



A Placement Profile

A1 Presbytery

Western Victoria Presbytery

A2 Name of Placement

Surry Cluster, Henty Region.

A3 Placement city/suburb/town

Portland

A4 Church/Office location(s)

Portland/ Hamilton

A5 Congregations and agencies associated with this placement

Bolwarra, Heywood, Macarthur, Portland, Dartmoor

A6 Ministry leadership being sought

Specific ministry role:

Minister of the Word Y

Deacon Y

Ministry of Pastor Y

Ordinand Y

A7 Specific details

Additional placement

Replacement placement

Full Time Y Part Time

Time fraction

Earliest Start Date:

[Click here to enter a date.](#)

A8 Placement term

Undefined

Y

Up to 10 years (see Reg 2.7.3(a))

Years

F

Required for non-congregational placements (see Reg 2.7.3(b))

Years



A9 To be completed by Presbytery, with reasons given on page 9:

Is permission sought to advertise?

Yes No

Is a Priority Placement recommended?

Yes No

A10 Website

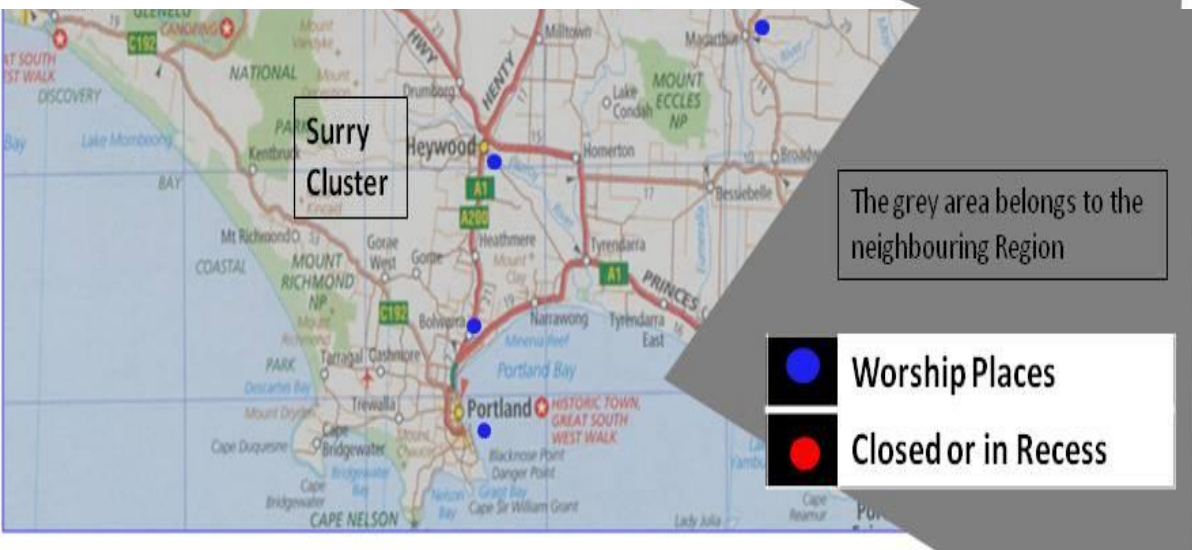
A11 Social Media

A12 Google map link

HENTY REGION – SURRY CLUSTER

TRAVEL TIMES

Portland – Bolwarra	10 minutes
Portland – Heywood	22 minutes
Portland – Dartmoor	50 minutes
Portland – Macarthur	65 minutes



B The Congregation

- B1 Tell a potential minister about this placement and yourselves, in your own words and pictures, in no more than one page. Share something of your congregation's values, beliefs and ways in which you live out and share the gospel message.**

Include comment about why you need a new minister. How will this placement be exciting, challenging, and attractive to a minister? How can God be served in new ways here? What do you want the Minister to do with you and for you?

This is your chance to 'be creative' and catch the attention of someone who is thinking of sharing their call, their gifts, their life with you.

