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RIVERDELL SPIRITUAL CENTRE

ANNUAL REPORT 2023





ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The Emissaries wish to acknowledge the Kurna people as the traditional owners of this land where we gather and give recognition to them as the oldest living culture in the world.

We recognise and respect your languages, cultural beliefs, and pride within your customs and culture that define your continuing relationships and responsibilities to your land and sea.

This respect and honour extends to the Elders both past and present and recognition to the emerging First Nations leaders as they hold the hopes, dreams, traditions and cultures of Australia First Nations.



BOARD MEMBERS



Cheyne Morris
PRESIDENT



Andrew Horwood
TREASURER



Jude Fenton
SECRETARY



Ruth French



James Swatman



Justin Martin



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OUR MISSION STATEMENTS



Riverdell

SPIRITUAL CENTRE

slow down. reflect. renew.

Riverdell Spiritual Centre inspires personal growth & leadership by running life-enhancing programs that awaken consciousness.



EMISSARIES
OF DIVINE LIGHT

The Emissaries (SA) Inc's Mission is to inspire humanity to be motivated by love, truth and respect, creating an empowered, sustainable future for all.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Written By Cheyne Morris

I am pleased to provide the Annual Report for The Emissaries for its 44th year in Australia in 2023. With this report you will find accompanying reports with summaries from all the different individuals that contribute so generously of their skill, time, and effort. Consider the contribution of many people over the years and the volunteer hours – it is priceless as an important contribution and I hope all Emissary members take pride in being part of this active organisation.

I extend deep appreciation to Justin Martin, Jude Fenton, Jasmine Hornby and Paula McMahon as on-the-ground staff at Riverdell for all they offer. Justin clearly demonstrates his love and passion for Riverdell in the way he handles all that comes to him. He enriches Riverdells' direction with his creativity and innovation as he continually thinks outside the box for Riverdell to grow. The team (mentioned above) are caring and adaptive and keep the spiritual centre thriving and flourishing as they bring their unique qualities to the team.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT CONT.

Ruth French invigorates the Sunday Service times at Riverdell with Jane Anetrini from Loveland USA as a regular part of our service team. Appreciation and gratitude for Ruth, Jane and the Australian locals who are part of the service preparation time on Friday morning and those who come to Riverdell for this generative time. Also to the Sunrise Ranch Service Team at Sunrise Ranch, our sister community in Colorado for their rich input. A pulse is held and goes out to our world weekly as a blessing.

I thank my Board colleagues for their commitment and service over the past year. For your time and energy to imbue the mission and vision of the Emissaries. And I warmly congratulate our resilient, inspiring staff, cleaning team and grounds staff for their generous support which makes our work possible. All these contributions strengthen the unity of community that we provide.

Well done Andrew Horwood as Treasurer for your clear direction in spear heading this role. Andrew has a wonderful ability to concisely synthesize in writing many of the tasks we administer. A real gift to the Board. Good to report we are on track with our Strategic Plan for the next 5 years to begin mid 2024. Thank you to the Committee who have formed to carry this future direction forward.

We continue with our professional 'lease' advisors who have been able to provide imperative advice on leasing arrangements. We also hosted a 2 day Festival this year - The Goodness Me Festival and as a participant offering Attunement in the Healing Tent and on Reception I was deeply warmed by the many comments of appreciation for this special place, Riverdell. People innately knew the place as special and did not hesitate to express this whilst at the Festival.

My heartfelt thanks to the International Trustees, David Karchere and all who stand with him and to Sunrise Ranch. We have a rich legacy thanks to the founders of the Emissaries of Divine Light and to those who generously carry forward into today's context those values and principles creating a depth and aliveness for what is present. Also to the Creative Field team who consistently met monthly in small groups across this planet and extend a loving vibration into our world.

Here we stand poised on the brink of possibilities for future direction - our love and care of one another is what will see us move forward. Trust in this foundation will ultimately shape everything that unfolds.

In love,
Cheyne Morris

“We don’t have good names for the realm of potential. We might call it the spiritual or the realm of essence. This realm of essence is not observable by the senses. You can’t find it in your feeling realm. You access it through Love – through an openness to it in your heart and mind”.

David Karchere





TREASURER'S REPORT

Written By Andrew Horwood

This financial year has been both challenging and clarifying, with the result that we end this year with clearer plans for the years ahead. It's important to recognise that our financial position is not our primary focus, as its role is to support our spiritual program offerings. Finances enable; they don't dictate. That said, wisdom is required to steward our finances so they can continue to enable our primary purpose.

