. Here people can come and be served a free tea or coffee. This is an important part of the way we ensure every person can be offered generous hospitality.

The Refreshment Team is led by Kelvin Flynn. The team started with 3 volunteers and has grown to a team of nine.

The Refreshment Team are on the front line of engaging people in conversation, linking them with potential new friends and the pastoral team.



Andrew Cross

“I truly feel it is important that when people come to church, they see a familiar friendly face. I think that it’s important that there is at least one person that they can remember the name of that gives them the confidence to say Hi. This gives us the opening for conversation that can be as simple as a quick hello and a smile to a full-on play by play of how their week has been and gee don’t the Eagles stink this season.”

For me, the joy comes from the connections and friendships I get to build on every time I am there. I love seeing the smile on people’s faces when you show genuine interest in how they are doing. It doesn’t matter how bad my day or week has been, serving works as a two-way street in which we all lift each other up through fellowship and friendship.

Serving is a blessing and I love it. It is made all the more enjoyable by being surrounded by the best team who love it as much as I do.”



Karen Koh

“It is a privilege to be able to greet and meet regulars and newcomers to church through free coffee and tea. So often there are many stories to listen to and so many more people seeking connection in church.

To see them over time hanging around in the foyer, chatting with different people is always a blessing. My hope is that the refreshment is a start to seeing people stepping out of their comfort zone and making themselves known.”

Riverview Catering Team

In October 2022, the Midweek Catering team was formed with the purpose of being the hospitality arm of midweek formation courses, events, camps and gatherings.



Lead by Sofia Juanita with the expertise of Jaydon Smith (who develops the menus), this team has provided meals for Alpha courses turning out over 180 portions of dinner and dessert.

Maylia Pellaupessy

“I enjoy the Catering Team because it is a way to connect with friends and cook delicious meals for others while serving Him, helping me to grow in Christ.

I love how we can, with a few ingredients, make delicious meals with friends who have hearts to serve Christ. “



First Aid

At each of our weekend services we have 1-2 first aiders seated in reserved first aid seats at the back of the auditorium. This team are available to be called upon for any first aid needs and emergencies. Throughout 2022 this only amounted to a couple of incidents involving fainting/ falls and numerous needs for bandaids.

The majority of rostered first aiders are health workers who serve the church in a voluntary capacity through their

important professional skills. We are thankful for their service. All Riverview staff have been required to complete first aid training so that we have many people available and qualified to respond in an emergency if needed.

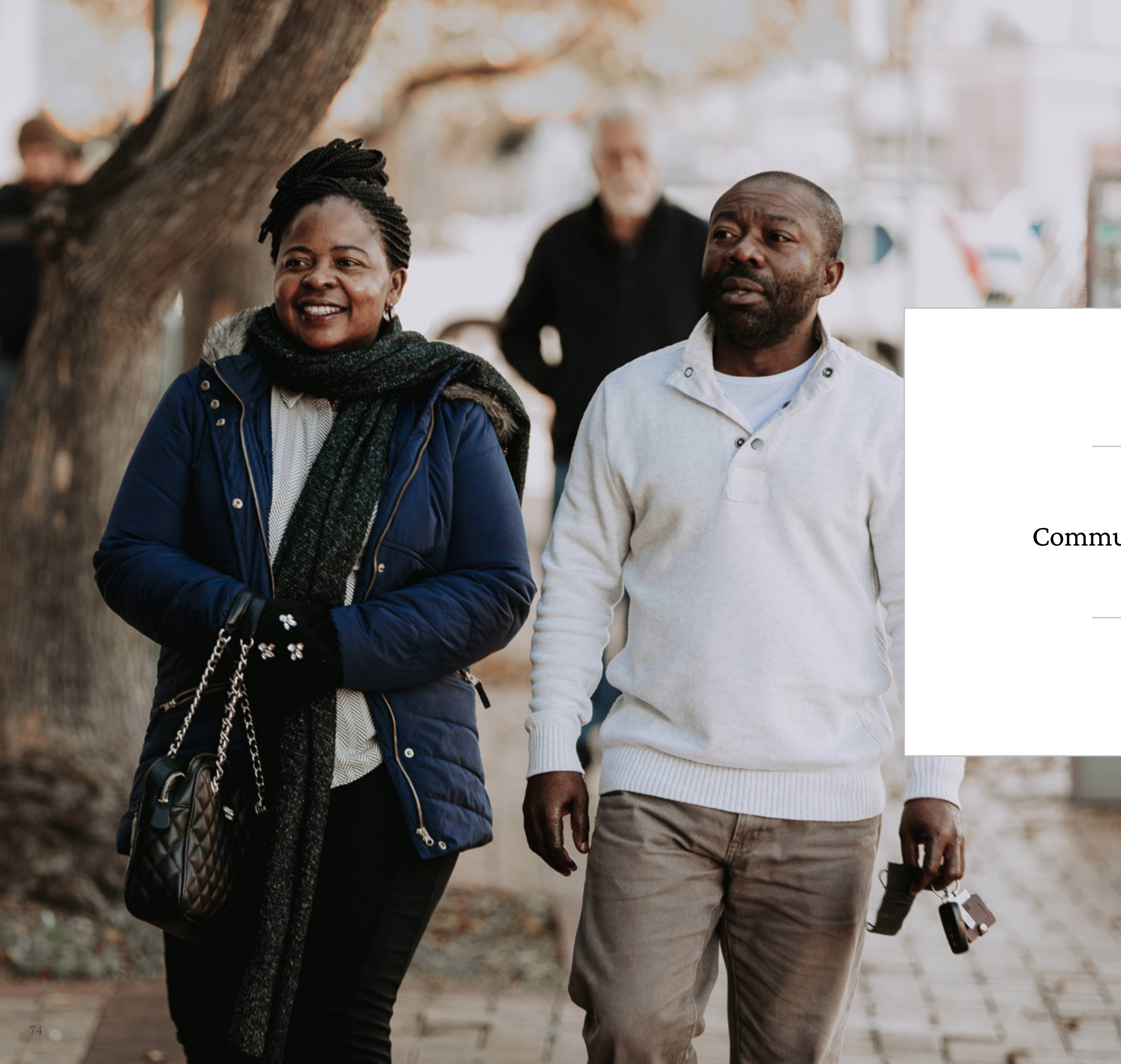
Riverview has a fully stocked first aid room, and a defibrillator in the foyer near the stairs leading up to the office, ensuring we are well placed to respond in any emergency.



