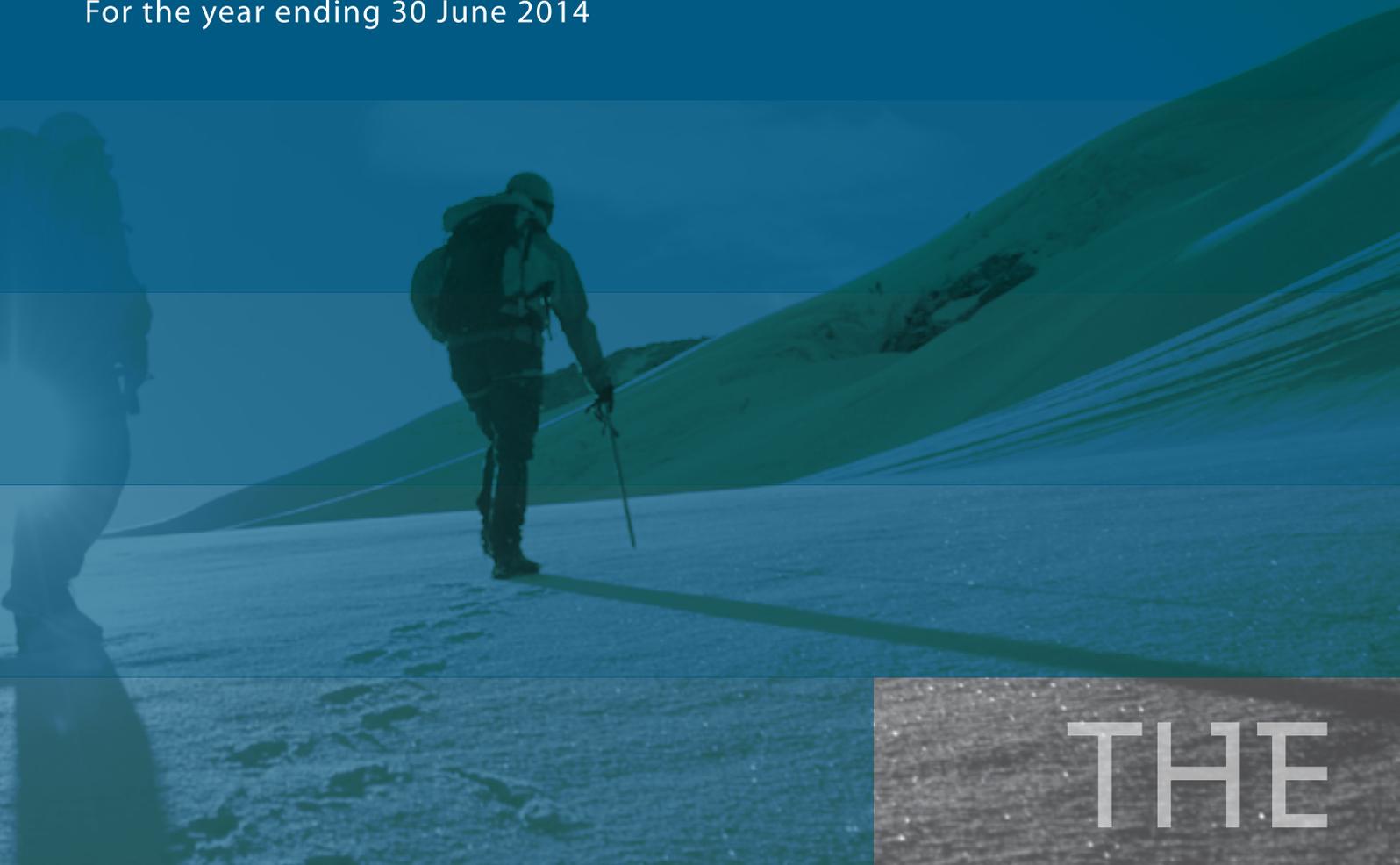


Churches of Christ in NSW  
Annual Report 2015  
For the year ending 30 June 2014



fresh hope



THE  
ADVENTUROUS  
SPIRIT

COURAGE | CREATIVITY | CONTEXT

COURAGE | CREATIVITY | CONTEXT

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# THE PRESIDENT & EXECUTIVE MINISTRY DIRECTOR

The Fresh Hope team at Churches of Christ in NSW continues to seek to proactively position our movement for transformation towards a dynamic future to create an enduring legacy that will enhance the Kingdom. At the end of this reporting year (30th June 2014) we have continued to see the wonderful work of faithful people serving Jesus and impacting communities across the length and breadth of New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory.

We are tremendously thankful for the teams of people who serve in our Conference ministries and for those unsung heroes who faithfully serve in local communities of faith. We remain focussed, optimistic and purposeful as we seek to enhance, encourage and bless our family of churches. The pages of this report highlight the wonderful service and ministry of so many staff and volunteers in impacting others for Jesus and His kingdom.

This year, we have chosen a compelling theme for our churches to consider: The Adventurous Spirit. As Paul engages with the church in Corinth he writes:

*"God, who got you started in this spiritual adventure, shares with us the life of his Son and our Master Jesus. He will never give up on you. Never forget that."*

[1 Corinthians 1:9 © The Message]

We find these words of encouragement to the Church to be timely. They remind us that a core focus of our work is to reflect and represent the life of Jesus. They also remind us that God in His Sovereignty is for us, urging us to faithfully present the good news into every life and every community. These words are deep. A spiritual adventure requires preparation; the mind, heart and hands ready and willing to respond in obedience to the Master's word and the Spirit's prompting.

As we consider these things, there are some profound themes that resonate with us. These should not surprise you as, collectively, they represent our currency and important exegetical and cultural research implicit in our ethos and values.

In the March 1931 (sic) edition of the "Christian Messenger" (then the journal of Churches of Christ in NSW) the late Dan Wakeley wrote:

*"Our one great concern ought to be to make known to everybody everywhere the great principles for which we stand, and which we consider distinctive and important enough to justify our existence as a separate religious body. If we do this in a frank and friendly manner we ought to be able to do it without antagonising anybody."*

Some of those great principles include:



### ***Spiritual Leadership:***

In every expression of church, there remains one core leadership principle: – the church is led by disciples (men and women) of high spiritual calibre and maturity.

We assert that spiritual leaders are salt and light, and offer fresh hope to a hurting world. We also understand there are many gifts and forms of leadership, but that Godly leaders nurture their souls through discipline and intention.

Spiritual leaders are essential for our future health and vitality. Every second year, Fresh Hope offers training and equipping in spiritual leadership for elders and board members who oversee churches. (Next event: July 31st - Aug 2nd 2015 at The Tops) Both ACOM and our Navigate leadership pipeline continue to provide an environment to promote spiritual growth and development. To equip people for spiritual adventure, a life in Christ lived in His presence.

### ***Transformation and Church Planting***

God's redemptive strategy for changing communities is: - the local church. Every church has a mandate to serve the community in which it is located.

We believe that denominations, structures and systems don't change the world. Local churches with genuine disciples alive to God's agenda and who yield their lives to expressing the Kingdom of God change the world.

Over the last three (3) years our Fresh Hope team has been engaged collaboratively with seven churches on a journey of transformation.

Our Lifegate Church in Padstow reflected on its journey:

*“The biggest influence the transformational church project had on us at Lifegate was the need for us to go deeper in relationships within our Eldership team..... In January this year we took our Elders, staff and their families away to “The Tops” to spend a weekend together sharing stories and building deeper relationships. As we grow deeper in relationships, trust is built which is an essential foundation for a healthy church”.*

We desire that every church engage in transformation, to have the courage and capacity to shift into new seasons of growth and vitality. We believe that healthy churches plant healthy churches.

Our aim is to inspire our network of churches to pursue the planting of 20 new churches over the next 5 years. If your church is interested in this aspect of spiritual adventure, please talk with us. This would represent about 20% of our family of churches having the desire to raise and nurture a new church within the next 5 years.

### ***A Family of Inter-connected, Inter-dependent Relationships***

We have a litmus test with respect to the overall health and vitality of our family of churches. It looks like this – we desire every church to belong to our family because they want to belong,

not because they are compelled structurally to belong.

Over the last 5 years, Conference has given about \$1 million to our family of churches in the form of synergy grants. We do so to model an aspect of our heart, which is to resource the local church. We are continuing to gather churches who choose to belong to our family of churches because of the uncluttered Christian message we proclaim and the vision of the Kingdom of God we seek to articulate. We limit our management towards churches and seek to empower our family through relationships of trust. Conference seeks to add value to the Church’s mission wherever possible. We are excited that through this strategy, we are seeing high trust and engagement across the majority of our churches.

### ***Legacy – Towards 2050***

It’s somewhat difficult to project, in advance, what the needs and ministries of a network of churches might be in some 35 years.

Notwithstanding, Conference collectively has been imagining and planning what the generation of 2050 might inherit from our ministry in this decade of 2010 - 2020.

We are intentionally considering strategically, in a complex and changing world, what needs attention now in order to position our

movement so that future generations will be thankful we engaged in some critical strategic shifts. Some of these will commence in 2015, and others will be ongoing and communicated in subsequent years.

*An example of this thinking is the establishment of an Urban Development Taskforce.*

Our early pioneers (circa early 1900's) were profoundly visionary and optimistic in building church facilities on street corners in most neighbourhoods and cities.

In 2015, many churches face significant challenges around compliance with ageing facilities in problematic locations. While it is impossible to suddenly redevelop, relocate or build new mission centres for some 95 plus churches, we understand our broader responsibility is to gather the prerequisite technical expertise to assist churches in this endeavour. For that reason we are bringing together a group of experienced people to act as an advisory group to our network to provide assistance and guidance in relation to the redevelopment or rejuvenation of our ageing properties.

We would hope as a consequence of this initiative, that our strategic reach will be extended, particularly in the Government identified urban growth corridors.

*Adding third year student live-in leadership training and equipping to Navigate is another initiative.*

Many of our young adults are willing and passionate to engage in local mission in engaging environments. In 2016, Conference will network several training centres as potential live-in sites where students can pursue the spiritual adventure of a life in Christ and learn from seasoned professionals the art and science of spiritual leadership and ministry. We pray that these environments will encourage future leaders to join our family of churches and inspire younger leaders to grow and learn in healthy environments.

As a community of Churches we will do well to faithfully embrace the spiritual adventure which is ours in Christ Jesus. In the words of James Davison Hunter (paraphrasing) "to yield our wills to God and to nurture and cultivate the world where we are placed" for the sake of the Kingdom.

It has been a joy and privilege to serve our network over the reporting period. We give thanks to God for his faithfulness and the talents of those who co-contribute to the cause of His Kingdom.

Stephen Toomey | President  
Dr Andrew Ball | Executive Ministry Director

# LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

## IMPART | NAVIGATE

*"Permeable souls need a loving presence to mimic if they are to become and grow in the capacity to love well."<sup>1</sup>*

This quote helps unpack the essence of the transformational experience that the NAVIGATE and IMPART programs seek to provide for young people between the ages of 18 – 30.

Over the past year, twenty students have been introduced to a loving presence that they can mimic. This space has been created through engaging with Abba Father, His living Word and His Spirit. The students have learned the art of enjoying His backyard and encountered souls that have the capacity to love well.