Portland, Bolwarra, Heywood and Macarthur in the Surry Cluster, Henty Region, are at an exciting turning point. The involvement of a number of members in Mat Harry's webinar series "Tradition with a Future" has opened many doors to building new relationships beyond the Church models of the past. Members have expressed the desire to build further on the relationships they have with the wider community, including those who connect with the Op Shop networks and with the community groups using the Church facilities.

The concept of a minister who can pastorally walk the streets (and paddocks) relating with the people of the region, but who can also enable and encourage members in discipling, has been a major focus of the mission report inspired by the members survey responses.

While recognising that Sundays might no longer be the main focus for the future Church, this is also a Church that is open to exploring the new ways of worship that value both the old and the new.

With members who are more traditional as well as those keen to explore new ways, this is a ministry that calls for someone who can sensitively assist this transformation and who can affirm all expressions of faith.

With substantial building developments now completed on the Portland complex in the centre of town there is great scope for new ways of being Church in this provincial town and region.

- B2 List and explain any particular priorities which the congregation has identified and which it will address in the next two to five years?**

'Relationships' is the key word for our future.

We seek a minister who will not only role model this building of relationships and of discipleship in our community but who will also resource us in this way of walking with others in faith.

We already have a good network of relationships that we have established in our community as individuals and as a Church, but we recognise our need to be nurtured in our discipling of others.

This relationship building needs to happen not just on the street but also in the way we meet as a faith community, including how we worship.

Instead of a minister focused ministry we seek ways of meeting that help us grow our faith through relationship building.

- B3 Does this placement relate to more than one congregation?
If so, provide details on page 6.**

Yes No

- B4 What ethnic and language groups are represented in the congregation?
What proportion of the congregation does each represent?**

PORTLAND: One South African family.
BOLWARRA, HEYWOOD & MACARTHUR congregations are Anglo Saxon

- B5 What languages are spoken in the life of your:**



Congregation, by	PORTLAND	Community, by	
Individuals	English/ Afrikaans	Individuals	English
Groups	English	Groups	English

B6 What languages are spoken by the congregation in worship?

PORTLAND: Services are in English with some acknowledgement of Afrikaans mostly through music.
 BOLWARRA,HEYWOOD & MACARTHUR: English

B7 Describe any involvement your congregation has in covenanting activities.

We appreciated having Rev Will Pickett as one of our ministers in the Henty Region, residing at Heywood, and we grew in our sensitivity to our need to build our relationship with the first peoples of this nation. To this point, however, no formal covenanting activities have commenced. There have also been discussions at Henty Region meetings about how we might respond as a region.

B8 List any UCA Schools and/or agencies (Uniting VicTas, Uniting AgeWell) with which the congregation has an existing relationship.

Bayview College - the board comprises one member from Loreto and each of the five participating Churches, two parent members, two elected members and one-co-opted member. The participating Churches are; Anglican, Baptist, Catholic, Lutheran and Uniting. Our current representative is the Secretary of Heywood/Bolwarra Church council. Normally it would be the role of the Minister in Placement.

C Mission

C1 List three of your missional activities that your congregation does best?

PORTLAND:

1. Op Shop
2. Open Door, a drop in for coffee & cake gathering once a week.
3. Bupa Aged Care Mini Church Services & general sing-along monthly.

BOLWARRA/HEYWOOD:

1. Special Church Services such as Christmas Eve Carols and Harvest Thanksgiving.
2. Supporting the chaplains in 3 local schools, both of whom are congregation members.
3. Supporting the Breakfast Program at Heywood Consolidated School.

MACARTHUR:

1. Macarthur is an ecumenical congregation who use UCA facilities for worship but are ministered to by the Catholic, Anglican and UCA priests/ministers. This provides unique opportunities for faith-sharing and participation.
2. Supporting community members in times of need.
3. Sammy Stamps; community activities - Lions, RCH, Mens Shed, RSL, health, outreach volunteering, food bank

C2 What are three missional activities your congregation would like to develop?

PORTLAND:

1. A connection with members of the indigenous community;
2. Improve the connection between the church and the volunteers who support our missional activities but aren't particularly aware that the source/drive of the mission is the church and it's members seeking to share the love of God.
3. To strengthen communications between Portland churches, particularly the Salvation Army, in relation to provision of community welfare needs.

