

# LITTLE TEAPOT CAFE & PLAY

Supporter update Nov 2018  
2 years on! Our roots are going down..

So much has happened this year after the Thanksgiving & Fundraising dinner we had in November 2017. At the dinner we dreamed about moving from surviving to thriving in the next season. Well, with sincere thanks for your generous support, we are definitely beginning to thrive as a charity! It feels like our roots have been getting stronger in this last year enabling us to have a more secure foundation to help, love and serve the community!



Little Teapot Cafe & Play is a passionate community of staff & volunteers that dream of seeing every person connected and loved for who they are. Little Teapot is a faith based charity that loves helping people find community, belonging and acceptance. We want to be so much more than a family friendly café, we hope to be a home away from home.

# HIGHLIGHTS OF YEAR 2

**1. Increased sense of a Home Away From Home for many** We have on average 65-70 sales each day at Little Teapot which means very approximately 140 people (min) are coming through the doors each day (including children), resulting in tens of thousands of people visiting Little Teapot each year. What we love the most however is the sense of home they feel when they come. Verity described it as 'a big beautiful envelope of love and loveliness' and Kat called Little Teapot 'our new home away from home'. From people struggling with children with special needs, to those who are sleep deprived or who just want a couple of minutes to drink a coffee and rest, to those needing a hug, Little Teapot is providing a second home and community for many families in Lara and beyond. Our group of regulars has grown deeper and broader in the last year.

**2. New to the Community & Suspended Coffees** With thanks to the Little Teapot families we have given out a further 322 suspended coffee & cake vouchers to mums doing it tough or new mums in the area this year. In this last year we've started running our New to the Community free morning tea sessions more effectively and are now finding that they are turning into a Teapot mums group after which is incredible, we also enjoy having representatives from local Lara organisations that help families coming along.

**3. Volunteer impact growing** We continue to be amazed at the impact volunteering is having on helping so many struggling with different challenges. Each volunteer finds an accepting and safe community at Little Teapot, we currently have approximately 50 active generous staff and volunteers at any given time.

**4. The Thanksgiving & Fundraising dinner last year** It was a great community building event. Together just over 100+ of us raised \$12.2K which was so very helpful and enabled us to keep our doors open (see details below). This dinner also helped initiate the generous donation of better air conditioning at the cafe from the Lara District Community Bank and Terry & Yolande Cleary at Ray White in Lara, as well as the donation of wonderful outside play equipment from St. Anthony's playgroup.

**5. Review Conducted** A consultant and generous advisor to the board, Derek Bradshaw, conducted a review after the fundraiser which significantly helped improve our organisational structure, clarify the board's activities and overall helped us work towards being more sustainable for the long term.

**6. We are more financially stable** We have seen an improvement in our ability to cover our costs. We are currently breaking even most months and at times are slightly profitable meaning we are able to start repaying our \$20k loan.

**7. Lara District Community Bank came on board as a Major Sponsor** and donated an incredible grant of \$13k which enabled us to install artificial lawn in all grassed areas at the cafe! All the families love the new grass! It has been so beneficial to us and the community in lots of ways! We had a wonderful and fun garden party with the community to celebrate.

**8. Partnership with Lifeway Christian Church has strengthened** we've seen multiple Little Teapot families be referred to one of the three Little Lambs playgroups run by the church, we also loved sharing the love of the Easter story as Little Teapot families went to the holiday program run by the church then came across for an Easter party at the cafe after, a number of our volunteers and Little Teapot families have also come along to church services and other events. We love seeing those in the Little Teapot community find even more connections, support and hope this way. Currently (as at Nov 18) 21 of our 51 active staff/vol are part of the Lifeway Christian church community. We are so truly grateful for the support the church community gives Little Teapot Cafe & Play.



