

Bayview Community —Together towards health and growth

The 70 year old church veteran from One Community Church leaned on his shovel and made a telling comment. "I have been to scores of working bees over the years but this would have to be the most significant."

Noel was one of the team of 40 people, half from other churches, who assisted the Bayview Community Church with a massive clean up operation. Bayview is the newly affiliated merge of the Red Hill and Tootgarook congregations. The warehouse the church bought had been vacant for 10 years, the box guttering had been stolen and the squatters had moved in. Although the building is solid, the inside was a massive, wet, smelly mess.

The team ripped up putrid carpet, broke up the old furniture and shoveled up rubbish. By lunch time the skip was nearly full and the team then moved on to the 'garden' outside. Another team cleaned up the adjoining former ABC Learning Centre that has also been purchased by the church.

By 3pm the whole property had been transformed.

Ted Keating, the minister of this new church, made the comment that it was more than just a clean up. "It told our little aged church community that we are not alone in this huge venture of creating a new church. Mornington, One Community, Ringwood, Thornbury and Liquid churches were amongst those represented. Conference was also represented, with Greg Warmbrunn, the chairman of Conference Council, and John Sharpe, chairman of the Churches of Christ Theological College Board, also swinging shovels."

As soon as permits are finalised the Bayview congregation intends to worship in the Family Centre (the former ABC Learning Centre) while the former warehouse is transformed into an auditorium.

Is there more to do? "There may be a small group interested in assisting with some interior painting," said Ted hopefully.

Contact Ted Keating on 59836971 if you can help.

