



The Fig Tree Project PLACEMENT PROFILE

SECTION 1 – BASIC INFORMATION

- 1.1 Placement name:** Presbytery of Gippsland,
Pelican Ministry Team - vacancy 1.0 FTE
- 1.2 The Pelican ministry team works within the following congregations:**
(bold indicates current vacancy)
Bairnsdale, Bush Fire Recovery Frontier Services Patrol, Johnsonville, Lakes Entrance, Orbost, Paynesville, **Swifts Creek-Frontier Services High Country Remote Area Ministry**, and in connection with the UCA & Anglican Cooperating Parish of Croajingalong (Cann River and Mallacoota).
- 1.3 Profile approved by the Presbytery of Gippsland (delegated to PRC) 10/11/2021**
- 1.4 The Primary purpose of placement:**
To exercise ministry within the Pelican 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 Pelican ministry team has capacity for approximately 5.5 FTE. including the co-operating congregations of Cann River, Genoa and Mallacoota.
The time fraction for each ministry placement is open to negotiation.
- 1.7 Term:** Undefined up to 10 years (see Reg 2.7.3(a)) except for the Bush Fire Recovery role which is defined 3 years.
Ministry within the Pelican 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 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

The Fig Tree Project – Ministry Teams in Gippsland

Purpose of Ministry Teams

Through resourcing, support and leadership of the Presbytery, for ministry agents to:

- work cooperatively and share complimentary ministry, leadership & skills in Ministry Teams in the Presbytery of Gippsland;
- share mission and strategy within and beyond the gathered congregations;
- offer innovative and entrepreneurial ministry across the team
- be the primary pastoral minister for nominated congregations.

Vision and Mission priorities of Ministry Teams

- For each ministry agent to find collegial and Presbytery support within teams
- For ministry agents to embrace a 'common wealth' model of cooperative ministry.
- For mission and strategy to be an ongoing journey of conversation and discernment under the leadership of Resourcing Presbytery ministers.
- To share gifts, skills, and time based on needs and initiatives of ministry offered by the team.

Goals of Ministry Teams

- To love and to know congregations.
- To offer good leadership and support of ministers.
- To discern mission and strategic needs of ministry encompassed by the team
- To work creatively and cooperatively to meet ministry needs with available resources.
- To assist congregations in their mission and strategy.
- To encourage congregations to bless and support where possible emerging and innovative ministry beyond the gathered community.

Resourcing of Teams

- The Presbytery of Gippsland is committed to provide training in team and innovative leadership.

History of The Fig Tree Project and ministry in Gippsland

The Fig Tree Project was endorsed by the Presbytery of Gippsland in May 2019. It was born from the struggle of Mission Areas unable to meet ministry expectations and needs. At its simplest, the Fig Tree Project enables congregations to offer ministry in their own context without the need to combine with other congregations under complex structures. Ministry agents are called to the Presbytery into teams with pastoral responsibility for one or more congregations. The team model offers flexibility and a greater range of ministry gifts and skills.

Swifts Creek - High Country Remote Area Ministry - Frontier Services

6846 Great Alpine Rd, Swifts Creek

SECTION 2 – MISSION DIRECTION

Vision: To offer care, connection and comfort in the context of challenge and isolation, to the people of the High Country.

Goals: To offer care, community support & resilience through relationships, community networks, a presence of ministry and pastoral care and via practical assistance through the Mountains Project and Food Bank.

To continue to nourish people in the faith through the Swifts Creek congregation, mindful of the needs of younger families and children in the district.

To strengthen and grow connections with community groups including the Bush Nursing Centres, Hospital, Police, Schools and Neighbourhood houses.

To grow the relationship with the onsite kindergarten (*UnitingVT*)

In the community, ministry presence through Frontier Services bush chaplaincy is key to growing trust and confidence.

Actions: Good governance of the Mountains Project.

Training of local volunteers to support existing outreach endeavours.

Regular sacramental ministry and discipleship formation.

SECTION 3 - CONTEXT

This is a Frontier Services Remote Area bush chaplaincy to the High Country in Victoria including the towns of Omeo, Ensay, Benambra, Gelantipy and Buchan, the alpine area of Mt Hotham and Dinner Plain and the town and congregation of Swifts Creek. A few small villages dot the area, but many farmers live in the region, in isolated valleys, or perched on high mountain slopes. Services are scarce, even in the tiny townships, and locals bemoan the lack of supportive helping professionals who are able to visit them in their own areas and townships.

