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fresh hope



Churches of
Christ in NSW
for the year
ending
30 June 2017

“And what do
you benefit if you
gain the whole world
but lose your own
soul?

Is anything worth
more than your
soul?”

- Matthew 16:26

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The President & Executive Ministry Director

We are delighted to report on the activities and ministries across Fresh Hope for the 2016 -17 reporting year.

Each of our agencies continues to serve individuals and communities across the length and breadth of NSW and the Australian Capital Territory.

We are both humbled and encouraged by the mutuality of ministry and the service of many individuals within our Fresh Hope family network. Our mission remains the same: transforming communities and lives with fresh hope.

The agencies overseen by Fresh Hope continue to expand and develop. Within the pages of this annual report, you will read the many stories of hope and care, of ministry and mission, of training and equipping and of engagement and service. During the year, we have re-orientated our service to churches in a new mission and ministry agency. This team is committed to value-add to the life and well-being of all our churches through agile, adaptive and adventurous ministry.

We are now in an extraordinary season of development and change. For the last few years we have been exhorting the broader church to be adventurous, to explore new frontiers and to live 'beyond the harbour'. These themes have been profoundly helpful in encouraging the church to explore new paradigms for mission and ministry.

This activity is hard work, because it includes change leadership and most of us tend to prefer what we know, as opposed to the unknown.

We are in unknown territory as a culture and society. For many, the new community posture reflects an adversarial and distrusting orientation towards institutions including church. This posture is both disruptive and disorientating. How we respond rather than react is a critical conversation going forward.

During the reporting year, we set our theme as 'Soul Strength'. This was a deliberate and concerted effort to remind our family that serving Jesus on the frontline is both a joy and a challenge. It is also a quite intentional encouragement – it is impossible to lead well on the front line unless you tend to your soul.

The late Dallas Willard wrote: *'Our soul is like a stream of water, which gives strength, direction and harmony to every area of our life. When that stream is as it should be, we are constantly refreshed and exuberant in all we do, because our soul itself is then profusely rooted in the vastness of God and his kingdom, including nature; and all else within us is enlivened and directed by that stream'*.

As a part of the soul strength message, we have also suggested four orientations for leaders that are a helpful framework for Christian faith and ministry.

These include:

- / Pursuing God;
- / Slowing our speed;
- / Proactive differentiation; and
- / Innovative agility.

Space precludes unpacking these here, suffice to say that in a society that is increasingly anxious, Christian leaders need to be Christ-centric and therefore practice the disciplines of pursuit with God and personal discernment as precursors to ministry activity.

WHAT OF OUR FUTURE?

'How does a church on an aisle slide over to a widow seat? How does a church consistently engage in strength training rather than bodybuilding? How does a church become the kind of church that the community would not just miss, were it to leave, but would fight to have it stay? How does a church become both internally strong and externally focussed? How does a church become the best church for the community?'

The answers to these questions are found not in programs but in paradigms.'

Our paradigms or world-views are shaped by our experiences, our exposure to new ideas, and our capacity to practice spiritual and thought leadership. For the future of our churches to prevail, we must re-imagine a future where church becomes irresistible to the community.

To be irresistible means we are salt and light to a culture that has lost its way. While holding to our central Christian beliefs unswervingly, we must navigate contextual mission with passion and clarity.

The Fresh Hope team takes its modus operandi from Paul's missionary journey in Acts 20:2:

'Travelling from one location to another, he gave constant encouragement, lifting their spirits and charging them with fresh hope.'

We profoundly believe in this message.

On a more personal note, we'd like to sincerely thank Conference Executive, our staff and our churches for the privilege of leading during this season. Likewise, we affirm and honour the many individuals who generously give time and energy to our agency boards and sub-committees of Conference.

It has been both a responsibility and joy to steward the broader resources of Conference to assist our mission going forward.

Dr Andrew Ball
Executive Ministry Director

Troy Blair
Conference President

Leadership Development Adventure | Impart | Impact | Recharge

Our Navigate and Recharge programs have expanded in the past year.

Our Navigate Adventure group was led by Jessie and Abigail Skelly and saw transformational growth throughout the year. Laura Payne co-led the group as they completed their extreme trek in Vietnam.

Our Impart group was the first group to take up the extreme challenge of a 24-hour silence and solitude retreat on a 400-hectare property. The challenge to be totally “unplugged” was embraced by all who participated. Some of the students reported this being a significant step in their learning, to be content in their own skin and to listen to the still voice of Abba Father.

The Impact year with a group of 7 trainee missionaries was a tough year. There were many challenges, both intentional and unintentional. The following verses from Matthew 5 rang true for many of the students:

“You’re blessed when you’re at the end of your rope. With less of you there is more of God and his rule. You’re blessed when you feel you’ve lost what is most dear to you. Only then can you be embraced by the One most dear to you.”

- Matthew 5:3-4 (MSG)

The outcome of the Impact year has been a deeper surrendering to the Lordship of Christ and a quest to discover opportunities to make a kingdom difference.

Our pioneer 50+ group, Recharge, reported being very challenged by their formation readings and the encounters from their community and group journey. The week of connection with all the other Navigate groups immersed by learning to live in the freedom of Christ has proved to be a big step in their transformation to live wholeheartedly in the season ahead.

Summer and Winter schools have become places where temporary biblical community is expressed passionately. The teaching, emotional and spiritual encounters have broken down the barriers of race, age and gender differences as we encounter kingdom family together.

Many of our students are wrestling with the call of God in their lives to make a kingdom difference. Some are seeking further training to be equipped to be kingdom agents and to give an account of the faith that is growing within them.

