

Annual Report 2010

ANNUAL REPORTS 2010

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SENIOR PASTOR – PAUL CRAIG

Staffing

What a year we have been through in 2009! As well as a growing number of people attending church, a full program in every ministry area with growth happening in a number of areas, we were faced with the crisis of the bushfires. Probably more has been said and written and filmed about this than any other activity of the church in recent times so I won't go into any detail except to say that it certainly threw us into the arena of public affairs in our community, in a way that has not happened before in the life of the church.

In the midst of the turmoil of the early response to those affected by the bushfires we were negotiating with the Baptist Union of Victoria, and then Bapcare, to gain funding for a full-time position for someone to coordinate our relief efforts. So, unexpectedly, we were employing another full-time staff member in a year when the global financial crisis was still biting into people's capacity to give and the church's budget projections were not being met.

We ended the year with five full-time staff members and eight part-time staff as well as two casual employees for cleaning and gardening. This is how the employment table looks at the beginning of 2010:

Position	Person	Area of service	Time in days
Senior Pastor	Paul Craig	Overall leadership	5
Associate Pastor	Rod Draper	Pastoral Care, Adult Ministries	5
Associate Pastor	Raff Agostino	Youth and Young Adults	5
Associate Pastor	Paul Huglin	Children and Family Ministries	3
Associate Pastor	Apryl Huglin	Children and Family Ministries	2
Administrator	Jenni Jackson	Administration and Connect Groups	5
Community Development Coordinator	John Graham	Relief and Material Aid, Community Development	5
Receptionist	Rosemary Ellis	Reception	4
Finance Administrator	Darien Gan	Finance	3
Administrative Assistant	Dawn Craig	PA to Senior Pastor, Prayernet, Pastoral Care, Missions	2
Communications	Andrew Reeves	Web Manager, Powerpoint slides, Graphics Design	1
Young Adults Pastoral Assistant	Shey Hall	Young Adults Pastoral Care and Co-ordination	1
Cleaner	Terry Warburton	Offices, toilets, playgroup area	.5
Gardener	Clive Baker	Gardening	.5

The above table is only by way of information and in no way minimizes the very valuable contribution made at every level of church life by people who give their time freely to serve in ministries across the church and into the life of the community. One such volunteer who deserves special mention is Bert Holloway. In recent times Bert has not been well enough to come to the church regularly and do what he has done for many years in helping to tidy up, clean and serve on special occasions in the kitchen and in welcoming people at the door. Bert is having an operation in the near future as I write this report to have a pacemaker inserted for his heart and so we pray God's healing and strength for him and perhaps a return to active duty if he is able. Either way his long and faithful service to the church deserves mention and thanks.

Diamond Valley Constructions

On January 31st, 2010, Darren Stephens concluded six and a half years of service on staff at DVBC. In the early years from August 2003 until mid 2006, Darren was solely employed to maintain the property at 309 Diamond Creek Road. Who can but be thankful for the renovation of the toilets, the external painting of much of the building, cupboards in the children's area, the superb job of the major rebuild of the kitchen, the manse refurbishment, and a host of other jobs great and small that improved the appearance and function of the total property. In mid 2006, in response to a financial crisis at the time, a new vision was birthed to supplement church funds, train young men and women who may want to enter the building trade, minister to those less able to afford practical help in our community, maintain the property, and subject to time and money perhaps even get involved in overseas mission building work. Balancing the demands of quoting and getting the paid work, keeping the team of workers gainfully employed, fitting in maintenance to a tight schedule of building demands and then trying to do some work for needy people in the community proved to be a very difficult juggling act for Darren. Overall the life of Diamond Valley Constructions, as this venture comes to an end with Darren's resignation, with sale of vehicle and other assets, the church will come out marginally in the black, once all debts are retired.

So, I want to extend a big thank-you to Darren Stephens and thanks to Andrea for her able support during Darren's time on staff at DVBC. Darren and Andrea will continue to be a valued part of DVBC as one of the families who make their contribution through connect group, supporting those around them, attending church, giving and serving in other ways.

Morning services at DVBC

Over the last four years we have conducted two morning services at DVBC. For most of that time the services ran at 9:00am and 10:30am. After some teething problems in the early days the services settled down to a regular pattern of attendance even growing the number of people who migrated to the earlier service and a more traditional type of worship service. Towards the end of 2008 there was a serious question raised with the Eldership by a number of people as to whether the two services could be brought back into one service for the sake of unity and the family being together again. After much surveying and questioning it was taken to a Members' Meeting last February with an open agenda for the members to have their say and vote on the issue. The

outcome was a decision to stay with two morning services following the successful summer time one service venture.

In mid-2009 two decisions were made about the morning service structure that had a detrimental effect on the numbers attending the second service. The first was to push the time back by fifteen minutes and the second was to restart the evening Children's Church program. The end result was that there were about forty less people attending the second service with no significant gain in the early service. The migration was away from the morning to the evening service. One of the identified problems for many families was that the finishing time of the second service was too late for many young children who needed to be home and have lunch, thus cutting down on the time for families to enjoy church and catching up with each other.

During January of this year, 2010, the Eldership met and shared their thoughts about the enthusiasm of the one service that was again being undertaken over summer and the sense of unity that it promoted. There seemed to be such a different atmosphere at church with a reasonably full auditorium and very positive response from many who were attending during this time. Having been in thought and prayer about the services, even from before the summer break, the Eldership came to the conclusion that it was appropriate to capture the momentum and unity and retain the one morning service rather than going back to two separate services at the end of January.

I believe that the Eldership acted in the best interests of the overall good of the church. It is understandable that there may be some disquiet about how the decision was made in the light of last year's February meeting and the way in which the decision was handled at that meeting, compared to a fairly sudden approach taken by the Eldership this year. For my part, I regret any sense of hurt or discomfort caused by the process in which the Elders acted to seize the moment, but I would urge all members to allow the current decision to have time to work out for the good in the long run. At the moment I have to say, the overwhelming response has been very positive.

It is worth remembering that one of our agreed values is that we are a multigenerational church, valuing the whole family and the unity of the family. If that means being more tolerant of differences, extending more grace, looking for ways to be more authentically church, then I think we should push through the barriers of our own preferences and seek the good of the whole church.

CLT and governance issues

The Church Leadership Team decided in mid-2009 that the governance of the church should be examined and reviewed. Brian Winslade was engaged to lead us in a process that involves a church study and a week-end of focus groups, forums and interviews by a consultation team led by Brian and Phil Bryant. Brian was guest speaker at our leadership camp this year and made a significant impact on the people who were there.

Currently, Vanessa Lister is pulling together the data for the church study that will profile our church over the past decade and provide the basis on which the consultation team will seek confirmation of various trends and then make the recommendations on which the future of the church, including governance, will be evaluated by the leadership and the church.