Isolation is an issue as many farmers live in places with one road in/out. Families often cannot afford fuel to travel. Many services have been withdrawn in recent years and providers do not have the resources necessary. Long periods of drought and natural disasters continue to be felt even during better times.

Stresses include: Isolation, drought, flood, fire, poverty, lack of services and support.

Significant relationships and connection to local agencies and organisations including Bush Nursing Centre, Bowls club and hospital. There is a small Anglican and Catholic presence with capacity for increased cooperation. Material and pastoral support through the Mountains Project and Food Bank Primary and High Schools, Bush Nursing Centre, Regional hospital, Police & Ambulance, SES, CFA. Bairnsdale UCA offers practical support as needed.

SECTION 2 – MISSION DIRECTION

Bairnsdale is a relaxed, supportive and friendly rural church community and works hard in its existing mission activities with a high pastoral involvement of the congregation. Over the last 5 years we have deepened engagement with young families and community through mission and various media and our ecumenical relationships continue to grow gradually.

Our priorities were adopted 2015 and are ongoing and include; outreach with the Friendship Shed, children and youth ministry, Days for Girls, concerts & recitals, market presence, worship, CFA (Glenaladale), free accommodation to My Time & Play Connect and support of the ecumenical meditation group.

Our goals are to maintain and grow members within the congregation, deepen spiritual faith, continue growing children's and youth programme, encourage ecumenical growth, maintain Hospitality Tent (brand recognition), continue concerts/recitals for community & outer regions, become a central hub within the region and assist goals of Days 4 Girls.

We aim to advertise more visually, and are seeking an energetic minister who run with these goals and think laterally, be open to and encourage ideas, adapt and adopt and.

SECTION 3 - CONTEXT

We are farmers, graziers, market gardeners and fishermen. We have abundant recreation (jet skis, boating, sailing, swimming, water and snow skiing, sport) and a large cultural community (music, arts, drama, recitals, productions), fresh food (vegetables, meats, fish, café culture) and tourism (cycling, caravanning, motor homes, car clubs, touring).

In general terms our congregation represents the local community. Bairnsdale has seasonal visitors from Vanuatu each year who find welcome and support from us.

Our community struggles with drought, inadequate public transport, insufficient psychiatrists and teachers which creates opportunities for professionals. We do not have traffic issues or parking problems. There are many schools, colleges, new estates as we are a regional centre.

We connect by hosting concerts, Messy Church, Op Shop & mission activities, hospitality and social & support groups (Asylum Seekers); Glenaladale CFA, Uniting, chaplaincy support.

In our local community we have 5 primary schools, 3 secondary schools, Special School, 4 aged care facilities, 4 mental health facilities, 1 hospital, 5 medical centres, Uniting playgroup, adoption, fostering and 6 kindergartens. Higher learning includes Federation University, the apprenticeship board, Monash medical & nursing (tertiary) and various job training agencies.

East Gippsland – Frontier Services Remote Area Ministry

SECTION 2 – SCOPE OF MINISTRY

To work across fire affected areas including Cann River and surrounding areas north to the Victorian border, east (up to the Parish of Croajingolong), and west towards but not including Orbost. To work in other towns affected by bushfire as needed (ie. Sarsfield, Gelantipy, Suggan Buggan). Work in areas north into the mountains of Gippsland will need to be done in consultation with the High Country Patrol bush chaplain (Rev. Rowena Harris is in the role but currently on extended sick leave) to ensure complimentary and cooperative ministry.

All ministry in the Presbytery of Gippsland is done in teams for collegial support and support and resourcing of the Presbytery. The attachment on 'The Fig Tree Project' provides more information on the Presbytery's ministry strategy.

To be the face of Frontier Services and the Uniting Church in communities recovering after bushfire.

SECTION 3 - CONTEXT

The Presbytery of Gippsland is working in a cooperative relationship with the Anglican Diocese of Gippsland. In a number of areas we have Uniting-Anglican cooperating congregations, and we remain keen to deepen our ecumenical cooperation in response to the impact of bushfires. An Anglican minister is in placement in the far eastern part of Gippsland (Mallacoota & Genoa) in a cooperating arrangement with the Uniting Church; Bruthen and Buchan are being ministered to through the Anglican Diocese; Uniting Church ministers are in placement at Bairnsdale, Orbost, Lakes Entrance, and in the High Country Frontier Services Patrol (based at Swifts Creek).

