



## The Fig Tree Project

PLACEMENT PROFILE Date: August 2021

### SECTION 1 – BASIC INFORMATION

**1.1 Placement name:** Presbytery of Gippsland,  
Currawong Ministry Team - vacancy 1.0 FTE

**1.2 The Currawong ministry team is located on the traditional lands of the Gunai Kurnai peoples, with the following congregations:**

*(bold indicates current vacancy)*

Heyfield, Maffra, **Sale**, and Stratford & Perry Bridge (faith community),  
and includes ministry connections with Fulham Correctional Centre & Sale RAAF base

**1.3 Profile approved by the Presbytery of Gippsland (delegated to PRC 08 /09 / 21)**

**1.4 The Primary purpose of placement:**

To exercise ministry within the Currawong team:

- to know and to love congregations
- to participate with congregations in their worship, ministry and mission
- to share diverse gifts within the team
- to offer collegial support and cooperation within the team
- to encourage and empower entrepreneurial and innovative ministry together

**1.5** Suitable for Minister of the Word / Deacon / Ordinand/ Pastor

**1.6** The Currawong ministry team has capacity for approximately 2.4 FTE

The time fraction for each ministry placement is open to negotiation according to the ministry agents in the team.

**1.7 Term:** Undefined up to 10 years (see Reg 2.7.3(a))

Ministry within the Currawong team will be open to the needs and capacities of the congregations. While the Terms of Placement are fixed, particular responsibilities will change in consultation and agreement with ministry agents, within the team and with the Presbytery.

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Section 4: People and Activities

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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

## Heyfield – 50 McFarlane St, Heyfield (Aug 2019)

### SECTION 2 – MISSION DIRECTION

“Christ, Community and Caring” - The majority of our members are very committed, flexible and enthusiastic assisting with Church services, administration and mission. The main demographic is from 50 to 95 years old and our congregation is stable and very much reflects the local community. We enjoy special services and events such as Carol Service, Blue Christmas, Christmas pageant for the district, Pancake night, Church Camp at Lake Tyers. We lead services at Aged Care facility - Laurina Lodge and participate in the Heyfield Saturday market/garage sale, offering welfare assistance and community connections that come of this. Our next steps are for new life, leadership and encouragement with support to embrace some change. The steps will be an evolution from working together to assess the needs of the community in collaboration with ministry leadership. We need ideas that are achievable but not too daunting.

### SECTION 3 - CONTEXT

Maffra and Heyfield are two small rural Anglo-European communities, which contain separate Uniting Church congregations who have shared a minister for a number of years. Both towns are approximately 2-3 hours' drive from Melbourne, with the nearest regional centres being Sale (pop ~14000; 19km away), Traralgon (pop ~25000; 60km away) and Bairnsdale (pop ~ 7500; 65km away). We are active and dynamic communities with many service clubs, community and interest groups, probably proportionally more than in other rural communities. Across the two towns, there is good access to health and aged care, schools (kindergartens, state and Catholic primary and secondary schools), with a wider range of educational options, including TAFE, available nearby in Sale, but there is a need for many students to move away to larger centres for tertiary education. Many of the issues facing Maffra and Heyfield are common to many rural areas; housing issues, financial stress and an increase in drug & alcohol use among young people.

Overall, we are strong communities in both Heyfield and Maffra and very supportive and generous of the many charities that we have in our community. Some local issues are drought, milk prices fluctuating and causing stress, Heyfield timber mill uncertainty re jobs and goods supply. However, both towns are full of vehicles, have several places where you can buy good coffees and have very few closed shops. The towns are relatively close to the hills the sea and rivers for outdoor pursuits and the Glenmaggie Weir for water sports and provision of irrigation to dairy farms and agricultural produce. Nature's extremes such as fires and floods impact on both districts at times. There are Government and Catholic primary schools in both Heyfield and Maffra as well as a secondary college in Maffra to which Heyfield students attend along with students from 13 district feeder primary schools. There is a Catholic secondary college a private Anglican secondary college and a specialist school, as well as a TAFE, in the nearby town of Sale about 20 km away. There are two kindergartens in Maffra, one Kindergarten in Heyfield and childcare in both towns.