John Crowther
Director | Leadership Development

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A - Navigate in Vietnam 2016
B - Summer School 2017
C - Navigate in Vietnam 2016
D - Recharge 2017

Leadership Development Church Engagement

Over the past 3 years, Dr Ian Duncum has served many of our churches that are in transition and at times, been “stuck”. He interacted with churches who were finding it increasingly difficult because of diminishing human and financial resources. Ian’s role was to assist these churches to discern what God’s heart was in relation to their future. Feelings of loss of capacity often led to painful, grief-filled conversations.

Some of these churches have decided to close, others have significantly re-envisioned their future by radically adopting a new posture of kingdom transformation in their communities.

In July 2017 Ian began his own consulting and training ministry and from time to time continues to work alongside the Fresh Hope team.

John Crowther
Director | Leadership Development

The reward
for trusting Him
will be the salvation
of your souls.

- 1 Peter 1:9

Leadership Development Ministry Care Network

Over the past 12 months I have met with or visited most of our pastors and leaders throughout our state.

My role allows me to travel all over the state of New South Wales and the ACT.

It has been a wonderful experience and a great personal blessing to be able to spend quality time with such a group of gifted, passionate and caring pastors and leaders who so cheerfully and caringly endeavour to serve their church and their community.

An important part of my role is to encourage and support our pastors to care for themselves, which is so vitally important for their long-term sustainability in ministry. For a pastor to minister in the way they feel God is leading them, they also need to have the support of their board members and their co-workers.

Sometimes trying to balance ministry with family life and other activities can become overwhelming, and sometimes this struggle leads to an unbalanced lifestyle. With the high demands of ministry, as well as family and other expectations, often day-to-day responsibilities can be neglected. It is necessary for us to all be proactive in encouraging those around us in ministry to care for their own health, their spiritual and emotional wellbeing, and their families.

It is my prayer that our pastors and leaders grow in their love for God and their own spiritual life development. It is so easy for any of us to become so busy and rushed in the hurriedness of life that we neglect the

most important aspects of a healthy lifestyle and our walk with God. This requires us to take the time to slow down, breathe and enjoy the moment, enjoy the aroma of fresh brewed coffee. We talk a lot about transformational churches. The truth is, without transformed leaders we will find it very difficult to transform churches and communities.

So, what does it look like for a person to be in the process of transformation? I believe that we need to become more like Christ. Let God's thoughts become our thoughts; His actions become ours.

“So here’s what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life - your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life - and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don’t become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You’ll be changed from the inside out.”

- Romans 12:1-2 (The Message)

Keep our pastors and leaders in your prayers and be a person who encourages them to be the best that they can be in God.

Leon Munro
Leader | Ministry Care Network

“So here’s what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life – your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life – and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for Him.

Don’t become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You’ll be changed from the inside out.”

- Romans 12:1-2 (The Message)

Leadership Development Spiritual Mentoring

Spiritual Mentoring is an intentional relationship that fosters spiritual growth in another person. Discipleship is its core focus.

The relationship focuses on the spiritual invitations heard from God in the life of the one who seeks a deepening relationship with God. Therefore, Spiritual Mentoring is a lifelong practice. Spiritual Mentoring is also about cultivating postures and practices that create space to engage more with God. The two-pronged strength of the program is to invite spiritual deepening in the mentor's heart in readiness to engage with others as well as provide further rigour in deep listening and discernment skills. The program is enriched by doing spiritual formation in community with others. In 2016-2017, eight different cohorts ran, involving 13 different training events across the year.

A SPIKE IN GENERAL INTAKES

During this financial year, an unprecedented number of applications were received for Spiritual Mentoring cohorts. After discernment and prayer, it was decided to stagger-start two new intakes: a March intake and a June intake.

SPECIALISED CHAPLAINS INTAKE

The chaplains training program has been found to be a spiritual enrichment experience for its participants,

strengthening their resilience and heart for God. It also cross-trains them in complementary skilling for their roles as carers and carriers of the kind heart of Christ to those with whom they work.

TWO ADVANCED PROGRAMS RUNNING

Two Advanced Spiritual Mentoring cohorts are in motion during this period. The Advanced program format is significantly different in process and structure to the initial training. The Advanced cohorts hone group leadership in supervision practice, policy and performance. Each participant submits and leads contemplative group practices. Anne Simpson has been a wonderful asset as co-facilitator in the second intake and shares her advanced level skilling with participants.

CONTINUING AND CONCLUDING COHORTS

Cohort G and the Northern Rivers Leadership cohort both came to their conclusions during this period. The Northern Rivers cohort leaders are preparing to share their training with other leaders in their congregation in the art of mentoring and building fellowship.

Sue Whiteley
Facilitator | Spiritual Mentoring



A - Spiritual Mentoring Chaplains Cohort
B - Spiritual Mentoring Cohort I
C - Spiritual Mentoring Cohort X

Leadership Development Fresh Hope Young Adults + Fresh Hope Youth



Steve Hodgson
Young Adult Catalyst

The last year has been one of transition and change in Fresh Hope Youth and Young Adults. Over the past seven years I have had the privilege of overseeing the network of youth and young adult ministries in Fresh Hope on a part-time basis. Our desire is to see healthy disciple-making communities of youth and young adults across all churches in NSW. And we hope to see every church raising and releasing spiritual leaders and kingdom influencers of the next generation.

Throughout the past seven years the scope of this role has increased substantially. At the end of 2016, Fresh Hope made the decision to restructure the Fresh Hope Youth and Young Adult role by creating two part-time positions to allow for further development and expansion. It has been exciting to welcome Charlie Burke to the team as he now oversees mission and ministry to high schoolers. It's also been refreshing and challenging for me to step into a new role helping to catalyse mission and ministry among young adults as well as work closely with our NAVIGATE cohorts.

Here are a few of the highlights for Fresh Hope Youth and Young Adults from the past 12 months.

