

PLACEMENT PROFILE

SECTION 1 – BASIC INFORMATION

- 1.1 Placement Name(s): Rochester, Elmore, Bamawm, Tongala Cluster
- 1.2 Please list congregations/agencies names below
- Elmore
 - Bamawm
 - Tongala
 - Rochester
- 1.3 Profile approved by Church Council/Governing Body 30 / 1 / 19
- 1.4 Primary purpose of placement:
- Ministry of the Word
Pastoral support of the congregations
Developing lay leadership
Encouraging people in their faith journey
Assist the congregation to reach out to the younger generations of our 4 communities
Helping the congregations to develop their connections with the other churches in the area.
Assisting the congregations to develop partnerships with existing community organisations
- 1.5 Suitable for (bold all that apply): **Minister of the Word / Deacon / Ordinand/ Pastor**
- 1.6 Time fraction: 100 %
- 1.7 Term:
- | | |
|---|--------------|
| Undefined up to 10 years (See Reg 2.7.3(a)) | <u>Yes</u> |
| Fixed Term: | <u>Years</u> |
| Initial Term reviewed in: | <u>Years</u> |

SECTION 2 – MISSION DIRECTION

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

To share the love of Jesus Christ, and grow in Christ together.

2.2 Date adopted / /2013

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

Elmore - The congregation is made up of elderly folk who prefer a traditional style of worship. The local parish fair is held annually at Elmore and is very well supported by the community.

Bamawm –The congregation is an aging yet friendly and welcoming group with a heart for its community. The suite of buildings with the church and the hall being connected so that they can be opened up to accommodate large gatherings.

Tongala –The congregation is aging. They enjoy welcoming those Korean students who attend worship.

Rochester – The congregation is medium sized but vibrant with a heavy involvement in community activities. Many congregants are also offering leadership in local community groups.

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

The Bamawm congregation came into the cluster 4 years ago, and the church at Wyuna closed 2 years ago, with these members becoming a part of Tongala. Otherwise the nature of the cluster has not changed a great deal.

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

To promote and extend Christian fellowship through activities that bring us together as co-followers of Christ.

The witness to the Lordship of Christ in our lives as we share with others what God has done for us.

To welcome and encourage the young in the work of the church.

To maintain our ministry to folk who are unable to attend worship.

To subscribe to the needs of the wider community, particularly towards humanitarian causes.

To continue our desire to work with other churches in the area in strengthening the Christian fellowship.

To understand the workings of other institutions, and to work with them, particularly at times of funerals – as long as their practices are not contrary to the Christian faith.

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

We would like to explore possibilities of more innovative and creative worship.

To continue to make our Bible Studies a feature of our life.

We would like to explore the use of IT in our worship and ministry, including to those who can no longer attend worship regularly.

Continue our offerings of food to Bendigo outreach.

Become more intentional about how we disseminate information to our people on issues of social justice.

Begin to explore the options available to us to develop ministry to younger families and children. Approach some of the Korean backpackers (and Rev Gi Won Kang in Mooroopna) who live and work in Tongala to see if they would like to make use of the church to begin worshipping in their own language.

SECTION 3 - CONTEXT

3.1

Elmore – is a community of 650 people. It is a service town for the farming community. Others commute to Shepparton (45 minutes) or Bendigo (30 minutes) for work. There is a regular train service to Bendigo. The School bus starts its run in Elmore and takes children to schools in Rochester and Bendigo. There is large complex for field days and equestrian events.

Bamawm - is a community of about 1400 in an irrigation area (no township) for mixed farming with a strong focus on dairy. This is a strong active local community, which also encompasses the nearby township Lockington, which has an interesting museum and attracts visitors throughout the year. Low cost housing is an attraction for families, with many seeking employment in Echuca (20 minutes).

Tongala - is a township with a population of 1300 (10 minutes to Kyabram and 20 minutes to Echuca) which is expanding as new housing estates are added. There many sporting groups with facilities, active service clubs, and good local shopping. There is an aged care facility for 72 residents providing some employment, as well as and animal feed producer, McColls transport (milk), and an abattoir. This is proving to be a draw card for Koreans students on short term visas who make use of the large caravan park.

Rochester – is a township of about 3100 people with good local shopping, servicing a wide area of mixed farming (20 minutes from Echuca and 35 minutes from Bendigo). There is an excellent public transport system to Bendigo and Melbourne. A good sized local hospital services the community and provides a wide range of services with visiting specialists. There is an aged care facility with approximately 50 residents. There is a good range of community groups and service clubs, sporting facilities, and swimming pool. A new caravan park offers a stopover for tourists coming to see the painted silos and new sports museum supported by a strong historical society.

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

The communities are largely of Anglo-European origin, as are our congregations. Those aged from late teens to 40 are largely missing from our communities (2016 census) while our congregations are older. Our communities are more working class than professional, and incomes reflect this. As noted above, Korean young people do seasonal work in Tongala.

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

There are a growing number of retirees moving into the region from Melbourne after selling their homes and living from the “gap” in housing markets. Sadly this is not currently translating to increases in our congregations. This is a work area for us.

Drought impacts our community and has reduced the incomes of the farming community. This means less spending in the community generally.

The buying and selling of “water rights” along the river systems has changed farming considerably in recent years, making farming “expensive” with reduced returns, and with reduced certainty.

The Murray Goulburn milk factory closing in January 2017, put a lot of people out of work.

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

- Services at aged facilities (Tongala and Rochester).
- Funerals are an opportunity to connect with people across the community as we seek to use our gifts of hospitality. We see this as a ministry to the community.
- Pancake day morning, casserole days, roast dinner in May
- Men’s breakfast at Rochester
- Garage sale
- Parish fair (Elmore)

- Providing food fresh vegies to Bendigo Outreach (Uniting)
Offering emergency relief as the need arises

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

Tongala – State Primary and Catholic Primary

Elmore - State Primary and Catholic Primary

Rochester - State Primary and High School and Catholic Primary

School buses run from the region into Bendigo and Echuca