The key points this year are:

- Our quest for profitability in Riverdell Spiritual Centre operations continues to be a long and winding road, born of our continued learning about what our target market values and adjusting our plans accordingly.
- We have developed a closer working relationship with Mary Woollett from i2Advisory as a result of their reporting on our quarterly financials.

TREASURER'S REPORT CONT.

- As a result of detailed work, an Asset Register has been compiled for our investment properties by Urban Commercial, our investment property managers – a huge undertaking
- Our cash reserves have reduced significantly this year, prompting a review of our forward estimates.
- As a result of further advice from Urban Commercial, we have adjusted the investment strategy for our rental properties (Hillier Park and The Palms)
- Recognising our need for a period of financial restraint, we have undertaken a detailed Budget review and prepared the 23/24 FY Budget with significant projected improvement in our Balance Sheet

Despite the challenges we've faced, we still end this financial year with a solid foundation for our long-term financial and organisational future.

Financial summary

At the time of writing, we have unaudited EOY financial reports. Our anticipated EOY position is that

- Income has increased by \$70K
- Expenses have increased by \$100K

Both these relate to the Goodness Me Festival. This was our major source of income for the year, though less than hoped for. Expenses, particularly for a first event, were inevitably high and accounted for expenses exceeding income.

EMSA operates in a positive cash flow situation, with only the usual operating debt of running a business. Our cash assets remain reasonably strong (around \$600K) and these form our working cash reserves for the future, though down from around \$900K last FY. Care is needed going forward, as we can't afford to let our cash reserves dwindle further.

Assets

We have our financial assets in two classes – the land and infrastructure of our investment properties (Hillier Park and The Palms Residential Villages) and cash & Term Deposits of \$600K. We continue to invest in capital works (Capex) and improvements at Riverdell and as needed under the terms of the lease at Hillier Park/Palms.

TREASURER'S REPORT CONT.

Highlights of Capex at Riverdell this year include the upgrade of internet services; IT and projector systems in the Sanctuary; completed installation of a new dedicated Emissary office space; painting kitchen, public toilets and offices; further investment in facilities in Karrawirra and Bunkhouse and more.

Looking forward

We are planning a small profit Budget for 23/24 FY through a combination of increased program income and cost containment to support the implementation of the Business Plan. We hope to start rebuilding our cash reserves as this year unfolds.


Summary

Our financial position remains strong, due largely to our continued investment & Riverdell income. The Balance Sheet shows stable Assets and Equity, both of which are very healthy. We are beginning to reap the benefit of our restructured financial management and Urban Commercial's advice. We are in good position financially to cautiously plan for an expansion of our primary purpose of providing spiritual programs "to inspire humanity to be motivated by love, truth and respect, creating an empowered, sustainable future for all"

Thanks

My heartfelt thanks to Justin Martin, Business Manager, for his diligence financially; to PLV's Directors, Martin and Lucy Banham and their staff, who continue as valued lessees; to our accountants, i2Advisory, particularly Mary Woollett and Kevin Johnson for their assistance with, and oversight of, our financial operations; to Rob Idol and Andrew Stabolidis of Urban Commercial for all the advice and guidance they have provided over the year.

Andrew Horwood
Treasurer

A large, spreading tree with a thick trunk and many branches, casting long shadows on a grassy field. The scene is illuminated by the warm, golden light of a setting or rising sun, creating a peaceful atmosphere. The tree's branches are silhouetted against the bright sky, and the grass in the foreground is dappled with light and shadow.

*Out beyond ideas of wrongdoing
and right doing, there is a field. I'll
meet you there. When the soul lies
down in that grass, the world is
too full to talk about. Ideas,
language, even the phrase "each
other" doesn't make any sense. The
breeze at dawn has secrets to tell
you. Don't go back to sleep. You
must ask for what you really want.
Don't go back to sleep. People are
going back and forth across the
doorsill where the two worlds
touch. The door is round and open.
Don't go back to sleep.*

~ Rumi



SPIRITUAL FOCUS REPORT

Written By Ruth French

It is my pleasure to bring this report to you of our Spiritual Programs of the past year. In this role, I feel great appreciation for the agreement and support I have received in a variety of ways.

