

VWA Newsletter

December 2022

VICTORIAN WELFARE ASSOCIATION

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The Victorian Welfare Association Board hosted a delicious lunch for all who live at The Heights, followed by "a feast of Soul" with enthusiastic carol singing accompanied by Rob Simpson on the keyboard.

We had a delightful meal, beautifully prepared and presented by our staff in the Activity room and it was lovely to be able to mingle more freely.

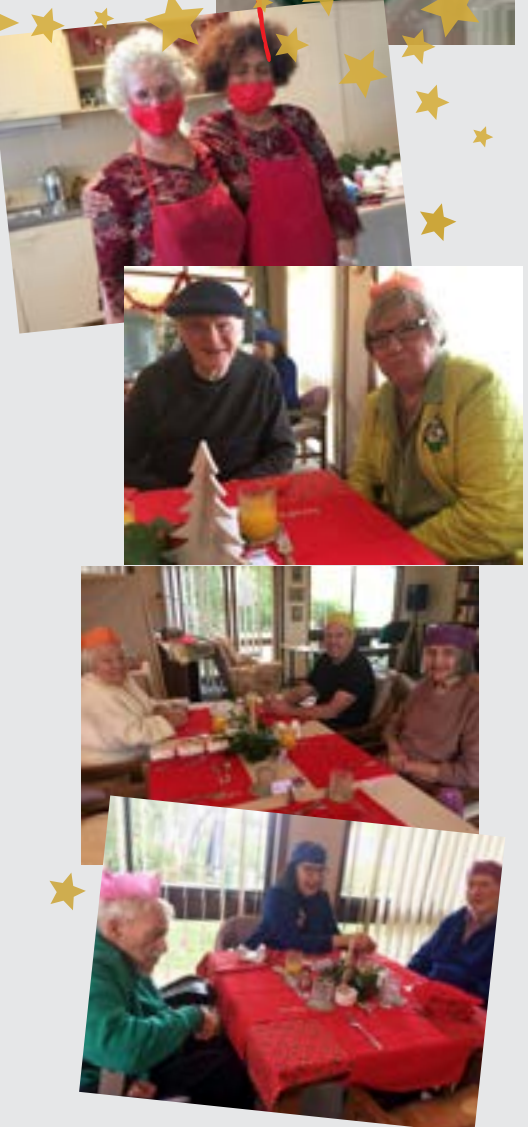
The VWA Board thanked everyone for their kindness and care for each other.

The Heights is so blessed to have such a great community contributing so willingly to a happy environment.

"In atmosphere of Love divine we live and move and breathe..."

We wish you all much joy and peace this Christmas time.

The VWA Board



AGM CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2022

Good afternoon and a very warm welcome to you all.

There is such a lovely feeling of happy normalcy in being able to share this time together here today.

Our VWA community is not as the name would imply only Victorian, but we are delighted to include all in the Christian Science community, those in Melbourne and regional areas, interstate and beyond. Our increased outreach through technology blesses those who may otherwise feel quite isolated. We do invite you to explore our website www.vwa.net.au if you haven't done so recently. Take time to read the comments of residents and visitors.

Job 11 says: "And thine age shall be clearer than the noonday; thou shalt shine forth, thou shalt be as the morning. And thou shalt be secure, because there is hope; yea, thou shalt dig about thee and thou shalt take thy rest in safety. Also thou shalt lie down, and none shall make thee afraid; ..."

Don't you love that comfort and peace described in those verses? I feel that is the security offered here at the Heights. These last 2 years have allowed those living here, freedom, companionship and fun, with obedience to constraints imposed by government. It certainly felt like an oasis of protection and love.

This past year there has been much to attend to with compliance to government requirements. We are blessed with staff who have uncomplainingly followed those requirements and we are so grateful to them – they give service with grace and love. Our house residents have surely been touched by that gentle willingness and the joy expressed by our carers. Thank you to all our precious staff, led so ably by Angela Parkyn.

The Residence at The Heights is open to Christian Scientists wanting assistance with independent living. We offer low care assistance for those not requiring medical care. It is a place of nurturing and supporting healing. Each resident has their own room and en-suite. Meals are provided and often unitholders come to have lunch in the dining room, or they can order a meal which can be placed in the community room fridge or, for a

small charge, be delivered to their unit. Visitors are welcome, subject to the government limitations at the time, (hopefully few from now on).