UPRISING JULY 2016 - MOVE

Uprising 2016 was a powerful week of equipping senior high students to live engaged in the Kingdom of God wherever they are.

As this camp has evolved over the past five years, we saw the need to develop streams of training for young leaders to help them grow each year. In 2016, we launched two streams - Proclaim and Multiply. It's been incredible to see young leaders capturing a vision that God can use them to share their faith, to change lives and to be on mission in their schools, churches, communities and even families. The stream resources are available in PDF format which can be requested from the Fresh Hope Resource office.

GLORIOUS DUST CONFERENCE PRAXIS MINI CONFERENCE

After four years of not running any Young Adult specific events, we launched 'Glorious Dust', a one-day conference in August 2016. We saw over 160 young adults come together in Sydney's CBD for an inspiring and challenging day. A huge thank you to Brad Plush, Neridah Morris, Jessie Skelly, Charlie Burke, Glenn Newton and Adrian Tam for helping to shape the vision and implement the conference.

In March 2017 Fresh Hope partnered with Thrive Community Church to run 'PRAXIS' a mini one-day conference featuring Mark Scandrette. Praxis focused on helping young adults apply their faith to their everyday life. We were blessed by the team at Thrive, who took the lead on this event and produced a transformational experience for the 80+ young adults who attended.

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A - Glorious Dust Conference 2017
B - Glorious Dust Conference 2017
C - Uprising Conference 2016

Leadership Development Fresh Hope Young Adults + Fresh Hope Youth



DRASTIC 2016 - MOSAIC

Drastic continues to be a flag-ship event for our youth ministries, once again seeing over 320 people from all across NSW come together for five days at The Tops. This year's theme of MOSAIC sought to tell the great story of God's redemptive work - from Creation to Fall to Restoration. As the story unfolded throughout the week we felt a profound sense of God working to draw youth into his great love. Some highlights from the week were the Passover meal followed by a Passion play that drove home the great price Christ paid for our lives. We also had 2 young men baptised in the dam at sunrise, as well as dozens of youth come to know Jesus as their Lord and Saviour.

Charlie Burke
Youth Catalyst

I have had the enormous pleasure of taking on the role of Youth Ministry Catalyst, standing on the foundations of Steve Hodgson's ministry in our state with youth and young adults. God has been on the move in the last seven years, and Steve has graciously and passionately led the next generation of spiritual leaders in our state. I have had the incredible joy of sitting under Steve's leadership in this time and have been a part of the network that he has helped to create. And I am incredibly excited for what lies ahead. The potential is endless, and the first portion of my tenure has been spent seeking God and developing pre-existing relationships with youth pastors and youth leaders in our state.

As Steve has noted, in addition to connecting, coaching and mentoring youth pastors and leaders in our state, part of the mandate of Fresh Hope Youth is to host outstanding, transformational events.

FUSE - T4 & T2

FUSE is the Sydney-based night rally of Fresh Hope Youth. This is an incredible opportunity for the Fresh Hope youth ministries of Sydney and beyond to come together and celebrate all that God has been doing throughout the year.

In November 2016 and May 2017, Restore Church (Castle Hill) and Rivergum Community Church (Rouse Hill) held outstanding events, with dozens of young people choosing to publicly follow Jesus for the first time. There is something incredibly powerful about youth ministries coming together to celebrate Jesus. God shows up, the word of God is preached and transformation happens! These are great highlights of the calendar year.

YOUTH MINISTRY MASTERCLASS

Another one of the strategic priorities of Youth Vision is the resourcing and training of youth pastors and youth leaders for ministry in our state. In late June, we were able to host our first Youth Ministry Masterclass for several years. Australian youth ministry 'guru' Tim Hawkins powerfully shared lessons from his wisdom about what it means to do ministry and make disciples among young people. For all in attendance this was a challenging and encouraging night.

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We hope to be hosting more events of this nature that train and equip our youth leaders, particularly as the landscape of culture and the places in which we do ministry is shifting!

NEXT STEPS

There is an exciting change of seasons ongoing amongst the youth ministries of Fresh Hope. We are seeing a wave of younger youth pastors and a handing on of the baton. It has been a pleasure to meet and connect with so many young, passionate leaders pursuing God's Kingdom in their context.



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A - DRASTIC 2016
B - DRASTIC 2016
C - DRASTIC 2016

Fresh Hope Group Operations

The 2016/17 financial year saw the commencement of a positive season of both change and disruption within the Fresh Hope shared services team.

The first of these changes was the establishment of the team under the name Group Operations. This team has absorbed much of the previous Corporate Services team's responsibilities (with additions in both responsibilities and capabilities for servicing the broad range of Fresh Hope Agencies).

For the 2016/17 financial year, Group Operations has had responsibility for Finance (including Payroll and Procurement), Human Resources (including Risk and Workplace Health and Safety) and Information and Communication Technology.

Significant leadership transition has occurred within the team. This commenced with the appointment of the new Director Group Operations, Daniel Dwyer. Dan has been charged with developing the leadership and capability in each of the areas of responsibility of Group Operations.

Glen Hegner has joined Fresh Hope in the role of Head of Information and Communication Technology (ICT). Glen has already commenced the significant change management project required to

address the desperately needed upgrades in technology as identified in our ICT Capability Review in January 2017. This review flagged several high-risk systemic issues that required immediate redress and has provided Fresh Hope with a road map forward for both infrastructure and systems improvements. Significant upgrades span both business systems and software platforms, as well as underlying infrastructure (internet links, wi-fi and telephony capability). These upgrades will provide significant benefits to stakeholders across the various Fresh Hope Agencies in the 2017/18 Financial Year.