Our main and most regular activity is our Sunday Service. We continue to appreciate the technology and the equipment to easily share our Services via zoom. This year we adjusted that slightly and made the 4th Sunday of each month, non zoom - available to those who could be physically present with us in the Sanctuary. That has worked well for those able to come. Numbers vary but seem to be steadily increasing.

I give thanks for all of those who attend Service Prep meetings and contribute to our Services - Cheyne Morris, Linda Moullae, Linda Hall, Andrew Horwood, James Swatman, Michael Piovesan. Thanks to Cheyne for her consistent alertness to support and help create the Service content. Thank you to Justin for his ever-ready skill with discovering where some aspect of the equipment has thwarted us, and got us back in the flow.

SPIRITUAL FOCUS REPORT CONT.

We've also continued to have magnificent support from the Sunrise Ranch Services Team, most notably the 'continuing constancy' of Jane Anetrini, who barely misses one or two Sundays a year. Thank you to the many others who've been part of our offering – Marilyn Manderson, Sece Foster, Keahi Ewa, Lana Roach, Oren Yakovee, Gary Goodhue. We feel deep gratitude for your generosity and wisdom.

The surround of our Services is vital. Virtually every Pulse of Spirit which we use as our initial focus comes from words spoken and written by David Karchere, the International Spiritual Leader of the Emissaries. Thank you, David. We appreciate your gift for its wisdom, care, intelligence, and energising power.

Deep thanks for other vital surround care offered goes to Colin Cloudsdale for regularly setting up the room, to Maggie Cope for having morning tea ready, and then packed up, to Rita for her poetic gifts, to Jewels for regular delights added to the table, and to the general supply of goodwill from all who join us. Thanks go to Paula McMahan in her role of Community Engagement Coordinator for her ongoing role in promoting our offerings on Social Media.

Other aspects of our Spiritual program include the Creative Field which has continued for many years but continues to be 'new' each month. Cheyne, Andrew and James, and Christine and Ruth lead groups online each month. Each meeting closes with deeply heart felt appreciation.

I feel that each Service and activity we offer has a goal of assisting attunement; an internal knowing of being in true alignment, outer expression mirroring internal knowing and longing. We have formally shared attunement on some occasions but have not held specific workshops in the last year.

I feel a great sense of potential for expanding the ways we offer Spiritual understanding into the world, and long for that to be shared in many creative new ways in the year to come. The World is crying out for it.

With love

Ruth French

PHOTOS FROM THE WORLD PEACE DAY CELEBRATION ON THE 21ST SEPTEMBER. A GLOBAL COLLABORATIVE CELEBRATION INITIATED BY SUNRISE RANCH.





INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE

On September 21st, Riverdell joined hands with our sister EDL communities from around the world to orchestrate a truly special event in celebration of World Peace Day. The collective synergy of all participants cultivated a worldwide tapestry, showcasing unity and solidarity in response to the universal call for peace. We want to extend a heartfelt thank you to all who were involved in making this event so special, we look forward to sharing in more global community efforts in the future.



BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT

Written By Justin Martin

Dear Members and Friends,

As we look back on the past year, I am grateful for our remarkable journey at the Riverdell Spiritual Centre. In 2023, our commitment to providing a sanctuary for spiritual growth, healing, and community connection continued to evolve and expand.

Fostering Vibrant Community

Our dedication to fostering a vibrant community remained unwavering. Throughout 2023, we hosted many retreats, workshops, and gatherings that brought together individuals from all walks of life. The sense of unity, harmony, and shared growth was palpable at every event, creating a space where personal transformations and meaningful connections flourished.

MANAGER'S REPORT CONT.

Innovating Our Programming

In 2023, we continued to innovate our programming by offering diverse spiritual and self-improvement workshops. One of our most significant achievements was the Goodness Me Festival. It was one of the most ambitious additions to the Riverdell calendar in recent years, introducing hundreds of like-minded individuals to the Riverdell Spiritual Centre. While it may not have provided the financial boost we had hoped for, it was an overwhelming success in every other aspect. It showcased the exceptional skills and dedication of our team and volunteers. The sense of community, celebration, and the opportunity for profound exploration it generated were nothing short of spectacular. We anticipate that the 2024 event will reverse the financial outcome of the inaugural event, thanks to the addition of camping on the neighbouring property operated by the Gawler River Pony Club, which will attract people from a broader geographic catchment.