Here is how some of the students describe their learning journey..

*"NAVIGATE has been an incredible journey of growth and confidence in myself and my relationship with God and others. I have begun discovering and nurturing my gifts and skills and letting go of past lies and fears that have been holding me back!"*

*"NAVIGATE has been a year that has cemented my life in Christ, giving me a desire to serve Him wholeheartedly with everything I do for the rest of my life. Formation through Navigate has allowed me to let go of who I thought I needed to be, in order to become who I am. P.S The food is amazing, you will never go hungry!!"*

*"One of the highlights of IMPART for me is the emphasis on the spirit of adventure, we got to go out into the wildness of God's backyard and experience God in nature." Adrian Tam*

*"There are many moments, many experiences that have transformed me this year..."*

*"[IMPART] has taught me that I am a treasured, invaluable daughter of the most high God and He loves me and He is faithful." Bonnie Wilson*

This year we celebrated our first graduate of IMPART to begin as a Sole Pastor in a church. Many other graduates have taken ministry positions in our Fresh Hope family of churches; others have expressed their gratitude for the holistic Kingdom foundation as they have launched into various university courses. I am confident many of these young disciples will continue to grow in maturity and will be spiritual leaders in our movement and beyond in the decade ahead.

I am thankful for the effort and energy of many who create the spaces for Kingdom transformation. I want to acknowledge the support that ACOM gives in designing the flexible formal learning platform.

Marianne and I count it a privilege to be part of a team who spiritually influence the awesome young men and woman of our Fresh Hope family. There is a quiet confidence within our leadership community that the next chapter of our movement will see great Kingdom release.

John Crowther

Director | Leadership Development

<sup>1</sup> The Relational Soul: Moving from False Self to Deep Connection, By Richard Plass, James Cofiel

**“PERMEABLE  
SOULS NEED  
A LOVING  
PRESENCE TO  
MIMIC IF THEY  
ARE TO BECOME  
AND GROW IN  
THE CAPACITY  
TO LOVE WELL”<sup>1</sup>**

# LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT MINISTRY CARE NETWORK

God is doing wonderful things throughout our Movement. I have been so encouraged with the fresh connections that have been developed over this last year. I have been so blessed to see the deepening desire of our Pastors to grow closer with God and each other. Many of our Pastors are now meeting together on a regular basis, sharing lunches, attending Spiritual Retreats, or enjoying a coffee or a meal outside of Fresh Hope Ministry activities. There seems to be a greater desire for connection throughout our Movement, which is so great to see.

As pastors and leaders we carry a tremendous weighty responsibility of leading churches, pastoring people and helping people grow in their spiritual life. In many ways, it is difficult for us to encourage, build and equip others when we are empty, dry and barren in ourselves. We cannot empower or enable others to rise higher, go deeper, or grow stronger than we have ourselves.

The Apostle Paul encourages us to

*“train yourself to be Godly ... set an example for other believers and non-believers alike, in the way we are to live our lives...” [1 Timothy 4:8 – 13].*

Encouraging Pastors to draw closer and to go deeper with Jesus is what the team here at Fresh Hope are striving to do. We see in scripture that Jesus himself regularly withdrew from the pressures of life and ministry to go aside to

pray. Yet as Pastors and Leaders we often find it so difficult to set time aside to be alone with or draw near to God. We find there are so many pressing needs within our congregations that we are tempted to neglect our own walk with God - as a result our own spiritual life suffers greatly.

I know that the growing number of Pastors who make the effort to stop for a while and smell the roses, or coffee in most cases, have benefited greatly by the experience of meeting together and have blessed others with sharing their experience and passion.

Thank you to everyone who has been involved in retreats or lunches in the past year. I would like to extend a special thanks to all those people who have provided facilities and meals for the Pastors to enjoy.

Being a Pastor in a church and serving in Christian ministry is not always easy, and can sometimes be very lonely. This is why it is important for us as fellow workers in the Kingdom of God to support, encourage and uplift one another as the Apostle Paul wrote:

*“<sup>9</sup>And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. <sup>10</sup>Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.” [Galatians 6:9-10]*

Any Pastors who find themselves tired, dry, or in need of refreshment, it is times like this we need to draw close to God. I encourage everyone to prioritise time to retreat and experience the great blessing of refreshing that God offers. If you would like to be a part of a guided spiritual retreat please contact me and we can help connect you with other Pastors and Leaders.

During this past year I have had the pleasure of spending time with most of you, either personally, one on one, corporately at retreats or in your church. I thank you all for your support and your encouragement in this vital role as we continue to build His Kingdom together.

I am so looking forward to this coming year, to see what God has in store for all of the churches and to see God's hand at work in people's lives.

My prayer for you is that God will pour out his richest blessing on you and on the church community that you serve in the months and years ahead.

Leon Munro

Leader | Ministry Care Network



# LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

## SPIRITUAL MENTORING

### SPIRITUAL MENTORING

During the past 12 months, three Spiritual Mentoring training groups have been operating simultaneously. The 4th, 5th and 6th cohorts of around 10-12 participants each are in varying stages of their 2.5 year journey. To date, more than 60 of our ministry leaders are up-skilling and enjoying a formational accelerant. This empowers them to build and support our Movement.

Most participants are Pastors, Chaplains, Youth Pastors and Ministry Leaders. There is an even mix of gender, age and stage in each group adding a tremendous flavour to the experience.

Each participant enjoys rich community and the impact of having 11 others present in their life journey, mentoring into them each time they gather. It's not surprising, that in a climate like this, spiritual growth becomes exciting. The experience and training can then spill over into their ministry settings.

### SUPERVISION CIRCLE

A support and supervision circle operates throughout the year for the large number of people mentoring across our Movement and beyond. On this occasion, mentors come and share resources, network and receive encouragement and support as they deepen their practice. These days continue to add value to the Spiritual Mentoring Ministry.

### What Participants say...

*"This was a wonderful rolling retreat for the two and a half years it ran. It was great to see such a gentle, spiritual and powerful embrace of Christian truth embracing all ages and streams of the one church that Jesus is calling into being. As somebody relatively new to the Churches of Christ, attracted by its aspiration to be a movement for Christian unity, it has been very encouraging to experience something with such integrity and so "true to label". On a personal level I have enjoyed a progressive deepening of my walk with and experience of God. There are not enough words to express my appreciation of this."*

Peter Carblis, Aged-care Chaplain and Pastor (Learning and Development) at Northgate Ministries

*"Spiritual Mentoring – an experience that has challenged my internal world and produced a blossoming of fresh new invigorating life to my external world. This course has opened up a whole new journey of intimacy with God and in turn influences the way I do relationship with those around me and to those He leads me to mentor."*

Ken Wooley, Pastor at Hurstville Church of Christ



# “IT’S NOT SURPRISING, THAT IN A CLIMATE LIKE THIS, SPIRITUAL GROWTH BECOMES EXCITING.”

*“Fear of the unknown cripples many from exploring, learning and living the life God has planned for them. I felt that fear when I signed up to go on a spiritual mentoring journey. But I can honestly say, this experience has been the most influential and beneficial thing I have ever done. This course has helped me to know God at a far deeper level, learn the benefits of spiritual disciplines and has made me a better person, husband, father and pastor.*

*The outcomes of this course are not just personal, they have flowed into our church and we have seen spiritual growth in many people. We have just finished a series on recognising the voice of God and are currently studying spiritual disciplines.*

*I highly recommend the Art of Spiritual Mentoring course to any who desire an intimate relationship with God and want to encourage others to do the same.”*

Glen Clark, Pastor at Hawkesbury Church of Christ

Sue Whiteley

Facilitator | Spiritual Mentoring



# LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS

As I reflect on the past 12 months, I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to serve the Fresh Hope Movement in this role.

I am excited by an increased desire in our churches to engage with young people in their communities. I am encouraged as I see local leaders working hard to contextualise the Gospel to their community and to see genuine transformation. It continues to be the greatest pleasure in my role to get beside leaders, encourage them and see God use them and their teams in powerful ways. Here are a few of the highlights from our key initiatives for the 12 months ending June 2014:

NSW Snapshot 2014:

**27 CHURCHES EMPLOY SOMEONE TO WORK WITH YOUTH OR YOUNG ADULTS**

**37 CHURCHES ENGAGED IN YOUTH VISION NSW INITIATIVES**

**4 CHURCHES CURRENTLY SEEKING TO EMPLOY A YOUTH WORKER**

**25 YOUNG LEADERS ENGAGED IN FRESH HOPE LEADERSHIP PATHWAYS (NAVIGATE/ IMPART/ TOPS INTERNSHIP)**

**47 PEOPLE ATTENDED UPRISING 2013**

**56 YOUTH LEADERS ATTENDED NYMC WITH YOUTH VISION NSW**

**180+ PEOPLE ATTENDED DRASTIC 2013**

## MASTERCLASS

In March (2014) we hosted Dr. Patricia Weerakoon, Christian Sexologist, Speaker and Author of 'Teen Sex by the Book'. Around 30 leaders were challenged as we explored the issues surrounding sex, relationships, gender and technology in the lives of young people. If you are interested in exploring this, her book is an incredibly challenging and informative read for parents, leaders and older teens.

In June we ran an NYMC Sydney event with Mike Pilivachi, founder of Soul Survivor UK. Mike is one of the most influential voices in youth ministry across the world today and it was a privilege for 50 of our leaders to have a day with Mike exploring discipleship, mission, spirituality and evangelism.

## NYMC

NYMC is the foremost youth ministry conference in Australia, gathering over 600 delegates from across Australia and beyond, from every denomination for 4 days of workshops, training and learning on the Gold Coast. Youth Vision NSW took nearly 60 leaders to NYMC this year and it was an incredible time of equipping, learning and growing as leaders and as teams. We look forward to heading to NYMC in October 2015 again. If you work with young people then make sure you don't miss out.



### **DRASTIC 2013**

In October 2013, nearly 200 young people gathered for 4 days at The Tops to explore the theme of 'Burning Lights'. It was one of the most powerful camps ever, as many young people began a relationship with Jesus. Many more recommitted their lives and we saw a generation get excited about being light in their world.

Alasdair and Michelle MacDougall coordinated DRASTIC again with the help of Alex Murfet (Worship and Creative Director) and Josh Pipes (Activities Director). It's been exciting to see how DRASTIC continues to capture the imagination and excitement of young people from all across NSW.

### **UPRISING 2013**

In our 3rd year of UPRISING, around 9 churches took the opportunity to bring their key young people to a 4-day leadership camp.

This year, UPRISING partnered with Southern Illawarra Church of Christ to run a holiday Kids program. The UPRISING students had 2 days to plan the program before being unleashed on 50 kids from Albion Park. It was an amazing experience for all involved and was a real encouragement to see year 10-12 students take the lead.

### **FUSE**

FUSE continues to grow as more and more of our churches see it as a key event for youth. It's been great to be able to take FUSE to different churches each term and see how different communities can put their mark on it. Thanks to Castle Hill Community Church and Pathways for hosting FUSE in the past 12 months.

It has also been incredibly exciting to see a group of our churches in the Newcastle Hunter region begin their own quarterly FUSE event.