BOLWARRA/HEYWOOD:

1. School Chaplaincy.
2. Heywood Op Shop.
3. A craft group has been meeting in the Haywood church. There is a possible community missional opportunity with this group.

C3 How has the congregation changed in the past two years?

PORTLAND:

Being a somewhat elderly congregation, some members have died.

Our new South African family members actively involve themselves in Worship & church life

We have 6 young people ranging in age from 2 to 13 who attend somewhat regularly, plus often visitors with young folk.

BOLWARRA/HEYWOOD:

Congregation numbers in Heywood have declined extensively. Heywood worships with the Anglican & Lutheran congregations regularly, developing ecumenical relationships. Bolwarra has been impacted by young people leaving to further their education with some new attendees.

MACARTHUR: Closure has been avoided by becoming ecumenical. The UCA building is utilised by a community group with UCA, Catholic & Anglican services being held. There is no Service on the 4th Sunday of the month.

C4 What changes and developments are anticipated in the next three to five years?

1. Shift of focus for Portland, from buildings & property to further developing our relationships with each other, the participants in our many & varied groups and activities and the members of the wider community.
2. It is likely that Macarthur will change from Surry Cluster to Grange Cluster and that Heywood will close and members will hopefully join with Bolwarra/Portland. It is possible that some members will be unable to go to other locations and there may need to be some pastoral work with the Haywood people.
3. Our Surry Cluster evolving into a greater co-operation between our churches.

D The Community

D1 Describe the wider community in which your ministry is located.

Portland is a coastal town growing around a busy port. With a population of approximately 10,000, the area is rich in Indigenous & European history and natural beauty. There are diverse agricultural activities throughout the district, commercial and recreational fishing from the Port and a number of industries associated with and dependent on the Port. These industries include grain, timber, fertiliser, aluminium and livestock and result in a large percentage of shift workers. Tourism is an asset relied on by small businesses and tourist related industries and activities.

A vibrant and diverse economy and a busy deep sea Port that has a number of large shipping vessels docking, including cruise ships.

Our rural communities predominantly support dairy, beef, sheep & Blue Gum industries.

D2 What makes this an enjoyable place to live?

This is a very picturesque area in which to live, with one of the best beaches in Australia (Cape Bridgewater) and many opportunities for outdoor recreation, such as the Great South West Walk.

A strong volunteer ethic exists among a wide range of community groups. Very welcoming and supportive communities with a variety of activities and groups available.

A rich history of indigenous & European culture.

The beauty of the surrounding region, including Bolwarra, Heywood and Macarthur, offers the ocean, rivers, forests and lakes. It includes the World Heritage listed Budj Bim and a 250km walking track, [The Great South West Walk].

A wide range of sporting & recreational groups and activities are available for all ages throughout the Surry Cluster area.

An added attraction of the whales that visit this area between May-Sept each year.

D3 What are the points of stress and pain in the wider community?

- homelessness & shortage of rental
- drug abuse
- unemployment and poverty
- poor communication between the Indigenous & the wider community

D4 How closely does your congregation reflect the demographics of your local area?

Not particularly well. Our congregation is generally middle-aged - elderly with younger families under-represented. Predominantly Anglo-Saxon, apart from our South African family. Indigenous folk are not represented in spite of being a fundamental part of the wider community.



D5 What community facilities are present in the local area?

Portland has 3 State Primary Schools, 2 Church Primary Schools, a State Secondary College and an ecumenical Private Secondary School. Also a School for young folk with Special Needs. School bus services are available in some situations. There are other schools within travelling distance of Portland. Several sporting fields, basketball, squash, tennis & netball courts, a heated Indoor/Outdoor Swimming Pool are just some of the sporting facilities available. There are several very active Service Clubs. A Catholic Church plus most Protestant Churches are represented. There are a number of venues for concert/performance type activities. There is a Hospital and several Aged-care facilities. The shopping Centre is adequate for most needs with a larger centre in Warrnambool about 70min. away.