## HOW THE FUNDS WERE SPENT

Of the \$12.2k generously raised at the 2017 dinner:

\$850 financed our review

\$1300 was invested in equipment needed for

High Tea events in 2018 and in the future

\$1800 was used for our January 18 working bee,  
inside & outside improvements

The remaining \$8,250 was used for operating  
costs shortages in Calendar Year 2017

**9. Little Things coffee & welcoming Gianni onto the board** We love our coffee beans now supplied to us by Little Things coffee, a social enterprise that gives all its profits to World Vision.

Gianni Pattiradjawane who runs Little Things and has a career of business development in the coffee industry, is about to join the board of Little Teapot.

**10. High Teas** we hosted two very lovely High Teas for families and women on Mothers Day this year. We are looking at how we can develop our High Tea options in the future through special events and children's parties!

**11. Our new manager Cindy** In June of this year, after a 4 month search, Cindy Hirst joined us as our Cafe Manager, a result of the review. Chez Anderson and Sarah Chaney had been sharing the day to day operational management role previously. Cindy has settled in so well, we are very pleased she has come to lead our team of incredible staff & volunteers.

**12. Prayer @ Teapot** for those who are interested from our Little Teapot community or Lifeway Christian Church we have a small gathering once a month to pray for all the Little Teapot families and for the precious anonymous prayer requests they write down and put into the 'Prayer Teapot' at Little Teapot. We also continue to pray as a team every morning for each and every person coming into the cafe each day that they'd know how loved they are.



## WHERE TO FROM HERE? Going Deeper!

The board of Little Teapot are currently working on the strategic plan for the next 1-5 years. As we reflected recently over what has happened in the last two years we are amazed! We agreed that we didn't want to change things too much at all because what is already happening is amazing! What we do want to do is build on what has been happening and go deeper with:

1. Increased support & care offered at Little Teapot for the community & for the staff/volunteers
- +
2. More opportunities for groups/events that provide nurture, support, connections & love
- +
3. Looking into ways we can show love practically to the local schools and to single parents
- +
4. Going deeper with the partnership with Lifeway and Little Teapot
- +
5. Continuing to improve the excellence in all we offer as a sustainable social enterprise especially in terms of functions, high teas and menu options.

We are excited about this next season we are entering

# THANK YOU!!

As we look back on the last year we are amazed! We are grateful to our God who we believe inspired this dream of Little Teapot, a place where everyone is loved and accepted for who they are. We are grateful to all our Major Sponsors for your incredible support, to the church community at Lifeway and to all our wonderful staff and volunteers for all you give week in and week out. We could not do what we do without each and every one of you!



We would also like to say a very special thank you to Chez Anderson who has given so much to help pioneer Little Teapot in our first 2 years. Although Chez is stepping down from one role we'll still get to enjoy her fun and loving presence as she volunteers with us.



We also want to thank John Pelchen our Board Chairman who after 3 years is stepping down from the board. We are so grateful to John for seeing the vision of Little Teapot in the early days, thank you so much for your wisdom and generosity over the last 3 years.

With love from Sarah Chaney on behalf of the board of Little Teapot Cafe & Play

For more information about Little Teapot please visit our website [www.littleteapot.co](http://www.littleteapot.co)

## Our Major Sponsors

Lifeway Christian Church  
Baptcare  
Derham Transport  
Hillview Sand  
Kardinia Church (Playcafe)  
Colin LeSueur Building  
Chris Whitworth Design  
Upright Building Concepts  
Storage King North Geelong  
Redeemed Pallets  
Harness Your Voice Speak with Power and Influence  
Geelong Community Foundation  
Lara District Community Bank - Branch of Bendigo Bank

We would love you to continue supporting us! We are always so grateful for more volunteers, prayer support and for financial donations.

Although this calendar year 2018 we are covering our operational costs (which means we will be able to start repaying our loan soon) we do not have surplus funds for additional improvements or certain roles.

If you would like to contribute as a volunteer or financially please go to our website for more information.

[www.littleteapot.co/donate](http://www.littleteapot.co/donate)  
[www.littleteapot.co/jobs](http://www.littleteapot.co/jobs)