Yoga Teacher Training Course

As promised, in October 2023, Riverdell coordinated and hosted a 200-hour Yoga Teacher Training course. While it didn't bring the financial windfall we had hoped for, it was a great success for everyone involved. In response to the reduced number of participants, we adjusted our operating model by switching from a contracted caterer to an in-house catering model for three weeks. This change fostered a strong sense of community and team-building, as most of our staff and even some volunteers pitched in to make the event run smoothly. Having the participants onsite daily for three weeks also added to the energy of the space. We are confident that the six new advocates for Riverdell will share the skills they learned and their enthusiasm for what we offer at the Riverdell Spiritual Centre.

Wednesday Evening Community Gathering

An unexpected triumph in 2023 was the expansion of the Wednesday Evening Community Gathering at Riverdell. This gathering, hosted by a collective of volunteer facilitators offering mindfulness, breath, gratitude, and cold-water immersion therapies, has grown from humble beginnings to a consistently attended opportunity for connection and activation. Notably, we've seen a diverse range of attendees, with nearly half being men and participants spanning various age groups, from children to seniors. I sincerely thank all those who regularly volunteer and attend these gatherings. Watching the next generation discover their potential is inspiring and gives me great hope for the ongoing relevance of Riverdell Spiritual Centre.

MANAGER'S REPORT CONT.

Membership Growth Strategy

Contributing to our sense of optimism is the success of our membership growth strategy. Since implementing the two-tier pricing structure that requests a premium from non-members using our space, we have grown our membership by 32, doubling it in twelve months. The next phase of this membership drive is to promote engagement from our members, and we plan to offer quarterly membership evenings throughout 2024 to engage everyone interested. These quarterly membership gatherings aim to empower our members to have increased input into the activities planned at Riverdell, fostering further connections and a sense of belonging among those who have responded to our offerings. I hope that, as this group becomes more active in their involvement at Riverdell Spiritual Centre in the coming years, their energy will attract further members, continuing the growth cycle.

Grounds and Improvements

After consistently investing in improvements on the grounds at Riverdell over several years, 2023 has been a year of consolidation, with our focus on maintenance, particularly of our buildings. Long overdue, the Sumai resident complex and the Bunkhouse received exterior paint applications, improving these buildings' aesthetics and longevity. We anticipate in 2024 to continue the maintenance program as we seek to recuperate funds in preparation for future yet undetermined capital expansion. The only significant improvements planned for 2024 involve upgrading the Sumai complex with a fire suppression system to ensure all relevant fire-related building standards are complied with.

Gratitude

As each year passes at Riverdell, I continue to be humbled by the people I meet, my colleagues, and the collective intention focused at Riverdell Spiritual Centre. A sincere thank you to our Members, our passionate staff and, of course, our incredible volunteers, all of whom contribute to making Riverdell Spiritual Centre the extraordinary place it is. This collective energy inspires me to strive towards continued improvement, and I am eternally grateful for the opportunity to do so.

With Loving-Kindness,

Justin Martin
Riverdell Manager

PHOTOS FROM THE YOGA TEACHER TRAINING



PHOTOS FROM THE GROUNDS AND VARIOUS EVENTS





EVENT MANAGER'S REPORT

Written By Jasmine Hornby

This marks my sixth year as the Events Manager at Riverdell, and it has been a truly unforgettable journey. This past year has been especially significant as we celebrated our first Goodness Me 2-day Wellbeing Festival and hosted our very first Yoga Teacher Training program at our centre.

These two projects hold a special place in my heart. The Wellbeing Festival has been a dream we've nurtured for some time. The name of the Goodness Me Festival was born from a Word document I created back in 2018 when I was just 22 years old. Witnessing this idea take shape and come to life has brought so much joy. Words can't come close to the feel, energy and connection cultivated over this weekend. It was a weekend of heart-centered practices, inner curiosity, education, exploration, live music, movement, and community.

EVENT MANAGER'S REPORT CONT.

Our community and weekly classes have been thriving and growing, and our sense of community is expanding daily. Amid planning and facilitating various events, I've enjoyed the privilege of being one of the lead teachers in our 200-hour Yoga Teacher Training program. This role has been profoundly humbling, reminding me that I am forever a student with endless opportunities for growth and learning. Collaborating with Melisha and Rose, two exceptional teachers and facilitators, has been a rewarding experience.