During the past year, since the last AGM, two of our Deacons, Sean Kennedy and Trevor Spicer have resigned from the CLT. Sean served for less than a year but was instrumental in instigating the review process that we are now undertaking and renovation of the stage area, and for that we are grateful. Trevor Spicer has served as a Deacon, Chairman of CLT, and Chairman of Finance Committee as well as chairing many of the Members' Meetings over the years of his service. Again we are grateful for his faithful service. There remain these two vacancies without nomination coming up to our AGM, so it is a matter of prayer for the members as we vote on renominating Deacons, Bruce Whalley and Dale Philip, and pray for the raising up of Deacons for the positions vacant.

Pastoral Team

Over the last year the Pastoral Team continued to gel together, working on team building, communication, and deepening relationships. Over some time the PT has had a dream of holding a conference at DVBC that would be for the people who attend DVBC to receive spiritual renewal and refreshment. At our recent Pastoral Team retreat the dream started to take shape as we began to pray into the 'Regenerate' theme and plan to invite guest speakers to lead a week-end of renewed spiritual life at DVBC over the week-end August 20th to the 22nd of this year. I am still seeking confirmation of speakers and, as soon as we know, they will be announced.

This is not a paid registration conference but a freewill offering conference designed for the faith community of DVBC and friends and family and neighbours who are invited to come and be "regenerated" by the work of the Holy Spirit.

Paul Huglin has agreed to take on the role of Conference Chairman and has already begun the planning process. If you feel you have some contribution that you would like to make towards this conference in the lead up and planning stage, now is the time to tell Paul Huglin that you would like to help.

Alpha

Last year we ran an Alpha course in the church and saw a number of people come to faith in Christ, in answer to prayer and the practicality of actually inviting them to come. That has been such a blessing to see people coming to church and getting involved in connect groups and serving in the church as a result of doing Alpha and being really touched by the Lord. Why wouldn't we do that again?

On Tuesday, April 13th the Alpha course commences at DVBC again. John Graham and I are responsible for putting together a team of people to run the course this year. If you are willing to

help as a group leader, set-up team member, pack-up team member, prayer team member, audio visual operator, or any other helping role, please let John or myself know that you are wanting to be a part of this exciting venture in seeing people come to faith in Christ.

Attendances at DVBC services

Without going into the details of which services showed trends up and down, following what events or decisions, the overall statistical picture of attendances at DVBC services comparing 2008 to 2009 is that there are on average 100 more people attending Sunday services at DVBC than in the previous year.

In addition to the regular services at DVBC we have had a number of special guest services that have attracted very large numbers. From the combined Baptist churches celebration in November, the Songs of Praise at the end of last year, the Christmas Carol Service, Christmas Day, to the Memorial service on Feb. 7th this year, I believe that we would have seen over 2,500 people at these special services, many of them from the community that would not be normally attending any church.

We have had many and great opportunities to present the love of God in action and to attract people to come and hear the good news of Jesus Christ. Let's pray that we see genuine growth in the believers and new growth in those who are yet to respond to Christ.

Prayer meetings in the church

I am extremely grateful to the Elders for their initiative in running a series of prayer meetings towards the end of last year and the willingness of Apryl Huglin and the Prayer Ministry Team to take up the challenge of running monthly prayer in the church, on the first Wednesday evening of each month. I would love to see a greater commitment to prayer by the members as we have been attracting a group of twenty to forty on these nights. I believe that there is a direct relationship between prayer and God's willingness to bless those who are praying for and submitting to His will. Please come and pray for renewal, new birth, growth in the Lord, the extension of the Kingdom of God, and people to be raised up who will make disciples for Jesus Christ.

Personal

As I conclude 25 years of ordained ministry, 30 years as a Pastor, and 11 years as Senior Pastor of DVBC, I am extremely grateful for the grace and strength of the Lord that has sustained me to serve Him. He has provided a soul mate and partner in Dawn, without whom I could not function in my role as a Pastor. She has been under enormous emotional and mental pressure over these last two years, with the death of her father and the demise of her mother's mental health. Together we are thankful for those who know and care for us and make the ministry of leadership at DVBC not only bearable but enjoyable. Thanks to God for all the blessings for all the years and for all of His people.

ELDERS – ALAN GEAR

The role of the Elders is to assist in the spiritual oversight of the church and to help in shepherding (caring for) the congregation. The Elders meet monthly, but also spend time during the month meeting with people.

In this capacity, the Elders continue to spend a significant amount of time in meeting with people who are seeking discernment and guidance in their lives. During this past year we have been blessed to meet with many people who sense that God is calling them to some specific ministry or training for service. We have also had the privilege of meeting with missionaries who are on home assignment, and all the prospective church interns. There are also those who are experiencing a particular need or difficulty in their lives. In each and every occasion, it is a joy to hear people's testimony as to how God is working in their lives, and to pray with and for them.

Part of the role of Elders is to work through issues, particularly spiritual issues, which affect the life of the church. This may mean making decisions for the church, and can occasionally involve discipline issues. It is also a privilege to pray for the church and to seek God's guidance for the church. Our church has many opportunities for ministry and at the same time there seems to be a number of difficulties and limitations on ministry. The Elders continue to support, encourage and pray for the Pastoral Team in their significant leadership roles, and to seek God's clear vision and provision for the church.

During this past year, Daryl Hunt resigned as an Elder due to moving away from the area. This leaves just 3 appointed Elders and there is a need to seek out new Elders. However, this process has been put on hold for the time being whilst a church-wide governance and structure review is completed. It may be that the future role of Elders changes somewhat.

We have a great God who is faithful. As we continue to work through the challenges we encourage our entire congregation to pray for God's guidance and provision. May there be a fresh anointing from the Holy Spirit during this coming year.

CHURCH LEADERSHIP TEAM – TREVOR SPICER

We are a caring community, who celebrate the love of God, inviting all people to follow Jesus Christ, to fulfil their God-given purpose, in the power of the Holy Spirit.

This statement, key to the mission of our church has been before the Church Leadership Team (CLT) at every meeting in 2009. We have reflected on it, discussed it and prayed that it would become a reality in our daily lives. We believe that the spiritual outworking of this statement is central to the current and future ministries of our church.

The year of 2009 saw many of the ministries of the church make deep and lasting connections with people in our local community. The role of the CLT has been to enable, encourage and equip those ministries within the context of the overall church vision.

Clearly the leadership camp, the horrific bushfires and the subsequent ministry of the church to those affected locally were defining points in the church year. Our response to this event has redefined our relationship in many areas of the community.

The youth and young adults ministry continues to flourish under the leadership of Raff and his team of leaders. The investment in future leadership is outstanding and to be highly commended.

During 2009 the CLT welcomed new Deacons Sean Kennedy, Vanessa Lister and Bruce Whalley. We are grateful for the contribution each has made to the group this year.

