



PLACEMENT PROFILE

SECTION 1 – BASIC INFORMATION

- 1.1 Placement Name(s): Southern Mallee Co-operative Parish
- 1.2 Please list congregations/agencies names below
- Hopetoun Baptist and Uniting Churches
 - Rainbow Baptist and Uniting Churches
 - _____
 - _____
- 1.3 Profile approved by Church Council/Governing Body 5 15 12022
- 1.4 Primary purpose of placement:
- To fill the leadership role for worship and preaching.
- To encourage and equip the current congregations to engage in mission locally and globally
- To work with, and support, the people in our communities in a time of pastoral need
- 1.5 Suitable for (bold all that apply): **Minister of the Word / Deacon / Ordinand/ Pastor**
- 1.6 Time fraction: 80%
- 1.7 Term:
- Undefined up to 10 years (See Reg 2.7.3(a))
- Fixed Term: 3 Years
- Initial Term reviewed in: 6 month review
further review in
2 Years

This profile should be prepared by the Congregation(s)/ agency in consultation with Presbytery. It is specifically designed to assist in the placement process but it can also be used as a record of mission planning.

Please Note: Sections 1, 2 & 3 of this profile will be uploaded to the VicTas website.

Contents

Section 1: Basic Information

Section 2: Mission Direction

Section 3: Context

Section 4: People and Activities – to be completed by each congregation in the placement.

Section 5: Joint Congregations – to be completed if more than one congregation in the placement.

Section 6: Working Relationships

Section 7: New Minister – this section contains a list of mission and pastoral activities which are also listed on Minister's Personal profiles

Section 9: Presbytery – to be completed by Presbytery Pastoral Relations Committee.

Section 10: Terms of Placement

Enclosures

Please mark all the documents attached to the profile:

- Floor plan of residence
- Financial information including a copy of last year's Financial Statement and financial projections
- Position descriptions of relevant ministers
- Others

SECTION 2 – MISSION DIRECTION

2.1 What is the Vision statement and or Mission priorities of the placement (or of the individual congregations)

THE FUTURE - OUR HOPES, DREAMS AND GOALS:

Our mission, as a Co-operative Parish and a body of disciples of Jesus Christ, is to seek to continue His mission, in the Southern Mallee area, in the power of the Holy Spirit and using the gifts of the Spirit that God has given us.

- To continue to provide a Christian witness and opportunities for the preaching of the Word, in our changing communities, and to care for and build one another up in faith and growth in Christ, so that we grow closer in our relationships with God, each other and the communities as a Co-operative Parish.
- To encourage the development of stronger, more meaningful and lasting relationships with other churches in our towns, and their clergy.
- To maintain a caring contact with our church members, to establish contact with new arrivals in our towns and to continue to develop ministry to and with people on the fringes of the Parish, using effective pastoral care and visitation;
- To encourage all worshippers to use and further develop their gifts, and be open to the challenges that ministry in a small rural parish brings.
- To further explore opportunities for working with youth of all ages in our communities;
- To continue to prayerfully and financially support ministry to our congregations and also the work of the wider Church;
- To be open to develop further the concept of 'shared ministry' where lay leadership is prominent in all areas of ministry – worship, meetings, visitation, administration etc – as has been evident in this Parish in our time without permanent placement.

2.2 Date adopted 5 1 5 1 2 0 2 2

2.3 Provide a short description of the placement/congregation(s)

- Both Hopetoun and Rainbow congregations are a Baptist/Uniting combination
- Southern Mallee Co-operative Parish straddles 2 shires.
- Rainbow is located in the Hindmarsh Shire and Hopetoun in Yarriambiack Shire;
- Rainbow and Hopetoun are 45 kms apart with some members living further apart than this. Could be approx. 100kms
- Our congregation is aging as is the population of the two towns.
- We don't differentiate as Hopetoun and Rainbow congregations and we don't differentiate as Baptist and Uniting. But work in well together and have been for a long time now.

2.4 What Church Style best describes the congregation(s)? (See Church Style document)

Traditional but open to change.