Scott Griffiths has joined Fresh Hope as Head of Finance, taking on responsibility for the Finance Team, Payroll Team (led by Payroll Manager Jenny Stephenson) and the newly established Procurement Team (led by Procurement Manager Terry James). As well as the day-to-day management of these functions and teams, Scott has also been charged with the overhaul and improvement of Fresh Hope's financial analysis and reporting to Conference Executive as well as the different Fresh Hope Agency boards.

John Favaloro continues to provide solid support and leadership heading up the Human Resources capability within Fresh Hope. John provides oversight and guidance on recruitment, industrial relations issues, enterprise bargaining agreement negotiations and management of the risk and workplace health and safety capabilities.

Human Resources has been kept busy with the recent leadership appointments and structural changes both within the newly formed Fresh Hope Group Operations team and also Living Care during the 2016/17 Financial Year.

All Fresh Hope Group Operations teams and leadership roles are being intentionally crafted to provide support to all Fresh Hopes various and differing Agencies. A significant focus for the 2017/18 Financial Year will be resourcing the new Fresh Hope Mission & Ministry Agency being headed up by Director of Mission & Ministry, John Crowther.

Daniel Dwyer
Director | Group Operations



Fresh Hope Initiative Australian College of Ministries



As the Australian College of Ministries (ACOM) turns 75 years old we recognise and value the intimate history we share with the Churches of Christ in NSW that founded the College in 1942 to meet the growing need to train ministers and missionaries for our needy world.

We acknowledge that without this generous support and partnership the College would not exist today.

The Australian College of Ministries (ACOM) is distinctively a college of ministry. 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.

The directors of the company in 2016 were: Neville Cox (Chairman), Dr Andrew Ball, Ray Cheal, Peter Laughlin, Larry Galbraith, Ken Graham, Alison Feldman, and Dennis Nutt. The Company Secretary was Catherine Kleemann.

HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE YEAR INCLUDE:

- The College experienced the largest graduating class in our seventy-five year history. A total of 73 students graduated with degrees including 29 associated with Churches of Christ nationally (17 affiliated with Churches of Christ in NSW).
- 172 students graduated with vocational qualifications.
- The College received commendations in the five-yearly Institutional Moderation by the Sydney College of Divinity. The next institutional review is 2021.
- The Tertiary Education Standards Quality Agency (TEQSA) granted Self-Accrediting Authority to the Sydney College of Divinity (SCD) on 22nd June 2016. As ACOM is a member of SCD we can now initiate and shape the formation of new degrees within our scope of registration.
- A new degree, the Diploma of Ministry, was launched as a key part of the College's strategy. This was enabled by SCD's recognition as a Self-Accrediting Authority.
- A new company member was added to ACOM on 22nd August 2016. The Christian and Missionary Alliance of Australia joined the company through a new Constitution and Members Agreement.

- The launch of the Alliance Institute for Mission occurred on 1st January 2017 as a centre for excellence in mission studies.

A particular highlight for ACOM is the significant partnership with Churches of Christ that adds value to the quality and effectiveness of the Navigate and Recharge Programs. We look forward to supporting the Christian and Missionary Alliance of Australia with similar initiatives to support their churches and mission goals.

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
Principal and Chief Executive Officer |
Australian College of Ministries



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A - ACOM Graduation April 2017
B - ACOM Graduation April 2017
C - ACOM Graduation April 2017

Careworks partners with local churches seeking to connect with people in need within their local community.

Often our Careworks partners provide services to people who may be in crisis through the provision of food relief, clothing, housing and chaplaincy.

A disaster or crisis often forces people to wrestle with difficult life questions. The word 'crisis' itself is the word for turning point and comes from the Greek *krisis*, decision. It connotes a time of judgment when we have come to a juncture in our lives, which we call *critical*. It is a turning point, a time when the "bottom falls out" or everything seems "turned upside down." It is destabilising, dis-orienting, and confusing.

Churches, chaplains and Careworks partners are well placed to respond. We live in a fallen world that includes pain and suffering, but as Christians we have hope that God is in the business of redeeming and restoring. Crisis points can become moments of opportunity to connect with God.

DISASTERS

In late March 2017, severe flooding devastated families in Northern NSW. Careworks set up an emergency appeal and sent \$15,000 immediately to churches in the areas affected to provide urgent assistance. Tweed Heads Church of Christ responded by setting up an emergency

relief centre in their church/sports centre in Chinderah. Senior Pastor, John Latta, reported,

"The Tweed flood was heartbreaking for many families who were not expecting such an upheaval to their lives."

In Lismore, the Northern Rivers Church of Christ also responded, providing immediate relief and chaplaincy services. Careworks partners with the Disaster Recovery Chaplains Network to provide chaplains during times of crisis. A recipient of assistance said,

"We wish to thank the Northern Rivers Church of Christ for your help in our trying times. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts. People like you and your group help renew faith in the human race and show that there are caring and helpful people out there still."

CHAPLAINCY

Careworks places chaplains in prisons, hospitals, and aged care facilities, where people face difficult, life changing decisions and are seeking answers to life's questions. Peter Wakeley, chaplain to Wyong Hospital, reports,

"I was recently asked to see a patient who is facing his imminent death and to provide support to him and his family. Sitting down and listening to this man he said to me, "I'm scared." Reflecting his feelings back to him, he told me he was scared of many things ... scared of how he might die ... scared that if he was resuscitated he might

be “a vegetable” ... scared for his family and their future after he was gone ... scared that things were now out of his control ... scared about his eternal destiny - a man who up till then had had no time for God. This man had always been able to ‘fix things’, but ‘fixing things’ now was no longer an option. Over a lengthy visit, we talked about many of his deep concerns and fears, explored some options, suggested a few ways forward – especially for his family, and talked about faith and God’s love and grace in a crisis. This man opened himself up to what we spoke about, including the love of Christ, and he received prayer to put his trust and faith in Jesus.”

