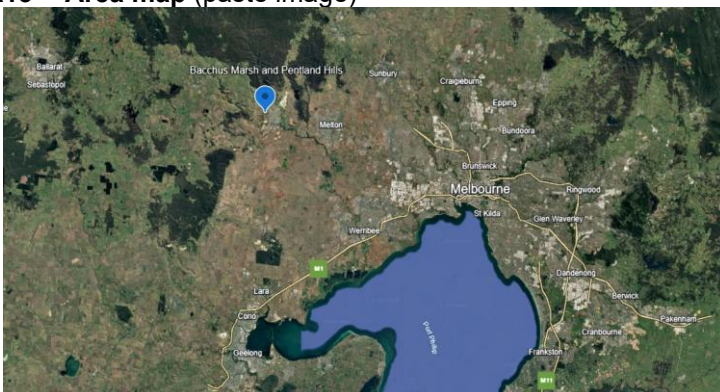




## A Placement Profile

<b>A1 Presbytery</b>	Port Phillip West		
<b>A2 Name of Placement</b>	Bacchus Marsh & Pentland Hills Uniting Church		
<b>A3 Placement city/suburb/town</b>	Bacchus Marsh, Myrniong & district		
	Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung and Wadawurrung Country		
<b>A4 Church/Office location(s)</b>	12 Gisborne Rd Bacchus Marsh		
<b>A5 Congregations and agencies associated with this placement</b>	Bacchus Marsh and Pentland Hills		
<b>A6 Ministry leadership being sought</b>	Specific ministry role:	<input type="text"/>	
	Minister of the Word <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Deacon <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ministry of Pastor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Ordinand <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Additional placement <input type="checkbox"/>	Replacement placement <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>A7 Specific details</b>	Full Time <input type="checkbox"/>	Part Time <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Time fraction <input type="text" value="0.8"/>
	Earliest Start Date:		ASAP.
	<b>A8 Placement term</b>	Undefined <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Up to 10 years (see Reg 2.7.3(a))
	Fixed Term	Required for non-congregational placements (see Reg 2.7.3(b))	Years <input type="text"/>
<b>A9 To be completed by Presbytery, with reasons given on page:</b>			
	Is permission sought to advertise?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Is a Priority Placement recommended?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>A10 Website</b>	<a href="https://bmuc.org.au">https://bmuc.org.au</a>		
<b>A11 Social Media</b>	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/@bacchusmarshuniting">https://www.youtube.com/@bacchusmarshuniting</a>		
	<a href="http://facebook.com/bacchusmarshunitingchurch">http://facebook.com/bacchusmarshunitingchurch</a>		
<b>A12 Google map link</b>	<a href="https://maps.app.goo.gl/ibGdkUiC55sMeXuk9">https://maps.app.goo.gl/ibGdkUiC55sMeXuk9</a>		
<b>A13 Area map (paste image)</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.**

'Praise the God who changes places leaves the lofty seat welcomes us with warm embraces stoops to wash our feet' - Brian Wren (TiS)

As we embarked on our journey to calling a potential minister this song expresses our passion for ministry.

### Our values and beliefs and living out and sharing the gospel.

- We value the structures of a traditional Uniting Church Service with a focus on the scripture and personal investment in prayers and being present in worship.
- Being inclusive is a key value of the congregation and being open to what form that might take. People from all backgrounds and experiences are welcome.
- We regard ourselves as progressive but at the same time we are respectful of diverse views. This includes avoiding addressing God in gendered terms, and being aware of language that might upset people, for example saying, 'This is the blood of Jesus' in a communion service.
- We value meeting people's physical needs through our congregation's involvement in The Neighbour's Place, Reverse Advent Calendar Program, Dad's Army, Soul Food and the Myrniong Luncheon.
- We value that the buildings where we meet are also safe spaces for Bacchus Marsh Playgroups, Narcotics Anonymous and Melton Bethel Baptist Church; a young church with refugees from Myanmar.
- We recognise the needs presented by the changing demographics around us and hope to find opportunities to engage more those seeking for Christian community.