### **YOUTH PASTORS SPIRITUAL RETREAT**

In 2014 we headed to Kangaroo Valley with a dozen Youth Pastors and Leaders for two days of guided spiritual retreating. Thank you to Geoff Brailey (Castle Hill Community) for coordinating this and leading us into a reflective space to seek God, to be still and to rest.

Thanks again to all those who work tirelessly in our churches discipling and loving youth and young adults. Also a huge thanks to Elle Laura-Ramsey, who wrapped up her involvement as administration support for Youth Vision at the end of 2013, your contribution was significant and is missed.

Steve Hodgson

Leader | Youth Vision NSW/Fresh Hope Youth

# CORPORATE SERVICES

The Corporate Services team brings together the functions of Human Resources (including Payroll and WH&S), Finance (including Procurement & Assets), Information Technology and Ministry Services, with a mandate to provide services right across our Fresh Hope activities.

The Finance team, under the leadership of Nirajah Mahendra, has overcome significant staff changes and challenges to provide excellent service. Day 5 reporting has been consistently achieved along with better financial analysis and commentary.

Crystal Zhang went on maternity leave, Belinda Edwards assumed responsibility for the financial reporting and processes, and Ritika Lall the responsibility for the Living Care accounts. Maria Jimenez (Assets & Fleet), and Bill Tregear (Procurement) also made great progress.

The Human Resources team led by John Favaloro continues to make good progress on a range of HR issues and processes.

Aon Hewitt provided excellent advice in workers compensation claims management, with significant improvements made in premium cost as well as in the Return To Work programs. The Feasibility of the Retro Paid Loss scheme was assessed by Aon Hewitt as worthy of more detailed consideration. Dennis Dumlao was engaged to lead the development of a Business Case for the upgrading of our payroll systems.

The Information Technology Team led by Chris Shen worked on a wide range of system enhancement projects as well as support tasks.

High on this list are systems for Consumer Directed Care and for the new Aged Care Funding Regime. A detailed IT Risk Review report was prepared by our outsourced system provider, with recommendations to strengthen our systems which are being implemented progressively.

The Audit Committee continued to play a key role in the oversight of the external audit by KPMG. Nearly all of the recommendations raised by KPMG in their audits to date have now been resolved, with only one new recommendation raised in the past year.

An Investment Committee met quarterly with UBS, our Investment Adviser, to discuss portfolio performance and investment strategy. UBS have continued to impress with the quality of their advice and service levels.

Ministry Services continues to thrive under the leadership of Sandra Noel with a focus on communications led by Renee Leeming and events coordinated by Jessica Clements. The year included development of a Communications Strategy with a focus on Fresh Hope Branding including eNEWS, social media and telling our Fresh Hope stories.

Improvements in the delivery of events including Annual Conference, Ministers Awakening and Transformational Church plus other leadership events, continue as the bar is set higher each year. The team has worked on developments to the Endorsement, SRE and WWCC systems as they continue to seek better ways to serve churches and ministers.

Risk Advisory Services were engaged to complete a detailed review of general insurances and recommended a move to one program / one broker, and that gaps and duplication in our existing insurances be corrected. Risk Advisory Services were engaged to conduct a tender for our insurance broker and to assist with the (30 September 2014) renewal process.

The team building day for Rhodes staff was held at ACH Forestville on 15 August 2013.

A successful Corporate Services Planning day was held in January 2014 at the UNSW ThinkPod. This helped each CS team develop their plans for the year with input from our key stakeholders.

Max Hopkins

Director | Corporate Services

# FRESH HOPE INITIATIVE

## SOUTHPOINT

Each year, Churches of Christ in NSW intentionally uses its resources to help others in the context of the Kingdom of God. As God has blessed us, we have been able to serve others in their pursuit of strategic effectiveness. The heartbeat behind Southpoint is to encourage church leaders in spiritual leadership.

A key initiative of Southpoint has been a flexible approach to help churches and their leaders adapt to transformation in an ever-changing society. The first seven churches that embarked upon a three-year journey of learning and collaborating together through the Transformational Church Project, inched closer to being the first cohort to complete this project with their graduation set for 2015. Southpoint has invited more churches to participate beyond the reporting year in a new cohort.

Southpoint has also assisted Christian Super, Christian Venues and the Christian Churches of New Zealand with respect to strategic planning.

*"The task of outlining future strategy can be complex and tiring, and yet it should be invigorating. When the National Board of Christian Venues Association sought to develop a set of strategic intents in 2011-12 we were blessed by the input of Andrew Ball as Facilitator. Andrew was able to assist us in identifying critical pieces, unpack varying perspectives, and engage with the most important aspects. His integrity and experience in Christian leadership allowed trust*

*to develop quickly, and meant that he could both challenge ideas and extend both our thinking and our presentation.*

*I would commend Andrew to others who are seeking someone to assist in this important function. His candor and insight, his energy and humility provided a vital impetus to our considerations. Most critically we were reminded of the need to seek God's leading to be humble, wise and courageous. This resulted in a living document rather than a museum piece: a glimpse of future possibilities which has already shaped current activity, and generated excitement amongst the broader membership."*

Gary Hill, Chairman, Christian Venues Association

*"Southpoint has inputted into our New Zealand national leadership team on an annual basis. As a consequence, the vision for our movement has become clearer, simpler and well thought through, as Andrew has kept us honest and passionate about the very core purposes of Christian Churches New Zealand. We so appreciate Andrew's insights, gracefulness, his strategic ability and spiritual leadership."*

Brent Liebezeit - President Christian Churches NZ

Southpoint will continue to focus on the following priorities for 2015-16:

**MENTORING CHURCHES IN SPIRITUAL TRANSFORMATION THROUGH THE TRANSFORMATIONAL CHURCH PROJECT**

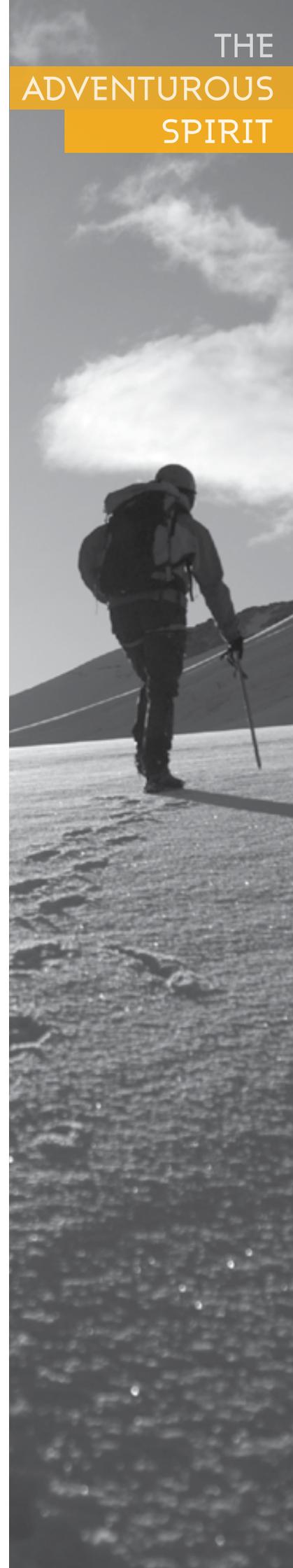
**ESTABLISHING SOME GRADUATE SUBJECTS FOR ACOM TO ASSIST THE PERSONAL GROWTH OF THOSE IN MINISTRY**

**CONTINUING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH OUR FAMILY IN NEW ZEALAND (THE CHRISTIAN CHURCHES OF NEW ZEALAND)**

**SERVING OTHER CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES COMMITTED TO THE KINGDOM OF GOD**

Dr Andrew Ball

Director | Southpoint Australia



# FRESH HOPE INITIATIVE

## ACOM

The Australian College of Ministries (ACOM) is distinctively a college of ministry. Our desire is that Churches of Christ are led by men and women who are spiritually-formed, theologically-sound, pastorally-proficient, and missionally-focused. At our core we believe the restoration plea is a current, fresh and applicable framework for the formation of effective ministers and missionaries who can lead Churches of Christ across the country.

Commencing our 73rd year of service to Churches of Christ in NSW, our courses are tailored for God's people wherever they work, minister and live - in the church, workplace and community. We develop healthy, effective leaders who can positively impact their own corner of the world. ACOM students can access accredited study from Certificate III up to PhD.

The relationship between ACOM (incorporated as a company limited by guarantee) and Churches of Christ in NSW (incorporated by an Act of Parliament) is one where both parties recognise that while they are different legal entities for the purpose of convenience and compliance, they operate as one organisation, united in their mission objectives, and reflecting the spirit and values of Churches of Christ.

The current Board of Directors for ACOM is: Neville Cox (Chairman), Dr Andrew Ball, Dr Peter Laughlin, Ray Cheal, Larry Galbraith, Alison Feldman, and Dennis Nutt. The Company Secretary is Catherine Kleemann.

ACOM is led operationally by 23 permanent staff located across Australia assisted by 30 sessional staff who add significantly to the quality of the student experience. ACOM continues to invest in cutting edge online learning and e-library resources while delivering over 90 face-to-face learning experiences across the country.

*Students in Higher Education:* Approximately 460 active students are studying university level qualifications. 52% of these students are affiliated with Churches of Christ. ACOM has added 137 new students in 2014, 141 in 2013, and 119 in 2012. Course unit numbers have increased 45% over the last three years. This year 44 students graduated with university qualifications in the Great Hall of the University of Sydney.

*Students in Vocational Education:* ACOM has approximately 500 active students. Almost 90% are aged 19 to 33. 12% of these students are affiliated with Churches of Christ. This year, 160 students graduated with vocational qualifications.



ACOM has 115 students connected to Churches of Christ in NSW from the following churches:

**ALBURY**  
**ARMIDALE**  
**ASQUITH**  
**BELROSE**  
**BOWRAL**  
**CAMPBELLTOWN**  
**CASTLE HILL**  
**COAST COMMUNITY**  
**COFFS HARBOUR**  
**DUBBO**  
**EAST NOWRA**  
**ENGADINE**  
**EPPING**  
**FORSTER**  
**GREENACRE**  
**KINGSWAY**  
**LISMORE**  
**LOWER BLUE MOUNTAINS**  
**MAITLAND**  
**MAYFIELD**  
**NORTH TURRAMURRA**  
**NORTHSIDE**  
**NOWRA**  
**OLD BAR**  
**LIFEGATE (PADSTOW)**  
**PENDLE HILL**  
**PORT MACQUARIE**  
**RIVERGUM (ROUSE HILL)**  
**SALT ASH**  
**SOUTHERN ILLAWARRA**  
**THORNTON**  
**TWEED HEADS**  
**WOLLONGONG**

A particular highlight for ACOM is the significant partnership with Churches of Christ that adds value to the quality and effectiveness of the IMPART and NAVIGATE programs.

This was a year of significant growth and progress for ACOM. We request your prayers as we strive to assist God's people to be transformed into agents of change who can make a positive impact on their corner of the world – in the name of Jesus!

Dr Stephen Smith  
Chief Executive Officer | ACOM

# FRESH HOPE INITIATIVE

## CAREWORKS

Careworks serves the poor and vulnerable in our community to see their lives and the community they live in transformed. Careworks believes that the local church is best placed to transform the community. By living among those in need, we gain a deeper understanding of the local context and culture and can therefore build deeper relationships. Careworks forms partnerships with local churches that want to undertake relevant and sustainable community based projects.