The CLT continued in its role within the life of the church has also been to provide oversight of the financial and property resources of the church and to ensure our compliance as a church to the various regulations that apply to churches from all levels of government.

Finances within the church have continued to be a matter of prayer for the CLT. Whilst it is true that our offerings have been below the budget level we set, God has continued to supply our needs. The church continued to operate at a deficit in 2009. Please pray about our response to the need for finances, believing that God will sufficiently provide to enable the church to continue to operate, and expand our ministries within the local community.

The CLT has spent considerable time this past year developing an approach to reviewing the structure and governance of the church. We have asked Rev Dr Brian Winslade, who is the National Director of the Baptist Union of Australia and has expertise in Baptist Church governance, to assist our church with this review.

Our thanks to each of you who faithfully pray for the members of the CLT. Pray that, as we lead and oversee the life of our church, we will do so in a way that enables ministries to prosper in accordance with God's will and that, together, we will see people come to faith in Jesus and grow in that faith.

As I wrote this report the words of an old chorus kept coming back to me:

And they'll know we are Christians by our love, Yes they'll know we are Christians by our love.

This will be my last report as CLT Chairman and this is my prayer, that those in our surrounding community will know we are followers of Jesus, because of the way that we honour, respect and love one another.

ASSOCIATE PASTOR – ADULT MINISTRIES - ROD DRAPER

Pastoral Care

Our primary avenue of pastoral care at Diamond Valley is through our connect groups. A small group of people can care for one another more efficiently than a team organised to provide pastoral care right across the church. But not all of our people are in connect groups. The key to effective pastoral care to such people is communication. That is why every week we ask people to fill in their communication card. It not only lets us know who is here on any given week, but the cards are a rich source of pastoral care information when you share your needs with us, or the needs of others that you become aware of from time to time.

We try very hard to ensure that any of our people unfortunate enough to find themselves in hospital, or seriously ill at home, get a visit from at least the Pastoral Care Pastor. Many such visits have been successfully undertaken but there are times when we do miss, sometimes because we don't find out until weeks later that the person has even been in hospital. Can you please help us to better fulfil this objective by letting Pastor Rod know, or at least contacting the office, when you are aware that someone has such a need or when you know yourself that you are going in for surgery. The weekly communication card is an excellent way of conveying this information.

We have had a small pastoral care panel meeting every week to review attendances and to consider the pastoral needs of people as they arise to get help to people more quickly than we have been able to do in the past. At the start of the year, this panel consisted of Reg Gore, Daryl Hunt, Dawn Craig, Heather Dunning and Rod Draper. Recently, Stephen Besford has taken up the place left by Daryl Hunt after his move to Baxter Village. Our thanks go to them for the way they coordinated our pastoral care efforts this year.

Once again we thank Reg Gore and all the members of the Pastoral Carers' team who are committed to bringing practical care and concern to people with a variety of needs from time to time, especially those people not connected with a cell group. This group works very hard behind the scenes to support and encourage those folk who have been unable to get to church regularly

for whatever reason or who need meals or the like in crisis situations for a time. We are now implementing a series of visits to people in our church not currently facing a crisis situation, just to let people know that they are loved and appreciated by the church. A special thank you goes to Rosemary Shell who sends out cards to people who are ill on behalf of the Pastoral Team and the Pastoral Carers.

If you feel that you have gifts that suit for a role in pastoral care in the church, please talk to Pastor Rod about discerning your possible involvement. He would be glad to hear from you.

Welfare & Social Concern

We have a number of people in severe financial hardship who come to us for assistance semi-regularly. We usually respond by providing Coles Cards that can be used at the supermarket to buy food and essential items. Each case is assessed on its merits and long term cases are reviewed to ensure that our goodwill is not being abused. This is deliberately a low key ministry but is reported here to let you know that you do play a role in helping to support needy families in our community from time to time.

These people, together with a number of our home based missionary families are also supported with the provision of a Christmas hamper. This last Christmas, Di Cross, and her small team of helpers were able to put together 40 hampers for this purpose, using food items donated by people in the church. Thanks very much to those who supported this effort. Special thanks must go to Di Cross for organizing the logistics of preparing the hampers and to the Rotary Club of Preston for once again donating the Christmas puddings to place in the hampers.

Evergreens' Ministry

With Daryl Hunt leaving, and Rosalie Saleeba stepping aside from leadership, Rod Draper took up the role of leading the Evergreens Group last year. Many thanks must go to Daryl and Rosalie for their excellent leadership of the group over an extended period of time.

2009 saw outings to Como Gardens in the Dandenongs in May which was stunningly beautiful with so many autumn tones throughout the gardens and a visit to the Botanical Gardens in Cranbourne later in the year. Despite the breezy day it was great to be able to catch up with Daryl and Evelyn Hunt again for the day. We enjoyed a morning of musical entertainment on the footy theme from the Australian Army show band at the Watsonia Barracks in September.

Some of the programs held at the church included visits from special people such as Levi McGrath who spoke and sang about his experiences with children through World Vision in Africa and Gus Mercurio who spoke about his years in television and in boxing with a stirring concluding testimony. Ben and Kylie Chenoweth also shared about their experiences in Russia. Christmas in July is always a highlight of the Evergreens year.

We note that there are many people of retirement age in the church who do not usually come to Evergreens. We would love to hear from you if there is some way that the program could be of benefit to you. Perhaps you would like to help with the Evergreens program. Pastor Rod would be delighted to hear from you.

ASSOCIATE PASTOR – YOUTH, YOUNG ADULTS, LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT
- RAFF AGOSTINO

Xfactor Youth

Xfactor is, in my opinion at the healthiest place that it has been since my time at DVBC. It has been an interesting journey thus far. Youth ministry has not been a foreign concept to DVBC but when I started in 2007 it was in need of rebuilding.

A snap shot of the journey has been: In 2007, 12 young people on the first night, which ended the year with an average of 21. In 2008, we averaged 44 young people each night, with a strong leadership group, that led to 2009 with an average of 98, and an even stronger leadership group.

2010 has seen another shift, with the Pay It Forward camp kicking off the year, and the first night of youth seeing 118 young people and the second night bigger again. We have seen the number of young people hearing about Jesus increase.

Praise point: The biggest praise point for the past 12 months has been the increase of the connect groups for our young people. It has been awesome to see them really develop a hunger for the word of God and how Jesus applies to their life.

Prayer point: Our biggest prayer point is the leadership base that we currently have. Whilst it isn't a practice for Xfactor youth to advertise for leaders or ask for help openly, this is one of those times that we need God to act and bring maturity and wisdom to our young people in the form of people resources that can intentionally disciple and mentor our young people. We have more young people hungry for God's word than our leadership base can handle right now. So we are asking the 'Lord of the harvest, to send out workers into HIS harvest field.' The harvest is more ready than I have ever observed in previous years. We are seeking God to fill 2 connect groups of young people that are leaderless, and have the potential for another 8 at this time. So please join us in praying that God will raise up people to help disciple these young people, and help strengthen their faith.