### Why do we need a minister?

- To be one with us in developing our faith through leading worship, supporting pastoral care, prayer and practical activities.
- We are seeking a minister who would be willing and able to value and nurture the increasingly culturally diverse community of Bacchus Marsh and encourage relationship building and links with the wider community
- Building leadership
- Working with aging congregations whilst also fostering the faith of younger families through experimenting with intergenerational activities.
- To deliver the sacraments, and meet ministry needs such as preparation and counselling for baptism, confirmation, weddings, funerals etc

### How do we hope this placement will be exciting, challenging and attractive? As well as our values and beliefs

- We are active followers of Jesus as we explore the possibilities of a renewed vision.
- Our rapidly growing town is presenting opportunities as most weeks people visit our Sunday services; particularly from CALD groups.
- "Younger" people (under 50) actively involved in church leadership and other young families who would welcome a minister to guide them in their faith journey.
- Our congregations have expertise in using technology to reach and engage people and there is an opportunity to build upon this. For instance our services are livestreamed.
- A renewed focus on music with an active singing/music group introducing new songs.
- Located not far from Melbourne, Geelong and Ballarat with significant and interesting environmental features.
- We have well maintained buildings, both modern and historic spaces located in the centre of the town.

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

- We value culturally diverse worship and seek to nurture the growing community that is becoming more culturally diverse across our region.
- We have a group of young families with children who are entering teenage years. We seek to find ways to meet their needs whilst also working with an older congregation.
- We are seeking to strengthen wider Uniting Church and ecumenical relationships to cover more ground in ministry and give us opportunities for shared worship and fellowship.

**B3 Does this placement relate to more than one congregation?**

Bacchus Marsh and Pentland Hills

Yes  No

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

Largely Anglo-European, but increasingly seeing visitors and members from Pacific Islands, India and South East Asia.

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

Congregation, by		Community, by	
Individuals	English	Individuals	English, Punjabi, Maltese, Urdu, Hindi, Italian, Greek, Spanish, Vietnamese, Filipino/Tagalog, Mandarin, Serbian, Polish, Portuguese, Arabic, Samoan, Slovak, Macedonian, Tamil, Shona
Groups		Groups	

**B6 What languages are spoken by the congregation in worship?**

English, however Melton Bethel Baptist who use our facilities worship in Burmese

**B7 Describe any involvement your congregation has in covenanting activities.**

- Acknowledgement of Country is regularly offered at the beginning of services.
- Various days and events have been a focus for worship including Sorry Day, Reconciliation and NAIDOC Week.
- We believe there is an opportunity for education through the study of the covenanting material of the UCA.

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

- Limited, however the Reverse Advent Calendar program has provided food relief packages to Uniting in Grovedale (Geelong) and Ballarat.
- We have annual fundraising for Uniting Vic/Tas (Pancake Day), and Frontier Services (Outback BBQ)

## C Mission

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

- Our Reverse Advent Calendar program where we invite people to fill a box of food and essentials during advent has been embraced widely by the community with local kindergartens, schools and the wider community participating. In 2024 we filled almost 200 boxes, the vast majority filled by people outside our congregations and from the wider community.
- The Neighbours Place (a local food bank) and Soul Food (a community lunch) are assisted by members who represent our church through chaplaincy, pastoral care, volunteering and positions on the committee of management.
- We provide a safe space for various community groups to use our buildings including Melton Bethel Baptist Church, Bacchus Marsh Playgroups and Narcotics Anonymous. Whilst these groups operate independently of our congregations, we welcome opportunities for further engagement.

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

- Sustainable intergenerational activities.
- Having our doors open more of the time to the community for example making the worship centre available for personal prayer.
- Exploring a connection with place ministry. This would include exploring faith and spirituality in locations outside the church buildings and structure. Our congregations are in a beautiful and fascinating landscape which visitors from the wider community and surrounding population centres (eg Melbourne, Geelong and Ballarat) could be invited to enjoy. There is a particular appeal to some of our community to connect with broader understandings of God through the marvels of creation.

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

- Increased number of visitors to our Sunday worship.
- People are now able to access the church online in more ways including viewing our weekly services on YouTube.



- We have increased lay leadership of worship and use of technology with excellent results.

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

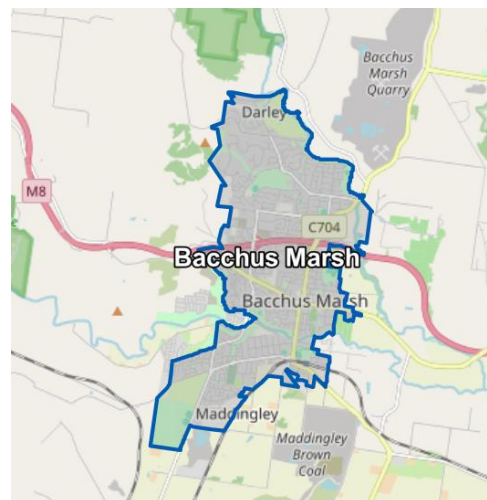
- The congregations are expected to continue aging, including young families who will then have youths rather than young children.
- Generational change of leadership due to aging.
- Changing and enrichment of musical aspects of worship as we continue to encourage those with musical talents to share more in the services
- Decision making around the Bacchus Marsh property - what property we keep/divest, how we address ongoing maintenance.

