

PRESENTATION FAMILY CENTRE

# Annual Report



# 2018-19



**PRESENTATION**

# **FAMILY CENTRE**

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## About Us

Presentation Family Centre (PFC) is a not for profit centre established under the auspices of the Presentation Sisters of Victoria.

We aim to provide a welcoming and peaceful retreat for families and carers in need of a break. Located on the beautiful Mornington Peninsula, PFC is a relaxing space for families and individuals to renew body and soul.

We have six houses on our site near Balnarring Beach, which are used throughout the year by individuals, groups and families. The majority of the guests are referred by welfare agencies or schools. Over 100 agencies have referred people to this service and well over 30,000 people have participated in the program since it started in 1989.

PFC also provide holiday program activities in our NanoSpace, a recreation space at the back of our property, where families can participate in cookery workshops, gardening and art and craft, supported by staff and volunteers.

Our service is evolving and we continue to look for new ways to support and connect families and individuals with each other, and with the activities and beautiful environment of the Mornington Peninsula.



# History

Presentation Sisters are a religious community founded in Cork, Ireland in 1775 by Nano Nagle to provide education and outreach to Ireland's poor. The Presentation Sisters arrived in Victoria in 1873 and established schools and services that delivered excellence in education and care, respectful and inclusive of culture and tradition.

During the late 1970's and 1980's, Presentation Sisters made the decision to serve families in a new way, providing family holidays with focused family time and parental support. The welcome, compassion and creativity shown by the Sisters' founder, Nano Nagle, provided inspiration for this outreach to families in need.

The sale of O'Neill College in Elsternwick enabled the Sisters to purchase a 43-acre farm property. Six houses, play facilities and a multi-purpose centre were built, and PFC (then known as Presentation Family Holidays) opened for the summer of 1989/90.

Until the end of 2008, the Centre was under the management of resident Sisters. Since 2009, the Centre has been managed by lay staff. Recognising the need to ensure PFC and other Presentation ministries continue to flourish, the Presentation Sisters handed governance of the Presentation Family Centre to Kildare Ministries. This handover was completed in 2017.



## Governance

PFC is an incorporated association governed by a Board of Directors, appointed by Trustees of Kildare Ministries.

Kildare Ministries mission is *"Responding to the changing needs of our world, we strive to build inclusive communities, through the provision of education and community works."* Kildare Ministries are guided by the values of *wonder, courage, hospitality, hope, compassion and justice.*

The Presentation Family Centre is one of three Kildare Ministries Community Works, along with Wellsprings for Women in Dandenong, and the Brigidine Asylum Seeker Project.



Kildare Ministries Trustees

Back Row L-R: Anne Astin, Kathy McEvoy, Maree Marsh csb (Co-Chair)  
Front Row: L-R Vicki Ward, Rosemary Copeland (Co-Chair), Brigid Arthur csb.

## Board



Presentation Family Centre Board (L-R): Claire Thorn, Rachel Connor (Chair), Phillip Steele, Christine Barren, (Not Pictured: Ian Urquhart, Secretary)

## Staff



General Manager: Lisa Gray, pictured. (Appointed March 2019)

Operations Manager: Ishti Griffiths (until November 2018)

Administrator: Melinda Power

## Supporters - Donors and Volunteers

We are grateful for the generous contribution of our donors and volunteers without whom we could not offer our service. Many are long term supporters of PFC. This year, we have been provided with financial support by way of cash donations, gifts and donations in kind. We have received hundreds of hours of volunteer effort. We are so thankful for this ongoing support and would like to acknowledge:

### Donors

Toni Kaye Foundation

Mornington Peninsula Foundation

Anglican Parish of Flinders with Balnarring

Flinders District Lions Club

Red Hill District Lions Club

Rae and Peter Gunn Family Foundation

Flinders Golf Club

O'Neil Collage

Marian College

Gandel Philanthropy

Star of the Sea College

Bendigo Bank Balnarring

Ian Urquhart

Robert and Marie Fels

St Mary's Primary School Williamston

Balnarring Village Co op

Presentation Sisters Victoria

Jeanie Crowe

Sylvia Falzon

### Volunteers

Merrin Munroe

Margaret Maher

Bill Grant

Dani Swindlehurst

Rex Swindlehurst

Betty Dorward

Marie Hall

Sister Mary Keogh

Marian Crawford

Judy Hannon

Christine Barren

Jan Roach

Libby Reid

Merilyn Taylor

Rachel Connor

Kiniki Stirling

Phillip Steele

Karen Tilley

Rod Harding

Margaret Gartner

Judy Jack

Pat Matson

Aileen Travers

Rick Owen

Donna Thompson

Lisa Elliott

David Corduff

Anne Marie Dyer

Sandra Whale

# Chairperson's Report

Welcome to the 2018-19 annual report. I would like to thank the many people who have worked, volunteered, donated, and partnered with PFC this year, helping us to provide our service to over one thousand guests.

We continue to hold the vision of the Presentation Sisters firmly in mind as we improve and grow our service. We have welcomed the support and encouragement we have received from Kildare Ministries in this endeavour.

This year we embarked on an upgrade of the interior of all six houses, undertaking significant interior repairs and maintenance, painting dado walls, purchasing new furnishings in all houses and replacing crockery and cooking equipment. Our aims were to carefully maintain our houses to ensure longevity and to reinvigorate our houses to provide modern, restful, and beautiful space for families.

PFC introduced a new, simplified pricing structure with a view to remaining accessible to guests, whilst ensuring we have the capacity to improve and grow our service. We continue to support families who cannot fund a holiday on their own.

We rely on the support of generous donors to improve our houses and site, and to fund family holidays. Our donors often give quietly, but their commitment over many years speaks volumes. Thank you.

We are expanding our use of the activity centre, renamed the NanoSpace after the founder of the Presentation Sisters, Nano Nagle. The NanoSpace is available for separate use and hire by the community for activities that fit with the overall ethos of PFC.

We continue to more fully utilise our houses and the NanoSpace, with a focus on building partnerships with referrers, and developing programs that offer an exceptional experience for our guests.

Rachel Connor  
Chairperson

# General Manager's Reflections

Since joining presentation Family Centre in March 2019 there have been some wonderful changes both from a residential perspective and improving the standard of the cottages as well as working with the board to diversify the opportunities for PFC to become greatly connected within the community.

I have met some wonderful new people who are deeply committed to the cause of PFC in providing affordable respite and a welcoming and nurturing environment for guests.

I am looking forward to continuing this journey of growth and expansion whilst embracing the important ethos which PFC was founded upon.

There will be many opportunities to bring both the old and the new together. It is important to never lose sight of the significant commitment made by the original Presentation Sisters in establishing PFC and to ensure the future pays homage to the wonderful work of the past.

I look forward to working with the board, Kildare Ministries, Presentation Sisters and the many wonderful volunteers who have provided countless hours of dedication and commitment to the many guests who have visited or stayed with us during the past 30 years.

The future is looking very bright indeed.

Lisa Gray  
General Manager

# The Year - A Snapshot



In 2018-2019:

- PFC welcomed 1472 guests;
- the majority of guests were women (619) and children (490);
- 363 were men;
- we received referrals\* from over 35 agencies including Berry Street, Good Shepard Youth and Family Services, Statewide Autistic Services and SCOPE;
- we hosted a range of school groups including Marian College in Sunshine West, Presentation College Windsor, St Josephs Echuca, Kilbreda College, St Josephs Crib Point, Coolaroo Primary School, Stella Maris Catholic School;
- we held school holiday programs which included activities such as cooking workshops, art programs, gardening activities, sewing, pizza nights, movie nights;
- we painted the interior of 6 houses;
- replaced the carpet with hard flooring in 3 cottages;
- refitted all 6 houses with new furniture;
- cleaned and refitted the front office to provide a couch, and chairs and table for guests;
- replaced the fence around house 6 with a rock wall;
- painted the outside of house 1;
- painted the front fence;
- conducted a significant repair and maintenance program across all houses;
- acquired 3 vegie boxes for the front of the office.

\*Our guests are usually referred by agencies or schools. This helps us to know that we are providing for guests in need, and it may provide an additional avenue of support for guests if required.

