

The Jindy Juice

with Trent & Alice McGrath • November 2025



Firstly, we want to thank all our supporters for your faithfulness in both praying for us and supporting us over our six years in Jindabyne. We are so grateful for you and are excited to update you on what's been happening in Jindabyne this year.

We asked for prayer for snow and your prayers and ours were answered. God provided a good covering of snow, which makes all the difference in terms of people's work, life and general wellbeing. It's sad when it doesn't snow and the vibe is down in town. It is a time of year when a lot of people build their incomes. So they put in a big effort in winter to help them out through the rest of the year.

Regular faces at church

Winter seasonal workers are returning to worship at The Village Church regularly now. We're seeing the same faces come through each winter along with new faces who we hope will return. All kinds of snow lovers are finding their spiritual home at The Village Church.

We're most encouraged when the people who join us plug into our church like it's their own and serve, give, and join our Home Groups. We've known from the beginning that many people will simply be glad that there's a Bible teaching church here in Jindabyne and be served by us in their time here, but those who become

fully invested are a special joy for us.

During winter our gatherings see a lot of guests and seasonal workers. We have anywhere from 5–20 visitors who aren't usually from Jindabyne with us on any given Sunday. With some of our regulars not being as consistent during winter, the influx of guests keep our gatherings feeling full at anywhere from 50–75 people.

Give thanks for a good covering of snow this winter and for our new and returning seasonal workers.

Something new

We tried something new this winter. A couple of food trucks that were down at the local caravan park couldn't remain this season. They contacted us knowing we used to have community markets on our site once a month. So, we entered into a couple of arrangements with some food trucks in the hope that it would bring foot traffic onto our property and maybe bring people through the doors. And while we didn't really see a lot of people come through our front doors, we certainly saw them and

Banner Image: Easter Sunday at Lake Jindabyne

Circle Image: The McGraths

Middle Image: Winter Church

Bottom Image: Our gazebo is taking shape



The Village Church Youth Leaders (Glenn & Sarah pictured left)

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our church exposed to the community once again. So it worked out to be pretty good

We didn't charge the food trucks anything for electricity or rent, we just said, "once a month our church like to have a meal together, could you provide that meal for us?" And they did. We made some good relationships and are thinking about doing it again next year.

We were hopeful that by offering something that anyone could connect with; conversations about "burgers at a church" might spark interest enough to lead people to check out the 'church' part a bit more. Time will tell if any fruit will come of it!

Please pray that having food trucks onsite during winter will lead to fruit down the track.

Kids & Youth ministry

Our youth and kids ministry has been incredible. Here's the big news. At the end of last year, we actually employed a kids coordinator one day a week. Sarah is her name, and she and her husband love to serve together so they are leading both our Kids and Youth ministries. And it's going great guns. On one Thursday in early November we had 17 youth and 15 kids attend. It has been

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super positive.

As you are no doubt aware, we've had space and people resource limitations for some time. We decided to change our approach to these ministries, moving our Sunday School program, 'Kids Village' and our Youth Group to Thursday afternoons. It's worked really well in terms of seeing the leaders of these groups not miss out on church on Sunday. Also, being on an afternoon, we've seen our church kids invite their friends, some of whom are coming along.

Give thanks for Sarah & Glenn and their role leading the Kids and Youth ministries at The Village Church.

A new space

For some time we've been thinking about how we can create more space so that our kids ministry could be year-round, and also provide a space

to be used as a breakout room/prayer room.

We came up with a plan to build a permanent gazebo structure, which is almost a fully enclosed room. There's walls, a roof and insulation. We had the DA approved a while back, and we have now broken ground. The footings have been dug and we're hopeful that by the time you're reading this, the concrete slab will be complete. Once the slab's down, we think the rest of it will get built fairly quickly. We're hoping that around Easter next year we will have this space ready to go.

The gazebo will have hard plastic blinds like the ones cafes use when the weather turns cold or windy. We're also going to put some roller shutters on the outside. In the end, we'll have a secure, enclosed, second space for our church to grow into!

Please pray that our long-awaited gazebo will be ready for use by next Easter. And give thanks that it's now underway.

Family

With the NSW government committing around a quarter billion dollars to upgrade our region over the next 40 years, the old Central School was decommissioned and a brand new Public Primary and High

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School were built. Henry and Siena have both been enjoying the change to their new environment.

This year Alice homeschooled Maisie which was a big change for both of them. Maisie loved it and while Alice enjoyed it, she found it a challenge. Maisie has taken to the work really well, free from some of the classroom distractions. She's been diagnosed with dyslexia, so we were trying to adjust to helping her learn at her own pace. We plan to send her back to school next year and give the new school a go.

I (Trent), want to give a big shout out to Alice. She has connected really well with the women of our church, particularly growing in her care and support for some women going through hard times. She's recently created a unique Home Group for these women so they can learn and grow together in a comfortable and safe space. She also leads music at church, is part of the Carols music team, leads youth on a Thursday afternoon and of course homeschools Maisie. She's crushing it!

Give thanks for Alice and all the the things she's involved with year round.

And finally...

We're hosting an outdoor Community Carols on Sunday 14 December. Everyone will get a free sausage sandwich and we'll have face painting and some fun before we start.

Please pray that the hundreds of people who attend the Community Carols each year at a location that is now unavailable, will come to the grounds of The Village Church,

hear the Good News of Jesus and be saved.

We are now at the end of our sixth year in Jindabyne. Being rural and alone in ministry, we find those families or people who commit themselves to the church give us the greatest encouragement. We really see the Lord's grace to our family as we get to partner in the Gospel with such people. People who love Jesus, are sold out to his mission, and are grateful for a church that teaches the truth from the Bible. More people like this we ask!



Every blessing,
Trent, Alice, Henry, Maisie & Siena

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