

BUILD *the* HOUSE

The Future of City on a Hill Surf Coast

CITY
ON A HILL

Our Story

In 2019, on the Surf Coast, a small elderly church met a younger, growing one.

The older church had land; a beautiful piece of ground with an old chapel that had stood for generations. The younger church brought families, youth, and energy. Together, they became one, it was a gift from God, uniting history and hope.

From the moment they joined, growth followed. As the new church sought to share the gospel in ways that made sense to their community, God kept opening doors. The site they had inherited wasn't just any property, it sat at the front door of one of the most vibrant, breathtaking places on earth. It was the home of surfing, of coastal walks, of people seeking rest and rejuvenation in the beauty of God's creation.

The younger church felt a deep sense of gratitude. They also felt a responsibility to honour the 160 years of faithful ministry that had come before, while stepping forward with the same gospel for a new generation.

But the property itself told a different story. The chapel and gardens, though full of charm, needed desperate maintenance. Paint peeled. Toilets leaked. The gardens had grown wild. It was still a home, but one in need of care.

And yet, God continued to provide.

Not long after, the church received an unexpected and generous financial gift. The lead pastor, Louis Glazebrook felt both gratitude and the weight of stewardship. What should be done with such a large sum? Should it go to missions, staff, or mercy ministries? The thought of spending it on buildings felt risky - perhaps even unspiritual - like it might all vanish into bricks and paint rather than fuel evangelism or discipleship.

So what do you do in that sort of circumstance. You pray.

Louis set aside a specific time to do just that. After already days of pondering and thinking, arrow prayers and conversations with trusted friends and advisors, he simply went to sit quietly overlooking the ocean - journal open, heart waiting, one question before the Lord "What are we supposed to do with this money?" Three words came to mind:

"Build. The. House."

Writing them down in the journal, he looked at them in disbelief. Meeting them with hesitation. Really? Could this truly be what God wanted? But over time, the sense grew stronger. God seemed to be inviting them to build, not just with timber and paint, but with purpose.

The vision became clear: this land could be a piece of the kingdom of God; a place where people feel safe, at rest, and at home. As the first thing travellers see when they arrive at the Surf Coast, it could stand as a beautiful, accessible, Christ-centred space, bearing the cross and proclaiming the name and nature of Jesus.

For prayer to continue, for children's ministry to flourish, for creative new ideas to spring to life, they needed a house.

A place that was clean, crisp, full of comfort, beauty and inspiring worship. One that would carry an already established 160 years of faithful witness into another century of gospel life on the Surf Coast.

And so, here we are, big vision, big plans, with a big God on together with Him on a big mission.

Will you step into this story and help build the house?





Our Vision

At City on a Hill Surf Coast, our vision is simple yet profound:

To know Jesus and make Jesus known.

This vision shapes everything we do. Why we gather, why we serve, and why we long to see lives transformed across the Surf Coast.

We stand on the shoulders of those who came before us; men and women who built, prayed, gave, and sacrificed so that the gospel might be proclaimed here at Mount Duneed and beyond.

By God's providence, we also stand at the doorway to the Surf Coast. Anyone in the area, or visiting from Melbourne will pass by our little corner to get to one of the most beautiful places in Australia.

Our prayer is that on their way to see the beauty of God's creation, they will get a glimpse of the beauty of God's house.

The Build the House Project is about more than bricks and mortar. It is about creating a spiritual home where the gospel is preached, disciples are formed, families are strengthened, and our community is reached with the good news of Jesus.

Our Story: From St. Wilfrid's to City on a Hill Surf Coast

The story of this church stretches back more than 160 years.

- 1863 • St. Wilfrid's Anglican Church was founded, becoming a beacon of faith through generations of change.
- 1944 • After fire destroyed the original bluestone church, locals and students from Geelong Grammar rebuilt a timber building that still stands today.
- 1983 • A hall was added, reflecting a church adapting to the needs of its time.
- 2019 • City on a Hill began planting here, bringing fresh gospel energy. In just a few short years, average attendance has grown from around 20 to over 130 every Sunday.

Through every season—floods, fires, wars, and growth—the grace of God has continued to bear fruit on this property. People have come to faith. Families have been strengthened. Young people are eager to follow Jesus.

And now, as thousands of families move into new estates across Armstrong Creek and the Surf Coast, we have been given a mission field right on our doorstep.



The Build the House Project

To step into this mission, we are embarking on a three-stage plan to strengthen, expand, and prepare our facilities for generations to come.

STAGE I - STRENGTHEN THE FOUNDATION

GOALS:

Renewing the base for worship and mission

Conduct essential repairs and maintenance

Improve accessibility

Refresh interiors to reflect warmth and hospitality

Upgrade indoor audio visual equipment for additional worship space

Cost: \$250–300k

STAGE II - EXPAND OUR CAPACITY

GOALS:

Create space for more people to encounter Jesus

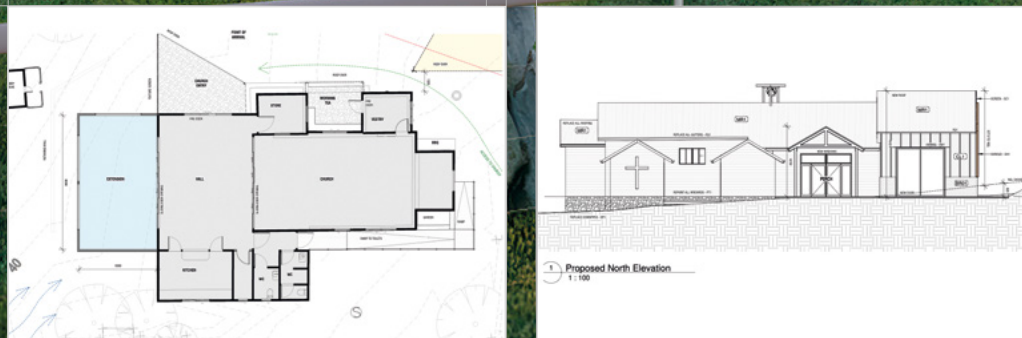
Construct purpose-built children's and youth ministry spaces