During his ministry, Jesus concurrently healed the sick and proclaimed the good news. Likewise, Careworks projects seek to meet the physical and spiritual needs for those who participate in their activities. Meeting immediate needs by providing food, clothing, shelter, education, counselling, etc.; Careworks projects create a safe place where trust and authentic relationships can be built, where deep conversations can take place and where the longer term physical, emotional and spiritual needs can be addressed.

### CHURCH PARTNERSHIPS

Careworks has partnerships with 18 churches that conduct a wide range of community activities including food relief, meals, second hand clothing shops, community sheds and spaces, housing, counselling and homework clubs.

In 2013/14 a total of \$224k in tax deductible donations was received. \$51k of which was given for general purposes. The Careworks Ministry team granted \$185k from the general purpose fund (including past donations) to its partner churches. Careworks also facilitated the receipt

of \$1,042k in Government funding.

Over \$22k was raised for the bushfire appeal in October last year. These funds were fully distributed by Katoomba Lighthouse Church and Penrith Church of Christ to families affected by the bushfires.

### NEW PARTNERSHIPS

**THRIVE LONDONDERRY** is a project initiated by the Hawkesbury Community Church that launched in May this year. Located in the centre of town, Thrive is strategically placed to act as a point of connection for the community of Londonderry. It's a place to connect, to learn and to grow. Its main objective is to encourage and facilitate development by offering a wide range of learning sessions and to act as a point of contact for community referral services and information.

Thrive Londonderry helps people in need in their community by providing:

- > **Skills training to reduce sense of helplessness**
- > **Family Support and Advocacy Services**
- > **Budget assistance and training**
- > **Parent Programs**
- > **Marriage Counselling**
- > **Tutoring in English and Mathematics**
- > **Homework Club**
- > **Referral services to counselling and/or medical treatment**
- > **Pastoral care, emotional and spiritual support**
- > **Drop off distribution centre for emergency relief**

## TABLE@399

Table@399, Kingsford is a new project of Kingsford Church of Christ, caring for those in need in their community through:

- > Provision of food and groceries to those in financial need and distress
- > Service provision providing emotional and spiritual support
- > Family Support and Advocacy services for marginalised families
- > Budgetary assistance and training to assist people out of poverty, suffering and distress

## CHAPLAINCY

Careworks places Chaplains primarily in Living Care facilities and services but also in hospitals, prisons and schools.

Careworks Chaplains continue to develop their skills and abilities in being a non-anxious presence, and have benefited greatly from the Certificate in Chaplaincy course developed and run by ACOM.

This year we said farewell to our Chaplain's Co-ordinator, Murray Bingham, who has moved into a more educational and development role with his own training and consultancy business. After many years of faithful service, Linda Avery (The Glen) and Rosalie Rofe (Woodlands Nursing Home) retired. We are blessed that both are providing coaching support to the new Chaplains who have replaced them.

## ROUNDTABLE EVENT

Careworks held its inaugural roundtable event at the 2014 Annual Conference. The main purpose of the event was to connect Careworks partners, to share ideas and learn from each other. One participant said,

*"It's good that our church was able to meet other people from other churches who are reaching out to their communities - to share the positives and negatives and the challenges, pitfalls, victories and defeats as we engage in our community."*

Careworks plans to run more networking and training events to assist local churches in utilising the collective wisdom and best practice in the activities they conduct in the community.

## WHY PARTNER WITH CAREWORKS?

In an increasingly sceptical and suspicious society, Careworks projects enable the church (people not the building) to become visible in the community and breakdown the suspicions of what goes on inside the building behind closed doors.

For example:

In Padstow, church is visible on the front deck as they serve meals to the community.

In Kanahooka, church is visible as a men's shed, community garden and homework club.

In Bathurst, church is open as a safe place for youth where they can be fed and cared for.

The same could be described for each church partnering with Careworks.

In John 17, we read that Jesus came to reveal the Father to the world. He did not do this behind closed doors, but made the Father known in the community. Careworks projects, serving in the community in a visible way reveals Jesus and the Father to the world.

Richard Reeve  
Ministry Leader | Careworks

careworks  
...bringing fresh hope

# FRESH HOPE INITIATIVE

## LIVING CARE

### LIVING CARE ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2013/14

#### CAPITAL REDEVELOPMENT UNDERWAY

After literally years of planning, it is pleasing to report that Living Care has commenced the upgrading of its older residential care facilities with the redevelopment and extension of Crawford Lodge at Pendle Hill and Borella House at Albury.

Both projects commenced with "turning of sod" ceremonies in late February 2014 by Dr. Andrew Ball (Pendle Hill) and in late March 2014 by Albury Mayor Mr. Kevin Mack (Borella House).

At the time of writing the Pendle Hill project is on track to be completed in December 2014 and Borella House December 2015.

It is anticipated that in the coming years we will see all of Living Care's older residential aged care facilities undergo major redevelopment to ensure that we can continue to provide the best possible care in the most appropriate setting.



#### CLELLAND LODGE 20 YEAR CELEBRATION

Residents, family members, special guests, local dignitaries and staff celebrated the 20 year anniversary of Clelland Lodge with a garden party in April 2014.

The special guests included Nessie Barrett and Cathie Clelland (daughters of Jim and Barbara Clelland). Nessie and Cathie shared the stories of the tireless work their parents did for Churches of Christ and the Nowra community. They also acknowledged how proud and honored they would have been in the care and services provided at Clelland Lodge.

#### ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY

Staff from a number of Living Care services participated in local fundraising events including "Relay for Life" - raising funds for Cancer Research and "Coast Trek" - raising funds for the Fred Hollows Foundation. These events have not only been great team building exercises, they have also provided a platform to inform the community of Living Care and its services.

#### COMPLIANCE

In a credit to our staff and the approach Living Care adopts in the delivery of services, all residential aged care facilities and home care services maintained 100% compliance with the expected outcomes that are in place for all Commonwealth funded services. In an environment where aged care operators are understandably subjected to increased scrutiny, we are very proud of and take very seriously our compliance record.

CELEBRATING  
75 YEARS**CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF CARING**

November 2013 was a significant milestone for Living Care as together we celebrated 75 years of caring for individuals in New South Wales.

To celebrate this milestone, we held a special gala luncheon to acknowledge Living Care's past leaders together with a number of our current staff who demonstrate excellence in their care for others.

This was a wonderful opportunity to reflect on past achievements and also acknowledge those who contributed so much to building the firm foundation on which the organisation now stands.

Susan Martin, the winner of this year's Excellence in Service Award, certainly embodies the mission, values and philosophy of Living Care and was acknowledged by all who know her work as a worthy winner.

**ACH AND FORESTVILLE GARDEN PROJECT**

This project was undertaken by the Fresh Hope Ministry Centre team who together dug, carried, spread, planted and watered the gardens at ACH and Forestville under the direction of designer Wendy Ball.

Feedback from the residents has been very positive; the new streetscape is a vast improvement and presents the village and facility as sophisticated and contemporary.

Graham Reed  
Executive Director | Living Care



# FRESH HOPE INITIATIVE

## THE TOPS

As another year passes, it is fair to say that the work here at The Tops has once again continued to diversify and increase. With ever changing and increased operational complexities, along with growing market demand, The Tops has ploughed through another year with a volume marginally bigger than the previous.

The year to 30 June 2014 hosted 102,618 Guest Days, which was a growth of approximately 2.8%. Not a massive jump, yet constantly increasing, which is a continuation of the trend experienced every year since the bushfires that damaged the facility so intensely back in 2001.

The surplus for the year was reflective of the volume growth which provides a solid financial foundation supporting the ever-growing infrastructure. The expansionary attitude now embedded within the culture at The Tops demands scrutinization and strategic review of the use of funds.

Our desire is to continually develop and enhance our 'product', which we feel, underpins the effectiveness and longevity of the ministry. Guests often write that they love returning each year to see what has been added.

The year saw some incredibly difficult circumstances that had to be dealt with by the team. We further witnessed the hand of God in every aspect. In late October 2013, a teenager had a terrible accident falling from one of our cliffs. Under the supervision of their

own teachers, some boys had wandered into an unused and heavily vegetated area of the property where the unfortunate incident led to one of the boys falling into the valley below.

The quick response of The Tops staff, who in fact, were instrumental in locating the teenager and getting assistance to him while awaiting professional rescue assistance, proved critical to his successful removal from the scene in a Careflight helicopter. Prayer support, counseling and assistance to emergency personnel all kicked into full swing. We praise God as, following the last communication, we understand that the young man has been making a slow and steady recovery from what was initially feared a life-taking accident.

A positive introduction into the site has been the 'Intern' program commencing in January 2014. The 2-year Internship will see candidates work at The Tops on a part time basis while undertaking studies with ACOM toward the completion of a Diploma in Christian Studies.



Our first intake of 3 interns will be exposed to every facet of camping ministry. We aim to help them explore the numerous career ministry opportunities available in Christian camping. Interns also participate in Fresh Hope Summer & Winter Schools and join intensive student formation groups - with each intern individually mentored. Throughout the duration, we desire to provide a strategic 2-year personal formation process for each individual.

In the midst of all this activity we have continued to serve as part of the wider Fresh Hope Movement, supporting ministries with funding, subsidising many joint camping initiatives and directly undertaking numerous key camp programs throughout the year.

What a blessing it is to serve in this invaluable ministry!

In his Service

Dave Tolman

Executive Director | The Tops

# PROPERTY TRUST

The Churches of Christ Property Trust is a ministry of Churches of Christ in New South Wales and works alongside the Conference Executive to ensure good governance and stewardship of the property resources of the movement.

*"Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labour in vain." [Psalm 127 v 1a]*

The Property Trust seeks to serve the local church in matching the facilities of the church to the vision God has given them as a local church.

## DEPOSIT FUNDS

The Property Trust manages the Deposits Fund which provides low interest loans to Churches to assist in the acquisition and improvement of property. Loans are also made to Ministers for the purchase of vehicles.

These loans are made possible by Church Members, Churches and Ministries leaving money deposits with the trust either at interest or interest free.

As at June 30 2014, there was a total deposit pool of \$8,085, 815, representing some 63% of total funds, from the following three sources:

Deposits from 44 Individuals - \$1,482,870

Deposits from 24 Churches - \$1,134,149

Deposits from seven Conference Executive Ministry Teams (including Living Care & Careworks) - \$5,468,795



## PROVIDING LOANS TO CHURCHES

The Property Trust has assisted a number of churches during the 2013-14 financial year. There are currently 23 loans to churches comprising \$8,097,706 in total lendings as at the 30 June 2014. There are also a further 3 loans approved but yet to be drawn.

