



A Year of Events

Reflection by Mieke Bell.

2021, a year of lockdowns, lockouts, and changed ways of operating at the Winsome! In the week before the February flood, the management team had decided to fully open the Winsome again, and offer sit down meals only. We were all looking forward to operating as we did pre COVID.

Then came the event which rocked all of Lismore, and many surrounding towns. Thankfully, we were able to evacuate all residents on Sunday night, and we ran our own evacuation centre at a church hall in Rous Road, Goonellabah. Four weeks later, the residents were back at the evacuation centre. My thanks to all of the volunteers who helped to look after the residents!

The ground floor only was flooded, right up to the ceiling, and thankfully not the first and second floors, so as soon as the flood water receded, residents returned to the Winsome.

At this time, the Winsome is still being "reconstructed", and other contributors to this newsletter will no doubt describe the destruction and reconstruction more fully! I have been grateful for the Koori Kitchen and Trees Not Bombs people, who

have provided daily meals for many people in Lismore, including our regular patrons. This has enabled us to fully concentrate on getting the Winsome flood ready.

Thankyou to all volunteers who have helped at the Winsome, and indeed at other community hubs, helping to provide food and support to many Lismore residents. We look forward to returning the Winsome to the community as soon as possible!!

The Winsome community wishes to acknowledge any of our supporters who have been affected by the floods, and wish you all the best in the months ahead. These floods have brought out the best in our community, we have experienced that! May we all move forward strengthened by hope, and the many acts of kindness that we have witnessed.

With sincere thanks to our supporters, and our wonderful volunteers.

Mieke

President

Lismore Soup Kitchen at the Winsome



During the flood evacuation in late February, our winsome verandah became a drop off spot whilst people waited for larger boats to ferry them across the river to safety.

July 2022

The Lismore Soup Kitchen

11 Bridge St
North Lismore 2480

PO Box 6045
South Lismore 2480

Website
www.winsome.org.au

[facebook.com/
lismorewinsome](https://facebook.com/lismorewinsome)

Donations:
winsome.org.au/donate



one of our amazing team with the freshly renewed door frame - post flood repairs

The
Winsome
a Friendly & Vibrant
Community

Treasurer's Report 2022

It is hard to know where to start the treasurer's report this year, as it has been an extraordinary year as far as Lismore goes, and as far as the Winsome and Soup Kitchen are concerned. With two major floods and significant damage to both the Winsome and Mazzer House, the need for funds to repair and restore those two properties owned by the Winsome has been significant.

Of the two, once the clean out was finished and the gyprock was taken from walls, and in some cases the ceilings, it became clear that the restoration of the Winsome was our priority as far as these two are concerned, in order to be able to meet the needs of people in the community for food and the various services provided day to day at the Winsome.

At the same time, we saw the need to help people get back into their own homes as a priority, and thus a "Building Task Force" gradually became a reality. Steve Smith headed up the day to day project management, and a number of tradesmen offered to join, including builders, a painter, a gyprock tradie, a brickie and some labourers to assist. We were aware that volunteers can only do so much in the restoration, and that most of them had their own mortgages to pay, so we agreed to pay them all from the funds that have come in to assist. We have found that many people have wanted to donate and make sure that the money is going to help people into homes, rather than to administration, travel or other auxiliary expenses. We have guaranteed to be transparent with the funds and that they will be used for restoration and getting people into homes, which on a few occasions has meant paying for a caravan to be delivered to their home to provide a temporary home whilst their own home is repaired. The

"Pie Chart" on the Winsome website www.winsome.org.au indicates a breakdown of where the money is being spent, and the priorities.

We had been in discussion with Bishop Greg Homeming of the Lismore Catholic Diocese regarding the need to be looking at food security issues in Lismore, when we heard that the Food Hub in Wyrallah Road was closing down, due to a lack of funding. After some discussion and planning, we made the decision to work together and jointly fund the venture for at least the next 12 months and to reassess it then. The new centre is located at 51 Wyrallah Road East Lismore and is now known as "The Good Pantry." The aim will be to access food from FoodBank and make it available to needy people at a minimum cost.