As our YTT program enters its final week, witnessing our students' incredible transformation and growth has been amazing. From week one, the students have been teaching and running grounding introductions, and with our guidance, they are already finding their unique styles! Witnessing their progress over such a short time has been inspiring! I believe the experience we offer at Riverdell during this three-week immersion is exceptional, leaving a lasting impression on those who embark on this journey.

Over seven months, from November 2022 to July 2023, we organized 51 events through our marketing system. These events encompassed a wide range, from retreats and workshops to dinners, master classes, community connection evenings, our Goodness Me Festival, and the Yoga Teacher Training program. In addition, we accommodated 49 event bookings for facilitators who hired our facilities.

I wish to thank everyone who has contributed to and participated in the community at Riverdell Spiritual Centre over the last twelve months. Without the enthusiastic engagement of our Members, Staff and Public, none of this could be possible.

With love,

Jasmine

PHOTOS FROM THE GOODNESS ME FESTIVAL HELD IN MARCH



PHOTOS FROM THE GOODNESS ME FESTIVAL HELD IN MARCH



“As we become increasingly aware of our global interdependence as a species, we can also deepen awareness of our spiritual interconnectedness. We cannot live in total isolation. The crosscultural communion of awakened souls may be a key to cocreating a sustainable future and living in harmony with the earth.”

Frances Vaughan





COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Written By Paula McMahon

I am honoured to be writing my second report, having been a part of the Riverdell team for 15 months now. Once again, I find myself deeply appreciative of the rich history and heartfelt intentions that Riverdell was built upon. Each day, I feel fortunate to bring my authentic self to work, as I experience a sense of belonging within our community and take comfort in the knowledge that I am surrounded by those that share a collective understanding of interconnectedness.

This year began with me in the role of Marketing Coordinator, and around three months ago, I assumed the title of Community Engagement Coordinator. While my daily responsibilities have not undergone drastic changes, this title shift represents an exciting opportunity and an invitation to further support Riverdell Spiritual Centre in engaging and building a more active member base.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR'S REPORT CONT.

In the months ahead, I look forward to creating a revamped website that will wholeheartedly embrace and articulate Riverdell's mission, the essence behind our organisation, and the numerous benefits that social connections bring to our collective spiritual, mental, emotional, and physical well-being. Additionally, I look forward to delving deeper into our not-for-profit status and exploring how we can leverage this unique aspect in our marketing efforts.

In August of this year, we made a strategic decision to provide full marketing support exclusively for events carried under the Riverdell brand. While this decision posed challenges in some respects, as a team, we believe it to be an important step from both a financial and a community engagement perspective. While we continue to market some events to honour prior commitments made earlier in the year, I am eager to explore the evolution of our marketing and community engagement strategy over the next 12 months.