We have an amazing leadership group, of tremendously committed young adults who are passionate and desperate to see lives changed. They are stretched and in need of help to partner with God to make Xfactor all it can be.

I was expressing to a couple in the church recently, and to Pastor Paul Craig, that what has been amazing is the blessing that DVBC is in regard to the way that the community of DVBC welcomes the young people and is genuinely interested in Xfactor youth.

Thanks for your support both financially and prayerfully. It would not be possible for God to move the way that He does without your silent partnership. Please continue to pray that God will do

what He desires with Xfactor youth. Pray also that we see an increase of older, more mature people being added to our leadership base.

2010 has seen a leadership change with Hayley Grace and Liz Huglin elevated to key leaders. They are amazing as individuals, and a powerful duo. I love working with them both, because they bring a team work aspect to Xfactor that is much needed. Please pray for them both as they continue to learn how to run ministry and seek direction on where to lead Xfactor at the enormous stage that it is at.

Crave Ministry

Crave ministry is going well at this time also. Whilst it has been an interesting journey, we have seen a stability to Crave that has been welcomed by all. I believe that Crave is healthy and am pleased with what is being observed. The addition of Shey as a Pastoral Assistant has brought an element that has been much needed. Shey has amazing abilities and skills in so many varied areas and, coupled with her love for people, is a strong combination and is already making significant impact in the Crave ministry.

Stability is certainly a word that could summarise the past 12 months of Crave. We have seen the Connect Groups move from 4 groups in 2008, to 16 groups in 2009. Looking forward to 2010, it would be difficult to have a word that would summarise the Crave ministry, but the theme will include challenging our young adults to seek a deeper relationship with Jesus. We have some items on the calendar that we believe will help facilitate this, but we understand that no agenda set by anyone can match the desires of God and His plans. So please pray that God continues to have His way.

I believe that the Crave ministry is very diligent in the way that it looks after the young adult age group. I guess a philosophy that I adopt is, if we are faithful in the small things then God will entrust us with the big things.

This may seem small, but we are seeing a steady number of young adults, (between 2 and 9) each week who are new to the church and for the most part we are seeing them transition into Connect Groups.

Praise point: The stability and steady growth of Crave has been an encouragement to observe. We are delighted to see so many great things come out of the last 2 years, in particular.

Prayer point: Our desire is to see every young adult connected and every young adult serving, we are seeking God on what part we play in this.

My desire (God willing) is that we see a deeply passionate group of young adults that CRAVE God's word, and CRAVE worship, and most importantly CRAVE Jesus.

Xfactor and Crave are both ministries that are directly feeding the very near future of DVBC, both as a human resources and financial resources, so please join us in praying more intentionally to make this happen. If you would like specific prayer points please let us know by either emailing, xfactor@dvbc.net or crave@dvbc.net and we will keep you informed.

Just like it says in Ephesians 4:11-13, ¹¹It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, ¹²to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

That is what we are desperate to see in 2010 and beyond.

ASSOCIATE PASTORS – CHILDREN & FAMILIES MINISTRIES - PAUL & APRYL HUGLIN

2009 was, in reflection, a year of firsts for Children's & Families ministries. Within the 12 month period Apryl ran the "Bringing Up Boys" parenting course, which had approximately 20 regular attendees, culminating with an afternoon bush driving trip between fathers and sons.

The occasional home based lunches of the latter half of 2008, became the regular monthly church family lunches conducted on the last Sunday of every month. These lunches slowly increased in numbers approaching 90 children and parents towards the end of the year. Thank you to everyone who pitched in and helped with these.

The previous annual "Family Fun Day" was upsized to "Valley Festival" and the community outreach moved away from a predominantly preschool family focus to a broader community event, encompassing all the different ministry areas of the church.

Children's Church was started in the evening services with two sections operating in the playgroup room and lounge 1. Thanks to our new weekly evening leaders in the playgroup room. The commencement of "FACuLTy" – Family And Children's Leadership Team, a group whose purpose is to provide top level oversight and decision making for the whole of Families and Children's Ministry, was commenced approximately half way through 2009.

While these new initiatives took place, we chose not to run the previously annual school holiday program in September. With Aaron and Jacqui Kelly moving to their pastoral appointments at Whittlesea, we saw it as an end of a season. We want to again acknowledge and thank Aaron, Jacqui and Shirley Patterson for the wonderful heritage they sowed into DVBC.

Our other stalwart ministry areas of Sunday morning Kids' Church, Playgroups, Girls' and Boys' Brigades, Junior Tennis and CRE continue to bless and serve many families and children. This was in spite of my incapacitation at the beginning of the year with the heart operation. 2009 was the third consecutive year that the Children's and Families Ministry had started the year without a

Pastor or with one that was recovering from a significant health issue. The loss of a fully functioning Pastor for six months in each of three consecutive years cannot be underestimated. Which is why we should praise God that 2010 has been such a blessed beginning, and why Apryl and I are so appreciative of the leaders and helpers, families and church members who remained faithful and supportive of Families and Children's Ministries over the last 36 months. Finally, with the exception of the previously mentioned, we have avoided singling out people for specific thanks and this was because by the end of last year there had been 59 individual leaders and helpers working regularly within the ministry connecting with conservatively 450 children on a weekly basis. That's HUGE !!

Thank you to everyone. Thank you to God our Father, Jesus His awesome Son and the mighty Holy Spirit, for showing us such favour, grace and blessings.

BOYS' BRIGADE 23rd Diamond Valley – LUCAS GARTH

Diamond Valley Boys' Brigade exists to grow Christian men, physically, spiritually, socially and educationally, and we had a good year of this in 2009.

2009 was a strange year for many in the church, with the impact of the bushfires. I have heard many say that their year of planning was almost destroyed before it began, and in some ways this is what happened to members of our Brigade Company. It was pleasing to see the contributions made by so many groups in the church in tackling the fire relief work, and to be informed directly of what was happening on the ground by John Graham at a Company Night was appreciated. It helped us keep in the loop when decisions were made – often at very short notice – to change the usage of rooms at the church. Our leaders did a great creative job working with limited space during the year, but still providing a program of interest and challenge for the boys.

As Captain, but also as a newlywed during the year to Jodie, it was left to our leadership team to work together in my absence in term 2, during which Brian Chiha assisted Seamus Spillane to co-ordinate the affairs of the Company. John Hardiman, leader-in-charge of the older boys section in 2009, took term 3 out of the normal BB night to be part of the church 'Bringing Up Boys' course. This led to a year where it was, at times, difficult to see who was in charge of each group, with key personnel missing in action. It is hoped that 2010 will be better from this perspective particularly.