*"Over the last few years, Rivergum has grown significantly in numbers, and in it's visibility and influence within the community. I believe this is largely due to us having our own land and facility, which would not have been possible without the assistance of the Property Trust. We especially appreciate the willingness of the Property Trust to partner with us in our vision, and in faith to provide funds at a time when our income was insufficient to sustain repayment of the mortgage."*

*Jeff Deuble, Senior Pastor, Rivergum*



*"The Property Trust assisted with construction finance for the project while funds continued to come in as well as provision of longer term debt. As a result the church was able to acquire 6 acres of land and spend \$1.8m on its new facilities. These facilities provide an exciting new chapter for Coast Community Church as they "Seek First His Kingdom".*

*Paul Campey, Central Coast*

## TRUST FUNDS

The Property Trust also manages a number of trust funds. These are funds that have been left to the Property Trust to administer (either through a bequest, trust deed or will) and each fund has its own specific purpose and rules surrounding how the funds can be used.

The Property Trust can provide gifts and loans from these trusts to churches whose request aligns with the purpose of that particular fund.

As at 30 June 2014, the total of trusts funds being managed by the Property Trust is \$2,261,169.

During the year, funds were distributed to Engadine for new seating; East Nowra for church planting; and to designated ministries such as GMP and ACOM.

## FINANCIALS '13 - 14

The Property Trust generally aims to make a small surplus of 5% return on equity as this strengthens reserves and assists in the ability to provide loans at a lower cost.

During 2013/14, the Property Trust was able to further reduce the interest rate from 5.25% to 5.00%

Richard Reeve  
Secretary | Property Trust

# THE COUNCIL OF CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN AUSTRALIA

## WHAT IS THE COUNCIL OF CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN AUSTRALIA? (CCCA)

CCCA functions as a collegial group of representatives from the five state Churches of Christ conferences. The council has a total of ten representatives from QLD, NSW, Vic/Tas, SA/NT, and WA (two per state). CCCA is a reporting body for National Agencies (GMP, Stirling College), and has oversight for National Organisations.

## NATIONAL COMMUNICATION

Last year a resource on Churches of Christ as a movement was developed and made available on the National website (unsurprisingly, under "Resources".) Resources on baptism, developing youth leaders, women in ministry, every member ministry and others are available on the site, as well as information about the broader Churches of Christ story. Check out <http://cofcaustralia.org>! The Churches of Christ National Facebook page has at times been a lively site for issues that impact us as a movement. [www.facebook.com/churchesof.christnational](http://www.facebook.com/churchesof.christnational)

## CHURCHES OF CHRIST AGENCIES

Global Mission Partners and Stirling College are National Agencies for Churches of Christ, although they also operate under the oversight of South Australia/Northern Territory and Victoria/Tasmania state conferences respectively.

## NATIONAL ORGANISATIONS, COMMITTEES, AND NETWORKS...

### MEBS (MINISTERS & EMPLOYEES BENEFIT SCHEME)

The "MEBS" scheme is a portable one that allows ministers access to long service leave payments even if they change churches. Your minister or ministers will be very grateful for MEBS one day!

### CHURCHES OF CHRIST INSURANCE

One of the great outcomes from the Churches of Christ National Business Network has been the development of the Churches of Christ Insurance program. This has been tailored to meet the specific needs of Churches of Christ. As well as providing cheaper insurance for churches, it gives extra income to State Conferences and to Churches of Christ in Australia. This has been of particular benefit to the states that have constrained financial resources. [www.cofcinsurance.org.au](http://www.cofcinsurance.org.au)

### YOUTH VISION AUSTRALIA

Youth Vision Australia (YVA) is a network of state youth ministers, who engage in collegial learning from one another, and who plan National events together.

### DEFENCE FORCE CHAPLAINS COMMITTEE

There are 25 Churches of Christ ministers serving as chaplains within the armed forces, and a number of these hold very senior positions (Brigadier or Colonel equivalent positions.)

The Defence Force Chaplains Committee is a Churches of Christ body that oversees approval of chaplains and (rarely) disciplinary issues. We have good reason to be very proud of the wonderful service of Churches of Christ chaplains representing us and serving in the defence forces.

### **WORLD CONVENTION**

World Convention seeks to be a point of connection between churches across the world that belong to the Churches of Christ/Stone Campbell traditions. It also organises a quadrennial gathering, the next of which will be held in India in 2017. Australia has a national committee, and three representatives on the World Convention Board (Bruce Greig, Marj Dredge and David Brooker).

### **NATIONAL BUSINESS NETWORK**

The NBN (no, not the National Broadband Network) is an informal group of people working in business and finance within Churches of Christ state organisations. They meet periodically to communicate what they're up to, learn from one another, and to explore potential synergies and economies of scale to help service churches better (e.g. with flexible church loans, insurance, etc.) You will probably never hear anything directly about this network, but it just might save your church money in order to release resources for productive mission.

### **NATIONAL MINISTER-TO-MINISTERS GROUP**

The state "Minister-to-Ministers" from around the country have an annual retreat and input to one another. We can't have healthy churches without healthy leaders, so the work of those involved in minister care is highly strategic in the vitality of our movement.

### **CHURCH HEALTH GROUP**

There is a new network of people forming who are involved in working in church health

areas in the different states of Australia. Like the "minister-to-minister" group, this is an opportunity for people involved in a highly strategic and complex area of ministry to learn from one another.

### **HISTORICAL GROUP**

The old historical society is currently in recess, but I am involved in discussions with those who have a passion for the Churches of Christ story around ways we might best preserve and share our extraordinary heritage.

### **RELATIONSHIPS WITH ECUMENICAL BODIES**

One way that Churches of Christ nationally express their commitment to church unity is through involvement with the National Council of Churches in Australia (NCCA). This has been particularly helpful for us recently around how other church bodies are responding to the Royal Commission into institutional abuse, and in having conversations about ways to make our churches safer places. Mark Riessen from South Australia is the Churches of Christ representative on the Australian Churches Refugee Task Force, a subcommittee of NCCA. Churches of Christ is also connected with World Council of Churches and the Christian Council of Asia.

### **FINAL COMMENTS**

I am massively proud of Churches of Christ and the huge breadth of ministries that flow out of local churches and our movement more broadly. It is such a privilege to represent our churches on a wider stage, and to be involved in facilitating connections between so many amazing leaders who serve them. I trust this brief overview will give you some sense of the activities of the wider Churches of Christ family.

Janet Woodlock

Federal Coordinator | Churches of Christ in Australia

# FRESH HOPE PARTNER

## GLOBAL MISSION PARTNERS

Global Mission Partners exists for others. From its inception in 1891, the focus of attention has been on the context and needs of people overseas. Our intent is to create life changing partnerships.

### HIGHLIGHTS 2013-2014

> We welcomed three new GMP mission workers. Martin Reilly and his wife Margaret Nixon will be based in Nicaragua in 2015. Dr Ash Barker began the Centre for Urban Life and Mission at Springdale College in Birmingham, UK.

> embody, the GMP community of young adults committed to global mission, developed momentum with a stunning \$60,000 raised through the new Safe Water September campaign.

> The key priorities for the International Church Partnerships (ICP) program were resourcing and development of leaders, and new church development and evangelism.

> Churches of Christ Overseas Aid focused on building our skills to ensure our projects meet industry standards. An accreditation audit and a new staff member particularly supported partner training and development.

> Indigenous Ministries Australia (IMA) completed a strategic planning process, setting a clear agenda for healthy and effective Indigenous ministry.

### NSW HAPPENINGS

Pastor Jeff Deuble from Rivergum made a scoping visit to Fiji in preparation for a team next year to foster their partnership with the new church plant at Sigatoka and its sending church at Nakasi.

Coast Community Church did more great repair and renovation work at Londua Technical College in Vanuatu under the leadership of Greg Collins.

Kingsford confirmed their partnership with CCTSTI in Indonesia and Pastor Jon-Paul dropped in on Heri Susanto to confirm it personally and a new church plant has begun with Kingsford's support.

Pastor Wayne Jeffery and Mission Team Leader Margaret Kirk at Nowra Church of Christ began a partnership conversation with the churches in Fiji.

Campbelltown Church of Christ established a partnership with District 11 of the Thailand Church of Christ Conference and Pastor Troy Blair and Mission Team Leader Peter Hickey headed over to make it personal and explore possibilities for a team visit.

Armidale Church of Christ (pictured), led by Linda Agnew, furthered their long partnership with Ranwadi College in Vanuatu with a team who did building work and some teacher training. The local magazine picked up the story (<http://issuu.com/focus.mag/docs/nei89/9?e=4204553/9472459>).

It has been an exciting year as an increasing number of churches have picked up the idea of church-to-church partnerships as an opportunity to engage in mission long term alongside our overseas partners and begun (and continued) to form close Kingdom relationships.

Full details including the Annual Report and Audited Financial Statements are available at [www.inpartnership.org.au](http://www.inpartnership.org.au)

John Gilmore  
Executive Director | Global Mission Partners



# FRESH HOPE PARTNER STIRLING THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

Our November 2013, the Valedictory Service was an exceptional experience. Over 30 students graduated which is the highest number (we think) in College history. Many are now in ministry positions. The formal University of Divinity (UD) graduation was held at St Patrick's Cathedral in May this year and was a wonderful occasion. From 2015, a UD graduation service will also be held in Adelaide, which will be attractive for students from South Australia – so their families and friends can attend more easily.

Naturally, after graduating so many students in 2013 we were a little anxious about student and unit numbers in 2014, however, numbers have been pleasantly strong. This reflects growing partnerships with a number of churches and an effective internship program that has been run with a growing number of Churches of Christ. We have also run an annex out of Gisborne Church of Christ (in Melbourne's outer west) this year, which will offer units for credit in 2015. This makes the College more easily accessible for students from the west of Melbourne and regional Victoria (Ballarat, Bendigo, Geelong, etc.). We intend that the model(s) being explored with these churches will be able to be extended to other churches and states as needed. Our online/distance direction is discussed below.

This year Drs Stephen Curkpatrick and Merryl Blair have been on sabbatical. Merryl spent time teaching and researching in Zambia and Rome and Stephen spent time teaching in Indonesia in November. Penny Martin (nee Galbraith is currently on maternity leave).

Some clear highlights over the year have included:

> A successful event in February to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the opening of the Mulgrave campus and dedication of the construction works for the Hindmarsh Church of Christ Centre for Mission and Ministry. As well as creating an online forum and working access with other Churches of Christ Archival Centres, these works will also enable:

- Expansion of the study space for undergraduate students and provision of appropriate research space for postgraduate students.
- Construction of a 20-person seminar and meeting space.
- Creation of Twenty-First Century possibilities for cohorts of emerging leaders in mission and ministry both onsite and online.
- Construction of a needed 50-person room appropriate for chapel services, larger classes and seminars.
- Creation of scholarships for emerging leaders for service and leadership across Australia and Asia.
- Renovation of the café facilities to enable a better use of space in warm and hospitable surroundings.



THE  
ADVENTUROUS  
SPIRIT

*“The MTS provides a well structured professional development program for me to navigate new challenges for Christian leadership and great disciplines for renewed theological reflection alongside colleagues who are on a similar journey to me. It connects my current context of ministry with critical reading and praxis. The flexibility of the MTS allows me to balance full-time ministry, time with my family and time for spiritual growth and development” - Mark (South Australia)*

> A successful fundraising campaign to build the Hindmarsh Centre, which has drawn support from many people. Construction on the Centre commenced in September and will hopefully be completed in December.