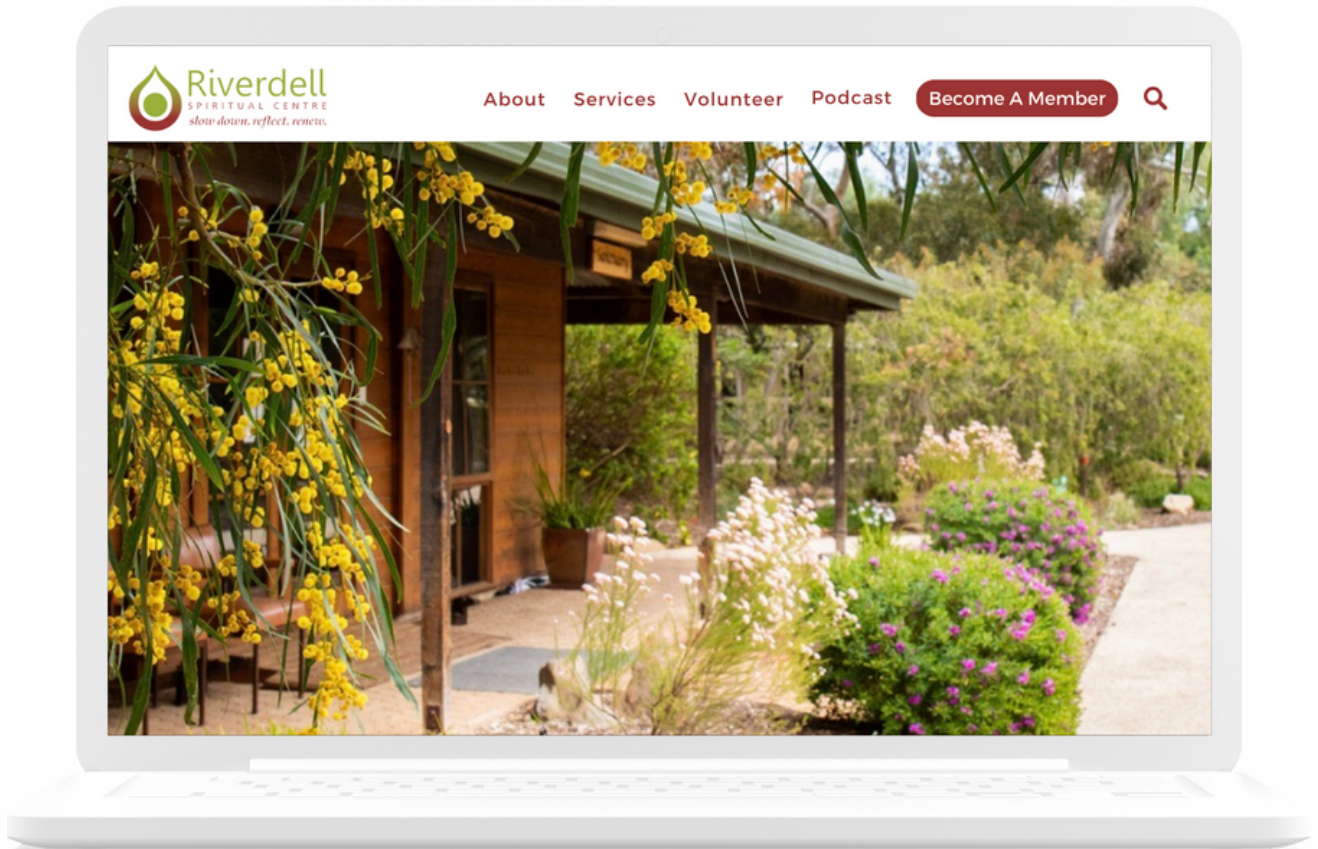
From a marketing standpoint, I am happy to report that the last 12 months have been marked by significant successes. Our email database has expanded by 66%, now having a total of 1,975 subscribers. Our social media presence has also experienced growth, with 2,405 people now following us on Instagram, reflecting a 60% increase from last year, and 7,400 followers on Facebook, reflecting a 6% increase from the previous year. I believe that the primary factor contributing to this growth has been the Goodness Me festival. During the festival's marketing phase, we implemented several cross-promotion campaigns, effectively promoting both the Goodness Me festival and Riverdell. Furthermore, our yoga teacher training program offered an excellent opportunity to drive traffic to the Riverdell website and social media platforms. The continued availability of the centre for hire allows more people to experience Riverdell and its beautiful surroundings, thereby organically increasing our brand's exposure.