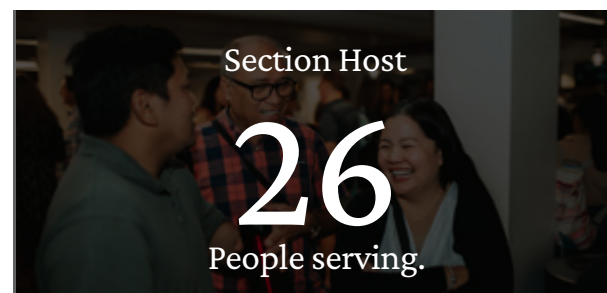
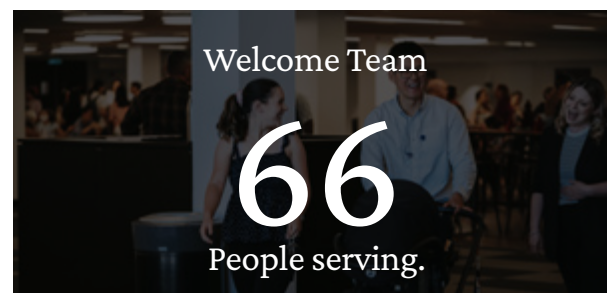
Daisy Erneste

Daisy Erneste is one of our valued volunteers. She is in her 70’s! Daisy worked as a registered nurse for 55 years, working at RPH and Bethesda Hospital in Perth.

She also rejoined the nursing force in 2021-2022 to work in the Covid vaccination program. You will see her smiling face on duty for first aid in our 9am services.



Community Life



Paula Hadfield is a vital part of the ministry team of Riverview. Paula's role is to help facilitate spaces for people to begin to be known in community on Sundays and through midweek Connect Group gatherings and Alpha.

On Sundays Paula supports the Welcome, Parking and Section Host Teams as they provide a warm welcome from the carpark, through to the foyer and into the auditorium.

Welcome Team

“Welcome Team is a Practical and friendly Team that ensures our community and guests feel welcomed and looked after. They ensure that our auditorium is ready for each gathering and that their care for the space communicates we are ready to welcome our community and guests on Sundays.

The Welcome Team are the people who really helped to make our auditorium COVID safe during the months of masks and added hygiene. We want to celebrate and thank them for the ways in which they keep our auditorium a good environment to walk in to each service.”



Julie Holmes

“I enjoy working with the team and getting to know them better and getting to know people through welcoming them each fortnight.

It is rewarding working together with the other teams for the shared purpose and vision of the church for each gathering and it is great meeting new people coming to the church or visiting.

I thank God knowing serving is a privilege God gives us and I love how it aligns especially with the first two parts of our vision of being known in community and being formed in Christ.”

