



## The Fig Tree Project PLACEMENT PROFILE

### SECTION 1 – BASIC INFORMATION

- 1.1 **Placement name:** Presbytery of Gippsland,  
Pelican Ministry Team - vacancy 1.6 FTE
- 1.2 **The Pelican ministry team works within the following congregations:**  
*(bold indicates current vacancy)*  
**Bairnsdale**, Johnsonville, **Lakes Entrance**, Orbost, Paynesville, Swifts Creek-Frontier Services High Country Patrol, 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) .../.../...**
- 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 4.5 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))  
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.

# Bairnsdale

710 Lanes Road, Lucknow

[www.bairnsdaleunitingchurch.weebly.com](http://www.bairnsdaleunitingchurch.weebly.com)

## 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 runs with these goals and thinks laterally, is open to and encourages ideas, adapts and adopts.

## 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.

# 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.