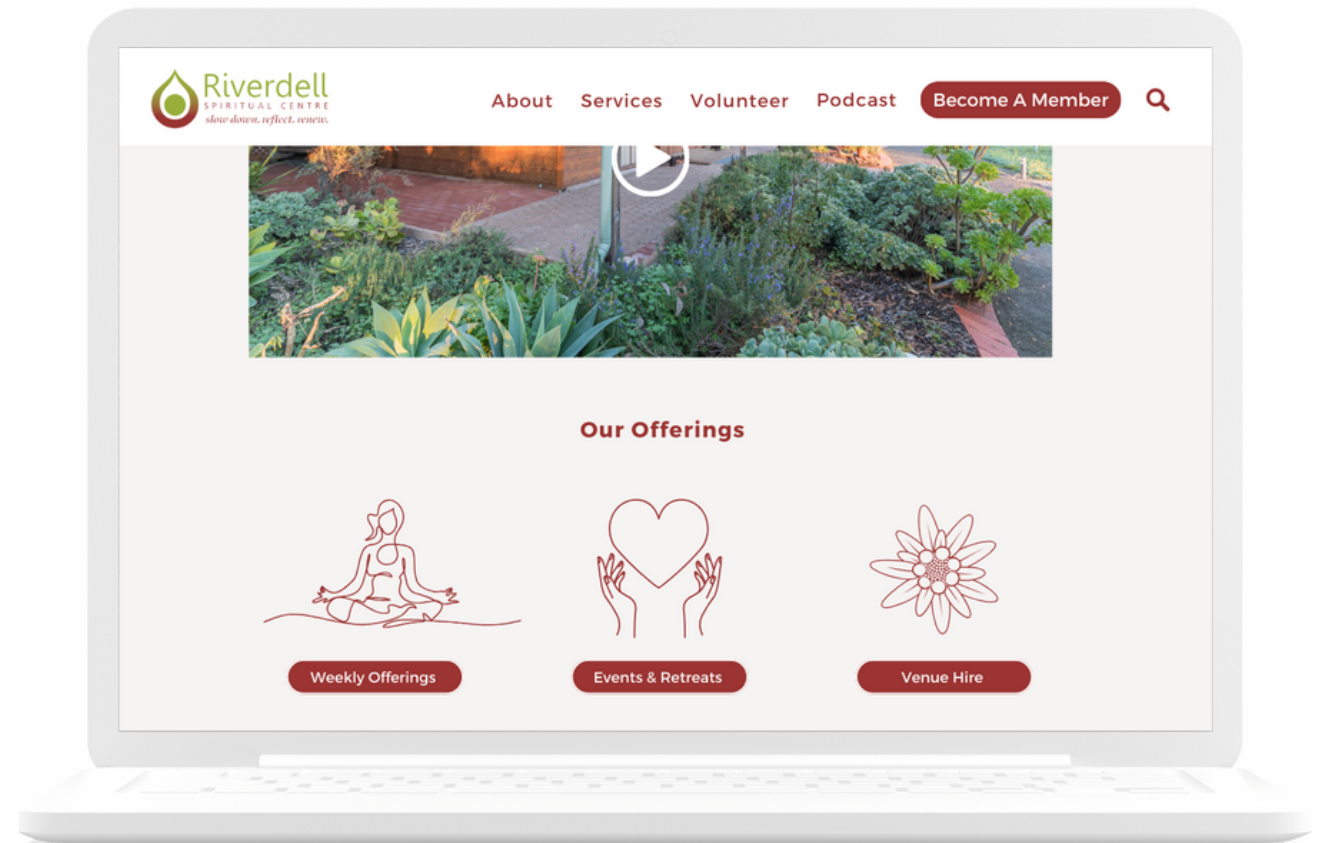
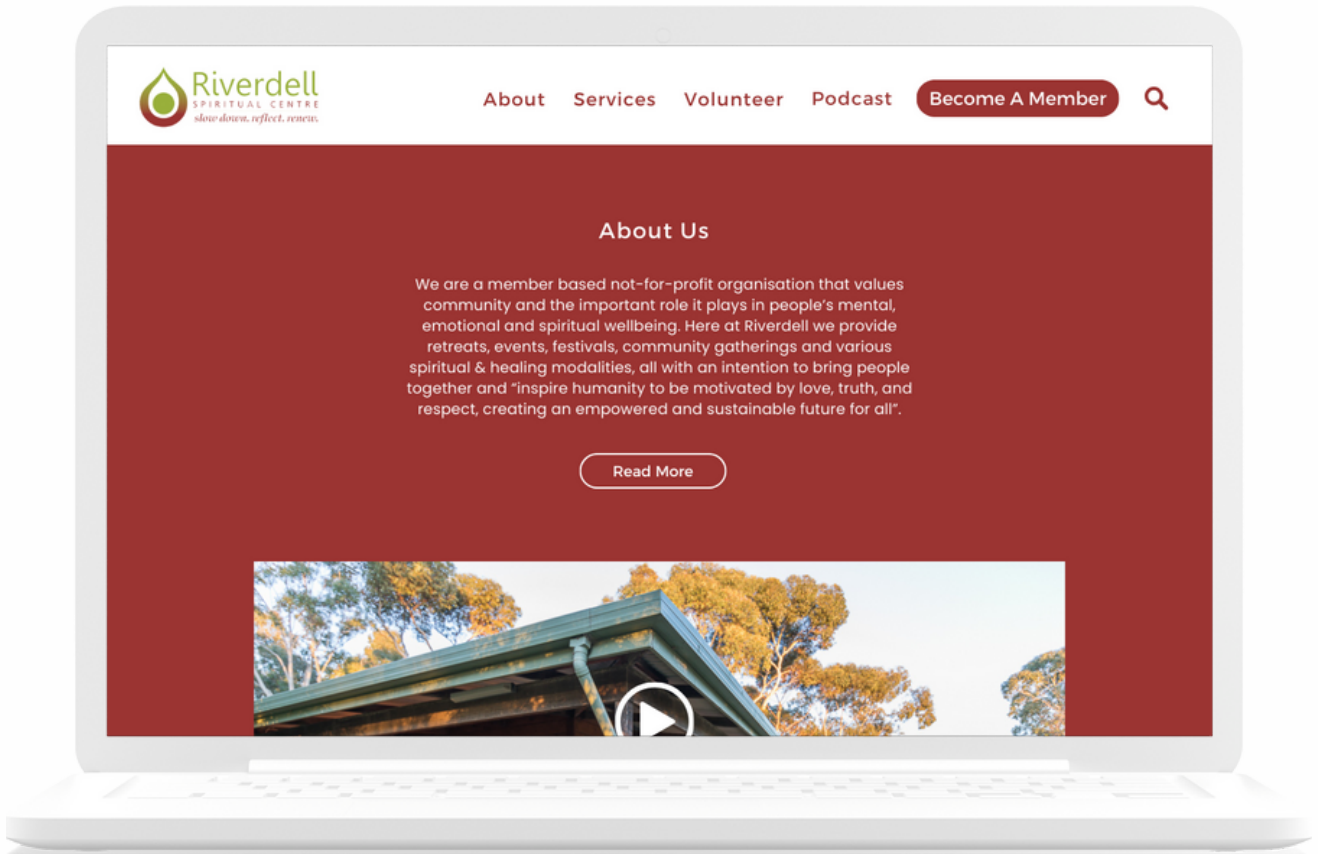
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR'S REPORT CONT.