Anne Robinson

“I have enjoyed the personal challenges that I have experienced, as a member of the Riverview Welcome Team and have grown from them. Building into and supporting those around me, both in the team and in the church family, has gone hand in hand with the work God is continually doing in me.

Caring and sharing with like-minded Christians brings a joy to my heart. I am honoured to be part of this Community, with spirit filled God equipped Leaders.”



Jacqui Hutchinson

“I loved forming closer connections with the team, staff, and the Riverview community as a whole.

I’ve grown in courage, confidence, joy and positivity as I challenged my negative thoughts in trusting people and beliefs that I wasn’t good enough. Thanks team for your warm embrace.”





Vimala Joseph

"I enjoy the interaction we have with one another. Each time we meet there is a connection and I feel like family."

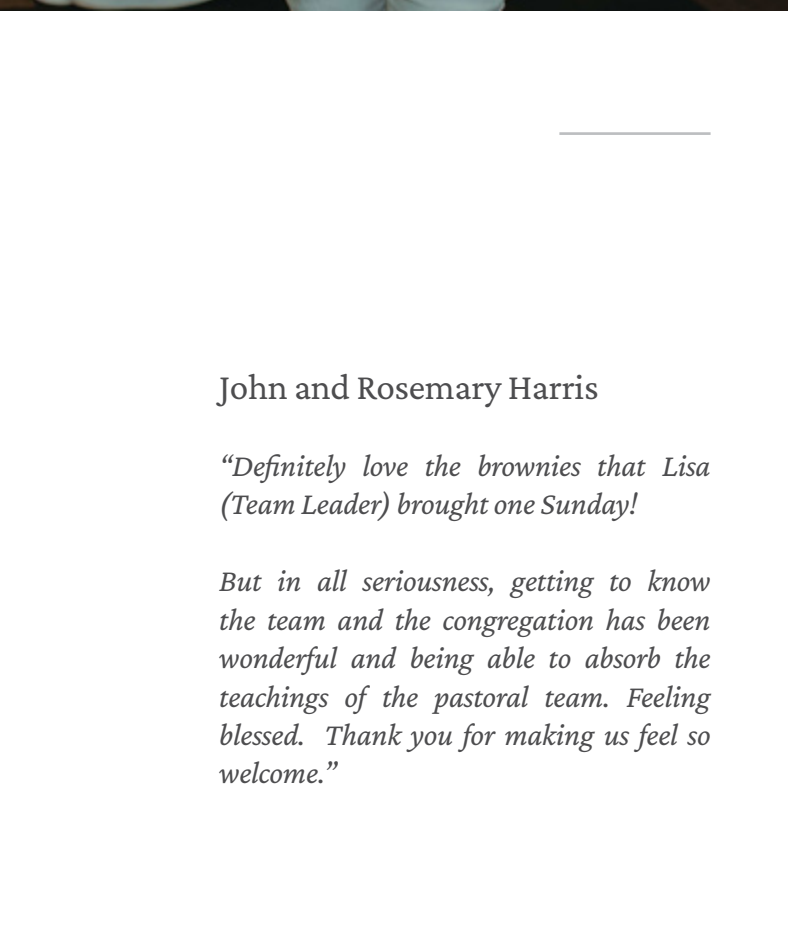
Spiritually I feel when you are going through something as brothers and sisters in Christ we can support each other in prayer and know they are praying with you and for you. There is a closeness as Christ followers."



Micheline Ong

"I enjoy the sense of family being on the team creates."

Open and honest communication that develops over time and keeping each other accountable in our service."



John and Rosemary Harris

"Definitely love the brownies that Lisa (Team Leader) brought one Sunday!"

But in all seriousness, getting to know the team and the congregation has been wonderful and being able to absorb the teachings of the pastoral team. Feeling blessed. Thank you for making us feel so welcome."



Anita Donaldson

"I enjoy getting to have regular conversations with my team members that develops relationships with them. They notice and check in on how I am travelling."

Being a participant rather than an observer in a team helps me feel like a 'member' of our church family, and so I want to behave in that way. Saying 'hello' to people when I may not have previously done so, extends me."





Andrew & Fiona Cross

“What I enjoyed about being on the team is actually feeling like I belong at Riverview and having a purpose. Before it felt like I was just another person through the door.

This has enabled me to build connections which in turn creates a renewed sense of belonging. I’ve learnt that it takes many dedicated hands to build a church community and keep it strong. A church by itself is good, a church with dedicated staff and volunteers is Great!”



Section Hosts

Section Hosts are a group of people who strategically position themselves in the auditorium in order to facilitate a welcoming presence.

They value making meaningful connections with others and notice and remember those who are new or on their own.