## D The Community

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

**Bacchus Marsh** is a rapidly expanding urban centre located 60km from Melbourne CBD. This area is known for the local orchards and farm produce and offer fruit picking activities. In recent years many farms close to Bacchus Marsh have been subdivided to create new housing in all directions. Particularly popular are housing sites on steep ground bordering the Pentland Hills. The Avenue of Honour – War Memorial, is world famous. The township is nestled in a valley with newer areas extending into the rolling hills, the Lerderderg and Werribee Rivers offer a range of parks and picnic spots.

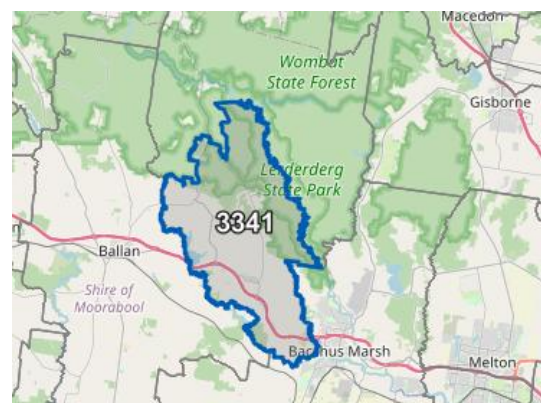
Bacchus Marsh, together with Melton, is a fast-developing growth-corridor in the West of Melbourne. Many younger families have built in the newer areas of Bacchus Marsh, making the community less rural and regional and more metropolitan, multicultural and multifaith. There is a large core of retired people, many of whom live in the older section of the town. In the community, there is government housing, and this gives the church many opportunities to provide services for people in need in our community, as they struggle financially and have family and employment concerns. Distance from services adds to peoples' isolation and general difficulties. Loneliness is a big factor in the lives of many in this town and district.



*Urban Centre and Localities incl Darley, Bacchus Marsh & Maddingley*

**Pentland Hills** - covering - Myrniong/ Korobeit/Greendale and Dale's Creek. Postcode 3341. Pentland Hills is an early (1830's) settled farming district with many families still involved in agriculture. The district is centred on the village of Myrniong which is 69 kms. from Melbourne. There is an old village along with some limited more recent subdivisions. This has attracted retirees as well as rural-lifestyle commuters with children

Myrniong has an Anglican Church connected to Holy Trinity in Bacchus Marsh, a much-used public hall, CFA - volunteer maintained recreation ground. A gourmet hotel, 'The Plough', and St. Anne's winery both attract visitors from afar. There are no shopping facilities in Myrniong or the 3341 district. Residents travel to Bacchus Marsh, Ballan or Ballarat for those needs.



*Area of Postcode 3341*

The Myrniong Primary School serves the whole area and has a current enrolment of 193 students. The buildings and facilities have been upgraded to modern standards in recent years.

The Greendale farming area also has a hotel, for meals and is popular with visitors at the weekend. It has a modest settlement subdivision of rural lifestyle commuters and families. It also has the district cemetery, CFA, and a volunteer run, recreation ground.

Dale's Creek further into the forested area towards Blackwood, is another modest settlement subdivision with no community facilities.

Additional statistical information can be found in our mission study.

## **D2 What makes this an enjoyable place to live?**

- Its geographic location – being close to Melbourne, Ballarat and Geelong but still regarded as regional.
- Housing is less expensive than other areas of Melbourne.
- Having access to V/Line railway services on the Ballarat line (about 50 minutes to the city)
- Western Freeway enables good road connections to other regions

- Access to a medium-sized range of retail shopping (including a shopping centre), supplemented by shops in nearby Melton
- Access to fresh food and vegetables grown locally
- A good range of industrial businesses
- Well-established Christian Communities, the main churches operating in BM being Catholic, Anglican, Uniting, Baptist and Bacchus Marsh Christian Church. Our Lady Ta'Pinu Shrine is a visible presence over the Freeway.
- Good sporting and recreational facilities, including parks and walking tracks

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

- Bacchus Marsh and the wider area is a rapidly growing area with the struggle of balancing retaining a regional town identity with local farming and becoming part of the growing urban area of Melbourne.
- Many people move to Bacchus Marsh due to more affordable housing and have faced increased housing costs in recent times.
- Due to its rapid growth in some areas, there is a lack of infrastructure, especially shopping facilities and schools.
- Bacchus Marsh has struggled to attract and retain its own diversity in retail and develop its town centre due to being in the "shadow" of a large population centre nearby (Melton).
- The building of the proposed Western Renewables Link, an above ground high voltage power line from Melbourne to Western Victoria, has caused stress within our community including links to the congregations.
- Bacchus Marsh experiences heavy traffic including large trucks through the centre of the town on a narrow road as few alternative routes are available through the town and on the wider Geelong-Bendigo route.
- There are residents who are facing housing and food insecurity.

