**Annual General Meeting 2018**

What an exciting year we have had as a team? The Shop has prospered both in an increase in income and building relationships with customers and fellow team members. Ian and Alison enjoyed a month in Ukraine reconnecting with young people and older ones who have received our support over the years.

We have contributed to **local community life** by supporting the Chamber of Commerce promotions, Donald P & A Society (Show), Christmas Hampers, Carols by Candlelight, families in need, Kids Holiday club, Donald Hospital, Donald Recreational Reserve (Renovations), Community Car, MOPS, Royal Children’s Hospital, Salvation Army SW Fire Appeal, outdoor Defibrillator, Donald Ambulance, Donald Community Centre with hygiene bags, Prison Fellowship Angel Tree appeal, Care for Ger Appeal and camp fees for our local children to attend summer and Easter camps.

Our **overseas donations** have gone to our Ukrainian students, refugee families, Christian Ethics program in the schools and a 20foot container of humanitarian aid. The container arrived in Odessa at the end of December and caused angst re the paperwork but the problem was overcome and the goods were released for distribution in Sumy by the end of January.

We have decided that the container sent in November was the last one as it will ease the responsibility on Alison. This decision was confirmed as the right one when Ian and Alison arrived in Sumy, UKR and heard the need for secondhand clothes has eased. The greater need is for a small pool of money for Anna Katsova to draw on when families ask for help. We have continued to support Yermia Wekes, Compassion child in Indonesia and a Leprosy Mission Community Health Officer in Timor Leste. We have sent boxes of handknits to Danya Hospital in Niger.

We enjoyed our **Bus Tour** in September to Dunolly, Maryborough, Maldon, Bridgewater, Inglewood, with Russell Brigden driving. It was a lovely day weather wise and the scenery was beautiful.

**Work for the Dole program** has been renewed, enabling Mark Beattie to continue working on the team. We appreciate his support and being able to depend on him opening the shop and helping with numerous tasks. He is a valued member of the volunteers who work both behind the scenes and behind the counter. Thank you Mark.

**Excess clothes** in the Shop are being packed and picked up by the St Vinnies men coming from St Arnaud. It is encouraging that these clothes are being passed onto shops that need them rather to `mattress ticking’ or landfill. Thank you to Carrie for organising this arrangement.

**Youth Works account** has been opened through the past year. It is intended to add to it from time to time. It is to support the Youth Group with their activities and other young people’s needs that may rise from time to time.

**Disbursing the tasks** in organising the Shop and the Fund – Alison being away for 6 weeks indicates how well the Shop runs when each member of the team has a turn of being away and other members cover for them. We will continue to encourage members of the team to take up various responsibilities that are involved in organising this group.

**Students:**

**Thank you** Jackie Warren for joining the team, we love having you on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings, thank you to Audrey who has a lesser role these days but is welcome as friend, thank you to Lorraine who is greatly missed, one day we hope to welcome you back on team. Thank you Anne, Sally, Dorothy, Dot, Jan, Jenni, Jenny, Josie, Kay, Leonie, Margaret, Mark, Mary, Shirley, Verna and Max.

***`Rejoice greatly in the Lord always, I will say it again Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all’ – Phil 4; 4&5***

**President:** Carrie Pearse

**Secretary:** Alison McEwen

**Treasurer:** Yvonne Lavell