Kylie Payne

“I enjoyed being informed about what is happening through my role as a Section Host, encouraging messages and being part of a team.

It encouraged me to step out a bit more and meet people (more so in the foyer after).”

Community Groups

Community Groups bring like-minded people together around a shared stage of life, culture, passion, or hobby.

In a larger community like Riverview Church, finding a place with people who share similar interests or life-stages can be challenging. Riverview community groups are designed to help people feel known in community and have fun together. Community Groups meet with varying frequency and at various times.

In 2022, Riverview community groups included 30+, 40+, 60+ and Riverview Mums. These groups are social groups, focussed on being inclusive and invitational. These groups offer spaces to find friendship and fun times. Both 30+ and Riverview Mums were new groups this year and we are really

excited to see how many people have found friends through these groups in 2022.

Filipino and Brazilian Cultural Communities celebrate their unique and beautiful cultures, building friendships and growing in faith. The Riverview Filipino group celebrated with several fabulous events throughout the year and also went away camping together. We love that in 2022, a group of people from Brazil got together and started a new group.

Common interest groups included golfing, cycling and a group who enjoy the great Outdoors. In late 2022, “The Space” was launched. This was a gathering of people of all different kinds of skills and interests in the creative arts.





Prayer

Facilitation of prayer through all of the ministries of Riverview Church is the role of Pastor Nicki Bowles.

In 2022, we embarked on several initiatives to strengthen prayer life in our personal lives, and our gatherings, as Riverview Church. We chose the Prayer Course by 24/7 Prayer as the basis for our Connect material for the second half of the year, and then ran an 8-week onsite version of this course at Burswood. 55 people attended this course (supported by 15 people on the serving team) and found it to be a positive help in promoting confidence in praying.

Church wide Prayer Gatherings ran monthly throughout the year with differing themes. There was attendance of about 70-80 people at each of these gatherings.

Riverview invited Stuart Wesley (Oasis People and Culture & former Vineyard pastor) who shared his experiences in praying for people with the Riverview staff team and with 65 people who joined together on a Wednesday evening of hands-on practical training that many reported to be extremely helpful.

We are thankful for the prayer heritage at our church and especially want to highlight the Men’s Prayer group; a group of around 12 male intercessors who meet at 6am each Wednesday morning at Burswood to pray for the Riverview community, for the city. These men meet faithfully every week all through the year. Their contribution to the life and health of our church cannot be measured in the natural, but is of inestimable value in a spiritual sense. Thank you to all our intercessors and to all who serve our church, and the kingdom of God, in this way.



Sharyn Gallagher

“The prayer course was a highlight of 2022 for me. I loved being able to delve into and learn more about prayer.

Part of the blessing was to journey with the small group for 8 weeks. I formed new friendships, heard and learnt from shared experiences of prayer as we journeyed and prayed together.”

Volunter Appreciation Party





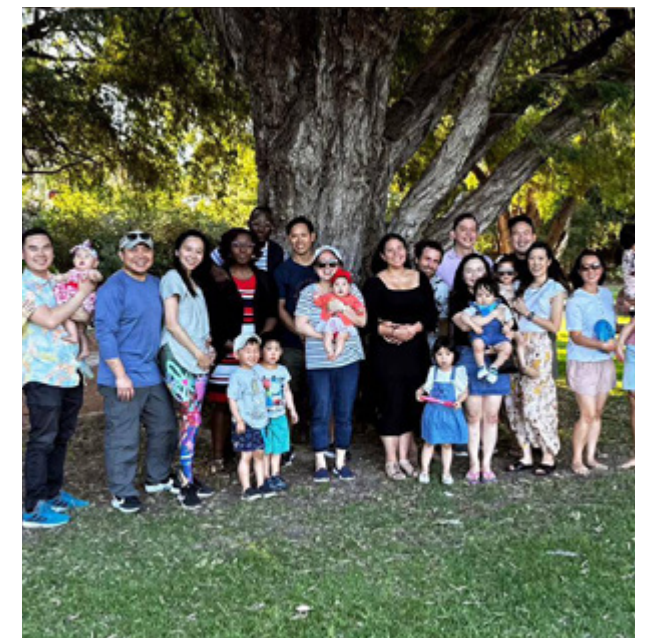
Connect Groups

Connect Groups are our consistent small group, long-term gatherings. They allow our church to share the journey of life together on a regular basis. Our Connect Groups create space for us to eat, pray, connect, and engage in meaningful conversations.

