

Ringwood Church of Christ Profile

Mission Statement: *Jesus is central, and people are vital.*

Ringwood Church of Christ is a community of believers that love God, love people and love community. Our services and ministries reflect a wide and generous orthodoxy, and involve people from all walks of life. We see ourselves as bearers of God's grace, truth and love, and value people in all their expressions. We see ourselves as light holders of the gospel, and seek to be the image of Christ through the power of the Spirit in the City of Maroondah.

History: Ringwood Church of Christ's Centenary celebrations were held in June 2019. Our history is about people, and how we have experienced God in both our frailty and our strength over the last century. Mr. Thomas Bagley, the Secretary of the Victorian Home Missions Department, and Mr. Lou Anderson, decided that the Ringwood work – previously begun and closed in the 1870s – should recommence. On 8th June, 1919, the first meeting was held with 12 people in attendance, led by Lou Anderson. The motto was "each one, win one". The church was affiliated with the Victorian Conference in 1920. And in 1921 the original chapel on the current site was built in a day.

The church experienced growth after a stagnant period from the late 1920s until the end of World War II. The church was briefly part of a circuit with the Mitcham Church of Christ in 1939.

During the 1970's the church was roughly 120 members in number. In 1971, the church appointed the first female elder in the Victorian Churches of Christ, Mrs. Dora Nankervill. The church again had a 'first' in Victorian Churches of Christ, with the appointment of a joint husband/wife team as a recognised joint ministry with the calling of Keith and Shirley Ludgater in 1977. A new chapel was also built in 1977, seating 130 people, and by 1983 the church had grown to almost 180 members.

With the ministry of John Sharpe as Senior Minister beginning in 1992, Ringwood experienced a period of steady and significant growth. A major renovation of the buildings occurred during John's ministry, with the current chapel space being opened in 1997. The cramped 10am service was revitalised – the new chapel could fit 300+ people.

After 25 years of ministry, John Sharpe concluded in 2017. Kaye Reid began an Intentional Interim Ministry in November 2017. Kaye was appointed as Senior Minister in March 2019.

The church is multi generational, organic, and generous. It is mission focused, with a strong sense of community and is active in discipling and equipping people for incarnational mission. It currently has an active roll of around 450+ people, with just over 300 members, and an average attendance at the Sunday 10am worship service of 200+ people.

Location and Facilities: The church is located close to the centre of Ringwood (500 metres from Ringwood Railway Station and Eastland Shopping Centre) on 13 Bedford Road, and has an office facility next door that is used by the Ringwood Church of Christ Ministry Team, office staff and church volunteers. We share our facilities with the Emmanuel Christian Church Melbourne, a Chin Burmese Church of Christ church. The pastor of the ECCM Church and his assistant also utilise an office in the office area. The church facilities are heavily utilised all week by both churches along with community groups and hirers. The facilities are in need of updating; we are undertaking a two year process of exploration with regards to an imaginative, adaptive and missional space.

Staffing: Currently, the church employs a:

- Senior Minister
- Preaching/Teaching Minister
- Worship Minister and Assistant
- Associate Minister with Seniors
- Youth Minister
- Kids Church Coordinator
- Mission Coordinator
- Playgroup Coordinator
- Pastoral Care Coordinator and Assistant
- Administration and Communications Manager
- Bookkeeper

And are seeking to employ a Ministry Leader – Community which would include the current Pastoral care staff as part of the Community Ministry team.

Governance: Ringwood Church of Christ is governed by an Eldership, which consists of six to seven members plus the Senior Minister and is supported by the Church Secretary. Decisions are usually made by consensus, and this group meets monthly. Four committees report to the Elders – Finance, Governance and Audit, Facilities, Assets and Risk Management, Pastoral Care and Wellbeing, and Outreach and Mission, along with a HR committee to provide support to the Senior Minister and Elders. Staff report to the Senior Minister, and submit reports to the Eldership quarterly. There is a church constitution that was rewritten in 2013 and is currently being reviewed. The church is affiliated with Churches of Christ in Vic/Tas, and adheres to all policies relevant to our operations. We are currently restructuring our leadership with a newly created strategic role of Director of Ministries, and three key ministry areas of Formation, Community and Mission led by a Ministry Leader for each team.

Church Context: Ringwood is an outer eastern suburb of Melbourne that is experiencing rapid growth and a shifting demographic. The renovation of Eastland as a modern shopping, dining and entertainment hub just opposite the railway station is making Ringwood a popular destination for families and younger people. There are many schools in the local area, and increasingly older housing is being knocked down in favour of units to meet the demands of a growing population.

Ministries: Ringwood Church of Christ has a range of ministries that influence both those who attend regularly and those who would not consider themselves churchgoers.

These ministries include:

- Sunday Services at 8.30am (10–15 people) and 10am (180-220 people)
- Kids Church (during the 10am service)
- Sunday Chat (discipleship for teens during some worship services)
- Youth Group (Friday nights)
- Young Adults
- Holiday Program (Term 2 Holidays)
- Seniors Ministry
- 150+ people in Life Groups
- Oasis Meals (Thursday community lunch for vulnerable and marginalised)
- Playgroups (Tuesdays and Wednesdays)
- Op Shop (Wednesdays and Thursdays)
- Kids Hope (Eastwood Primary School)
- English Conversation Corner (Thursday nights at Eastwood PS)
- Breakfast Club (Monday mornings at Eastwood PS)
- Alpha, Marriage Course and Prayer Course
- Prayer gatherings (weekly and monthly)