I really look forward to collaborating with the team and our members in the coming months to support the ongoing evolution of the remarkable place and community that is Riverdell Spiritual Centre. I want to thank everyone involved in this beautiful community, both past and present, because without them, none of this would be possible.

With love and much gratitude,
Paula

EXAMPLE OF WHAT THE HOMEPAGE OF THE NEW RIVERDELL WEBSITE COULD LOOK LIKE.





MEMBER'S ETHICS & GUIDELINES

These guidelines are designed to honour a person's right to choice, voluntary action, responsibility and repentance. They are not intended to constrict the flow of life; rather, they are designed to assist in establishing and maintaining the health of new and long-standing friendships.

Members of the Emissary organization agree to the following:

- I respect the divinity and spiritual sovereignty of every human being.
- I honour and desire to understand all people regardless of race, colour, gender, age, mental, emotional or physical capacity, sexual orientation, marital status, religious or political belief.
- I am aware that the quality of my expression and actions affects the world around me. I will treat my environment and the people in it with respect and understanding.
- I accept full responsibility for my own path and life choices. While I may seek counsel from others associated with The Emissaries, I will act wisely and carefully on my own behalf and seek other assistance where needed to guide my life choices.
- I accept full responsibility to act wisely and carefully on my own behalf as I offer my time, money, talent and resource into the Emissary program, understanding that what I give is offered freely
- I monitor continually the integrity of my motives in all my interactions.
- I understand that my own experience of wholeness and clarity is the basis for healthy behaviour and relatedness to others.
- I will honour all confidential agreements unless divulgence is required by law.
- I will not physically, sexually, financially, emotionally, verbally, or in any other way deliberately abuse, harass or exploit anyone.
- I agree to these ethics guidelines. I do so in the interest of allowing the maximum experience of loving, enriching and mentoring one another in a safe, healthy and respectful manner that empowers all concerned.

MEMBER'S ETHICS & GUIDELINES CONTINUED

Those who represent the Emissary program or provide leadership also agree to the following:

- I will not use my position in the Emissary program for personal gain, advancement or to manipulate decision-making processes.
- I do not assume my leadership role gives me the right to intrude in other people's lives.
- I will be alert to and respectful of other people's emotional and physical boundaries.
- I am open to hear both supportive and challenging feedback about the quality of my service.
- I will deal honourably with the record of my predecessor and the opportunities of my successor in leadership.
- I receive gratefully people's gifts of money, time, talent and resource on behalf of the Emissary program. I do not pressure anyone or demand gifts or contributions of any kind.