We have been blessed with the generosity of the community, both locally, nationally and even some international gifts, and take seriously our responsibility to be good stewards of this money.

I have been fortunate this year to have had the tremendous support from the Assistant Treasurer, Pastor Ian Phillips, as it has taken much of our time, not only in learning the new Xero accounting system, but also in the bookwork involved in managing the building taskforce and other Winsome accounting priorities.



Ridley Bell (Treasurer)

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Various teams worked tirelessly in the initial post-flood clean-ups. We are so grateful for everyone's help and support



*"Leanne, doing her nails"
The ceiling in the bar had to be removed, and every nail in the existing frame, removed*

From Sharon, our Kitchen Coordinator

Thank you to EVERYONE who has helped clean and remove flood damaged items and clean again. Plus thank you to those who have donated and I'm sure some of you have donated more than once. The support has been overwhelming and very helpful. Two major floods in a month and February 28th was a real nightmare for most of us. It's encouraging and uplifting to have help from near and far and it's been helpful to have people on the ground doing the work needed and being sensitive to those affected.



I am very thankful to Koori Kitchen, Trees Not Bombs and other organisations stepping up and providing meals and donations to those who lost everything. Most homes are still without working kitchens so the need to provide meals and connect with one another is still very relevant. The Winsome Kitchen and Cafe will be rebuilt with water resilient materials. The new coffee grinder was saved and we will purchase a second hand coffee machine. Caddies Coffee & Tea is not going to reopen so I will be looking for a new coffee bean company. We have so enjoyed Caddies Coffee and appreciated their support.

A new bar will be designed to have two entrances on either side for easy access to the serving window that we used during Covid-19 practices.

The Cafe's ceiling was damaged in the February flood and we are using this opportunity to install ceiling fans and beautiful pendant lights. This photo shows the back wall in the Cafe behind the bar. The floor was ripped out due to evidence of rotting floorboards from previous floods, the bar also had to be removed.



The new floor will be tiles on top of Villaboard. This will also be installed in the kitchen.

We are so looking forward to opening again and providing much needed meals for our community and a space for them to feel welcome and listened to.

Thank you everyone again for your donations, prayers, and effort you all have contributed to help the Winsome get this far.

Sharon Dwyer



Sistine Steve. Almost an artwork whilst fixing the stage/music room. One really hard piece of plaster—won't budge

Steve Smith – 2022 LSK ANNUAL REPORT

It has certainly been an eventful year in the life of the Winsome. From pandemic to pandemonium it seems!

The recovery and reconstruction projects after the historic floods of February/March have largely dominated 2022. So many people have contributed to this epic effort in a myriad of ways. From making sandwiches, delivering coffees or lunches or dropping off supplies. From lifting, hosing, heaving, barrowing, shovelling, scrubbing, scraping, sweeping, mopping, chipping, demolishing or repairing, contributing funds or giving encouragement, sharing good cheer or just staying engaged with us! We thank every single person for your contribution and ongoing support & eagerly look forward to becoming fully functional once again & welcoming back volunteers and patrons alike!

With the incredibly generous donations received through our Flood Recovery Appeal, we are well on our way to complete the reconstruction of The Winsome, Mazzer House and 10 or so other projects to assist people return to their flood affected homes. We were also able to partner with another charity who coordinated tradespeople to conduct repairs in another 4 homes while we managed the supply of building materials.

I am very grateful to the incredible tradespeople and labourers who have joined our reconstruction team – Brad our visionary Team Leader, Brendan, Matt, Leigh, Tim, Matthew, Luke, Marco, Nathan, Jessie, Charlie, Lindsay, Mick, Paul & Sharon. Plus our long-time specialist Tradesmen Dave, Geoff & Matty, Todd & Lachie and Stuart.