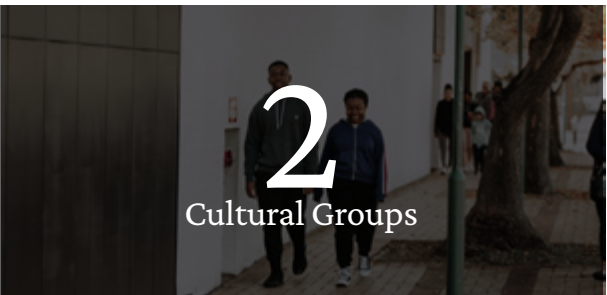
In 2022 Connect Groups engaged in some great conversations based around brilliant content in the form of short 15-20 minute videos. We started the year learning from

Steve about the important subject of biblical friendship. Followed by an exploration of the book of Nehemiah in Term two with Steve and Ryan, and finishing off the year with The Prayer Course in Term three and four.

We also started our Connect Leaders WhatsApp Group to help us stay connected to each other and to strengthen our community of leaders.



Connect Group Stats



Connect Onsite



Sophie

"I enjoyed seeing our group grow closer and a little more open with one another, to varying degrees.

There are some days when you don't feel so prepared, but God does something special anyway, and probably because I got out of the way. I am developing the ability in letting go, trusting the outcome to God."

Jasmine

"I enjoyed learning scriptures, imparting knowledge, and supporting them through their difficult times and praying as a group. "

Vivien

"I loved seeing new relationships blossom, and seeing God's work and impeccable timing in everyone's lives.

I grew spiritually and mentally stretched /challenged. Had more questions than answers, seeking more."

Steve

"Sharing leadership and tag teaming was great. Going deeper and challenging some of the beliefs about 'being a Christian' was liberating.

Growing relationally with some beautiful wise people was wonderful. We are part of such a great Connect family. We've grown together this year and explored so much, we've laughed lots, cried too and grown closer to God ."

Connect Leader Gatherings

Connect Group Leaders Gatherings happened in May and September. These were deeply valuable opportunities to share around tables to eat and chat. It was an opportunity to hear from other leaders in interviews that we like to call “stories from the field”.

It was a time to be upskilled and to hear from Steve, Tania and Ryan about the vision for Riverview. Group Life at Riverview is one of the key ways through which we can develop one another so that everyone is known in community, everyone is formed in Christ and so that everyone lives as a blessing in the city.



Connect Group Leader Orientations

We held three Connect Group Leader Orientations in 2022. These are an intentional space for potential leaders to learn about what it looks like to be a Connect Leader at Riverview.

It’s also an opportunity for those who are already leading groups to refresh their knowledge and skills. These are such a highlight as we get to hear each other’s faith story and why they want to be part of facilitating a group at Riverview.

Connect Onsite

In February and March 2022, the Riverview Connect Team hosted Connect Onsite.



Connect Christmas Hampers

Riverview Connect Groups expressed tremendous generosity in collaboration with Riverview Emergency Relief for Christmas 2022.

Connect Groups provided food for over 50 Christmas Hampers that were given to Emergency Relief clients. These hampers brought some Christmas joy in the form of special food to share with their friends and family that they would otherwise have been unable to afford.

Connect Onsite provides a familiar space (the Riverview foyer) where people who are interested in joining a Riverview Connect Group and people who would like to know how to lead a group can come together.

Connect Onsite meets for 4 fortnights on Wednesdays from 7-9pm. There’s a social gathering in week 5 where groups plan to have fun together.

Connect Onsite always includes food and a time to connect, a short 15-20 minute talk and a small group discussion. The goal of Connect Onsite is that by the end of the 5 fortnights together, new Riverview Connect Groups can be formed and launched.





Alpha

Alpha is designed to create a space and a culture where people are excited to invite their friends into a conversation about Jesus. It inspires us to make Jesus' last command – to go and make disciples.

In a series of interactive sessions, those who come to ALPHA explored life, faith and meaning together. Each ALPHA has three main components — Connection around food, Content (compelling and beautifully produced 20-25min videos) and Conversation (an opportunity to share thoughts and ideas on the topic and discuss in a small group). Introducing ALPHA has been an incredible experience in Terms 2 & 4 of 2022.

It was inspiring to see ALPHA Hosts and Helpers engage with people from the Riverview community along with their friends, work colleagues and families, exploring the big questions of faith and life. It was a joy for the team to facilitate a safe and relaxed space where people enjoyed a meal together, made friends and contributed their own perspectives in an honest and open environment.

Our ALPHA guests told us that they had discovered a relationship with God through Jesus, found a new purpose in life, strengthened their existing faith, made new friends, felt more at peace, felt more loved and found answers to some of their questions about life and meaning.