Some highlights of the year:

- Involvement in evangelistic camps at Yarra Junction during 2009: January (Seniors) and November (Juniors)
- Restarting of a seniors program for the older boys hanging out after the normal program at Brian Chiha's house
- Boys and leaders involvement in the week-long Leadership Courses (Team Leadership/Personal Development) and the weekend Leadership Course (Squad Leadership)

- Mt Howitt weekend overnight hike
- Leaders Training Day – Synergy 1+1=3
- Finishing in the finals again for Indoor Soccer Competition (Seniors age group)
- New leaders starting to assist – David Besford and Brendan Haesler
- Steve Garth running an astronomy class for the younger boys
- Assisted the church running the 'Bringing Up Boys' "Focus on the Family" course which was a successful growth time for church families
- April & Paul Huglin coming on board as Children & Families Pastors helped the ministry leadership
- New boys joining the group in term 4

Thanks to all leaders and boys for attending and making 2009 a good year of Boys' Brigade at Diamond Valley. A big thanks to all leaders who put in above and beyond the call of duty again, well done on a great year in development of the young boys in our care.

GIRLS' BRIGADE 2nd Victoria- Diamond Valley – CHERYL GARTH

2009 has been a very busy year beginning with the fires in the Kinglake area. Thanks to the Girls' Brigade from all over Australia we were able to pack pamper packs full of supplies and help out in many ways. On Anzac weekend the girls stayed over at the church before catching the Jesus Bus to Eltham MacDonald's for breakfast returning for a great church parade. We had a wonderful night for our Mothers' Night themed around "Twins". Fathers' Night was held at the mini golf range with the weather holding off and 63 girls/dads playing and then served supper. At the end of term 3 we held a joint GB/BB trivia night to support Rachael Cornock who will be attending Fono in January in Tasmania. The leaders, juniors and seniors attended a Northern Divisional Camp at Kyneton in October. The camp was great and it was an opportunity to get to know other girls who attend Girls' Brigade.

The Cadet unit has been a small group of girls, however they have had fun. In the first term they did Fun on the Sun. In Term 2 they enjoyed the work on space and learning about the planets. But their favourite by far was in term 3 doing cooking. In term 4 the cadets are joining with the juniors to learn about camping and doing Christmas stuff. This group was led by Rachelle Bransgrove & Wendy Besford.

The Junior Unit has been very busy and productive, led by Jen Phillips and Maria Hynes. This year they've focused on Celebrations, Girls' Brigade Knowledge and Camping. They started the year learning about the meaning of Shrove Tuesday and the reasons for Easter. Some highlights were cooking our own pancakes and eating them too! In second term the Juniors moved swiftly into GB Knowledge, learning more about Girls' Brigade, God and themselves. Particular fun for them was making a poster of themselves spelling out the GB motto "Seek, Serve and Follow Christ". In third term the girls were very excited to be learning about camping. The Divisional camp was coming up soon and they wanted to be well prepared. A special guest, Rama from 1st Eltham Gellibrand Cub Pack came in to teach them more about first aid, and what to take with

them when they go camping. The girls had a lot of fun making their own first aid kits, and learning what to do in certain situations. The Juniors have had a great year so far and have really enjoyed learning new games and making new friends.

The Senior Unit has focused on three achievements. Physical: Dancing (with Kelly). We learned a few Bollywood (Indian) dance routines. We also learned about stretching and warming up our bodies before exercise. We looked at examples of dancing in the Bible to worship God. Social: Cooking. We were joined by visiting pioneers from Tasmania for a feel/smell/taste testing night. We went through the healthy food pyramid and cooked/ate/learnt about food from each section. We did many crafts, including learning about the Fruits of the Spirit and making matching bracelets. Educational: Girls Brigade Knowledge. We learnt about the history of Girls' Brigade, our company, and the different aspects of the GB crest. Over the year one of the best things in Seniors has been the friendships that have developed in the group. Some of our favourite activities have been the chocolate game, the jelly bean game, warm fuzzies, using a large quantity of stickers, and going on two camps this year. Aleesha Bransgrove with Cheryl Garth were the leaders of Seniors.

Emily Ward & Melissa Besford led the Pioneer Unit achievement Living Skills. For the social aspect the girls have been involved in the bush fire relief which included preparing pamper packs, sorting donated items, making a square for a quilt and helping out at the dinner. The girls also attended Pioneer Leadership Course weekend for prelim. Janae our Queens' Award girl attended the Admin course and has been helping out with the relief dinners this year.

Our Awards Night was a great success with the girls given badges for all the hard work they did during the year. Apryl Huglin, our Chaplain, presented the Christmas Story using the Love Languages. Cadets and juniors sang Christmas songs with actions. Seniors performed an Indian dance and the pioneers made a DVD based on the life of Esther.

Girls' Brigade gives girls an opportunity to grow in the knowledge of Jesus and to become leaders by giving them opportunities to lead games, crafts and given responsibilities from a young age. They are nurtured and cared for by a group of dedicated leaders. The girls make lifetime friendships with each other and have opportunities to travel and meet girls from other Girls' Brigades from around Australia & the world.

Diamond Valley GB is held on Wednesday Night from 6-45pm – 815pm during school terms and all girls from prep to year 12+ are invited to come and try this fun girls group.

In 2010 Girls' Brigade Victoria will celebrate its 70th birthday and there are many exciting things planned for the leaders and girls. If you would like to join the team and share your gifts and talents with the girls please see Cheryl Garth or Apryl Huglin.

PLAYGROUPS – APRYL HUGLIN

Each week 55 children and 32 mums come to the church to share in the Playgroup sessions which are run by people who regularly attend the church. Most of them are not from our church. Fun, games, laughter, lots of free play both inside and outside, noise, noise and more noise, lots of Mums talking (and sometimes the occasional Dad) – yes that's Playgroups at Diamond Valley Baptist Church. And of course there is the program that we run each week which aims to foster a love of God in these wonderful pre-school children.

Leaders are: Kylie Thorpe, Rachael Scordo, Ros McLindon, Sue Moss, Gitta Harman, Claire Georgiou and Robyn Bowles. I would like to thank each of these woman for their dedication and love of Playgroups as they lead and teach the children in their care each week. Thanks also to Beryl Hahn and Diamond Loukas who ran last year's Friday Playgroup but are no longer leaders in Playgroups.

I would like to extend a huge thank you to the team of leaders and parents who helped build the lovely Playground in the Playgroup Area. Your effort, imagination and time spent has not gone unnoticed.

May God bless these children as they come to know him more and more.

OUTREACH / FIRE RELIEF / COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – JOHN GRAHAM

With God's help, I find it hard to believe that 12 months has now passed since Black Saturday 2009.

I would like to thank Rev.Di from St.John's and Pastor Garth from Monty Gospel Chapel who helped as we recently held the anniversary of the memorial service where over 650 people attended our combined church service which I had the humbling privilege to co-ordinate and MC.