As hard as it is to recall, some other good things happened at The Winsome this past year before we were rudely interrupted by a large deluge of water

Orange Sky: mobile laundry commenced regular visits. This became a popular service enabling patrons to have clothes washed, dried & have a hot shower. Together with accessing our clothing pool & other supplies, patrons could be fitted out with a whole fresh outfit of clean clothes, shoes, bedding and personal hygiene items.

Inclusion: We contributed to the development of a Disability Inclusion Plan being formulated by Lismore City Council. The plan is to make our local community more aware of people with diverse needs and more proactive in making our community accepting, safe and inclusive. These needs could include mental illness, physical or intellectual disability, acquired brain injury, trauma or substance related disorders or other life challenges which contribute to social disadvantage.

Census: We were poised to assist the Australian Bureau of Statistics conduct the Census count of people sleeping rough in Lismore. However, we were

plunged into a COVID lockdown in the week prior which threw a spanner in the works, and so the ABS had to collect data from other sources.

‘Everybody Needs A Home’ campaign launched in National Homelessness Week in 2021 calling on State and Federal governments to invest in Social Housing to help end homelessness. We added our name to a long list of homelessness support services and agencies to strengthen this call.

‘End Street Sleeping Collaboration’ is a growing grass-roots network of local government councils, non-government agencies, charities & frontline services working together to end street sleeping. The Winsome has connected with this initiative and is poised to take a key role as it develops locally. It has extended from Sydney CBD to Byron then Tweed and hopefully will incorporate Lismore in the future. By getting involved, we can advocate strongly to attract this collaboration to our town and be in a partnership with other agencies in a cohesive and coordinated approach.

‘Homelessness NSW’ is the peak body advocating for homelessness at the State level. The LSK became a member alongside organisations who deliver frontline services like The Wayside Chapel in Kings Cross, St. Vincent de Paul (who run Mary’s Place in Ballina, Fred’s Place in Tweed, Pete’s Place in Coffs Harbour) and also local funded agencies Social Futures, Momentum Collective, Northern Rivers Community Gateway plus over 200 others across NSW.

Many patrons have been supported to access services to improve their life circumstances in housing, mental health, general health, substance use or other complex challenges in their lives. In just one example, strong advocacy by our team resulted in one person eventually receiving high-level intervention & care including longer-term management of their mental illness. This kind of outcome reinforces the importance of the Winsome’s role in providing an essential service to the disadvantaged community and a vital link for vulnerable people.

Warm regards,
Steve Smith
(Day Manager / Night Manager / Committee member)



The Painting

There is a great stylised painting of ‘The Winsome’ by local artist Cathy Allen that for several years has had pride of place just outside our kitchen door at the back of The Winsome. With the way the water levels were, the painting would have gone underwater and floated away during the flood event.

After the flood one of our friends spotted it propped up on the bridge over Leycester Creek as he was helping in Lismore’s initial post flood clean. There was also a cow on the bridge, but that’s another story. There doesn’t seem to be a mark on the painting. No sign of flood mud, and no water damage. Quite remarkable really— and if it had ever been seen or thought of again, it would have been more likely to have arrived downstream in Coraki or Ballina.

The rescued painting made it’s home in our temporary evacuation centre whilst we were there, and served as a reminder to several of us that “*all is not lost*”.

*Ian Phillips
Winsome Chaplain*



In this space, once stood a shed

In the absence of a “music room”, we recently found this outdoor space.

The old stables which stood in this place were historic, and were destroyed by the flood. After the water subsided, the shed was on it’s side close to the bridge, and irreparable, leaving behind this cement slab.

However, some of us have been thinking about how this space could become a new outdoor eating and entertaining area with just a bit of work. It’s not an idea that’s high on the priority list, as our main focus is getting the bar area, kitchen and doctors surgery back into shape at the Winsome, but watch this space. Maybe something good will emerge.



One of our residents remembers music outdoors near here at The Winsome in an earlier era when the pub was a favourite music venue.



“Mazzer House” in Casino Street, during the first cleanup