Lakes Entrance

Esplanade, Lakes Entrance

SECTION 2 – MISSION DIRECTION

Our Vision: Connecting with God and Community, this was adopted 15-18 years ago. In 2016 we had Intentional Interim ministry that set us on a path towards deliberate renewal and refreshment. Our relationship with Lake Tyers Camp has developed with a history of regular Chapel worship there and staff helping us with our property maintenance. Lakes Entrance and Johnsonville dissolved the parish and Johnsonville may need occasional support from ministers in the Pelican team.

Goals to: maintain worship/hospitality through pastoral care, local services/community groups (making connections with locals & visitors to town), unify members - one congregation, building on connections at toddler gym, building on community connections through the Op Shop.

SECTION 3 - CONTEXT

Lakes Entrance (East Gippsland Shire) is 320 km (4 hrs) east of Melbourne. With mild climate and beautiful coastline, we are Victoria's 'Riviera', a prime tourist area, peaking during holidays. Lakes Entrance is a major centre for commercial & recreational fishing. The UCA owns a Camp and Caravan Park at Lake Tyers (run by the Presbytery of Gippsland). The region draws retirees, seasonal workers and holidaymakers. The population is growing slowly but aging as young people leave for work and further education. There is a high proportion of Indigenous residents. There are good shops and library, cinema, sporting facilities and a wide range of community organisations. There are good health and emergency services (ambulance and fire). The closest hospital is in Bairnsdale. There are childcare, preschool, primary schools and a secondary school in the area. There are service groups, 2 Aged Care facilities and a Surf Life Saving club.

Six denominations support an emergency food service, and share Christmas and Easter services, quarterly services, Ministers' Association and nursing home services. The congregation is similar to the local community (older Anglo). Winter trading can be challenging, real estate is expensive and work opportunities limited. Access to services can be a challenge. We engage the community via Op-shop (bright & friendly) that engages people beyond us and supports local community. Toddler Gym offers contact and engagement. We support a Sister Church in Suaya, Indonesia with prayer & money for students to complete tertiary education. The Church is used by Scripture Union Theos (holiday outreach program) during Dec-Jan. There is also a Young parenting group, support for Days for Girls and Emergency Food relief in the community.

Orbost

St. Andrew's UCA, Browning St.

NB: This is a current vacancy, profile not yet completed and submitted.

SECTION 2 – MISSION DIRECTION

We connect with our community in many ways. "Chat 'n' Chew" is a monthly lunch by donation that attracts up to 60 people; the annual "Flower Show" and fete has extensive community involvement. We cater for funerals, birthdays, weddings etc.; there are social activities and support for people in need.

Goals: increase participation in church activities, offer activities not readily available (dinners, high tea, jazz lunch, concerts), maintain good buildings for community use (family day care, dance, health, parenting), support disadvantaged family (surgery for boy), planned mission and maintenance.

Our congregation has very supportive elders/council and has a core of reliable hard workers. We are open to new ideas, have a concern for community, are enthusiastic ecumenically, have good lay leaders and some transient members, good musicians and a proficient catering group (fine food and hospitality).

SECTION 3 - CONTEXT

Orbost and outlying district has a population of 2493 people (2012), with 175 identifying as UCA. It is a small rural town in far east Gippsland, 375kms from Melbourne. It is a low socio-economic area that has a significant Aboriginal population and a high percentage of single parents and is an aging population.

Paynesville

Langford Parade, Paynesville

NB: information on this page taken from profile dated Dec 2015

SECTION 2 – MISSION DIRECTION

Significant achievements in the past three years include running the Friendship Shed (op shop) 3 days per week, ecumenical meal, church on the water, Easter dawn service, men's breakfast and mainly music.

Goals: Seasonal evening services (film/food), establish fortnightly services in nursing homes, re-establish church on the water, revamp welcome pack.

We are a growing congregation, with people reconnecting with church and new people arriving. Mainly music and the Men's Breakfasts are new initiatives. We've updated our technology and have committed elders and a positive council looking to the future.

SECTION 3 - CONTEXT

Paynesville is a centre for boating/fishing and water activities, engaging in tourism. It has coffee shops and restaurants, new families, retirees, and holiday makers. It also features Raymond Island reserve. The community numbers around 3480 with 222 identifying as UCA (2016). The area is growing and changing in composition.