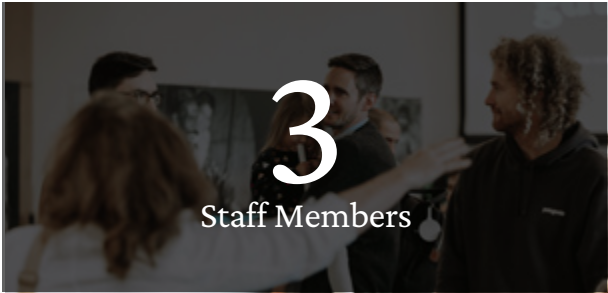
Some also said that they felt safe and comfortable to share their thoughts, opinions and stories without judgement or fear and have moved from being sceptical about faith in Jesus to actively searching for him or have come to faith in Jesus. Others who did not attend church regularly (or at all) have become a part of the Riverview community because of their time with Alpha.

Many have joined or are interested in joining a Connect Group, the ALPHA Team or another volunteer team. One of our groups loved being together so much they have stayed in contact via a group chat and hope to form a Connect Group.



Alpha Stats

Term 2



Term 4



Kelvin

“It’s always a joy and blessing to be involved with people and making new friends. It was great to have this time just to chat with people.

Being on the Alpha team was most enjoyable. I got to listen to the videos many times but each time was always a reminder that we (or I) can never have enough of sharing Jesus.”

Jill

“I enjoyed being on ALPHA Team as I loved meeting new people, hearing their stories and discussing their questions.

It has also helped me to grow myself, learn from others and increase my faith.”

Audrey

“I loved feeding people physically (I am more a Martha than a Mary) and meeting new people.

I grew in my understanding of myself and where I fit in the body of Christ. We are different parts of the body and all serve in harmony as one.”

Karen

“I enjoyed getting out of my comfort zone and seeing God work in people’s lives.

Also being reminded to seek first His kingdom and His righteousness.”



Riverview
Community
Services

“I am very grateful for the Hub. I have been to many places, but this is the only place where I have received the help I need. If the Hub didn’t help me, I would be on the street, it is with this help I have been able to survive. I am very happy with what you do here.”

- Client Quote



Do Unto Others - DUO

At Riverview we believe it is important that we do all we can to ensure that all people are treated with dignity and respect. One of the ways that we do this is through the DUO Hub. DUO (Do Unto Others) has been running for several years as a participant of a consortium of groups seeking to help refugees and people seeking asylum.

The DUO Hub is overseen by Emily Nikoletti. Each Tuesday afternoon, people and families are welcomed to Riverview where they can sit with people who support them with basic things like filling in forms through to pro bono legal advice and advocacy.

Through the DUO Hub program Riverview and

the partner organisations, seek to serve and empower refugees and people seeking asylum in our community, assisting them in navigating Australia’s complex immigration system. A key part of the way that people are empowered is through helping them to advocate for themselves.

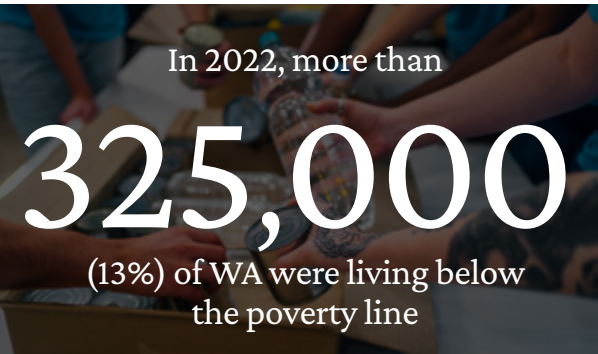
Through 2022, we have supported approximately 25 small groups and sector-wide meetings attended by people across the broad spectrum of government and social organisations. Alongside advocacy work we are also able to provide practical support. In partnership with Lotterywest this year we have provided approximately \$25 000 worth of bills and emergency relief assistance.



Emergency Relief

This program runs in partnership with a Lotterywest Grant and some in-kind partnerships with organisations like FoodBank. This program has been an important part of how Riverview Church seeks to be a blessing in our city.

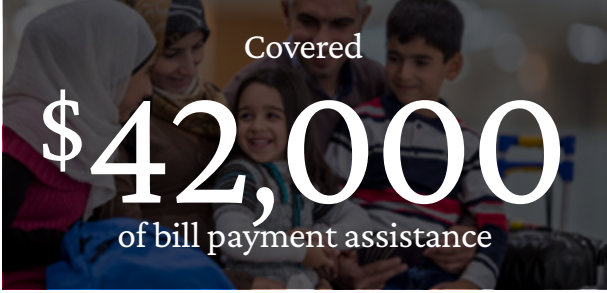
Over the years, we have looked for ways in which we can practically respond to the deep social needs that exist in our City.