2.5 How has the placement/congregation(s) changed over the last 5 years?

- The congregations have decreased in number slightly because of age.
- COVID has had a small impact.
- Average attendees for Sunday worship in Hopetoun are 16 and in Rainbow 18 people

2.6 What are the congregation(s)/placement's goals?

- Pastoral care both personal and individual for church members and also for the local community.
- Our goal is to continue the excellent relationship between Hopetoun and Rainbow Uniting and Baptist Churches.
- Strong Biblical teachings

2.7 What are the next Strategic Steps to achieving those goals?

- To employ part time pastor who preaches from the Bible
- To develop relationships with people who are not regular attendees. Maybe because they are new to our towns, or fringe dwellers
- To identify opportunities to develop and strengthen relationships with key leaders in other churches.
- To identify and encourage opportunities where our church leaders communicate with other congregations and denominations

SECTION 3 - CONTEXT

3.1 Describe the communities in which this placement is located (Mission context).

Rainbow:

Rainbow and district has a population of 683, and is situated in the Hindmarsh Shire. Rainbow has a main street consisting of NAB bank, butcher, baker, supermarket, newsagent, chemist, hairdresser, cafe, hardware, craft and gift shop, post office, hotel, motel, and service station. The town also has a resident policeman, a local newspaper, a volunteer ambulance service, is visited by the mobile library and has a new Shire library being built in the town.

A doctor with his young family resides in Rainbow and shares his time between surgeries and hospitals in Rainbow and Jeparit. The hospital has 7 acute beds, 10 nursing home and 10 hostel beds. The hospital also provides a range of services such as "Meals on Wheels", podiatry, dentistry, optometry, physiotherapy, dietician, occupational therapy, diabetes educator, speech pathologist, maternal child health worker, district nurse and some counselling services. Twice-weekly day centre activities are held at the hospital.

The community has a kindergarten which offers 3 sessions a week for 3 and 4 year olds. A playgroup has use of the facility each week and is well attended by young mums and their children.

Sporting clubs include – football, netball, badminton, tennis, golf, lawn bowls, and in summer a swimming pool. There is an active Cub and Scout groups which meets weekly when able.

There is also an active Lions Club, archive/historical group and an elderly Citizen group. A men's shed was newly built in 2019 and is an asset to the town and fills a need for the local men. A microbrewery is a new venture currently being constructed and is expected to become a drawcard for tourists.

There is also a Community Learning Group, which offers adult education for topics ranging from craft, computers or work-related subjects as requested. It has a paid coordinator and the facility offers computer, printing/photocopying and internet access. The Learning Group building provides a very comfortable environment for a variety of craft and other groups to meet and work in. The Oasis in Rainbow which began as an Arts initiative now hosts an Innovation centre where people of all abilities and their mentors meet weekly for a variety of activities. A town library is also located here and Music Festivals and markets are planned to become regular events again as COVID enables. 2 or 3 off road races are held each year on a newly developed track just west of the town, and this has become a drawcard for motor enthusiasts to come and visit Rainbow on those weekends.

Our silo is being developed as a tourist attraction with the aim this making Rainbow part of the "Silo art trail". Although it will be different to the existing silos already completed as internal artworks and a lookout are part of the plan.

Churches in Rainbow include – Catholic, Lutheran, Anglican and our SMCP. The only resident minister in Rainbow for many years has been the Lutheran Pastor – other ministers travel from Nhill (Anglican) or Warracknabeal (Catholic). Ongoing services and worship for the Anglican and Catholic Churches is to some point uncertain as both are very small groups. Parishes are getting bigger and clergy are being expected to cover up to 7 or 8 towns which makes for infrequent and varied times of services to smaller congregations. The Lutheran Churches of Rainbow and Pella have a strong membership. The Pella church has a historic pipe organ.

Hopetoun:

This township and district has a population of approximately 739 and is situated in the Shire of Yarriambiack. The Shire of Yarriambiack is situated in north-western Victoria in the heart of the state's wheat belt, where the Yarriambiack Creek flows into Lake Corrong. The major towns in the municipality are Warracknabeal and Hopetoun and other centres are Beulah, Patchewollock, Speed, Woomelang, Minyip and Rupanyup.

Hopetoun has a resident doctor and a public hospital with 6 acute beds, 10 nursing home beds and the Corrong Village hostel for the elderly. The hospital also provides services in physiotherapy, optometry, podiatry, counselling, District Nursing, and "Meals on Wheels". Hopetoun has a resident doctor and on regular basis a female doctor, sponsored by the Royal Flying Doctor Service, also visits the town.