We are very happy that we continue to welcome new Life Lease residents to the village now that movement is possible again. New residents are expected in the coming months - some from interstate, some local. All are warmly welcome to our community.

Over the years and again recently, The Heights has hosted Christian Science Nurse Training programs. This has been a unifying and expanding concept for Christian Science Nursing throughout Australia and benefits the whole community.

The gardens here continue to be a source of joy - their beauty commented on by visitors and residents. We have moved to employing contractors to care for the gardens, which is proving a positive step. Those of our unitholders who enjoy doing so, continue to work in some areas of the gardens and the end result of the whole is harmonious and beautiful. Thank you Kay, Janet and Mark. As well as the common areas, each unit has a private garden which shows the individuality of the homeowner.

The Heights Village community shares activities organised by various members. Kay has organised the occasional BBQ, film show here in the Community Room and croquet on the lawn. During lockdown, Dale produced "The Heights Hullabaloo" – a small magazine with puzzles, crosswords, and fun, which everyone enjoyed. Occasionally there are musical afternoons or talks organised too. This is all much appreciated. No doubt there will be more activities and fun this year as restrictions have relaxed. Unit holders can be as involved or not, as they wish.

Our other home is Leslie House, which provides accommodation for those requiring a modest home at a modest cost. It is centrally placed in Power St, Hawthorn, close to the city. Originally this complex was offered only to Christian Scientists at a reduced rental. However, as there have been fewer from our church community requiring this service, we have employed a Real Estate agent to handle rental of those remaining

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A TRIBUTE TO ANGIE



Good afternoon everyone. It is lovely to see so many people coming to pay tribute to Angie Parkyn on her retirement. Angie was appointed as General Manager of the VWA in March 2004.

After 5 years, in 2009 she also took on the additional role of Care Manager when that position became vacant. So for the last 13 – 18 years she has steered the organization through, at times, very demanding situations, particularly during the last few years with all the special complications presented by Covid-19 and the additional staffing demands that arose due to Victoria's stringent isolation rules.

For the last 3 years, Angie has received many calls late at night or very early in the morning, saying someone could not work that day nor the next week, as they were a "close contact" of someone who had tested positive. Trying times indeed. The Heights has always found staffing challenging – our pool of helpers is small, so there was never a long list of workers to call on at these times. Unexpected holes in the roster must be filled and it is a tribute to the support she has from staff that these gaps have been able to be filled. Angie has relied on Christian Science to meet all the various needs of running the Residence and Heights village and for that we are extremely grateful.

As you are all aware, Angie is very capable, poised and efficient. She always has a warm positive attitude to whatever challenge is presented. Her steadiness, alertness and integrity have been a blessing to this organization. Angie has a great memory and has often recalled things that happened or work done by employees, tradesmen or helpers in years past, which is very helpful to the Board when dealing with a new situation.

During this period of her life, Angie has dealt with personal issues, moving to a wheelchair-friendly house to assist her daughter. She has adjusted her work routine to be available at home when needed. We all now realise how occasional working from home can often be accommodated. All has been done selflessly and with grace.

During her years of service, Angie has built up a rapport with many contractors and trades people. These relationships are important and often when urgent attention was required for a maintenance issue, these people have happily and quickly dealt with the problem, often outside regular work hours. This has meant our maintenance is cared for as quickly as possible and our service people have a good



connection with Angie and the VWA.

Angie's culinary skills are legendary. Christmas time will not be the same without her fruit mince tarts, fruit platters and beautiful presentation of special Christmas lunches or afternoon teas.

No doubt her family will be glad when she has more time to attend to them! Perhaps a visit to the UK branch of the family may now be possible.

Each one of us has a special relationship with you, Angie, and we will miss that closeness. Whatever the future holds for you, we wish you joy and a fresh beginning – a new life in well-earned retirement.

Thank you for all you have done.

Kerri Callaway

October 2022



Chairmans Report continued from p2

flats for us, at a normal rental rate, to renters with a compatible way of life. As flats become vacant, if there is no enquiry from Christian Scientists, we intend to hand the management over to the Real Estate Agency. The income from Leslie House is a very welcome and important contribution to the VWA running costs.

There is always ongoing maintenance to be sure all is safe and functions well. Leslie House has needed extensive plumbing work this last year, with the replacement of the main sewer line down the boundary of the property. This was done with little interruption for the tenants and will now reduce the regular extensive plumbing costs we have had in recent years. As you can imagine, this work was expensive. We have been very blessed by an anonymous donation covering the cost of this job, for which we are truly grateful. The generosity of the donation, specifically for this purpose, allowed maintenance to proceed. Love does provide for all our needs.