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

<p>Demographics of Bacchus Marsh Congregation From Community Life survey 2024</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>0 - 4 years</td><td>2%</td></tr> <tr><td>5 – 11 years</td><td>9%</td></tr> <tr><td>12 - 17 years</td><td>1%</td></tr> <tr><td>18 - 29 years</td><td>1%</td></tr> <tr><td>30 - 39 years</td><td>5%</td></tr> <tr><td>40 - 49 years</td><td>5%</td></tr> <tr><td>50 - 59 years</td><td>6%</td></tr> <tr><td>60 - 69 years</td><td>8%</td></tr> <tr><td>70 - 79 years</td><td>21%</td></tr> <tr><td>80 - 89 years</td><td>31%</td></tr> <tr><td>Over 90 years</td><td>11%</td></tr> </table> <p>95 people accounted for</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>Female</td><td>66%</td></tr> <tr><td>Male</td><td>34%</td></tr> </table> <p>As is common in Uniting Church communities, our congregation is skewed older than the broader community and with a higher percentage of females. While our congregation does align broadly with the ancestry of the broader community, there is a developing Indian community in our area, and several recent visitors to our congregation have been of pacific islander ancestry. These figures are indicative of the situation in Pentland Hills as well.</p>	0 - 4 years	2%	5 – 11 years	9%	12 - 17 years	1%	18 - 29 years	1%	30 - 39 years	5%	40 - 49 years	5%	50 - 59 years	6%	60 - 69 years	8%	70 - 79 years	21%	80 - 89 years	31%	Over 90 years	11%	Female	66%	Male	34%	<p>Local area demographics From 2021 Census for Bacchus Marsh locality</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>0 - 4 years</td><td>6.9%</td></tr> <tr><td>5 – 11 years</td><td>7.1%</td></tr> <tr><td>12 - 17 years</td><td>12.3%</td></tr> <tr><td>18 - 29 years</td><td>12.6%</td></tr> <tr><td>30 - 39 years</td><td>15.3%</td></tr> <tr><td>40 - 49 years</td><td>12.6%</td></tr> <tr><td>50 - 59 years</td><td>11.6%</td></tr> <tr><td>60 - 69 years</td><td>10.1%</td></tr> <tr><td>70 - 79 years</td><td>7.9%</td></tr> <tr><td>Over 80 years</td><td>3.7%</td></tr> </table> <p>613 people put Uniting Church as religious affiliation</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>Female</td><td>51.5%</td></tr> <tr><td>Male</td><td>48.5%</td></tr> </table> <p>Ancestry top responses: English 39.1%, Australian 39%, Irish 11.9%, Scottish 11.2%, Italian 4.3%</p> <p>Language other than English used at home top responses: 557 Punjabi ,108 Hindip</p>	0 - 4 years	6.9%	5 – 11 years	7.1%	12 - 17 years	12.3%	18 - 29 years	12.6%	30 - 39 years	15.3%	40 - 49 years	12.6%	50 - 59 years	11.6%	60 - 69 years	10.1%	70 - 79 years	7.9%	Over 80 years	3.7%	Female	51.5%	Male	48.5%
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**D5 What community facilities are present in the local area?**

- A range of excellent sporting facilities and associated clubhouses,
- A variety of parks, plus walking and cycling tracks
- A range of community groups – service and recreational
- A good range of schools – public and private
- A hospital with urgent care capacity
- Three Aged Care facilities
- Good library facilities
- Public hall and smaller halls available for community use
- Two neighbourhood houses
- Werribee and Lerderderg Rivers
- One outdoor swimming pool (public – summer only)
- Two indoor swimming pools (private)
- Caravan park
- Food Bank (The Neighbours Place)
- Two banks (Bendigo and CommBank), other banks have closed in recent years. Bendigo bank is a community bank and operates a large grant program for community groups of which the church has been a recipient.
- Local radio station (Apple FM)