CAREWORKS PARTNERS

Careworks partners with churches, who are often working with people in constant states of crisis. Peta O’Flaherty from Telopea Church of Christ reports,

“Telopea Christian Centre whose Hope Connect welfare arm has welcomed with compassion responds to people in crisis who see our services as a lifeline. Ministering to a broad age group and diverse cultural backgrounds we engage with people in the community and our door here is open to receive those who seek not only practical assistance but also responding to their seeking to know more about Jesus.

When helping those who meet with us there are opportunities to pray and provide fresh hope. It is a privilege to share the compassion and love of Jesus with those who require our support.”

BRINGING FRESH HOPE

Careworks aims to assist people in their time of need and then journey with them, bringing hope and transformation in broken lives and communities. God is far greater than the largest crises and we are called to be a non-anxious presence and to bring fresh hope to people in their pain and suffering.

Richard Reeve
Ministry Leader | Careworks



A - Northern NSW Floods - Tweed Heads Church of Christ
B - Northern NSW Floods - Lismore

Fresh Hope Initiative

Fresh Hope Venues

The TOPS



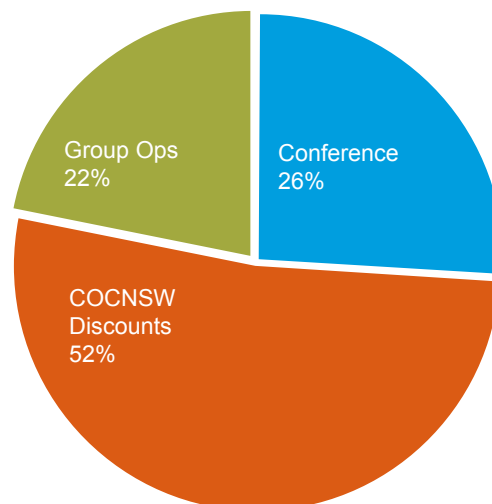
The years roll on and after having completed my 19th year as Executive Director I look at the continued blessing the Stanwell Tops (“The Tops”) site has not only been in my life but to the thousands of people who temporarily call it home each year. Temporary community is undeniably a critical ministry and community generation tool that continues to draw demand from the numerous markets it serves.

The recent National Church Life Survey in which camping was a featured series of questions, again highlighted the immense value that camping contributes to the lives of those who participate. As I reflect on the values that underpin our ministry I would have to identify the generous spirit that pervades our service. The team, of which I am immensely proud, continues to step up and into the journey of exploring all that we can be.

I receive many comments from guests! Some are negative, but on the whole they identify positive experiences of their time with us. Many longstanding repeat guests identify that one of the things they love about the facility is that we are always introducing ‘new’ things, be they initiatives, facilities or environments. Our desire is to continuously improve all we seek to do.

This year we introduced the Tree-Line adventure which is a great new ‘at height’ activity. It provides an interactive dynamic apparatus where participants four metres in the air are required to navigate challenges which can be altered by participants on the ground. It has been well received.

We further seek to invest in the wider Fresh Hope work which is made possible through the financial success of our operation. Over the course of the last financial year we supported Fresh Hope initiatives and contributed into Fresh Hope Group Operations as follows (Total Tops contribution to Fresh Hope \$890,000).



We see lives impacted simply through being hosted by our facility, or alternatively they can be stimulated, challenged and transformed through one of our many programs. A more intentional path with great impact will see two students graduate at the end of this year following two years of community, formation, work and study in our intern program. We also continue to train students in our Certificate III in Outdoor Education which is gaining more profile and momentum.

An update on the strategic intents document reported last year is:

1. ADVENTURE / WILDERNESS
(Last year report target: mid 2017)

Trial schools have been booked for a series of camps and we see the likely bespoke program stream being introduced in 2018 to more schools. We identify the opportunity to introduce sequential camping offerings for schools.

2. NON-URBAN

(Last year report target: end 2017)

We have looked at several target properties this year, but none have been taken to due diligence. We will continue the search!

3. URBAN

Urban development will align with the Fresh Hope mission strategy currently being developed. This is a medium-term initiative.

Despite actual revenue of \$9.209M being 4.1% under budget, The Tops generated a surplus of \$430k which was 20.8% greater than budget. Underpinning the result was a total site occupancy of 75.1%. This was slightly better than the previous year's 74.8%. Individual guest days and guest groups both exceeded the preceding year by 3.1%. The year ahead looks filled with opportunity. We will continue to serve and fulfil our mandate within the family to invest fresh hope into the lives of individuals and communities wherever possible. Sheer joy to serve!

Dave Tolman
Executive Director | Fresh Hope Venues

Fresh Hope Initiative Living Care



As I write my last Annual Report for Living Care I want to use this opportunity to say how much I have appreciated the privilege of serving with Living Care for the past 10 years. What began as a “you’ve got to be kidding – why would I move from Brisbane to Sydney?” conversation with our Executive Ministry Director, Dr Andrew Ball, over 10 years ago has in hindsight been one of the most defining decisions of my life so far. Not that our lives are ever all about work (because they aren’t). However, I can say that my life has been so incredibly blessed by being part of this Fresh Hope family.

I assumed coming into Living Care was just to fulfil the role of Executive Director. I now realise the move was as much about my understanding of who God has called me to be – and importantly who God is calling me to become as a follower of Jesus.

The season that is ahead for Living Care is now being entrusted to the new Executive Director, Natalie Cook who is well placed to lead the organisation into an exciting and challenging season ahead.

Throughout 2016/17 Living Care has been actively implementing a number of key changes in preparation for the changing aged care landscape that is moving to the provision of more flexible, consumer directed services geared to the preferences, likes and dislikes of the current generation and future baby boomer generation of older Australians.