At The Heights, we are grateful for the good work done by our retiring Care Officer, Amelia Veras Alves, who got caught in the recent travel restrictions and had to remain in USA for 12 months. Her continuing employment is limited by government requirements. Thank you, Amelia for your loving contribution. We wish you well in the future.

Once more we are needing a Care Officer, so if you think this may be of interest to you or a friend, do give our General Manager a call to discuss the requirements. It might be a good opportunity for you – “whatever blesses one, blesses all” S&H 206. We are grateful that Yvette Gardner has agreed to work in the short term, as a much needed carer and interim Care Officer.

There is an ongoing need for part-time carers for The Heights. This is fundamental to our running the Residence. Training will be given to new applicants as required. Our carers need to be practising Christian Scientists, but other positions do not. Casual employment opportunities occur from time to time and are listed on our web site. Some domestic positions are also available now. We invite you to have a look!

Here in The Heights village, Units are always refreshed between leasing – painting and re-carpeting where necessary. From time to time, more extensive renovations are undertaken to update our units, always with the aim of providing a warm and appealing home for someone. New lease holders may choose to make the unit their own, by choosing colours that suit their own furnishings.

This is a special place and following our afternoon tea today, you are invited to ask a Board member to show you one of the units now available. You might be thinking of a home for yourself or for a relative. The Heights has much to offer.

*Pilgrim on earth, home and heaven are within thee,
Heir of the ages and child of the day.*

*Cared for, watched over, beloved and protected,
Walk thou with courage each step of the way.*

(Christian Science Hymnal, No. 278:1)

We are grateful to our new probationary officers: General Manager Wendy Renehan and Care Manager Dianne Dallas Sellover for their willingness to take on new responsibility. We know you will support their effort to bless this wonderful community.

METAPHYSICAL TALK

THE BEAUTY OF UNITY

BILL WARRICK CS

Well, a warm hello to everyone here, it's really a pleasure to have this opportunity to come together and think and pray about God, and the unbreakable, unending connection we all have with this remarkable Love.

As I thought about the Victorian Welfare Assc and its history and mission (going back to 1950), and all that it has done and is doing to support and bring people together who love God into a community, I thought of the root of that word community. Do you know what MBE said about this one word? Here are a few examples.

1. It gives new pinions to joy
2. It is the morale of marriage
3. It illumines our existence
4. It is the essential nature of Christian Science
5. It is a great sanity
6. It is a mighty something buried in the depths of the unseen
7. It is that which produces a resurrection that leaps into living love
8. It is that which unfolds the thought most within us into the greater and better
9. It is the thousandfold expansion that will engirdle the world
10. It is that on which the Science of Mind rests

If you guessed one of the biggest five-letter words in the english language, you could be getting close. If the word coming to mind is unity, well, then we're definitely united on the same page.

I think it would be safe to say that unity is a very familiar concept to most of us, but these still, simple waters run very deep. At least in some cases, we probably know a lot about unity, like we know a lot about love--maybe a bit more in the abstract than we might like to admit. It turns out that knowing about something isn't always enough to make it readily apparent in our experience. But unity is one of those wonderful candlestick ideas that when brought to light in our thought, sheds light on everything around it. Unity is a spiritual quality that blesses



Bill Warrick CS - our speaker with Kerri Callaway

everything it embraces, not because it magically changes anything, but because it declares the current reality with such perfect clarity. It is, as MBE says, the "bond of perfectness". It blesses us individually with health and harmony and it blesses our families, friendships, townships, and churches; it blesses our states, our nation, our continents and our planet. Nothing is too big for unity. In fact, the more you add to unity the stronger and more active it becomes. You can't burden down unity. So let's take some time to dive into what makes unity so amazing and strengthening to us and how to bring more of this blessing into our lives.