> Successful re-negotiation of our relationship with Tabor College Victoria after the ‘re-imagination’ of EAST Alliance. The relationship is positive, mutual and saves costs on some basic campus needs for both colleges without any legal structure or complex arrangements.

> Successful implementation of a new 3-year Strategic Plan. This has involved a positive dialogue between staff and Board and positions the College well to grow and serve its mission and the needs of Churches of Christ in Australia.

> Continued success in the Minister’s Professional Development Cohort where Ministers are able to study for a Master of Theological Studies with colleagues from across Australia.

Stirling is continuing to develop its Online/ Distance capacity. We are currently employing a Director for this role. It is intended that the enlarged online capacity will enable expansion of the College and also the improvement of quality and accessibility of delivery nationally.

Dr Andrew Menzies

Principal | Stirling Theological College

**stirling**  
THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE  
FORMING GOD’S PEOPLE FOR LEADERSHIP, MISSION AND MINISTRY

# FRESH HOPE PARTNER

## MEBS

### HIGHLIGHTS DURING 2013/2014

The Ministers' and Employees' Benefits Scheme (MEBS) is a service of Churches of Christ in Australia. MEBS exists to enable its members to access Long Service Leave. While open to any employees within Churches of Christ throughout Australia, it is of particular benefit to ministers who may not otherwise be able to access this type of leave.

During this year the Committee and Staff of MEBS have focussed on making sure that all eligible ministers are aware of the benefits of belonging to MEBS. An email campaign to contact ministers who are not yet members of MEBS will run during the second half of 2014.

The distribution rate to members this year of 3.548% p.a. is a positive result in an increasingly low return environment.

### MEMBERSHIP MOVEMENT FOR 2013/2014

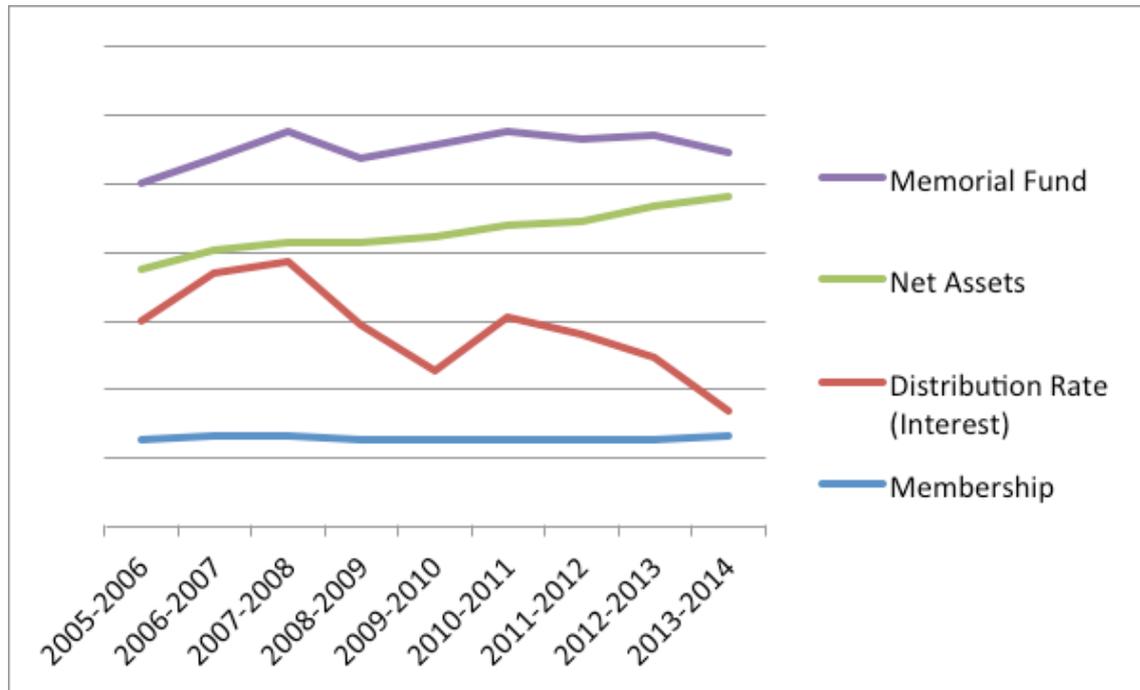
The movements in membership numbers from 1 July 2013 – 30 June 2014 are set out below.

	TOTAL MOVEMENTS TO 30/06/14			TOTAL
	01/07/13	Entrants	Exits	30/06/14
LSL Members	710	82	67	725

### KEY STATISTICS

Year	Membership as at 30 June	Distribution Rate	Net Assets \$	Memorial Fund \$
05/06	693	6.3%	5,337,502	138,929.40
06/07	728	7.78%	5,717,649	149,143.06
07/08	734	8.11%	5,853,706	159,215.71
08/09	692	6.17%	5,845,593	149,066.36
09/10	696	4.81%	5,960,982	154,236.20
10/11	693	6.41%	6,268,495	160,122.04
11/12	691	5.95%	6,275,802	157,673.41
12/13	710	5.14%	6,609,938	157,776.71
13/14	725	3.548%	6,857,326	151,648.99

**MEBS TRENDS 2005 - 2014**



**BENEFITS PAID**

For the period from 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014 there have been various benefits paid for long service leave totalling \$710,783. Additional benefits of \$11,724 (in six payments) to assist with the funeral expenses of ministers were paid.

**MEBS COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR 2014**

Peter Cranna (secretary, non-voting member), Max Hopkins (chair), Jim Longbottom, Frank Morabito, Geoff Payne, Dean Phelan.

Peter Cranna

Secretary/Administrator | Ministers' and Employees' Benefits Scheme



A black and white photograph showing the lower half of a person standing on a rocky, uneven surface. The person is wearing dark, slim-fit trousers and white canvas sneakers with dark laces. The background is a bright, hazy sky, suggesting a coastal or outdoor setting. The overall mood is adventurous and minimalist.

# FRESH HOPE FINANCIAL REPORTS

# FRESH HOPE FINANCIAL REPORTS

This financial report includes a separate page for each of the Fresh Hope reporting entities, being Conference Executive, Property Trust and Community Care. Each page shows in summary form what we earned and spent, and what we own and owed. In this way we can highlight the key changes and results. The detailed financial reports for each of these entities are available in the members section of our Fresh Hope web site.

## OVERALL

Total income for the year ended 30 June 2014 was \$83m (FY13: \$86m). The surplus for the year was \$9.2m (FY13: \$11.4m), which included unrealised gains on investments of \$4.2m (FY13: \$10.2m). Total Assets at 30 June 2014 increased to \$249m (FY13: \$237m), and Net Assets increased to \$139m (FY13: \$131m).

## CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE

Net Assets of \$16.8m includes \$6.2m in property, plant & equipment and \$10.1m in investments. Unrealised investment gains of \$0.8m (FY13: \$1.3m) during the year led to an overall surplus of \$0.3m (FY13: \$1.2m).

## PROPERTY TRUST

The Property Trust financial report shows a \$155k decrease in the funds deposited by individuals and churches, a \$173k increase in funds deposited by associated ministries and a \$173k increase in funds held in trust. Loans to churches increased by \$852k. The lower interest

rate environment led to a slight drop in income, as well as in interest expense. The result for the year was a surplus of \$283k.

## COMMUNITY CARE

The net surplus for the 2014 financial year of \$8.6m was after unrealised investment gains of \$3.3m. The one off adjustment included in this result was an impairment charge of \$1.9m in relation to The Glen. Increases in operating income and improvements in workers compensation and staff costs helped to increase the operating surplus for the year.

The Net Assets of \$118m includes property, plant & equipment of \$93m and goodwill of \$11m. Cash and investments of \$110m cover all liabilities (\$99m). Capital expenditure of \$10m in FY14 included the start of the redevelopment of the Living Care Pendle Hill and Borella sites.

## LOOKING AHEAD

Another good year lays a strong platform for the planned growth in Living Care and in Venues, as well as for the development of new ministries.