Create mid-week ministry environments for outreach and community

Add extension to the East end of the hall

Install folding walls to create one large room or 3 separate spaces

Cost: \$500–550k



STAGE III - PREPARE FOR THE FUTURE

GOALS:

Plan and build with faith for the needs of generations to come.

Install a fully refurbished kitchen for hospitality and community programs.

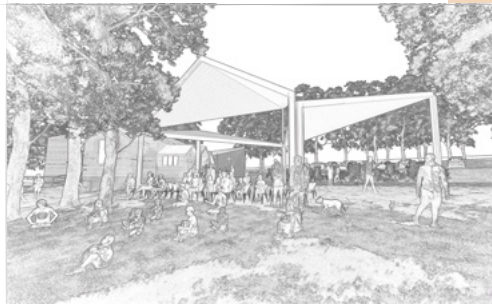
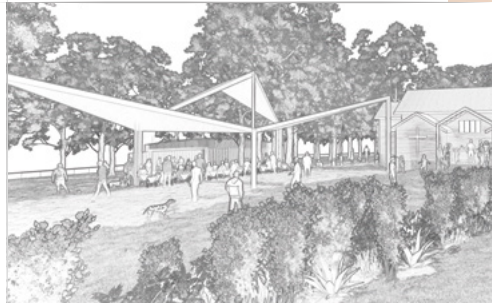
Add offices and meeting spaces for staff and ministry teams.

Build an expanded and accessible toilet block.

Construct an architecturally designed outdoor covered area for summer share and winter rains.

Cost: \$550–600k

Total Project Investment: \$1.5 million (inclusive of contingency)



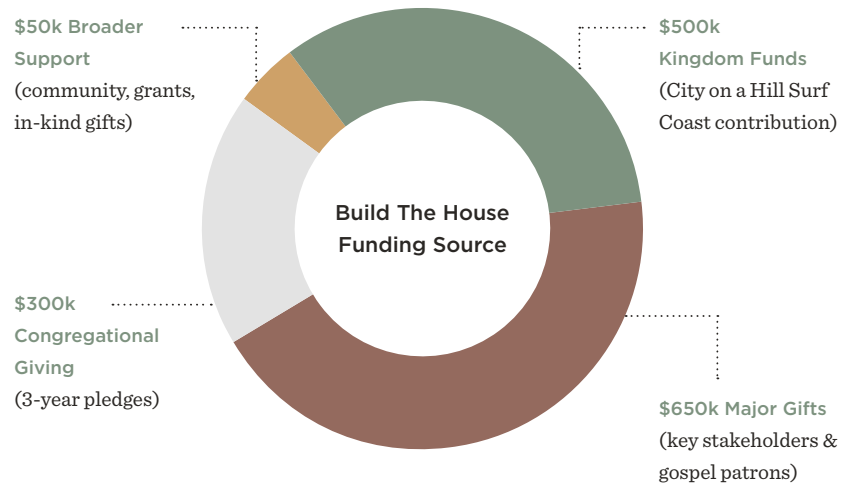
Scope of the Project

The Build the House Project will deliver:

- Renewal of existing facilities and equipment
- Upgraded indoor audio and visual equipment for additional worship space
- Building extension for children's, youth, and hospitality spaces
- Kitchen refurbishment and accessible toilet block
- Offices and ministry meeting spaces
- Covered outdoor area for seasonal weather

Funding Sources

This is a shared gospel partnership, with contributions drawn from multiple streams:



Project timeline



Why Now?

A GROWING CHURCH

With new believers, hungry disciples, and increasing opportunities for mission, our current facilities are straining under the weight of growth.

A GROWING REGION

The Surf Coast and surrounding areas are some of the fastest-growing areas in Victoria, with thousands of families moving in, longing for connection and hope.

AN URGENT GOSPEL

The harvest is plentiful now. God has placed us here, at this moment, to act in faith.



An Invitation to Partner

This is our moment. God has placed before us an extraordinary opportunity to build not just a facility, but a lighthouse for the gospel on the Surf Coast.

We cannot do this alone. We invite you to partner with us through:



PRAYER
Seeking God's help
and guidance



GENEROSITY
Giving sacrificially to see
this vision realised



ADVOCACY
Sharing this mission with
others who can join us

When future generations look back, may they see a people who trusted God, who gave generously, and who built a house where Christ is known and loved.

Closing Thought

In 1944 the after the original bluestone church building had burned to the ground, some of the remaining stones were used as a rock garden to the south of the new building. At the dedication, the Archbishop of the Melbourne Diocese, J.J. Booth, preached from Joshua 4:21: "When your children ask their fathers in the time to come, saying "What mean ye by these stones?" Archbishop Booth exhorted those in attendance,

"The stones may one day be forgotten, but faith will abide."

In the same refrain, this extension project may one day be a distant memory for our community, but by God's grace He will use it to continue to build His House for the glorification of Jesus, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. Amen.

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