

# Gisborne Church of Christ

a people pursuing encounter with God and relationship with others



## Church Profile 2021

connection | encounter | inclusion | impact | flexibility



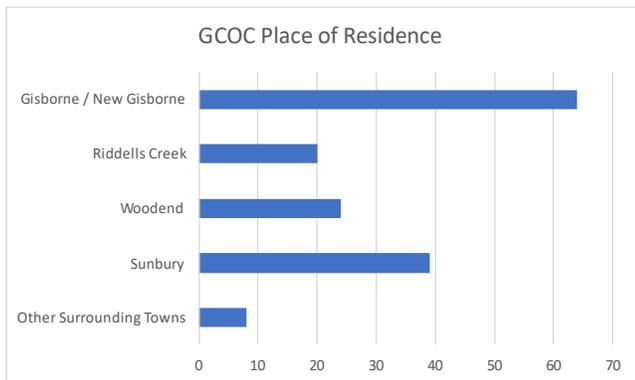
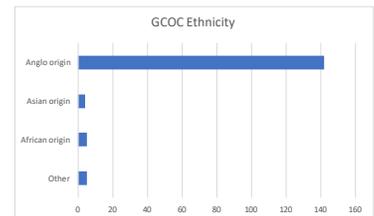
We are a multigenerational church family that has grown to over 150 people, since commencing in 1976. We are based in New Gisborne, 55km from Melbourne's CBD, with a heart to reach the people of the Macedon Ranges. The population of the region is about 51,000, with an estimated one third living on rural properties. Gisborne, the largest town, is home to about 14,700 people. The region is growing, expecting an increase of 28% in the next 15 years, with Gisborne itself tipped to grow by 39%.



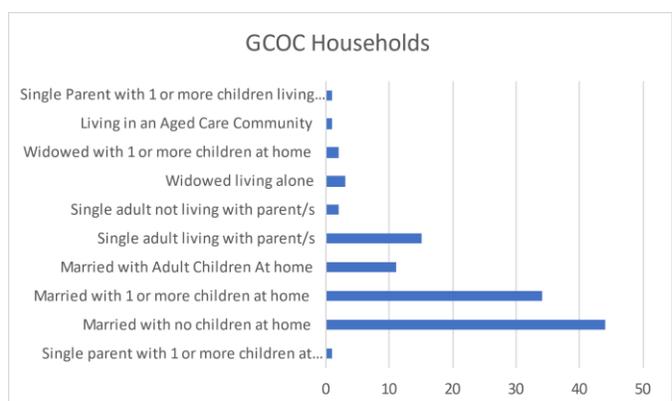
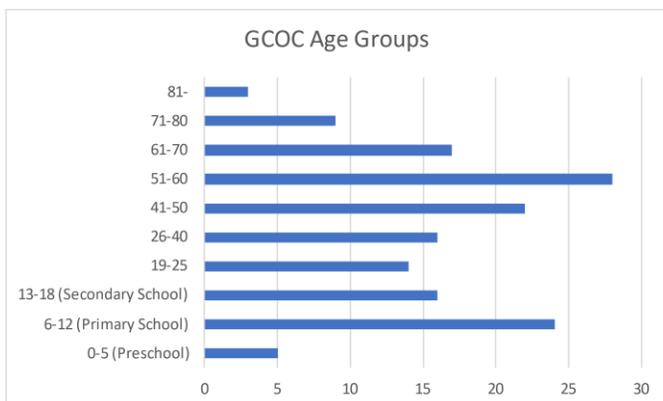
Gisborne features four supermarkets, several café's, hairdressers, beauty and small specialty shops. Relative to other Victorian regions, Macedon Ranges has an above average number of families with children in school. There are five primary schools, with a sixth under development, and one Secondary School in Gisborne. Students also commute to private secondary schools located in Woodend, Kyneton, and Sunbury. Many residents commute to Melbourne and Melbourne Airport for work. The railway station is located near our property in New Gisborne, itself a rapidly developing area.

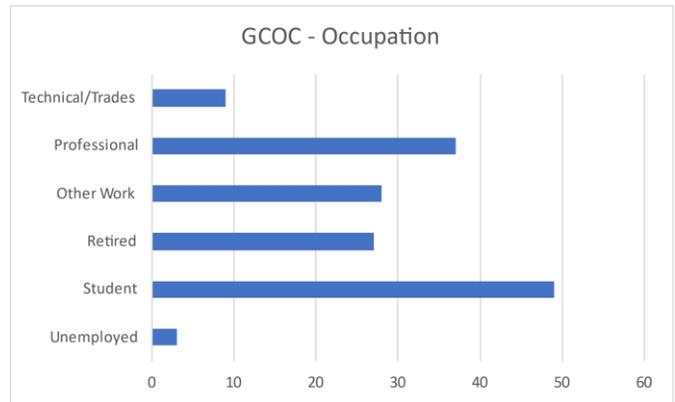
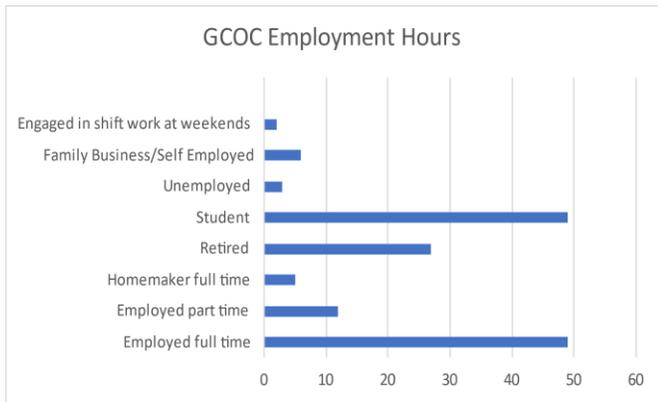
Our Worship Gatherings are relaxed and inclusive. Services are held every Sunday morning and every second Sunday evening. We encourage participation by all age groups through involvement in our worship team, leading communion, sharing testimonies, and preaching. Our congregation includes many passionate musicians and singers who facilitate meaningful and moving worship experiences that feature a blend of contemporary songs. The band is drawn from all age groups with instruments including keyboard, guitar, bass, drums, violin, and mandolin. There are opportunities for individuals to receive prayer ministry as needs arise.