Max Hopkins  
Director | Corporate Services

ANOTHER  
GOOD YEAR  
LAYS A  
STRONG  
PLATFORM  
FOR  
PLANNED  
GROWTH

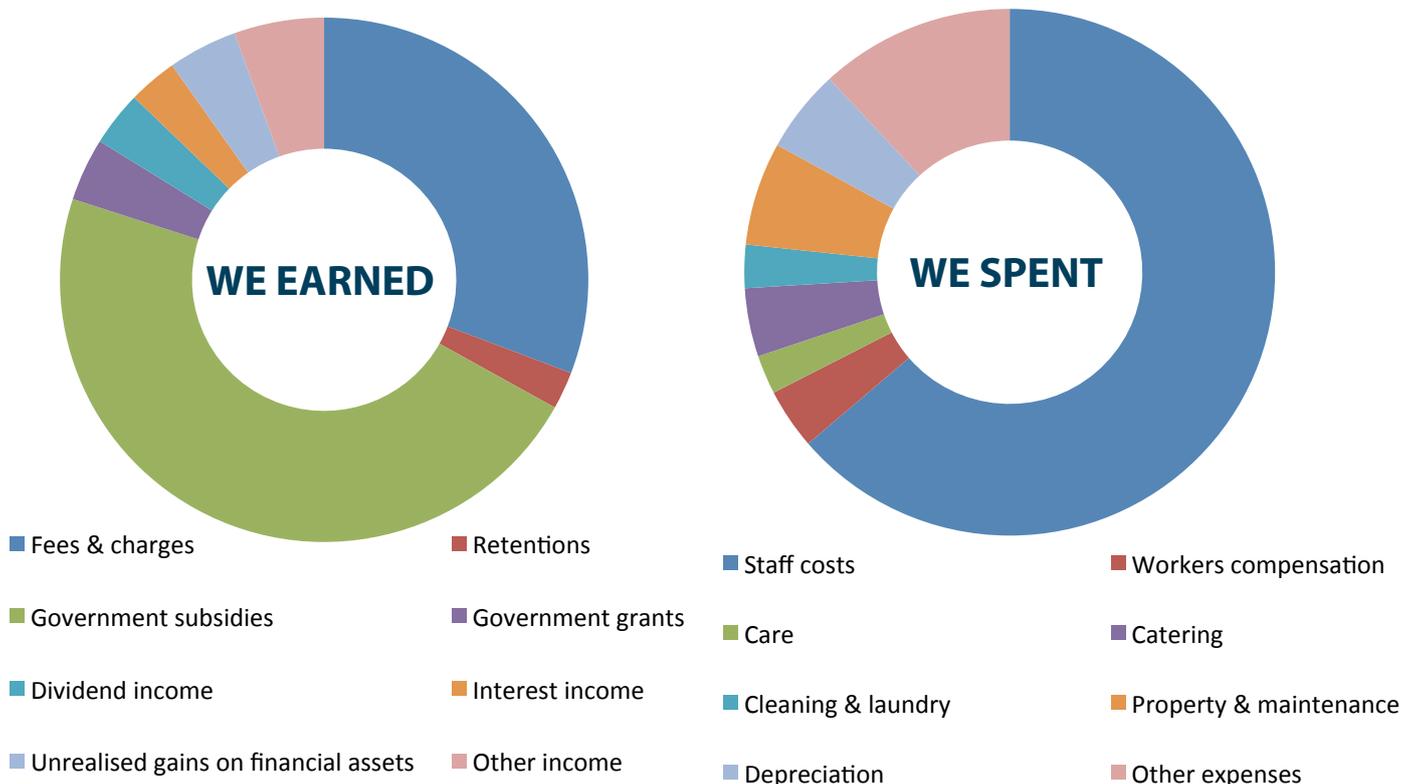
# COMMUNITY CARE

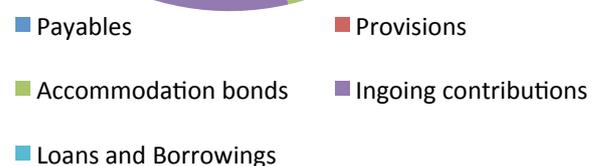
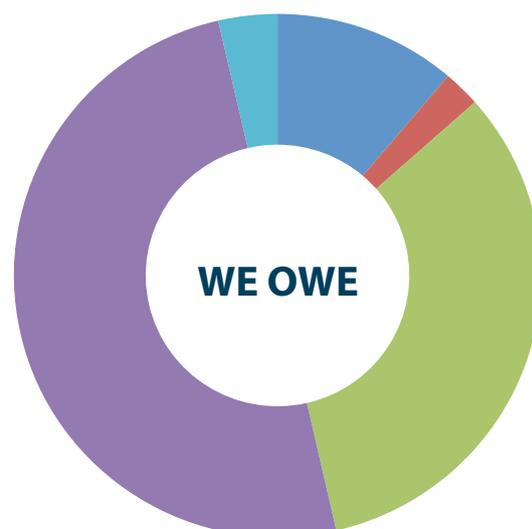
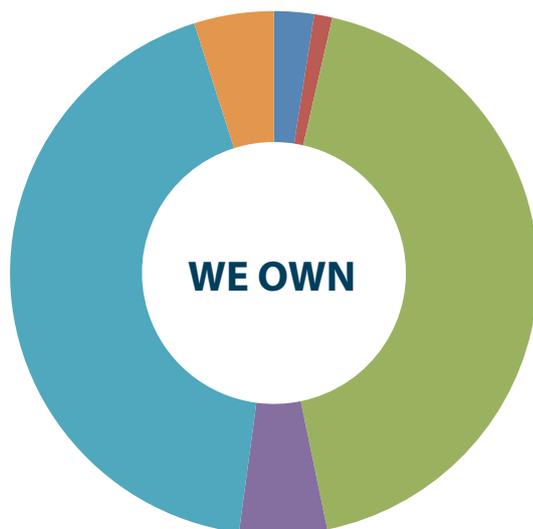
WE EARNED			WE SPENT		
	FY14 \$ 000	FY13 \$ 000		FY14 \$ 000	FY13 \$ 000
Fees & charges	24,255	23,256	Staff costs	44,727	43,021
Retentions	1,824	1,673	Workers compensation	2,611	3,442
Government subsidies	36,938	32,317	Care	1,679	2,098
Government grants	3,051	6,397	Catering	2,946	2,972
Dividend income	2,661	4,057	Cleaning & laundry	1,862	1,360
Interest income	2,368	3,170	Property & maintenance	4,448	4,341
Unrealised gains on financial assets	3,349	8,908	Depreciation	3,582	3,439
Other income	4,340	1,522	Revaluation of buildings	-	2,623
<b>Total income</b>	<b>78,786</b>	<b>81,300</b>	<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>70,191</b>	<b>72,187</b>
<b>Net surplus</b>			<b>\$ 8,595 \$ 9,113</b>		

Community Care recorded a surplus for the financial year of \$8,595,621. This included a surplus at The Tops of \$667,000, a deficit of \$1,000 at Careworks, with the remainder being the Living Care surplus of \$7.93m.

Unrealised gains on financial assets of \$3.35m was considerably lower than the \$8.91m gain in FY13. The result excluding these gains was a net surplus in FY14 of \$5.25m (FY13 = \$3.93m, after excluding The Tops \$2.6m building revaluation), reflecting improved operating performance.

Improvements in workers compensation costs, and in the staff cost to income ratio, led to the improved results, as did a 4% increase in operating revenue.





WE OWN			WE OWE		
	FY14 \$ 000	FY13 \$ 000		FY14 \$ 000	FY13 \$ 000
Cash & deposits	5,296	9,984	Payables	11,062	8,624
Receivables	2,408	2,404	Provisions	2,238	2,095
Financial assets	93,561	83,785	Accommodation bonds	32,526	32,522
Investments	11,607	10,311	Ingoing contributions	49,325	49,172
Property, plant & equipment	93,109	86,630	Loans and Borrowings	3,569	3,958
Goodwill	10,588	12,510			
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>216,569</b>	<b>205,624</b>	<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>98,720</b>	<b>96,371</b>
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>\$ 117,849 \$109,253</b>				

Living Care acquired The Glen Residential Care Centre (90 beds) at Bateman's Bay in June 2012 for \$20.5m. This included goodwill on acquisition of \$2.1m. An impairment charge of \$1.9m was made at 30 June 2014 against this goodwill amount in view of The Glen's weaker operating results.

In FY12 The Tops finalised construction of its new Acacia facility at a cost of \$6.9m. A revaluation of The Tops at June 2013 led to a \$2.6m expense for the reduction in the carrying value of various site improvements. Capital expenditure in FY14 was \$10.2m, mainly for the Crawford Lodge extensions at Pendle Hill.

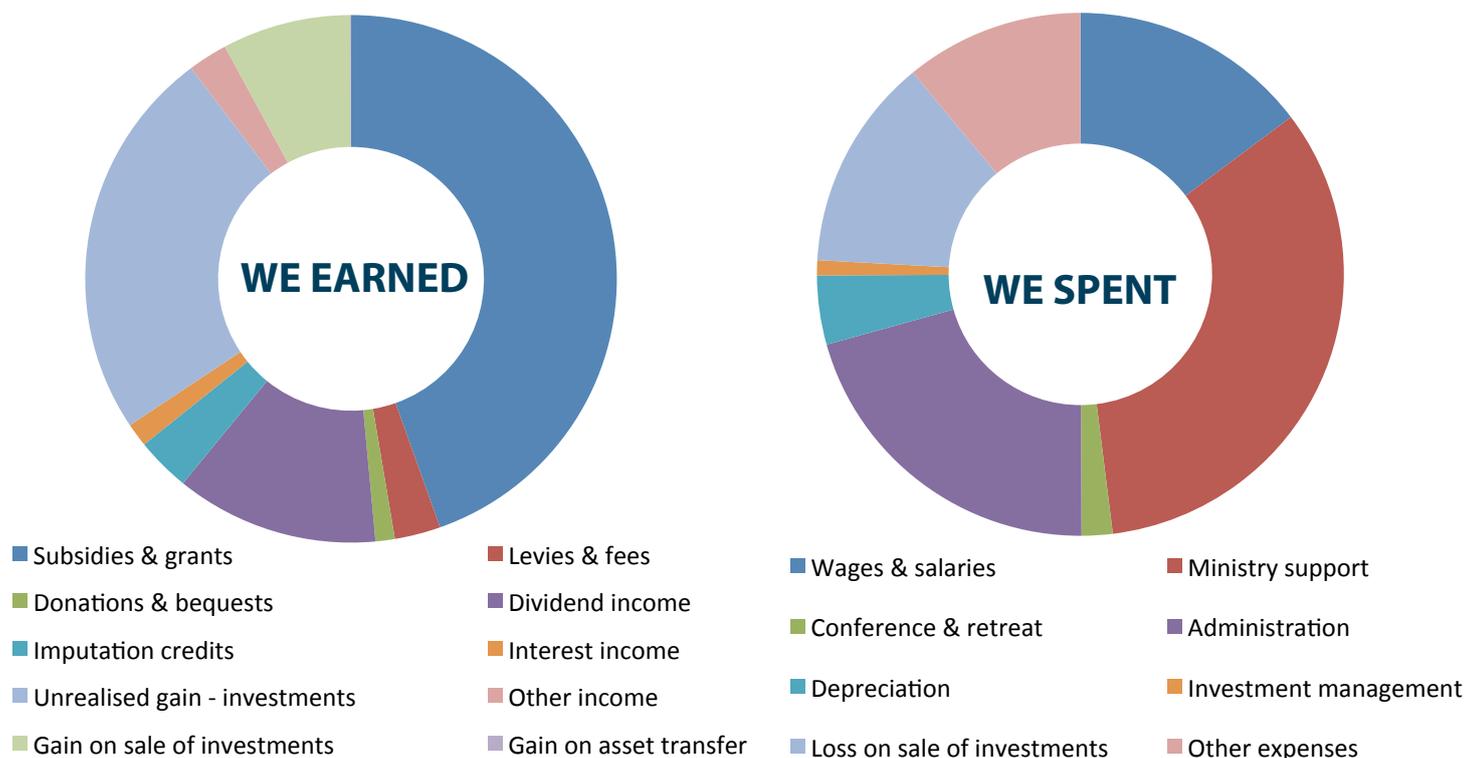
The carrying value of Financial Assets at year end was improved by \$3.3m in unrealised gains over the year. Goodwill was reduced by \$1.9m as the result of an updated impairment calculation for The Glen.

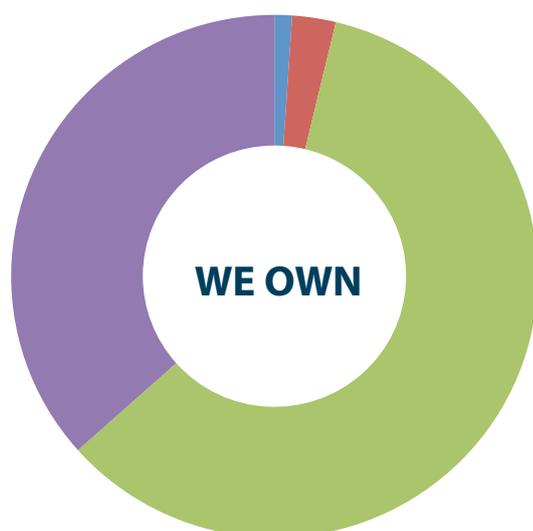
# CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE

WE EARNED			WE SPENT		
	FY14 \$ 000	FY13 \$ 000		FY14 \$ 000	FY13 \$ 000
Subsidies & grants	1,482	1,401	Wages & salaries	442	471
Levies & fees	93	129	Ministry support	999	597
Donations & bequests	39	57	Conference & retreat	57	76
Dividend income	411	755	Administration	622	771
Imputation credits	110	113	Depreciation	128	131
Interest income	48	90	Investment management	28	44
Unrealised gain - investments	801	1,291	Leasehold expense	-	86
Other income	80	85	Loss on sale of investments	395	556
Gain on sale of investments	260	55	Other expenses	329	290
Gain on asset transfer	2	245			
<b>Total income</b>	<b>3,326</b>	<b>4,221</b>	<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>3,022</b>
<b>Net surplus (deficit)</b>			<b>\$ 326 \$ 1,199</b>		

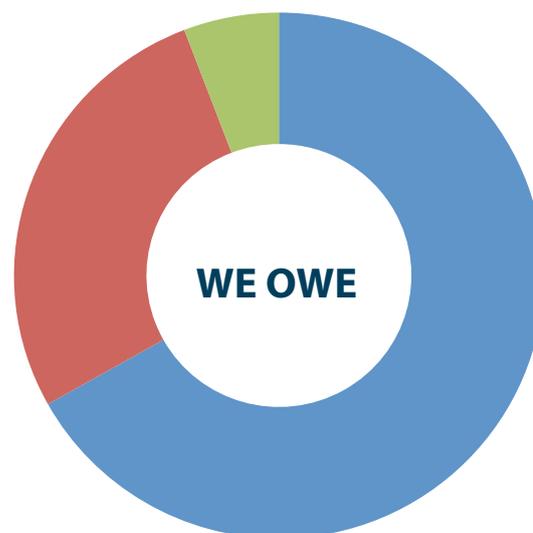
Conference Executive's result for the year ended 30 June 2014 was a net surplus of \$0.33m (FY13 surplus of \$1.20m). This included an unrealised gain on investments of \$0.80m (FY13: \$1.29m). The deficit for the year after excluding that gain was \$0.47m (FY13: \$0.09m). The FY13 surplus included a gain of \$0.25m arising from the transfer of the Marrickville properties from the Property Trust.