Some of the changes implemented in 2016/17 include:

- The launch of the Customer Service Hub as a central point of enquiry for prospective customers - offering consistent, excellent customer service and promoting the full range of Living Care services rather than the 3 streams of residential care, home care and retirement living;
- Greater emphasis on marketing in an increasingly competitive market;
- Recruitment of a Marketing and Communications Manager to assist Living Care build our brand identity;
- Recruitment of a new General Manager Property Development to plan and oversee the redevelopment of Living Care’s older residential care and retirement living properties.

There were also a number of important achievements from 2016/17 that are noteworthy:

- Completion of strategic asset reviews of all of Living Care’s ageing residential care and retirement living assets;
- Delivery of one of the strongest financial results in the last 10 years, achieved in part by maintaining high occupancy, maximising income and having one of our lowest staff turnover rates and WorkCover claims costs;

-
- Maintenance of full compliance with all expected outcomes with no non-compliance or breaches of the legislative requirements;
 - Expansion of home care services into new geographical areas (Central Coast, Ulladulla);
 - Successful tendering for Transitional Aged Care Packages in both Western Sydney and Coffs Harbour – opening up referrals from hospitals for individuals transitioning from hospital to home;
 - Implementation of new home care software and mobile devices for home care staff to enable more responsive communication between the consumer and the service;
 - Development of strategic partnerships with a number of innovative providers including:
 - Choice Aged Care – clinical pharmacists, aimed at reducing the usage of psychotropic medication;
 - University Technology of Sydney - caring for carers, aimed at reducing staff turnover;
 - University of Auckland – cognitive stimulation therapy for individuals with mild to moderate dementia, aiming to decelerate the development of dementia;
 - Family Day Care Australia – researching the benefits of intergenerational play;
 - University of Western Sydney (MARCS institute for Brain Behaviour and Development) - exploring next generation virtual time travel with technology;
 - Red Cross and TAFE - Repair Café, first introduced in the Netherlands, aimed at increasing community engagement and friendships by repairing household items,
 - Continued strengthening of our staff culture as measured by the improvement in the positive demonstration rate of our signature behaviours from 52% to 56% to 69% in three Pulse Surveys conducted in 2016/17;
 - Completion of 11 new retirement living villas at Henley Brae Retirement Village with 9 of 11 sold before completion.

EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE

Jenny Wilbur was the 2016 winner of the Excellence in Service Award, announced at the sit-down luncheon held at Oatlands House in November. Jenny works as a carer at Coffs Haven Residential Care Service. She exemplifies what it means to provide services with joy to the residents she cares for.

After attending a Montessori workshop, Jenny was so inspired she returned to Coffs Haven and in her own time set about developing the resources that would be used to implement the Montessori program - a program aimed at stimulating the minds of residents with dementia through targeted activity. Jenny's prize included a \$3,000 travel voucher to a destination of her choice.

Fresh Hope Initiative Living Care

CONTINUED GROWTH IN HOME CARE

The deregulation of home care from February 2017 has been a significant disruptor to the sector with a number of new home care providers entering the market. Whilst Living Care has lost some of its consumers to these new providers, our reputation as a quality provider of home care services has meant that the impact has not been as great as that experienced by some providers. Being awarded Transitional Aged Care Packages (TACP) for South Western Sydney and Coffs Harbour Local Health Districts will assist us in growing our referral base and provide important links to the health sector.

OPENING UP LAURA'S WORLD

Building on the success of the “Give Laura a Voice” campaign in 2015 we launched the “Opening up Laura’s World” fundraising campaign in partnership with Careworks. The focus of the campaign was to raise funds to purchase a number of items that would assist Laura – a resident of Living Care’s Clelland Lodge residential care facility who suffered a debilitating stroke 9 years ago at the age of 17 to open up her world.

Both campaigns together have now raised over \$20,000 making it possible for us to purchase:

- An eye gaze assistive technology device – enabling Laura to write and call for assistance / change television channels / make Facebook posts, all using her eyes,

- A beach wheel chair – enabling Laura to travel safely onto the beach and go into the water,
- A car roof carry rack – enabling Laura’s family to carry the wheel chair and other items.

It is truly amazing to see the difference these resources have made to Laura and her family.

Graham Reed
Executive Director | Living Care



Living Care Service Location Map



A



D



B



E



C



F

A - Henley Brae Villa
 B - Jenny Wilbur
 C - Natalie and Graham

D - Open up Laura's world
 E - Open up Laura's world
 F - Signature Behaviour Brochure

Fresh Hope Initiative Southpoint Transformational Churches



We finalised our second cohort of churches during the reporting year as we explored processes and paradigms for the church to prevail into the future.

The transformational church journey is an intriguing process. We never prescribe what the outcomes might look like; rather it's a journey of discovery where church leaders are encouraged to collaborate in team, to discern that which is of paramount importance for their church. Some say it would be easier if this were not the case – we say why would a creative God simply franchise His church? Each church has a unique context and therefore a unique opportunity.

Typically the journey of partnership with these churches takes 2-3 years. In part, this is to ensure that the church develops a new rhythm of collaborative engagement where key values, DNA and ethos are discovered as a precursor to strategic planning and execution. Those churches then have greater clarity and buy-in across their leadership teams for future mission and ministry.

Recently I have been encouraged by Dr Peter Steinke to process the adaptive challenges confronting the Western church. In a piece titled 'Mind the Gap' he reflects: *"When adaptive challenges arise, many organizations waste time and energy trying to argue with the future."*

They deny facts and pine for the past. But sooner or later, the future wins."

WHAT OF THE FUTURE FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CHURCH?

These short headlines might help you as you stimulate conversation in your church.

Our frontier is unclear, our foundations remain settled as we never compromise our biblical values.

Programs are helpful, but new paradigms shape new opportunities and innovation.