Our Congregation, mainly of Anglo origin, consists predominantly of families with teenagers and primary age children, adult children living at home, and retired couples. The majority are students or employed in professional, trade, or other work.



Our numbers include people from the regional communities of Gisborne, Riddells Creek, Woodend, Macedon, and Romsey, as well as from Sunbury on Melbourne's outskirts.





Our current ministries include Sunday morning Kid's Program, Youth Group, Young Adults Group, Pastoral Care, Care Groups, Scout Group, Community Garden, Worship Team, Youth Band, Missions Team, weekly Prayer Meetings, Residential Aged Care Visitation, and participation in Victorian Council of Churches Emergency Ministry. In recent times we have run 24/7 Prayer Course, Alpha and the Alpha Marriage Course.

We are outward looking with a strong desire to impact our community and an enthusiastic mission team that facilitates our support of several ministries in Australia and around the world.

Our property features a spacious auditorium, commercial kitchen, adequate parking, wheelchair access, air conditioning, comfortable seating, designated areas for children's ministry, community garden, scout hut, outdoor stage, and office area. There is plenty of space to run ministry programs, and to accommodate significant increase in numbers. The property is available for use by community organizations at affordable rates.

We are affiliated with CCVT (Churches of Christ in Victoria and Tasmania), through the 2017 Affinity 2 Affiliation Agreement, and are aligned with its Purpose Statement, Shared Values, Collective Statements and Renewal Indicators.

Our overall leadership is vested in the Oversight Team, comprising the Ministry Team Leader and Elders and is responsible for spiritual leadership, teaching, and care. Elders are appointed by the existing oversight for a maximum of two two-year terms before taking a minimum one-year break. The Administration team is appointed by and accountable to the Oversight Team and manages finances, property, and correspondence, delegating some matters to employed and volunteer staff. The Ministry Team is led by the Ministry Team Leader, and includes an Associate Minister for Discipleship and Care, Youth and Young Adults' Coordinator (currently vacant), Operations Manager and Communications Assistant. A full explanation of our leadership and governance is presented in the Gisborne Church of Christ Constitution.

What we're about and where we're headed.

**We Are:**           **A people pursuing encounter with God and relationship with others.**

**We Value:**

- Connection:**   nurturing a strong and unifying family feeling expressed in personal support and acceptance.
- Encounter:**    facilitating spiritual engagement expressed in Spirit-led worship, bible teaching and prayer emphasis.
- Inclusion:**      employing a permission-giving and inclusive approach to involvement in ministry.
- Impact:**       cultivating an outward-looking attitude expressed in concern for the community and world missions.
- Flexibility:**   having a willingness to take steps of faith demonstrated in embracing change and development.

**Our Future:**   **We desire** to engage in a season of transformational growth, building on the existing strengths embedded in our congregational DNA, experimenting with ways of interfacing with our changing culture, and exploring opportunities for deepening Holy Spirit engagement in all areas of life and ministry.

During 2021 we conducted an Intentional Interim Ministry process including reflection on our identity and preparation for a new season of ministry. We identified several areas where we expect incoming leadership will introduce fresh ideas and facilitate growth and development.

- Shared Leadership - we are seeking a leader to work collaboratively with staff and volunteers in affirming current leadership, encouraging leadership development, and empowering all to fulfil their God-given potential.
- Small Groups - we are eager to see the value we place on discipleship and community find expression in small group ministry as places of pastoral care, personal growth, supporting relationships, mission, and ministry of the Spirit.
- Holy Spirit Engagement - we deeply desire to further develop the value we place on Spirit-led worship experiences and prayer, pursuing richer encounter with God, and bringing greater emphasis and opportunity for spiritual gift discovery and development.
- Community Outreach - we are believing that our outward-looking attitude and love for the people of our region, can be developed in ways that result in more people coming to faith, through experimenting with new and different approaches that reach others.

We are seeking a Ministry Team Leader to facilitate these next steps. The role is outlined in our Ministry Team Leader Profile, available in response to expressions of interest, from CCVT Communities Team Leader Michael Vanderree at [mvanderree@churchesofchrist.org.au](mailto:mvanderree@churchesofchrist.org.au).

**Gisborne Church of Christ**

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