There are 2 police in Hopetoun who have a visible and supportive presence in many town activities. The town facilities include a Maternal & Child Welfare Centre, and a Kindergarten which conducts both 4- and 3-year-old groups, and whose buildings are also used to provide child care 2 days per week and there is a volunteer ambulance.

A neighbourhood house and 'Gateway BEET' provide numerous resources for the town including adult education in a range of areas such as computers, first aid, public speaking and much more, and it also sponsors art and craft groups in areas such patchwork, crochet, gardening etc.

Hopetoun has a swimming pool, and a Senior Citizens Club, which also provides day centre activities. There is a Commonwealth Bank with ATM facilities, and other town shops include a chemist, café, newsagent, service station and petrol station, hotel, motel, hardware, clothing and drapery store, shoe shop, supermarket, milk-bar, bakery, farm supply store, butcher, post office, local newspaper, DPI office, panel beater, garage with RACV, accountant and hairdressers. The mobile library also visits Hopetoun. A newly completed Artist in Residence building and gallery are about to begin accepting artists and have a space for exhibitions.

Clubs in the town include CWA, Probus, RSL, Garden Club and a Community Garden. Sporting clubs include tennis, golf, lawn bowls, water skiing, fishing, netball, basketball, table tennis, gun club, football and cricket. There is an Historical Society, music teacher, a town Progress Committee, a 'Men's Shed' a strong Patchwork group, a sewing and knitting group and an excellent Opportunity Shop which gives its receipts back to groups in the town. Transport to Melbourne is via Ararat and Ballarat on the V-line bus. Hopetoun is also served by an all-weather lighted aerodrome which is used as needed by the aerial ambulance service.

Churches in Hopetoun include Lutheran, Catholic and the SMCP. The SMCP minister is the only resident minister, while other ministers travel from Horsham (Catholic) and Rainbow (Lutheran).

3.2 How does your congregation reflect or vary from the age, and ethnic mix of your local community?

- Our community does not retain many young people once they complete their secondary schooling.
- We are not very inter-cultural, with very few people of ethnic origins living in either Hopetoun or Rainbow. Those who do live in the area are from a variety of countries and very few regularly attend any of the churches in Hopetoun or Rainbow. Our congregations reflect this.
- Rainbow has 1 family with 3 children attend fortnightly and a story and activity is always provided for these children. Other members of the congregation have had their children grow up in the church but they no longer live locally or no longer choose to attend.
- Our congregations although welcoming have very few/no newer arrivals to town. Most of us are long term residents and long term church goers.

3.3 What are the opportunities and points of stress and pain in the wider community?

- We are a farming community. Fluctuations of the climate and grain/sheep prices are significant stressors for our farmers and have a flow on effect to the whole community. Rapidly rising fertilizer, spray and fuel prices in 2022 will have a big impact on local farmer incomes.
- We are all worried about the decline of or closure of local businesses and banks
- As a community we share in the grief of the loss of loved community members, and many ex residents return to Hopetoun and Rainbow to be buried.
- There are limited employment opportunities and limited ways to retain young people once they complete their schooling. The schools in both towns are excellent and students regularly have very high academic results
- We are lacking or very short of tradespeople living locally

3.4 List ways in which you connect with, serve, or partner with people in your wider community?

- Meals on Wheels are delivered by church members in both towns
- Regular monthly worship services and visitations in Aged Care also occur in both towns
- Pre COVID and when the rules allow, funeral services are often large. We support families through their grief and provide catering post funeral. Assisted by townspeople as needed.
- We are members and often executive of many service and sporting groups in the communities.
- Men's Shed in both Hopetoun and Rainbow.

3.5 What schools/agencies/institutions are in your local communities?

- St Joseph's Catholic Primary School in Hopetoun. Approx 30 children
- Both Hopetoun and Rainbow have P-12 schools with a large new build happening in Hopetoun commencing in 2022.
- Both towns have Kindergartens.
- Rainbow has family day care and kindergarten. Hopetoun has a child care centre which operates 2 days a week from the kindergarten building.
- Neighbour House in both Rainbow and Hopetoun.