As we start to light this unity candle before us, would you be willing to take just a moment to think about anything in your life that might benefit from more of the light of unity? Think of unity in friendship, relationships, health, marriage, business, community, organisations, politics, geopolitics, church, religion, religion and science, and the list goes on. How might the spiritual fact of unity, our oneness in God's wholeness, bring new light to something in your thought calling out for a clearer sense of spiritual unity? In the next few minutes, just take a moment to recognise some of the powerful truths that MBE

brought out about the nature of unity (read list). And now, just choose one thing in your thought to embrace with a clearer sense of unity. If we can firmly recognise that spiritual unity with good is already present--because of God's allness and inseparable oneness--we can see that this light naturally illuminates every need in this room from health, to a relationship restored, to peace in war or war-like thoughts replaced with affection. MBE reminds us that "unity and power are not in atom or dust. A small group of wise thinkers is better than a wilderness of dullards and stronger than the might of empires." (My 162). So let's all take note of what came to our thought for more unity, and we'll come back to this prayer a little later. And you can remember what the angels brought to your thought because of your unity with the Mind that created that thought.

Here's a little example of how I felt this spiritual illumination of unity bring the healing light of oneness into my life. Several years ago, my siblings and I faced a difficult situation in the care of our father. In a relatively short period of time, we found ourselves in the position of having to take over several large responsibilities that required all of our input and agreement. Due to legal necessities, one of my siblings was designated as the formal decision-maker, but we continued to try to make all decisions as a group. Still, at one point, we came to an impasse and I found myself in direct conflict with my sibling who had the decision-making authority. For about two days, the disagreement seemed intense, entrenched, and even personal as we couldn't seem to find any agreeable middle ground. I was definitely seeing a picture which looked like anything but unity. While the coals eventually cooled and it turned out the decision never actually had to be made, in this case, it woke me up to the inner growth I needed to see more of the uninterrupted reality of God's unity binding us together and including every idea of His creation as useful and necessary. This wasn't an overnight process of the head simply knowing that unity could never really be lost. While that's true, I wasn't proving it. What I was experiencing felt more like a slow, glacial grinding of error's adamant into dust until it felt like there was nothing left to grind away. That pride and

indignance deep below in the bedrock under the glacier was losing its friction in my thought. In one way, I didn't really identify these character traits and say that's what needs to be ground away here. But I did feel the genuine need to grow toward God and to start letting go of those things that didn't help me feel His peace and all-surrounding presence.

This statement in S&H expresses what I was experiencing in my thought, "Willingness to become as a little child and to leave the old for the new, renders thought receptive of the advanced idea. Gladness to leave the false landmarks and joy to see them disappear, — this disposition helps to precipitate the ultimate harmony. (SH 323:32-4)

As I look back now, I was hungering and thirsting to feel that natural oneness between my sibling and me which was deeper than just a desire to restore something familiar. It was a compass-like attraction to that eternal right state of Unity. When we're listening with our spiritual sense, we all feel that continuous draw to recognise and reveal our unity with Spirit, for ourselves and others. I had a genuine desire to feel a real sense of peace with my sibling again, in part, because I didn't like the way I felt without it. That was my spiritual-sense compass telling me that the right orientation was different from my current position.

This desire did begin to transform my heart and nature over several months and the next time we had the need to work together, which was even more involved than the previous issue, my heart had been reoriented and renewed in this relationship. When it came to making decisions, I could feel that spiritual unity was my first desire. For me, this wasn't a matter of avoiding conflict to keep the peace. It was expressed as a trust in the truth and presence of unity which resulted in a significant increase in affection and a desire to support my sibling. This, in turn, led to an appreciation and reciprocation from my sibling. And soon enough, we both found ourselves almost tripping over each other to honour and respect the other's point of view. To this day, this relationship is still growing and expanding in this endlessly rich soil of our spiritual unity. "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!" (Ps. 133:1)

So, let's continue to consider how we can more effectively bring unity into our experience. In simple terms, unity is "the state or fact of being one undivided entity". The heart of unity's spiritual strength is that it's already a present fact including an abundance of fruits just waiting to bless us. We don't make unity, and we don't discover it as something new, it's really more of an uncovering or unveiling--and unveiling something generally is not a difficult task.