I find myself reflecting over all that has happened including -

- Having 3 employers (ie, Alpha, BaptCare & DVBC), made over 350 survivor contacts, managed 6 shop fronts and 2 warehouses of donated goods with the help of Lovella, June & Shey managing a food gallery and clothing gallery whilst co-ordinating some 50 rostered volunteers.
- With particular thanks to Shey for co-ordinating the fit out of Flowerdale, Marysville & Kinglake temporary villages with crockery, cutlery and bedding for families to be able to move straight in.
- Arranging a massive garage sale that raised over \$10,000 to sell off unwanted clothing and goods that had to be removed from warehousing by May 2009.

- Established a system to give away \$200,000 of donated BapCare funds to those who fell through the cracks of grants and insurance payments.
- Established the DV Support Lounge and weekly community dinners back at DVBC from July onwards. Our church received various awards from Banyule & Nillumbik council, articles in the DV Leader newspaper and radio interviews.

Six months ago God gave me a vision to produce a film which I shared with Ben Whimpey @ Orsino Images. The next thing was to raise the funds to make it happen so we could contract a film crew. Over the last four months I have been working with a film crew to develop a 60 minute documentary called 'Rising From The Ashes' which aims to follow the journey of eight survivors from various backgrounds telling their story of faith and hope since Black Saturday, whilst aiming to raise \$50,000 in sponsorship toward its budget. To date, I have been able to secure \$35,000. 100% of any funds raised above the budget will support the ongoing work of bushfire recovery. Please join us and spread the word as we aim to launch this film @ DVBC on 17th & 18th April – check out the website www.risingfromtheashes.com.au

Our most recent PIF (Pay It Forward) campaign late January was the largest and most successful ever due to linking council with local community recovery committees to source bushfire community projects. Thank you to Raff, Shey and a large dedicated team that helped pull this off. God is so good! Somehow I know, this is just the beginning. Ground breaking as it was, the soil has been turned in preparation for the harvest ahead.

We recently held a team meeting with our volunteers to introduce Helen Legg from the Hurstbridge Recovery Centre with a view to share the load as Helen is struggling for volunteers and we have lower numbers of survivors attending each day at the DV Support Lounge.

By April I aim to –

- Regroup our efforts and merge the material aid into Hurstbridge. Inviting our volunteers to roster with Helen's group of ladies to share the load as they still serve 20-30 people per day whilst we average 2-4 people per day.
- Change the form of use for our DV Support Lounge into a daytime Café for the wider community whilst encouraging survivors to meet for a coffee or meal with friends.
- Launch the documentary 'Rising From The Ashes'
- Commence running Alpha promoting this amongst the survivors

By May I aim to –

- Establish some daily self help classes such as – painting/art groups, quilt/craft groups, gardening groups or computer courses inviting survivors and general community to participate through weekly doorways helping to integrate the recovery process.
- Keep running our weekly community dinners that average 40 people per week. I would like to open this avenue up to the broader community including the underprivileged and elderly.

We should still keep the 20' containers on site in the event of any other catastrophe as they do not cost us anything at present.

Moving forward beyond June 2010

Community Dining

I would like to see our community dinners expand into a modern form of 'soup kitchen' for the socially outcast to create a space where local people come and receive pastoral care. We could blend these people into existing programs within the church after building bridges into our community. We could utilise our bus ministry more if we were to purchase a shuttle bus. Offering to collect people (ie, elderly or disabled) during the day providing lunches mid week then a meal at night for those living on the street (ie, youth, drug or homeless) people.

CIA – Church In Action

I would like to see the PIF program expanded to encourage greater church participation across the age groups as well as youth, so we can co-ordinate more projects more regularly – “serving our community”.

We now have the greatest lead into council through Gail Cummings & Miriam Kruh who need our help to co-ordinate the number of requests coming to us asking for help to clear blocks, gather wire, collect weeds, rebuild fences, chop down trees, split and stack timber, spread mulch, etc.

We need to build an army of volunteers that are willing to work once a month and help our surrounding community. Are you willing to join us? Do you know people that would like to help? This will require more people than just DVBC. Please ring or email me to register your availability.

Community Prayer Meetings

So much goodwill has been shared since Black Saturday through the efforts of our church and the wider community. We have witnessed an unprecedented openness to receiving help from those around us. Now is the time to raise the banner and reach out to those who still require our help by linking arms with surrounding churches to broaden our reach. Our strategy should incorporate networking with similar heart churches to commence a weekly combined prayer meeting inviting outside people to join us as we aim to reach out to our surrounding community with the hands and heart of Jesus. I would love to help make this happen.

Resourcing

It would be helpful to register for DGR status which provides tax deductibility to those who could provide financial support of this work. We need to consider working on registering for incorporation with a view to apply for grants within Community Development or Community Service. We need finances to resource this ministry arm of the church. Do you believe God is in this? Are you willing to partner in this venture? I believe God is going to stretch our faith further in order to grow His church. How can you help? Please let me know.

With humble thanks for all that our Lord is providing.

ADMINISTRATION / EVENTS & HOSPITALITY / VALLEY CAFÉ / CONNECT GROUPS – JENNIFER JACKSON

All Things Admin

OH&S has been one of the most talked about issues over the past year. Having undertaken a week's training on OH&S, and with the assistance of Paul Huglin, we are progressively bringing the church up to date in this area. Moving forward - 2010 will be the year that all ministry leaders will receive training in the areas of Duty of Care and OH&S in terms of their responsibilities as leaders, and each year new leaders will be required to attend this training.

Events & Hospitality - Valley Café

How amazing to think that the Café has been running 15 months now (give or take a holiday here or there). Its success of course relies on two essential components, those who are happy to give time in service to God through working in the café, and those who are happy to stay after church to enjoy a time of fellowship over good food. I am pleased to report that, whilst not being its main focus, the café earned over \$8,000 which has gone to assist in the financial operation of the many ministries of the church. It has become evident that running café on long weekends isn't feasible and a decision was made to take up that opportunity for the regular kitchen team to get a well earned break.

Ralph Fasciani is heading up this ministry for 2010 and we look forward to a fresh look, exciting food and fellowship on Sunday evenings. If you haven't been involved in this valuable ministry before now, this is the perfect opportunity to get started; the café really needs a few more people with skills in cooking, dishes, and serving, so please give your support in any way you can.

Alpha

The Alpha course was another success, with a new group continuing through the follow up course 'The Journey Begins'. We are always so delighted to see God moving through these two courses, and to see new and renewed Christians finding their place in the Body of Christ.

Connect Groups

There are still quite a number of people who are not enjoying the fellowship, growth and support of being in a Connect Group. Our passion is to see everyone connected into Connect Groups as we believe they are an integral part of the ongoing life of the church. If you have not yet experienced Connect Groups or you are looking to connect, please get in touch and let us know so we can help you find just the right group for you.

