



Warragul Anglican Church Vision 2020-2025

WELCOME TO WARRAGUL ANGLICAN CHURCH : “WAC”

WAC is a place to explore faith and experience the love found in Christ. If you're not really sure you believe in God at all, you're welcome here. If you've been following God your entire life or if you're new to faith, we hope you'll grow here. No matter where you are in the your faith journey, we are here to walk beside you as you go. We hope to help you discover the God who is loving and active, who wants you to flourish and to contribute to making this world a better place. We hope that you will see God work in your life and in the life of your family and friends through you. (*Website, brochure*)

Our Mission: We are inspired by Jesus Christ to be a church that ***lives by faith, voices our hope and is known by our love for others***

Our Vision is of a church that invites people and families into a transforming relationship with God, that serves them by meeting their needs wherever we can and strengthens them through their growing faith so that we see people, families and our whole community truly flourishing as God intends. Through genuine friendship, through outreach and community service, through welcoming people into the ‘blended family’ of the Church and pointing them to Jesus we will build the community of Warragul and through its people, the world beyond.

YEAR 1	Measured by	Years 2-5	Measured by	Year 3-5	Measured by
<p>Expanding Small Groups into Community Groups</p>	<p>Developing CG philosophy & intent, ensuring they can help families in the community, training leaders + 60% of church participating</p>	<p>Discipleship Pathway</p>	<p>Providing cogent pathways for people and families to progress through 4 discipleship stages, Seeing people & families move forward in their journey, writing devotionals/creating resources, gift identification, leadership development</p>		
<p>Building up our young people</p>	<p>Fundraising, Employing a youth minister, Kids Hope-train volunteers, have a coordinator, apply for grants, Develop & mentor our young people, ?join a beach mission team</p>	<p>300 lives & families changed by friendship (especially single parent and blended families)</p>	<p>Training our people to be front yard missionaries and articulate in sharing their hope, setting & achieving targets, praying, sharing stories of transformation</p>	<p>Building a new vehicle to be present in our community - A new Social Enterprise</p>	<p>Further research, Developing business plan, approvals process, leasing premises, raising funds/entering partnership, commencing a healthy NFP business that returns income to the church for ministry, employing young people, engaging the older people in the community and helping the environment.</p>
<p>Pastoral Care Initiatives</p>	<p>Refine the intent, create action plan & structure, training our</p>	<p>The strengthening of all kinds of Family Life</p>	<p>Refining our plan, applying for grants, Running the Family Festival, , running courses, forming initiatives,</p>		

	volunteers, action plan accomplished, applying for grants	WYSER: Ministry to our retiree's and the aged	? Holiday Club tbc Running the luncheons, applying for grants, creating a team for Fairview/other services, connecting volunteers into the social enterprise		
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Our Three priorities

1. **Advance the gospel** by focusing on a particular people group – families, especially blended and single-parent families – and helping to meet their needs. *If we lived in a town that resettled large numbers of refugee's, we'd focus on helping them. In our town, the stand-out group of people are the families- whether they be single parent, blended or building their family. Along with them are the large numbers of young and teenage children.*
2. **Become more like Jesus** by focusing on the spiritual formation of our members *(He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ. To this end I strenuously contend with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me. Colossians 1:28-29)*
3. **Mobilise leadership** from within our church. We want to train people and empower them to be front yard missionaries and leaders of ministries.