Emergency Relief is overseen by Jen Lee who coordinates volunteers, the preparation of food hampers and financial relief support.



Jen is ably assisted by Matt Edland. Matt makes people feel welcomed at Riverview both on the phone as they make appointments or when they arrive onsite to meet with one of the ER Team.



ER Story

Kelly is a domestic violence survivor, and a single mother with two young children. She and her children had not had any food for a day and were facing severe food insecurity.

The ER program assed her with an emergency food parcel and supermarket vouchers, together with a fuel voucher to help her and her kids get through the next couple of days.

Community Visitors Scheme (CVS)

The Community Visitors Scheme (CVS) is a government-funded program that Riverview Church has been involved with for over 20 years. CVS supports seniors through visits from volunteers to provide friendship and companionship and help prevent loneliness and isolation.

Loneliness among older people is a health risk and can shorten a person’s life span by as much as 15 years, as well increase the risk of Dementia by 50%.

Our Riverview CVS program has a great team of volunteers sourced from the local community as well as some from the Riverview Church community. These wonderful people find visiting the elderly a way in which they can demonstrate God’s love in our community.

In 2022, we had 48 volunteers who made visits on a weekly or fortnightly basis, to residents in aged care homes.



Kylie

“I first had the opportunity to meet Thelma who is congenitally deaf, through the CVS program in September 2022.

I was studying Auslan sign language and looking for the opportunity to put what I had learned into practice. When I was introduced to Thelma, all it took was for me to introduce myself and sign “Hi, how are you” and her eyes and smile lit up. The impact was immediate.

Thelma recognised that someone was communicating with her, and she could communicate back, and you could see that meant the world to her. Not being able to communicate with other residents and staff, Thelma was feeling isolated and was not

participating in the community outings. Being excited to have someone to freely communicate with, we agreed our next catch-up would be at the Resident’s next community outing at the Canning River Café which she would not attend previously.

My ongoing friendship with Thelma has highlighted for me the importance and privilege of being able to freely communicate with those around you and the inclusion and validation that comes along with it. Taking an hour or two out of my fortnight to visit Thelma not only brightens up her day but mine too.”

Gifts of Hope

Through Gifts of Hope, Riverview Church provides Christmas gifts to the most vulnerable and disadvantaged young people in the community.

Riverview staff and volunteers start their Gifts of Hope work in August each year, specially selecting gifts and gift cards to

bless children and young people who are identified only by their age and first name.

In late October, all of the gifts are wrapped and over 1000 cards are individually written with a blessing from the Riverview Community.



In 2022, Gifts of Hope distributed gifts and gift cards through the following agencies:

174	YouthCare chaplains, Alta 1 & direct requests from School Principals	16	Red Cross Migration Support
86	Coolabaroo Neighbourhood Centre	20	Riverview Community Services ER
60	Department of Child Protection & Family Support	30	RUAH
39	Frog Hollow (East Kimberley)	25	Save the Children
20	Langford Aboriginal Corporation	40	Wanslea
40	Mercy Care	75	Women's Health & Family Support
90	Mission Australia	25	Zonta House
225	PCYC Roebourne		

Green Team

The Green Team is an environmental community group facilitated by Riverview Church. Throughout 2022, the Green Team continued its efforts to protect and restore the natural environment through various activities such as planting native trees and shrubs, weeding, mulching, clearing litter and promoting a love of nature.

The Green Team meets monthly, generally on Saturday mornings, in partnership with environmental community groups and local government initiatives. In 2022, the Team's efforts were focussed on weeding parks, trails and natural areas so that these recreational spaces stay healthy and vital for plants, animals and people. There were tree

planting events in the middle of the year in parks and public spaces helping to increase the green cover in the metropolitan area of Perth. Tree planting is also important for providing habitat for local wildlife.

Through the dedication and hard work of the Green Team the custodial mandate of the mission of God in the world is expressed. This work has an important place in helping our City to be a healthier and more sustainable community. Riverview Church is proud of this work that expresses our mission to be a blessing in the City in a very practical way.



"We've just joined the Green Team. We met everyone at a picnic at Matilda Bay which was great for meeting people."

We're glad to be joining this team. Our desire is to help protect and care for our environment and we think that joining in community is a really good way to make a difference. As a part of the Green Team we get to be with passionate people who care about sustainability

and environmental care. As individuals we often don't have enough manpower to make a difference.

The Green Team enables us to get alongside others and combine our efforts to make an impact in a very real and practical way."