Jesus didn't come declaring 'repent for the church is at hand' – his focus was on the Kingdom of God.

Transformation is life-long learning. Transactions are short-lived and lost in the busyness of life.

Scripture never mentions the word 'volunteer' – we are all called to live as servants for Jesus and His cause.

Discipleship is not recruitment into church practice – it is preparedness for being sent as an apprentice of Jesus.

We look forward to the next cohort of churches as we work with Nowra, Nations Heart and Mayfield Churches in the next season.

Dr Andrew Ball
Director | Southpoint
(Transformational Church Project)

“... it’s a journey of discovery where church leaders are encouraged to collaborate in team ...”



Transformational Church Cohort - Nowra

As Chairman of the Property Trust, and on behalf of the Property Trust board, I have pleasure in presenting the Property Trust 2016/2017 Annual Report. The Property Trust (the “Trust”) is an incorporated body¹ that seeks to serve churches and other Church of Christ entities through the services it provides. During the period 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017 the Trust met on ten occasions.

The Trust consists of up to nine members each elected by Conference for nine-year terms, and during the reporting period the Trust was comprised of these members:

Mr Andrew Billing
Chairman from June 2017

Mr David Bentley
Chairman until May 2017

Mr Robert Broady
Resigned December 2016

Mr Damien Hannes

Mr John Hoppitt
Registrar and member until end-of-term, May 2017

Mr Steven Martin
Elected by Conference as a member, May 2017

Mr Richard Reeve

Mr Philip Smith

Mr Shamus Toomey
Appointed by the Trust as Registrar, May 2017

Mr Willy van den Berg

Mr Allan Vincent
Elected by Conference as a member, May 2017

As at June 2017 there were no vacancies on the Trust. The Trust employs a Corporate Secretary / Manager. Mr Richard Reeve fulfilled this role on a part-time basis until January 2017 when Mr James Cartwright

was appointed to the role on a full-time basis. Whilst Mr Reeve continues as a member of the Trust, he is now employed on a full-time basis as Ministry Leader, Careworks.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank:

- Mr John Hoppitt for his many years’ service as Registrar and also as a member of the Trust;
- Mr David Bentley for his many years’ service as Chairman of the Trust, noting that Mr Bentley continues to serve as a member of the Trust; and
- Mr Richard Reeve for his many years’ service as Secretary, noting that Mr Reeve continues to serve as a member of the Trust.

As I have noted, the Trust serves churches and other Church of Christ entities through the services it provides. These services include but are not limited to:

- Safe custody of certificates of title, contracts, plans and other documents;
- Property Sales;
- Property Purchases;
- Leasing and Licensing;
- Building Contracts;
- Administration of Estates and Trust funds;
- Registration of churches with the Trust, including appointment of the Trust as trustee;

¹ The Trust is a perpetual, “legal person” constituted and incorporated pursuant to the terms of the Churches of Christ in New South Wales Incorporation Act 1947 (the “Act”). The Act, inter alia, sets out the purpose and powers of the Trust; its relationship to Conference; and other matters - for example - the process for special resolutions to be passed by churches.

- Investments and Lending via the Fresh Hope Investment Fund (formerly known as the Deposits Fund);
- Execution of statutory forms.

Lending to churches for property purchases and property projects is an important part of the services provided by the Trust. One example is a loan made to New Day Church (Wollongong) for the construction and establishment of the New Day Kids child care centre.

New Day Church has provided the following comments about its loan from the Trust:

“NewDay Church in Wollongong has been extremely thankful and appreciative of the support received from Property Trust throughout the journey to establish a new child care centre within the existing church premises. Aimed at creating opportunities for children and their families to encounter Jesus, this significant undertaking would have stalled without the financial backing of the Property Trust.

NewDay Kids Early Learning Centre will provide high-quality child care services to the Illawarra community, and will retain the ability to teach Jesus-based curriculum to the children being educated.

We look forward to continuing to work with the Property Trust in different ways to extend the gospel to those who have not yet met Jesus, and remain truly appreciative of the support provided thus far.”

Chris Keller
NewDay Church Vice-Chair
NewDay Kids Chairman

To discuss any of your church property matters please contact James Cartwright, Trust Corporate Secretary:
james.cartwright@freshhope.org.au
or 02 8719 2631.

Andrew Billing
Chairman |
The Churches of Christ Property Trust



A - New Day Kids Child Care Centre
B - New Day Kids Child Care Centre

Fresh Hope Federal Relationships Council of Churches of Christ in Australia



The membership of the Council of Churches of Christ in Australia consists of two representatives from each of the member states. Andrew Ball and Ian Allen are the current Fresh Hope NSW representatives. The Council meets to discuss issues of national significance to Churches of Christ.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Selfie Sunday was initiated so local churches could share photos and stories about the life of their community, providing a giant self-portrait of Churches of Christ. I hope we can all learn from, be inspired by, and pray for churches across our movement. Please take a photo of your church community if you haven't yet done so visit www.selfiesunday.org to learn more.
- Churches of Christ in Australia facilitates national and international ecumenical relationships. I invited Andrew Ball to speak on Fresh Hope's young adults' formation initiatives at a National Council of Churches in Australia gathering, which was very well received. I attended the World Convention of Churches of Christ Global Gathering in India, and initiated a submission to the World Council of Churches. John Gilmore has represented us at Christian Conference of Asia events.
- In Melbourne in November Alan and Deb Hirsch shared with the Council around mission, and on sexuality and spirituality, based on their most recent books. John Gilmore shared about

GMP's work in international church mission and aid, which is growing steadily and fruitfully. The Youth Vision Australia (YVA) team shared dinner with the Council, and breakfast with a couple of its representatives. Council has released funds for the upcoming National Youth Ministry Convention organised by YVA.