Service Ministries

Those volunteering in Service Ministries have done an awesome job over the year. We have said farewell to a number of volunteers who have retired for health reasons or who have moved away from the church and we are eagerly looking for people who could fill their places by offering to serve on any of the following teams: Cleaning, Counting, Welcoming, Morning Tea, and Library.

And In Closing

The simplest offer of assistance could make such an enormous difference in the life of the church. Thank you to all those who give of their service in the name of Christ Jesus. May you continue to know the delight and joy in serving our Lord and Saviour.

CREATIVE MINISTRIES – ANDREW REEVES

This last year has been a good one for Creative Ministries. At the start of the year we were down to one worship leader for the 10:45am and 6:00pm services but by the end of the year we had five new worship leaders to help in these services. Growth continued through last year among all our people and it is with great pride that I can say the CMT rose to meet the challenges of the year.

A special mention goes to our technical team who have manned the PA desk, the Audio Visual computer, Lighting, Video, and Recording for three services. The work effort has been outstanding and their sacrifice is not unnoticed.

It has also been great to welcome in new members of all ages to the CMT this year, a trend that I pray continues through the years to come.

Highlights of the year have been for the tech team running the Battle of the Bands at Valley Festival, the combined church service which integrated our musicians and singers with those from Eltham Baptist, and the Christmas Services at Diamond Creek Carols and Diamond Valley Baptist. I am continually impressed with what our people are able to achieve.

Most importantly though it has been a blessing to see people worship in services. This is what we are all about... supporting worship. Our success can in a way be directly measured through the congregation. If people are not worshipping, then we are not leading worship. It is not about how well we play, sing, or impress people, but rather how invisible we are so that people only remember being in the presence of God while worshipping. Obviously for different people this happens with different styles of music and this is a continual challenge we face as a team.

As we approach a new year with only two services and try to create a worship atmosphere that will lead all generations into the throne room of God, we pray that our church will be a worshipping one. As we turn our eyes to Jesus, may the things of this world become less important in the light of His glorious grace.

CRE – RAY FITZ-GERALD

The CRE Team wishes to thank the Church for providing the facilities of the Church for Initial Training Sessions and for on-going Professional Development days throughout the past year and for their prayer and financial support. Without this support the Lord's work in schools in our area would be the poorer.

Ten personnel from Diamond Valley Baptist were involved in CRE programs in eight schools during 2009. And, whilst this may appear to be a lot of involvement, the Religion in Life program was only being offered in about half the schools in our community. Sadly, with the current open

door in schools to CRE we ought not to neglect the opportunity we currently enjoy. When you have a typical nine year old, who does not attend any church say : I'm glad that you are my CRE teacher because you show God's love to me." Then you realize the wonderful opportunity one can have to reach unchurched children with the Good News.

If you can spare an hour a week then get trained and take up the challenge. For, this is our community and, this is our mission field.

PRAYERNET – DAWN CRAIG

As another year has passed we have welcomed some new members to the team and had a couple of people move on, for various reasons. We are currently a group of about 25 people. By nature our ministry is one that is 'hidden' as we have strict guidelines regarding confidentiality. Consequently there is little that is made public about the team. However, I can assure you that these are faithful people who love the Lord and are committed to bringing the needs of the church and wider community to Him. There are many people who feel that we are a lifeline for them as they face difficult situations.

We also believe in the power of prayer and are delighted when we see God answer the requests we bring to Him. It is great to have opportunity to praise God with others as they experience His faithfulness and answers to their petitions.

The main way prayer needs are brought to our attention is through the communication cards collected on Sundays, but we are happy to hear about prayer needs by all different means.

PRAYER MINISTRY TEAM – APRYL HUGLIN

2009 was an incredibly blessed time for the Prayer Ministry Team as we conducted the Restoration Prayer Ministry Training Course at Diamond Valley Baptist Church. We had 27 participants in total, some of them from other churches. The course enables people to learn and grow in the ministry of praying for others to bring about healing of deep emotional, spiritual wounds as well as for physical healing. Whilst the course ran for one Saturday each month for 9 months our regular prayer ministry sessions continued each week where we once again found ourselves privileged and humbled as the Lord allowed us to share in other people's lives.

The team currently consists of the following people: Darien Gan, Shinta Richardson, Paul Craig, Rod and Joy Draper, Paul and Apryl Huglin, Anthea Field, Sharon Simic, Sue McMaster, Bev Spring, Mary Hamilton and new team members Ros McLindon, Rachael Scordo, Tom MacDonald and Robyn Bowles.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the team immensely for their input, expertise and time as they ministered to others and facilitated others to minister in the power of the Holy Spirit. We praise God for his faithfulness each and every time we minister and thank him for the privilege.

MISSION COMMITTEE – BOB CALLAGHAN

The past year has been a challenging one for many of our missionaries due to the impact of the Global Recession. Organisations like Caleb and O.M. at home, and some of our members serving overseas, have felt the pinch. The level of giving at DVBC has made our unchanged commitments a strain but we give thanks that we were able to maintain our support.

The Missions Weekend with its theme of recruitment was rated as one of the best. The dinner was well supported and the speakers over the whole weekend made a big impact.

Aileen Morrow was recommissioned for the work in S.A. and the Philippines and our Senior Pastor joined her there to take a leading role in a Pastor Training Seminar. Jason and Sharini McEwen were also commissioned for work with O.M. This month they led a team of young people to India to engage with the Dalits.

We welcomed the Chenoweths home for a short furlough and Ewen and Elizabeth Cummings have commenced their home leave,

We farewelled Daryl and Evelyn Hunt after many years of faithful service and our Mission Committee now consists of Bob and Val Callaghan, Dawn Craig, Alison and Damien Knuckey, Jenny Goeby and Daniel Parsons. Stephen Besford has also joined us as our Elder representative. We value your prayers and continuing support for the missionary cause.

WELCOMING TEAM – RON ELLIS

As we enter our 19th year of existence as a Welcoming Team, we give thanks to God for the opportunity of serving as the Lord's representatives to welcome people to our Worship Services. Our team of around 90 people includes some young people (more welcome) and even one or two in their nineties. Quite a number of team members have been serving for the entire 18 years. Once again we extend our thanks to Margaret Spark and Barbara Gilbert for faithfully undertaking the difficult task of preparing rosters for the three Sunday Services. Sincere thanks to those unable to continue on the team because of health problems or for other reasons.

Special thanks to Esther Tay and her team of volunteers who faithfully provide that welcome cup of tea or coffee in the foyer after the service. The fellowship it promotes is invaluable.

After much planning, preparation and consultation with folk at Syndal Baptist Church, a small team of volunteers has helped to establish a 'Name Tag Team' making it possible for everyone attending our church to wear a name tag to enable us to call each other by name. It has been a great success.