The root of unity, from which spreads all of its healing effects in health, harmony, and genuine affection is its declaration that God and His idea are forever inseparable, connected. We're connected with a bond that cannot be broken because, in a visual sense, everything is in one whole and there is no part sticking out that can be broken away. From this unspeakable gift--to be forever within and guided by infinite Mind--flows unity's eternal source of good. Unity is the spiritual truth that being--Life-- is unique and "uncountable in its singularity". To accept and understand this reality, even in a degree, brings new illumination to thought, possibility, supply, purpose, direction, and salvation. The First commandment declares that God is one and that we cannot have another. Unity is that beautiful truth that God's expression of Himself cannot deviate in quality or course from His unchanging nature and cannot be in conflict with anything inside that infinite source. As the Truth declares, a kingdom divided against itself cannot stand. This truth of our permanent unity with our Maker brings us, as MBE puts it in Unity of Good a "sweet and sacred sense" of the "continual presence and power of good". She goes on to add that this sense of unity can even open "wide the portal from death into Life" so that we "go to Father, not through death, but through Life." (Un 41:15). As we develop our understanding, perception and reception of spiritual unity, MBE gives us straightforward guidance about the importance of this work, "You have simply to preserve a scientific, positive sense of unity with your divine source, and daily demonstrate this." (Pul 4:9-11). Blessings naturally flow from this fountain of truth-knowing, and we witness the impact of this reality in our health, our families, our work, our government, our church, our world family.

I'm sure most of us recall the story of the Spirit sending Philip into the desert to meet a high-ranking Ethiopian Eunuch on his journey home after worshiping in Jerusalem. This is only a few months after Jesus' resurrection and ascension, and the persecutions of the followers of Jesus are just beginning to intensify, including by one particularly zealous Pharisee. The eunuch, who may have been a Jewish convert or student, is contemplating a passage from his own scroll of Isaiah, but admits that he doesn't fully understand the passage. In a moment of divine convenience in this desert place, he turns to find a man standing there who just happens to be a particularly well-qualified Hebrew scholar. Philip starts from that very passage and reveals to him the story and purpose of Christ Jesus's Ministry. The eunuch experiences a powerful recognition of this Christ purpose and truly wants to submerge himself in this truth, and literally asks to be baptised.

This is where unity enters the picture. Philip, being literally moved by the Holy Ghost, spiritually discerns the heart of this man and agrees to baptise him, adding a relatively brief requirement, "If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." (Acts 8:37). There's a lot we might consider here about unity. Philip goes out of his way--way out of his way,--to unite with a man of another occupation, religion, culture and race for no other reason than to help him grow. But this is much more than a unity-story on a human level. Philip said that the eunuch must believe with all of his heart. As in other places in the NT, the word "believe" here is better translated as "to be firm". So Philip was saying, briefly as it was (apparently the more inspired we are, the more brevity we express--something for me to remember here)--Philip said that the eunuch had to understand with firmness in his whole being that Jesus revealed the true idea of God, and that God's creation is forever one with Him, in Spirit. Philip was requiring that the eunuch see the true God and, as MBE puts it, "the eternal unity of man and God, as the divine Principle and spiritual idea; which is the indissoluble bond of union...". This was part of her response to a question in Mis Writings about whether the salvation of the eunuch depended

merely on his believing that Jesus Christ was the Son of God? She wrote simply, "It did" but added that it was more than faith, it was an acknowledgement of spiritual unity. (Mis. 77:1). She also adds what this bond brings to God's precious idea, "the power and presence, in divine Science, of Life, Truth, and Love, to support their ideal man."

How many of us don't want to feel more of God's power and presence supporting us in our daily walk? Talk about built-in support--our unity with God! I recall when hiking backpacks were just beginning to move from external metal frames with a pack hung on them, to internal frames, with the pack built around the frame. This had the advantages of creating a greater connection between the frame and pack providing more stability, maneuverability and comfort. The fact of our eternal unity with our Maker is our true built-in support, supply and strength, and it can never be taken away from us.

In the Gospel of John, the author reminds us of these words from the Master, "... He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing." (John 15:5 He) Unity is so powerful because, not only does it declare an undivided oneness of God and God's thoughts, but it also naturally includes the eternal empowerment and support which comes as a result of this union. The whole idea

of unity is full of strength and growth and it's always getting stronger and broader because of its oneness with infinite good and progress. What a perfect gift is our eternal unity with God. No wonder MBE said that "unity is reserved wisdom and strength." (My 164)

It 's time to recall that thought you identified at the beginning of this talk that would benefit from the truth of unity. What wisdom and strength is already in abundant reserve waiting to shower your need with unity's blessings? I hope you'll take a moment to let the Spirit call you to that desert place and help you powerfully witness the Christ-truth of creation's oneness with Soul. I hope you're able to see this so clearly that the situation calls out to be baptised in this truth, which already binds whatever the situation is to the supply, support and the sweet sacredness of infinite Love. No part of God's creation can exist as separate, "for an instant", from Him, from our unity with our Maker, with Spirit's continual health, harmony and happiness. Then, if the question comes, is this simple truth enough to bring healing and salvation to this issue? You can answer, "it is, because it is forever blessed in the unity of God".

