

Brief History of the Banyule Network of Uniting Churches

- Oct 2001** **Formation of the South Banyule Network**
Involved irregular meetings between representatives of the Ivanhoe, Heidelberg West, Heidelberg-East Ivanhoe, Arden Crescent & Bellevue Avenue congregations.
- Aug 2003** **Combined Worship Service of the South Banyule Network**
The first time the congregations had worshipped together - held at the Ivanhoe Civic Centre – attended by >200 people
- 2004 - 2005** **La Trobe Network & the Rosanna congregations**
Discussions on the future between the Rosanna congregations of the South Banyule Network & the congregations of the La Trobe Network (Macleod, Watsonia and Bundoora/Kingsbury congregations.)
- Dec 2005** **Letter to Presbytery re: formation of the La Trobe & South Banyule Network**
Arden Crescent, Rosanna Church Council requested Presbytery set up a Steering Committee for the purpose of future strategic planning in the region.
- June 2006** **First meeting of the La Trobe & South Banyule Network Steering Committee**
Preparation of Terms of Reference and a Network Project Brief.
- Oct 2006** **Network-wide Property Audit Performed via Questionnaire**
- Dec 2006** **\$15,000 grant from Presbytery of Yarra Yarra**
- Nov 2007** **Weekend “Future Search” Conference**
Involved >130 people from all congregations over two days of celebration, discernment and planning.
- January 2008** **Network Congregations begin to worship together on every 5th Sunday**
- Mar 2008** **One-day “Future Search Continues” Conference**
A discussion of the progress of Working Groups - involved >90 people.
Cross Generation established as a Network Congregation.
- April 2008** **Formation of Cross Generation Community**
Members of the 5 p.m. Arden Crescent Rosanna congregation began worshipping at the Heidelberg West site as the Cross Generation Community.
- June 2008** **Formation of Network Coordinating Committee (NCC)**
Network Steering Committee was disbanded and the NCC formed - with two elected members from each congregation and all members of the ministry team.

- Nov 2008** **Network Covenanting Service and Workshop**
A worship service with all Network congregations covenanting together under the guidance of the Yarra Yarra Presbytery.
- Dec 2008** **Macleod, Watsonia & Bundoora/Kingsbury Congregations become “Gresswell”**
The four linked congregations become a single congregation worshipping at several locations.
- Jan 2009** **Disbanding of Heidelberg West Congregation**
Members joined other Network congregations.
- Feb 2009** **Sale of Macleod site by Gresswell Congregation**
Former Macleod Uniting Church site sold to Open House.
- March 2009** **Recognition of Cross Generation as a Congregation by Presbytery**
- May 2009** **Fresh Expressions Forum**
250 people attended the forum and details of ‘Future Directions’ paper were discussed. Following the forum, a survey was conducted to prioritise Network mission priorities.
- June 2009** **Network Name Changed to “Banyule Network of Uniting Churches”**
- Sept 2009** **Joint Church Council Proposal**
Discussions commenced regarding the concept of a Joint Church Council.
- Feb 2010** **Appointment of Rev Lauren Mosso**
Lauren Mosso appointed to Heidelberg-East Ivanhoe with part-time responsibility for Network coordination of ministry at the Austin Hospital
- March 2010** **Establishment of Network Youth Group at Heidelberg-East Ivanhoe Uniting Church**
- May 2010** **Network Workshop**
Discussion of Joint Church Council proposal and Network financial arrangements. Establishment of a Joint Settlements Working Group for all ministerial placements within the Network.
- August 2010** **Submission of Application for BOMAR Funding**
Application submitted for funding for a 0.6 position for Network Ministry to Children & Young Families. (Other 0.4 of the position as Resource Minister to Cross Generation – funded by Cross Generation.)
- August 2010** **Approval for Establishment of the Joint Church Council**
All Church Councils approved the setting up of a Network Joint Church Council and congregational Local Leaders Meetings.
- Oct 2010** **Work Commences on Plans for West Heidelberg Community Centre**
Architect employed to work on plans for Community Centre on site of former West Heidelberg Uniting Church.

- Dec 2010** **Application for BOMAR Funding Approved**
Application approved for funding for Network Ministry to Children & Young Families over 5-year period for a total of \$128,656. Funding decreases each year as Network contribution increases.
- March 2011** **Network Service for the Inauguration of Joint Church Council**
Inauguration of the Joint Church Council took place under the auspices of Presbytery and Synod.
- April 2011** **First Meeting of the Network Joint Church Council**