We are indebted to Denise Williams, whose very generous donation made the project possible and to her husband Greg who kindly looks after the computerization processes for us. The design, construction and setting up of the display boards, signage, collection tubs and management procedures were carried out by:- Frank Page, Tony Spark, John and Fay Whimpey, Ken Smith, Greg Williams and Margaret Spark, who has become the Name Tag Team Co-ordinator. Other valuable people have been recruited on to her team to handle the weekly maintenance of the system.

It is our hope that all people attending our Worship Services will wear their name tags and reach out to extend a warm, sincere welcome to others in the name of our Lord.

Ron Ellis - Team Leader

WOMEN IN FOCUS – JAN ELLIS



women in focus

Undoubtedly the highlight of 2009 for our women was the weekend visit, in October, to Yarrowonga Church of Christ. The purpose of this visit was to bless and encourage the women at Yarrowonga, but it was we who received the most in the way of blessing. After a Saturday evening coffee & dessert we joined with the whole church in the Sunday morning service and we were encouraged by the enthusiasm and faith of this small band of God's people.

In February we welcomed as our special speaker, Karin Koeppen, proprietor of the Cuckoo Restaurant for 50 years. Karin brought some entertainers with her and we had a really wonderful morning of fun, laughter and a message of God's faithfulness in this lovely lady's life and her steadfastness often in the face of serious trial. Subsequently we decided to travel up to the Dandenongs and enjoy Sunday afternoon tea at the Cuckoo. Over 70 of our church folk and guests enjoyed a really great time of fun and fellowship together.

Robyn Terrey, one of our team, invited us to Wycliffe to visit and have morning tea together. Many of the women were amazed at the complex and expressed a deep interest in the work of the translators. One of the Wycliffe staff, Joan Finlay gave an excellent overview of the work and our own women's trio, Colleen, Agnia and Sharon sang a selection of most inspirational songs.

170 women enjoyed our end-of-year breakfast which featured Kinglake country singers 'Carter and Carter' whose message in song was very moving and Pastor Melinda Dwight of the 'Imagine' network of churches, communicated an incredible testimony and message of hope..

We hosted a Christmas supper for women in ministry at DVBC once again to recognise the dedication of our amazing women. Kylie Chenoweth spoke of her experiences serving the Lord in Russia and many of the ministry leaders gave us a glimpse of the highlights of their year and the way in which God is working in the lives of those who call DVBC their spiritual home.

Although the year commenced on such an incredibly sad note with devastation all around us, we finished with worship for our Lord and Saviour in a most amazing Songs of Praise. Over 700 people listened to the voice of Judith Durham of 'Seekers' fame, joined by the Wallensis trio and our own Matthew Field.

We give thanks to our Heavenly Father for His goodness over the past year and acknowledge the amazing privilege we have in serving Him and the women of Diamond Valley Baptist and the surrounding community.

Team Members: Jan Ellis; Diane Cross; Jan Gear; Robyn Terrey; Barbara Gilbert; Heather Muffett; Fay Whimpey

LIBRARY – ROS MCLINDON & SANDRA KEARNEY

We are pleased to report that the Library is meeting the needs of a number of people in our congregation and we trust that others can be encouraged to make use of it as well.

We continue to be indebted to those who support the Library through donations of books and DVDs but videos can **no longer** be accepted. We also appreciate the gold coin donations for second hand items as the money enables us to help purchase new resources. However the following two problems give us concern:

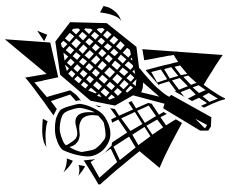
1. People not returning borrowed items and this means there is a financial drain on our budget.
2. People borrowing items but not recording them, and this means that they are then untraceable

Children and adults DVDs are very popular and we are endeavouring to purchase both Christian entertainment and teaching items.

We thank you for the opportunity to serve in the Library and hope to see you there!

CRAFT – MARION PROVAN

The group continues to enjoy their time together every week. They were all pleased to be back after Christmas. Our numbers fluctuate, but the stragglers are usually there by morning tea time! We're MISSING Wendy May (having a knee reconstruction) and Lorraine Rhind (Gall stones). Their groups miss them of course, but faithfully work on, tackling prepared work. Barbara Carrig's group are especially keen, and doing beautiful work. We enjoyed another great Christmas breakup, with many ex-crafters joining us, and catching up on all the news.



DIAMOND VALLEY BAPTIST TENNIS CLUB

The Tennis Club has, this year, enjoyed the fruit of our labour after having spent most of 2008 and some of 2009 deeply involved in the building of our clubroom and the installation of the 50,000 litre water tank.

Both these acquisitions have enabled our club to become a much more pleasant place to meet and enjoy our game of tennis.

The Juniors especially have been able to enjoy some 'Fun Nights' and barbecues and also Holiday Tennis Programs and we are very grateful to parents who are always ready to assist with these social functions.

The adults have not been left out either as they have made good use of the barbecue which was kindly donated by one of our members; on social tennis days, and for some, on match nights.

Our adult competition tennis continues with teams entered in the Heidelberg & Districts Association, who play on Saturday afternoons. It is great to note that our Section 2 team won their premiership in the summer 2008/9 season. Our Thursday night men's team and Saturday junior teams play in the Diamond Valley Tennis Association.

The junior teams continue to thrive under the leadership of Jan Ellis, ably assisted by June and Dale Phillip and there are many children who love to attend solely because of the leadership of these 3 loyal members. Junior teams have done very well this year and have finished high on the ladder in their respective sections. Just recently our Section 4 team in the summer competition with the DVTA won their premiership with a hard fought match on a concrete court on a freezing cold Saturday morning in Kinglake. Our congratulations to all these young players.

Kaitlyn Bennett, our Junior Section 1 captain, was awarded a 'Certificate of Merit' along with 20 other young people at a special function during the 'Australian Open' in January. As part of the criteria within this program, Kaitlyn, with assistance from Heather Dunning, organized a great tennis Round Robin Tournament that was enjoyed by many of our club members late last year. She then had to report on the success of the day to the Australian Open Committee. She is always ready to help out with our younger players and is a great asset to our club.

Awards presented at last year's annual meeting were:

- Best Male Player – Dale Philip
- Best Female Player – June Philip
- Best Junior – Jesse Spiropoulos
- Most Improved Player – Judy Cunningham

Social tennis (which includes seniors' tennis) continues to run on Monday mornings, weather permitting, between the hours of 9.30am to 12 noon. Everyone is welcome to this session that has a very relaxed atmosphere and no set times to come or go.

It is encouraging that some people, who have no other affiliation with our church, are attending regularly our Monday morning session, because of the welcome they have received and the enjoyment of the fellowship they have experienced within our group.

Once again thank you to the Tennis Club executive and committee for their support during this year to ensure that our club meets the needs of our members.