Bill Warrick





FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2021

A warm welcome to everyone who has joined us today. Isn't it lovely to all be together, again? Thank you for joining us today in reviewing the year 2021.

Janet and I have lived at the Heights for two years now and I have to say we feel very blessed to share this wonderful facility with so many friends. The last two years have been seemingly difficult for many around the world. But this time has been very different for those of us living here. The Psalmist expressed it so well when he said, "Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity."

And in Mrs Eddy's words, "With one Father, even God, the whole family of man would be brethren, and with one Mind and that God, or good, the brotherhood of man would consist of Love and Truth, and have unity of Principle and spiritual power which constitute divine Science".

Now, as treasurer, it is my job to discuss the financial aspects of 2021. I know that to a lot of you this is just a lot of mumbo jumbo, so I want to help you understand it better by using the TV screen to display the reports that I am talking about and explain it as we go along.

Firstly, we will examine the Profit and Loss Statement. The purpose of the profit and loss statement (or P&L) is to provide a summary of the VWA's income, expenses, and profit or loss.

We will start by examining the income side (that is the money received).

The most important income sources for 2021 were in order

- Donation income – 39% of total income
- Income from our investment portfolio – 21% of total income
- Leslie House rental income – 17% of total income and
- Resident house income – 11% of total income

These four sources accounted for 88% of the VWA's income.

Donations are a most important source of income to the VWA but one which varies from year to year. Last year donations totaled \$515,266 that is \$400,000 less than in 2020, but still a substantial contribution to our income.

In 2021 we received large donations from the following donors:

- \$200,000 from the Christian Science Nursing Service of NSW
- \$200,000 from the estate of Margaret Barnes
- \$100,000 from a donor who wishes to remain anonymous. This donation was for a specific purpose, the replacement of sewage and water pipes at Leslie House
- \$5,000 donation from the Christian Science society at Merimbula.

Equally important were the large number of individual donations totaling \$9,836. Every donation, no matter how small, is greatly appreciated and valued.

Secondly, income earned from our share portfolio in 2021 amounted to \$269,772. This is \$94,035 more than that earned in 2020 which can be directly attributed to the stock market recovery from its lows of 2020. In addition, government advice given to the banks in 2020 to minimize dividend payments was withdrawn in 2021, allowing the banks to pay more of their profits to investors. Our long-term approach when investing funds is to maximise the income from our investments rather than concentrate on capital growth. Our immediate need is for income to fund our ongoing operations. Forecasts of income from investments in 2022 shows a continuing growth.

Thirdly income from Leslie House. Leslie House is an important source of income for the VWA, rent from Leslie House for the year amounted to \$221,000. This amount is up very slightly on the income in 2020. This, lower than normal, increase can be attributed to a board decision to keep any rental increases in 2021 to a bare minimum and even to temporarily reduce rents

for some who had lost jobs during this difficult period. Of the 20 flats at Leslie House, the majority are still leased to those with an affiliation with the Christian Science community, many have lived here for many years, others for much shorter periods. The tenants who don't have an affiliation with Christian Science are carefully screened, before being accepted as tenants, to ensure that they are compatible with our existing residents. In addition, they pay a higher rental than those with a Christian Science affiliation.

Next let's look in the income by "The Heights residence" for 2021. This was \$146,931 which is almost the same as in 2020. Again, this can be attributed to a board decision to hold increases to a minimum during this period.

All other income categories amounted to 12% of our income so I won't discuss them in detail, but am happy to answer any questions on these.

The total income for 2021 was \$1,298,038.

On the expenses side of the ledger

- salaries and associated costs accounted for 61% of the outgoings
- repairs and maintenance work accounted for 15%
- The other 14% (approx.) of expenses was spread over all other expense categories. Examples of other expense categories are:
 - household provisions
 - insurance which increased substantially after the Royal Commission into aged care
 - lighting heating and power and
 - council rates

Staff costs are the largest expense for the VWA at \$692,362. In recent years the VWA has had to employ nursing staff from other states to help fill staffing needs at the Heights. In 2021, as in 2020, there was limited opportunity to employ interstate nurses, but a loyal staff of local carers were always available to care for our residents.