## SECTION 2 – MISSION DIRECTION

“Christ, Community and Caring” The majority of our members are very committed, flexible and enthusiastic. They assist with Church services, administration and mission. The main demographic is from 50 to 95 years old, with attendance by a few grandchildren. The congregation is stable and in the last 18 months since being in a vacancy and despite attrition due to some deaths, extra people have attended the services fairly regularly. We very much reflect the local community and enjoy ecumenical involvement with Maffra Combined Churches group. Special services and events such as Carol Service, Blue Christmas, Christmas pageant for the district, Pancake night, Church Camp at Lake Tyers, lead Maffra Primary School Breakfast club once a week and support Secondary School Breakfast Club, monthly activities for children on Sunday morning, monthly services at Aged Care facilities - Stretton Park and McDonald Wing in Maffra. Maffra Quilt group fortnightly, Sewing Group fortnightly, weekly open morning coffee, Jack Kelly BBQ monthly, street stalls, market days, UCAF, UCAF catering for funerals, jam making, Food bank, Backpacks and Christmas boxes.

## SECTION 3 - CONTEXT

Maffra and Heyfield are two small rural Anglo-European communities, which contain separate Uniting Church congregations who have shared a minister for around 10 years. Both towns are approximately 2-3 hours' drive from Melbourne, with the nearest regional centres being Sale (pop ~14000; 19km away), Traralgon (pop ~25000; 60km away) and Bairnsdale (pop ~ 7500; 65km away). We are active and dynamic communities with many service clubs, community and interest groups, probably proportionally more than in other rural communities. Across the two towns, there is good access to health and aged care, schools (kindergartens, state and Catholic primary and secondary schools), with a wider range of educational options, including TAFE, available nearby in Sale, but there is a need for many students to move away to larger centres for tertiary education. Many of the issues facing Maffra and Heyfield are common to many rural areas; housing issues, financial stress and an increase in drug & alcohol use among young people. We use natural gas for heating and cooking.

## SECTION 2 – MISSION DIRECTION

Sale congregation would like to be a good neighbour, bold and adventurous; an active presence, aware of the needs of others, engaging in conversations about Christianity in the community, expressing an inclusive ministry with youth, refugees, LGBTI folk and First Peoples, and building visibility and brand identity through social media.

The reality is that we are a small and ageing congregation, with dwindling numbers and energy who enjoy good fellowship and Sunday lunch together. We provide a visitation program to aged care facilities and a transport service when required. We're grateful that we have financial viability but realise that we need help to adapt and change. We have ecumenical connections that could be strengthened and we're good at praying for others. Sale is a cathedral city for the Anglicans and Roman Catholics, and home to many other denominations.

## SECTION 3 - CONTEXT

Sale is a changing and growing regional town, located in Central Gippsland, 205km from Melbourne. New housing estates are located on the outskirts as is the Wurruk Community, supported by the Ramahyuck District Aboriginal Corporation. Alongside generations of locals, there are transient parts of the community through workers in the RAAF, ESSO and TAFE. Although diverse, there is a stable, conservative core and Sale is a welcoming, caring and supportive community.

Points of stress include isolation of older and disabled people, homelessness and lack of rental accommodation, drug and alcohol issues. There are opportunities to develop partnerships with the First Peoples, refugees, outreach programs and young people. The city has some good facilities but there is a need for meeting places for groups and increased advocacy for the marginalised.

There are six Primary, three Secondary Schools, and one Specialist School and Sale TAFE, Central Gippsland Health Service, Fulham Prison and three Aged Care facilities.

The congregation collects food for and supports the management committee of the Wurruk Neighbourhood House and supports the Sale Men's Shed located on the church grounds. *Uniting* Gippsland has their main office in Sale, utilises the built resources of St Columba's and operates a Kinder/ Early Learning Centre on the church property.

## Stratford, & Perry Bridge Faith Community (March 2012)

### **SECTION 2 – MISSION DIRECTION**

We, the people of the Uniting Church of Stratford and linked congregations believe we are called by God to be a caring community of Christians, desiring to share God's love, word and truth with the community around us.

The development of 10 independent living units on church land adjacent to the Church buildings in Stratford in partnership with UnitingCare Gippsland has been the fulfilment of a vision for property improvements that meet a demonstrated community need, support our ministry and mission, while continuing to address necessary repairs and maintenance. The units will be available for occupancy in April 2012.

The Parish has successfully adapted to the shift from 1.0 full time provision of ministry to 0.8 EFT, with a range of members willing and able regularly to share in the leadership of worship

### **SECTION 3 - CONTEXT**

Stratford is basically a rural farming community but the employment base is significantly moulded by the presence of the oil and gas industry, the RAAF base in Sale, the Fulham Correctional Services facility and the huge variety of support services that are in the district. Stratford's proximity to other major centres makes it an attractive dormitory town chosen for its relaxed lifestyle and appreciation of the arts.