



Transforming our community in the Name of Jesus

Present. Authentic. Courageous. Generous.



Church Profile 2024

Horsham Church of Christ is located in the heart of the Wimmera, with a heartbeat to transform our community in the Name of Jesus.

Who we are

Established in 1897, Horsham Church of Christ is part of the larger Churches of Christ movement in Australia and affiliated with Churches of Christ in Victoria/Tasmania and have adopted their affinity statement and other procedures and policies for responsible leadership and codes of practise for child safety.

We are minister led, supported by a ministry team, part-time operations manager and administration staff, run by multiple teams of volunteers and all overseen by a board of Elders.

In 2018 we moved into new premises at River Road - a purpose-built Ministry Centre with a main auditorium capable of seating 500 plus a smaller auditorium, several meeting rooms, a large foyer/gathering space, café servery and commercial sized kitchen. There is also an administration wing with 5 offices, large reception and meeting room.

In line with our mission to Transform Our Community in the Name of Jesus, our hope has been to demonstrate Kingdom hospitality by serving the wider community, hosting events for education and training conferences, school graduations, performances, funerals and other activities at affordable rates. We continue to bless and serve our community providing a space like no other in the Wimmera, with a host team who are generous, attentive and caring.

Rural Locale

The Wimmera region is known for its breathtaking landscapes, rich agricultural heritage, and strong sense of community. Horsham, the regional hub, offers a welcoming and friendly atmosphere, making it an ideal place to live, work, and worship.

With a population of just over 20,000, Horsham is the heart of the Wimmera, located beside the Wimmera River and is vital in servicing an additional 30,000 regional residents for health and medical services, agricultural supplies, retail, schooling, arts and recreation. Sport features significantly in the community with high levels of participation in football, netball, cricket, tennis and basketball.

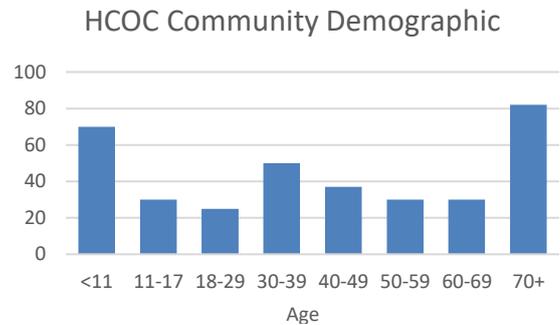
Horsham serves as a tourist base for local attractions including world-renowned rock climbing site Mt Arapiles; Silo Art Trail; Murtoa Stick Shed; and the many lakes, rivers and national parks including the Grampians and Little Desert National Park.

Major sectors of employment include health care, agriculture, retail, construction and education. A strong sense of community is evident with voluntary work participation by residents that is higher than the average for regional Victoria.



Community

Horsham Church of Christ connects regularly with approximately 350 in community via Sunday gathering and other weekly programs. Our congregation is predominantly Australian born, with a high proportion of married couples, young families and retirees. Most live locally, but many also commute from properties and towns in all directions.



Our weekly Sunday service is a time of gathering together to worship in song, communion, prayer and a Biblically-based sermon, followed by fellowship over morning tea. Our services are live-streamed to provide content and connection for those unable to attend for reasons including distance and illness.

An active, primary-school aged program RIVERkids runs each Sunday during the sermon over school terms. RIVERyouth is for secondary aged students and operates during school terms on Friday nights. Additional weekly ministries include Mainly Music and Crafty Friends. A Young Adults group is currently gaining momentum along with One Heart; an outreach supporting local migrants. Upper Class for those aged 55+ is a monthly connection group, and MealBox partners with the local Christian Emergency Food Centre supplying healthy home-cooked meals once a month.

We support and encourage connection in Life Groups as a place of pastoral care and spiritual growth. Recent courses offered to our congregation included Emotionally Healthy Spirituality, Emotionally Healthy Relationships, Love After Marriage, and most current is the Ripple Effect (City to City).

The church strongly supports an inter-denominational team who run a family program for the city called Operation 19:14 inspired by Matthew 19:14 which attracts more than 1500 children along with parents and carers, and presents Jesus in a fun, free and accessible way.

Horsham also hosts a local Christmas carols evening at the town soundshell in Sawyer Park to which the various churches provide leadership on the organising committee.

Globally, Horsham Church of Christ has a rich tradition of supporting the spread of the gospel to the ends of the earth. Currently we partner with multiple families working locally and overseas with Wycliffe Bible Translators, two families with Pioneers, and support the work of Open Doors and Empart.

Team

Our current Ministry Team and staff structure comprises; Senior Pastor; Associate Pastor (Worship and Discipleship); Emerging Generations Pastor; Operations Manager; two part-time administration staff and a part-time Events Coordinator.

Oversight of the Horsham Church of Christ is by appointed Elders alongside the Senior Pastor. The Senior Pastor, supported by the ministry team, is responsible for the spiritual leadership, teaching and care of our community. The Operations Manager is supported by an advisory subgroup (Finance Management Group) to oversee the church finances and provide recommendations to the Senior Pastor, Ministry Team and Elders.

Many other volunteers serve in various capacities across the church. The Worship team is overseen by the Associate pastor with others including a music director, worship leaders, singers, musicians and tech team. There is a pastoral care team under the guidance of the Senior Pastor and a grounds/building maintenance crew overseen by the Operations Manager. The Events Coordinator works closely with the Operations Manager and is assisted by volunteers as required.

Mission

We are committed to Transforming Our Community in the Name of Jesus.

Our desire is to encounter Jesus and be transformed; when we follow Jesus, He changes how we view and respond to our everyday way of life; the way we think, our priorities and our way of life is transformed. As we allow Jesus to transform us, the ripple will be felt in the relationships we share with others in our local and global community.

We value being *Present, Authentic, Courageous and Generous*.

Present – Entering God’s presence; through His Word, worship and prayer. Being people of peace, actively engaged and participating in our communities.

Authentic – Expressing our questions, doubts, joys and confession to God. Entering meaningful conversations, listening, sharing our journeys with those around us.

Courageous – Living in obedience to the heart and calling of God, declaring Jesus as Lord over every area of life and responding to the leading of the Holy Spirit. Sharing our encounter and witness of Jesus to those around us.

Generous – Recognising all we have is from and belongs to God; our time, finances and resources. Living with a grateful heart and actively expressing the love of Jesus as stewards of the Father’s resources.

Vision

As God continues building His Church, we pursue relationship and alignment with Him;

Making Disciples - To continue to create pathways to encourage faith in living everyday as followers of Jesus. Equip and empower people who make disciples and engage with our community to see God’s Kingdom come here in the Wimmera as it is in heaven.

Kingdom Culture – Commit to encouraging and praying for one another, growing and maturing together as followers of Jesus, being intentional in developing relationships in our community that reflect the justice, mercy, grace and love of God.

Mission Partnerships - To support ongoing local and global mission partners and identify opportunities to raise up and send out people into new areas of calling.

Release Resources – Identify and encourage people’s giftings to serve the body of Christ and the wider community. Creatively use the Ministry Centre and develop our remaining land as part of our mission in the local community.

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