The cost of repairs and maintenance for 2021 amounted to \$169,087. The biggest maintenance item for the year was the replacement of drainage and sewerage plumbing at Leslie

House. All other maintenance items were normal maintenance items such as painting, plumbing and electrical repairs, cleaning gutters etc.

Overall, our total income was \$1,298,038 against total expenses of \$1,133,606 giving a surplus of \$164,432. A very satisfactory result.

Next, we will examine the Statement of Financial Position. The purpose of the statement of financial position is to give us information about the VWA's assets, liabilities, and equity. It helps to reveal the financial position of the VWA as at a particular date, in this case the 31st December 2021.

The Statement of Financial position for 2021 shows the value of the VWA's total assets as \$7,987,275 as compared with \$7,019,675 in 2020. Assets are items that the VWA owns such as the property and buildings here at Kerferd Road, Glen Iris and Leslie House at Power Street, Hawthorn. In addition, assets include investments that the VWA has made, cash that is held in our bank accounts or money that is owed to the VWA.

On the asset side the two major items are our investments represented by the line headed financial assets and the property represented by the line headed Property, Plant and Equipment.

You will notice that the value of the investments has increased from the 2020 value in round figures of 4.2M to 4.3M. The increase is largely due to the recovery of the share market after the pandemic.

The Financial Statements also show that our property, plant and equipment are valued at \$2,532,247. The land and buildings owned by the VWA makes up 98% of the value of property, plant and equipment. Plant and equipment includes items such as office equipment, furniture, and vehicles. Our property value is based on what is termed "cost value", that is what the property cost us. The current value of our property is obviously much higher than its cost, however, cost value is what most not-for-profit organisations currently quote in their audits. Changing accounting rules will require a change of this reporting in future years.

Next, we will examine the VWA's liabilities. Liabilities are what the VWA owes to others including bills that are still owing at the end of December. By far the largest amount that the VWA owes is under the heading, Other Liabilities. This is money which totals \$2,017,462 is held in trust on behalf of Life Lease unit holders and is refundable when Life Leases are relinquished. This money is of vital importance in providing ongoing investment income to the VWA.

Our total equity, ie assets less liabilities or what we as members own is shown under the heading, Total Equity. The value at the end of 2021 was \$5,717,142 – up \$645,000 on the value in 2020.

VWA financial members who would like a full copy of the audited reports may request this through the office at the Heights.

THANKS

The achievement of another surplus this year can be attributed to the hard work of our General Manager, Angela Parkyn supported by her dedicated staff. They all give so much of their time and love to this very precious organization.

Our success is also the result of having a dedicated and effective Board of Directors. Their unity and commitment to the VWA makes it a very productive team. All board members serve in an honorary capacity.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, I would like to share the words of one of my favourite hymns, hymn **199** from the Christian Science Hymnal.

*Now thank we all our God
With grateful hearts and voices
Who wondrous things hath done,
In whom the world rejoices;
Who from the days of yore
Hath blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love
And still is ours today.*

*We know our gracious God
Through all our life is near us,
To fill our thoughts with light,
To strengthen us and cheer us;
From His eternal care
We never shall remove,
Encompassed by His grace,
Enfolded in His love.*

I can't express how much gratitude the VWA board feels, for all the support we received in the last year. Thank you all.

Mark Pilkington

March 2022



A new activity - Dance time!

Are you a Financial Member of the VWA?

Thank you to all supporters who renewed their subscriptions for 2021.

We are grateful to those of you who chose to take out Life Memberships. These members do not need to return the renewal form each year.

Annual Membership is \$20 and Life Membership is \$300.

Renewal forms for 2022 will be sent out in March next year with the invitation to the 2022 AGM. If you would like to subscribe sooner or would like a copy of our new brochure, please email us at the address below, or phone to speak to the General Manager, Wendy Renehan, or one of our administration staff members.

Are you thinking of life-leasing at The Heights?

Be our Guest

Stay in a furnished unit for 2 nights, on us.

We'd love to welcome you to experience Retirement Village life amongst fellow Christian Scientists.

Phone 03 9885 2202 to speak to Wendy.



CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS AS AT DECEMBER M, NDSA 2022

Chairman/Director
Kerri Callaway

Treasurer/Secretary
Mark Pilkington

John Bruce

June Buck

Leonie Tidd

Betty Walters



ADMINISTRATION STAFF

General Manager
Wendy Renehan

Care Manager
Dianne Dallas Sellover

Admin Officers
Jaci Todd