The increase in Ministry Support costs included \$0.3m paid to a Fresh Hope ministry in Thailand.





■ Cash  
■ Receivables  
■ Investments  
■ Property, plant & equipment



■ Payables  
■ Provisions  
■ Other liabilities

WE OWN			WE OWE		
	FY14 \$ 000	FY13 \$ 000		FY14 \$ 000	FY13 \$ 000
Cash	183	162	Payables	115	353
Receivables	454	530	Provisions	47	64
Investments	10,131	9,417	Other liabilities	10	12
Property, plant & equipment	6,214	6,805			
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>16,982</b>	<b>16,914</b>	<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>429</b>
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>\$ 16,810</b>	<b>\$ 16,485</b>			

Net assets of \$16,810,683 increased from \$16,484,808 (2.0%) over the 2014 financial year, mainly due to the investment gains.

Total Assets increased by \$0.07m. Total Liabilities decreased by \$0.26m mainly due to the repayment of inter-entity payables.

# PROPERTY TRUST

WE EARNED			WE SPENT		
	FY14 \$ 000	FY13 \$ 000		FY14 \$ 000	FY13 \$ 000
Interest on cash & term deposits	146	157	Interest to churches	38	46
Income on investments	8	119	Interest to individuals	46	69
Interest on loans to churches & ministers	408	403	Interest to associated ministries	178	205
Other Income	109	5	Administration & other expenses	126	130
			Loss on asset transfer	-	245
<b>Total income</b>	<b>671</b>	<b>684</b>	<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>388</b>	<b>695</b>
<b>Net surplus</b>			<b>\$ 283 - \$ 11</b>		

Property Trust recorded a surplus for FY14 of \$282,600 (FY13 = deficit of \$11,194).

Total Income was down \$13,000 (1.9%) mainly due to lower interest rates.

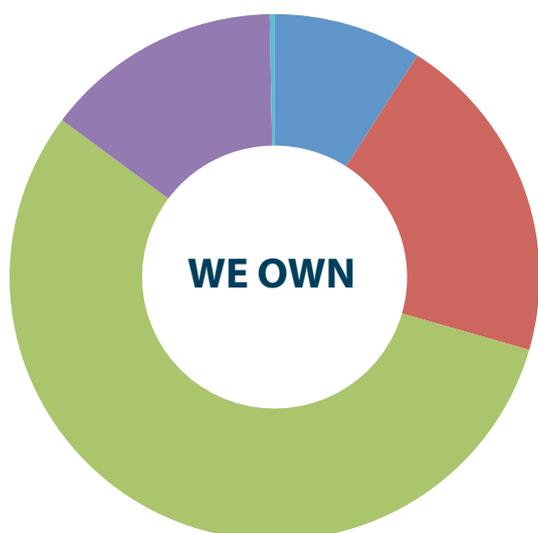
Total Expenses, not including the loss on sale of asset, were down by \$62,000 (13.8%) due to the lower interest rates. The \$245,000 loss on asset transfer in FY13 relates to the transfer of the Marrickville properties to Conference Executive.



- Interest on cash & term deposits
- Income on investments
- Interest on loans to churches & ministers
- Other Income



- Interest to churches
- Interest to individuals
- Interest to associated ministries
- Administration & other expenses



- Cash
- Term deposits
- Loans to churches & ministers
- Investments
- Other Receivables



- Owing to churches
- Owing to individuals
- Owing to associated ministries
- Funds held in trust
- Accrued liabilities

WE OWN			WE OWE		
	FY14 \$ 000	FY13 \$ 000		FY14 \$ 000	FY13 \$ 000
Cash	1,373	3,265	Owing to churches	1,134	1,179
Term deposits	3,094	1,682	Owing to individuals	1,483	1,638
Loans to churches & ministers	8,446	7,594	Owing to associated ministries	5,469	5,296
Investments	2,201	2,153	Funds held in trust	2,261	2,088
Other Receivables	45	31	Accrued liabilities	14	8
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>15,159</b>	<b>14,725</b>	<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>10,361</b>	<b>10,209</b>
<b>Net assets</b>			<b>\$ 4,798    \$4,516</b>		

Net assets increased during the year by \$282,600 to \$4,798,470.

Total Liabilities increased by \$152,000 as a result of an increase in the amount owing to associated ministries of \$173,000 (3.3%) and in Funds held in trust by \$173,000 (8.3%), though net repayments were made to individuals of \$155,000 (9.5%).

Total Assets increased by \$434,000. This included an increase in Loans to churches & ministers of \$852,000 (11.2%) offset by a \$480,000 reduction in cash and term deposits. The Marrickville properties were transferred to Conference Executive at 30 June 2013 at \$nil consideration.

**FRESH HOPE**  
**ANNUAL**  
**CONFERENCE**  
**MINUTES**  
**2014**

# ANNUAL CONFERENCE MINUTES 2014

**Minutes of Annual Conference**  
**Saturday 17 May 2014 12:45pm**  
**Northside Community Church, Crows Nest NSW**

The Conference Day commenced with the worship team from Lifegate Church in Padstow.

Steve Hodgson, Youth/Young Adults Ministry Leader was emcee and opened the day in prayer.

## **WELCOME**

Conference Executive President Stephen Toomey commented on how well served Churches of Christ in NSW is with great staff. Stephen requested prayer for the staff and encouraged churches to feel free to approach staff for assistance at any time.

Stephen Toomey chaired the Annual General Meeting beginning with prayer.

## **FORMAL APOLOGIES**

The following apologies were noted:

Ken & Alison Bond, Bowral Church

Ray & Gwenda Cheal, Telopea

John and Elaine Morris, Forster Tuncurry

Brett White, Kingsway

Janet Woodlock – Federal Coordinator – CCCA

Pam Clapshaw, PSU Coordinator

Jeff Deuble, Rivergum

Sam Haddon, Northside

Lee Dobson, New Future New Hope

Ian & Helen Allen, Katoomba Lighthouse

Graham & Helen Reed, Northside

David Bentley, Hurstville

## **NOTICES OF MOTION ARE VOTED BY A SHOW OF HANDS UNLESS NOTED BY BALLOT**

### **NOTICE OF MOTION 1**

“That the minutes of the Annual Conference of Churches of Christ in NSW held 25 May 2013 as printed and circulated in the Churches of Christ in NSW Annual Report 2014, for the year ending 30 June 2013 be adopted as a true and accurate record of that meeting.”

**MOVED:** Dennis Nutt, Liberty

**SECONDED:** Andrew Berthelsen, Liberty

Motion **CARRIED** by majority.

# ANNUAL CONFERENCE MINUTES 2014

## NOTICE OF MOTION 2

"That the Annual Financial Reports 2012/2013 as printed and circulated in the Churches of Christ in NSW Annual Report 2014, for the year ending 30 June 2013 be adopted."

**MOVED:** Wayne Morris, Southern Illawarra

**SECONDED:** Craig Wood, Telopea

Motion **CARRIED** by majority.

## NOTICE OF MOTION 3

"That KPMG be appointed the auditors of the accounts of Churches of Christ in NSW for the financial year 2013/2014."

**MOVED:** Larry Galbraith, Epping

**SECONDED:** Peter Watson, Telopea

Motion **CARRIED** by majority.

## NOTICE OF MOTION 4

"That on the recommendation of Conference Executive, the following remuneration schedule be adopted as the recommended minimum salary for ministers in 2014/2015, to come into effect from the first full pay period in July 2014.

1. That the salary component be increased to \$893 per week.
2. That the housing component be increased to \$410 per week.
3. That the car component be increased to \$176 per week.
4. That the superannuation rate be increase from 10% to 10.5%"

**MOVED:** Alan Norton, Mayfield

**SECONDED:** Malcolm McLeod, Rivergum

Motion **CARRIED** by majority.

Presentation by Thornton Church of Christ

Stephen Toomey prayed for the church with other leaders.

Presentation by Thrive Community

Andrew Ball prayed for the church with other leaders.

Andrew Ball introduced new staff: Richard Reeve, Renee Leeming & Lauren McQueen.

Stephen Toomey prayed for the NSW Conference followed by presentations on The Tops, ACOM and the Leadership Pipeline (Navigate/Impart).

## NOTICES OF MOTION VOTED BY BALLOT PAPER

James Hogan of Liberty Church was the Returning Officer for the voting required by ballot.

### NOTICE OF MOTION 5 (BY BALLOT PAPER)

"That Stephen Toomey be elected to the position of Conference President for the Conference year 2014/2015." (By ballot paper)

Result: **ELECTED** by majority.

### NOTICE OF MOTION 6 (BY BALLOT PAPER)

"That Ian Allen, Andrew Berthelsen, Kenneth Bond, Raymond Cheal, Peter Davidson, Catherine Kleemann, and Victor Tee, be elected to Conference Executive for the Conference year 2014/2015." (By ballot paper)

Result: **ELECTED** by majority.

### NOTICE OF MOTION 7 (BY BALLOT PAPER)

"That Andrew Billing of Marrickville Church of Christ, Shamus Toomey of Hurstville Church of Christ and Richard Reeve of Penrith Church of Christ be appointed as Members of The Churches of Christ Property Trust for the prescribed nine (9) years, concluding in 2023." (By ballot paper)

Result: **ELECTED** by majority.

### NOTICE OF MOTION 8 (BY BALLOT PAPER)

"That Thornton Church of Christ at 34 Government Road, Thornton be formally affiliated with Churches of Christ in New South Wales." (By ballot paper)

Result: **ELECTED** by majority.

### NOTICE OF MOTION 9 (BY BALLOT PAPER)

"That Thrive Community Church at 15 Cawarra Road, Caringbah be formally affiliated with Churches of Christ in NSW." (By ballot paper)

Result: **ELECTED** by majority.

## CLOSE

The business session closed at 1:25pm with a time of worship.

God, who got you started in this spiritual adventure, shares with us the life of his Son and our Master Jesus. He will never give up on you. Never forget that.

- I Corinthians 1 : 9 (The Message)



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