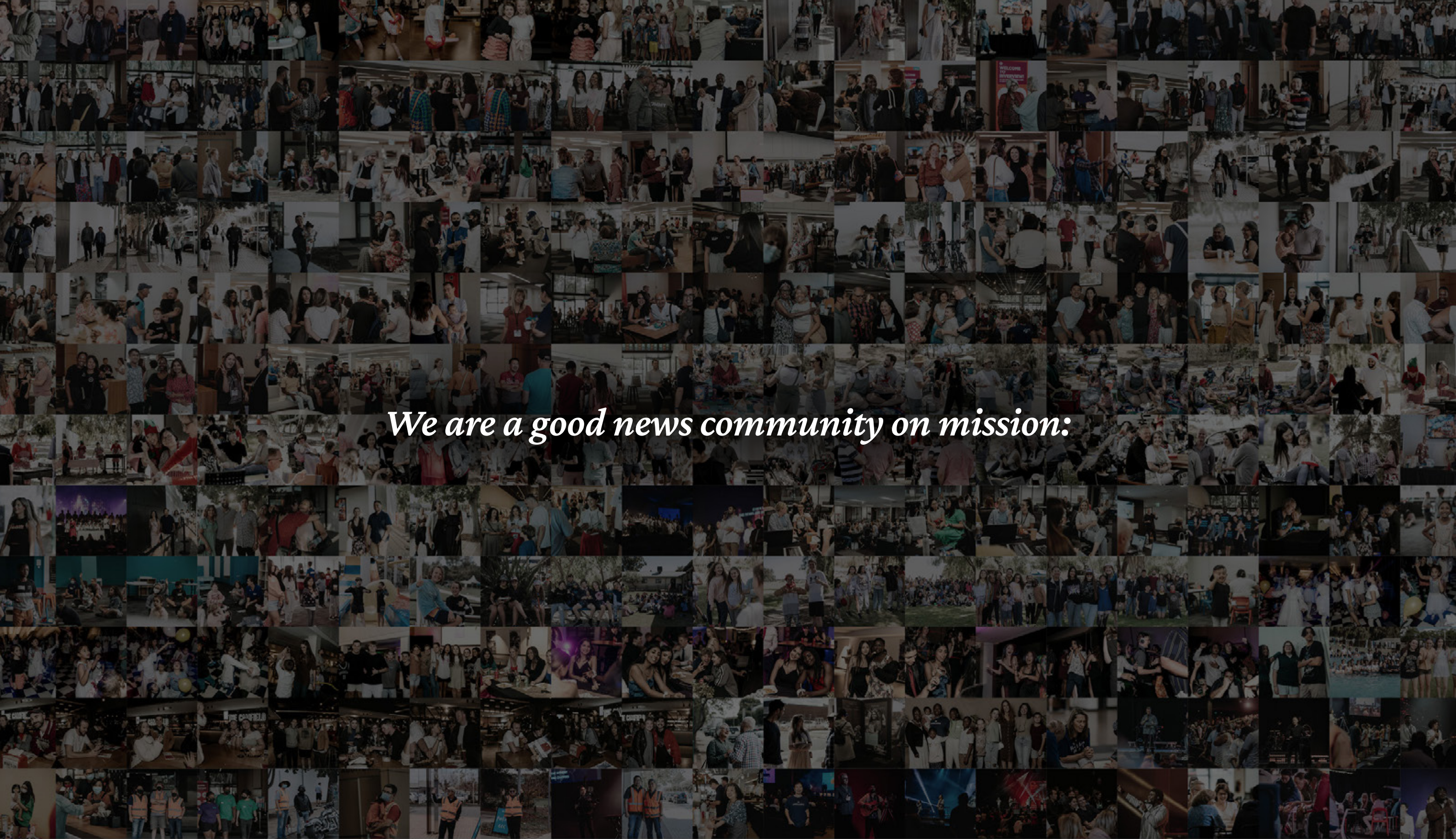


Counselling

Professional counselling was re-established at Riverview in 2022 in partnership with The Anchorage Collective. In addition to the pastoral support offered to the Riverview community, we recognised that we needed to grow our capacity to meet the increasing need for mental health support in the broader community. Sheryll Flynn has recently completed her studies in professional counselling and so we have been able to add this capacity to her ongoing pastoral work.

Christian counselling at Riverview is the provision of a professional counselling service that is integrated with and underpinned by Christian faith and values. Christian counselling considers the whole individual – mind, body, soul, and spirit and with their faith, creating a more holistic approach to therapy. There are many different areas of counselling offered at Riverview, including family counselling, relationship counselling, stress and anxiety, trauma, and grief counselling.





We are a good news community on mission:

*Loving God.
Following Jesus.
Being transformed.*



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