Background to our focus on families

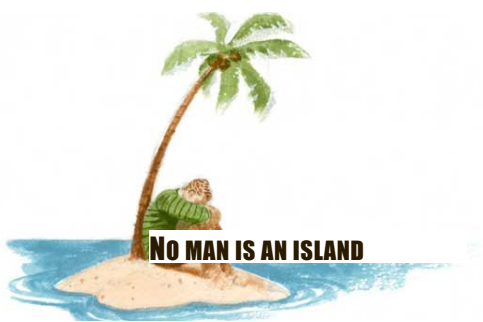
There are many needs in our community, but the numbers of new and anticipated and broken and rebuilding families call out for attention amongst all the other statistics. Life is better done in families, whatever form that family takes, because people need supportive relationships with other people to thrive. God created the family, God loves the family and the Bible is full of instruction about how to have a healthy and blessed family. The bible is also 'real' about the ways life's turns can take away that family life and so we read about the God who is the Father of the Fatherless, the Mother of the motherless, He is the God who provided Ruth for lonely old Naomi, and David for futureless Jonathan. He is the God of friendship.

Being a single parent was tough but I managed well. One thing I lacked after separating from my husband and moving to a new place was a few genuine friends. I went to a local church but I felt excluded, like I didn't fit, (I even think I was perceived as a threat by some).....I longed for someone, anyone, to just be a friend to me. I didn't need food or 'programs', but I would have been happy if someone invited me over to their home and offered me and my kids a cheese sandwich! ('Merrie' (not her real name), reflecting on her experience of Church as a single parent)

What if, in the next five years, our Church could make a difference in the lives of people like 'Merrie' and her children in our town? What if we could love them with friendship and good deeds and point them towards the one who can strengthen and save and give

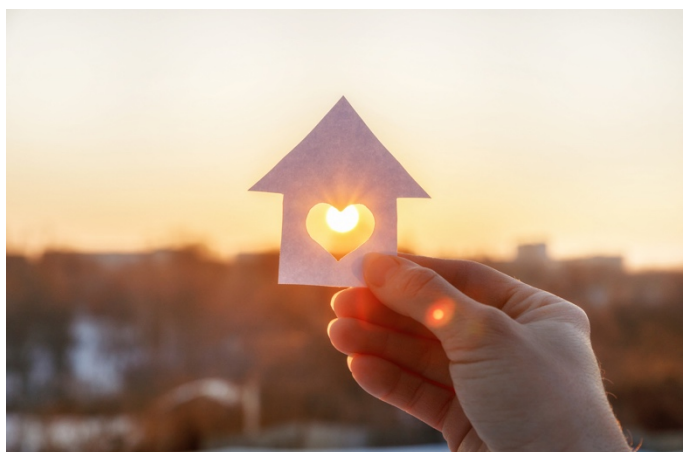
purpose to every life? What if we could address the spiritual problems in our town, where, despite a plethora of Churches, only 11-15% of the town's residents find their way to Church on a Sunday? What if we could turn our church and our own backyards into the places where people found strengthening community relationships, rather than settling for fleeting "hi, how are you?" conversations as we make our way around town or at the supermarket checkout?

Our Vision has a major focus on strengthening family life and the supportive relationships that help us all to thrive.



In order to strengthen families we will focus on children and youth, but will also develop initiatives that help men and women –mums and dads, grandma's, grandpa's, aunts and uncles- present and future - for we are all connected to families in our own ways. People are meant to live in thick webs of supportive relationships and to support others- as the Poet John Donne famously wrote "*No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main; if a clod be washed away by the sea, Europe is the less...any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind...*"

If we imagine our vision as a picture, that picture has a flourishing and loving home as its centrepiece, but there are other things going on in the picture as well. Hence our vision has a centre focus on families, but there are other elements to our vision as well. Our small groups will become



'community groups' and we will be equipped and strengthened as we focus on our mission and our vision of advancing the gospel, becoming more like Jesus and mobilising the leadership inherent in our church. We will minister to the aging in our community, noting the growth of pre-retiree's also moving into Warragul and surrounds. We will develop our 'guest services' so that we can be a welcoming

Church for everyone. We will enrich our life of service and worship. We will find ways of being present in the community. We will not neglect strengthening our finances or looking after our buildings as good stewards. We want to respond to needs in our community and we also want to narrow our focus to best use our limited resources to make a significant contribution to the greatest needs in our community. We want to make a real difference for God in this town over the next five years.