- The National Business Network continues to meet and to share about finance, IT and insurance updates. This provides a rich environment for state representatives to learn from one another.
- CCCA is a reporting body to GMP, Stirling College, YVA, MEBS, the Defence Force Chaplains Committee, Christian Projects and the member states, and receives reports from other committees. It aims to facilitate communication and networking between states, agencies and other groups for their mutual benefit, and to support the mission of local Churches of Christ. A good spirit of cooperation among us is something to celebrate.

Janet Woodlock
Federal Coordinator |
Churches of Christ in Australia

CCCA Representatives:

NSW/ACT:	Andrew Ball, Ian Allen
QLD:	Dean Phelan, Geoff Charles
SA / NT:	Greg Elsdon, Doug Wallage
VIC / TAS:	Paul Cameron, Milton Oliver
WA:	Tania Watson, Peter Roberts
Treasurer:	Jason Gor
Secretary:	Janet Woodlock

Wait patiently
for the Lord.
Be brave and
courageous.
Yes, wait patiently
for the Lord.

- Psalm 27:14

Fresh Hope Federal Relationships Global Mission Partners



Being part of a community provides a deeper sense of identity and purpose.

This is true for individuals, local churches and GMP. We are an expression of this community known as Churches of Christ and express our identity when we are in mission together, and create and maintain our identity as the people of Jesus Christ at work in the world. Local churches do this locally and GMP, in partnership with local churches, does this globally.

The GMP family encompasses the work of International Church Partnerships, Churches of Christ Overseas Aid (COCOA) and Indigenous Ministries Australia (IMA).

HIGHLIGHTS IN THE PAST YEAR INCLUDE:

- We brought together 28 representatives from our partners for a focused training program held at Chiang Mai, supported by Australian Aid. This was the first time for such an event and our first grant of government funding.
- Many stories of outreach and growth from our partners. New churches have been planted in PNG, Bangladesh and Zimbabwe. Leaders are being trained and people are making commitments to Christ in baptism. All this is good news.
- Connecting our partner in Vanuatu into the Church Partnership Program there with Australian Aid support.

- New partnerships with IMA including Indigenous Connection in Mt Druitt. This is a community support program with a particular focus on Indigenous young men that had links to Urban Neighbours of Hope.
- COCOA becoming accredited by the Australian Government, and so accessing more support for our partners, and Suzanne Hayes joining the COCOA team to support these changes.
- The continuing partnership with Navigate and the success of the 2016 visit to Vietnam.
- Continuing Partner Visits from churches including, Epping, Nowra, Bowral, Tweed Heads, New Day and Wyoming to our partners overseas and here in Australia.
- The development of a link with an Indigenous Surfing Festival at Fingal on the NSW far north coast, with an IMA team attending and taking part.
- Nick Wight (IMA) and Billy Williams featuring at Fresh Hope Collective.

CHALLENGES INCLUDE:

- The impact of changing demographics and institutional loyalty, and our ongoing desire to serve local churches in their commitment to national and global mission.
- The tensions that are created by increased compliance and obligations for ministries such as GMP, with the result that more time is absorbed in this.
- While the year had good aspects financially, the challenge of generating income to support our partners' projects remains.

Visit our website to learn more about what we do - www.gmp.org.au

John Gilmore
Executive Officer | Global Mission Partners



A



B



C

A - GMP partners meeting in Thailand
B - 3 young people getting baptised from Lautoka Vitogo Church at Lomolomo Beach, Fiji
C - Fingal Head Welcome

Fresh Hope Federal Relationships

Stirling Theological College

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS / HIGHLIGHTS / AREAS OF NEW LIFE

CATALYST

The Catalyst program launched in Perth at the start of the year. It was an exciting start with students experimenting and discerning what it is they are passionate about and where they can make a difference in society. The students are guided through a Diploma of Theology but it is the blended model of delivery, hub sessions, mentoring, industry internships and time spent with change makers in society that makes Catalyst unique: www.catalyst.edu.au.

It is not a gap year program or a holiday – it is an opportunity for young people to work out their unique contribution in the Kingdom of God.

We have been excited already with the action steps that the students are taking towards linking their passion and gifts with the world around them. The practical emphasis of the program has been a great highlight with many of the students starting their own initiatives and we are only half way through the year. Catalyst is planned to launch in Melbourne in 2018 and then other Australian cities.

MASTER OF COUNSELLING

This is a significant new initiative in terms of the nature and structure of the award and partnership of Stirling and the University of Divinity with a VET sector provider. Everything is on track in all areas and we are ready to enrol students from November

2017. The agreement was established earlier in 2017 and signed in May 2017.

A Stirling course coordinator was employed in July 2017 at 0.6FTE. He is Dr Arthur Wouters and has settled into Stirling well. Additionally, aifc have employed a Masters coordinator who will enable the promotion and smooth transition of students from phase one (aifc Graduate Diploma in Counselling and Integrated Psychotherapy) into phase two (UD Master of Counselling).

The two coordinators from both institutions are working closely and liaising with the UD as appropriate. More details can be found at www.stirling.edu.au.

NEW OPPORTUNITIES AND FUTURE CHALLENGES

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE LEADERSHIP

Next year Stirling launches a Graduate Certificate in Leadership. This is a three-unit award to help attract church planters and entrepreneurial leaders. It will focus on Spiritual Leadership, Organisational Leadership & Management, and Spiritual Formation/Reflective Practice.

GRADUATE DIPLOMA SUPERVISION

In 2018 we launch a Graduate Diploma in Supervision. This six-unit award will form and prepare people as professional supervisors.

Dr Andrew Menzies
Principal | Stirling Theological College

The instructions
of the Lord are perfect,
reviving the soul.

- Psalm 19:7



Financial Report

Financial Performance



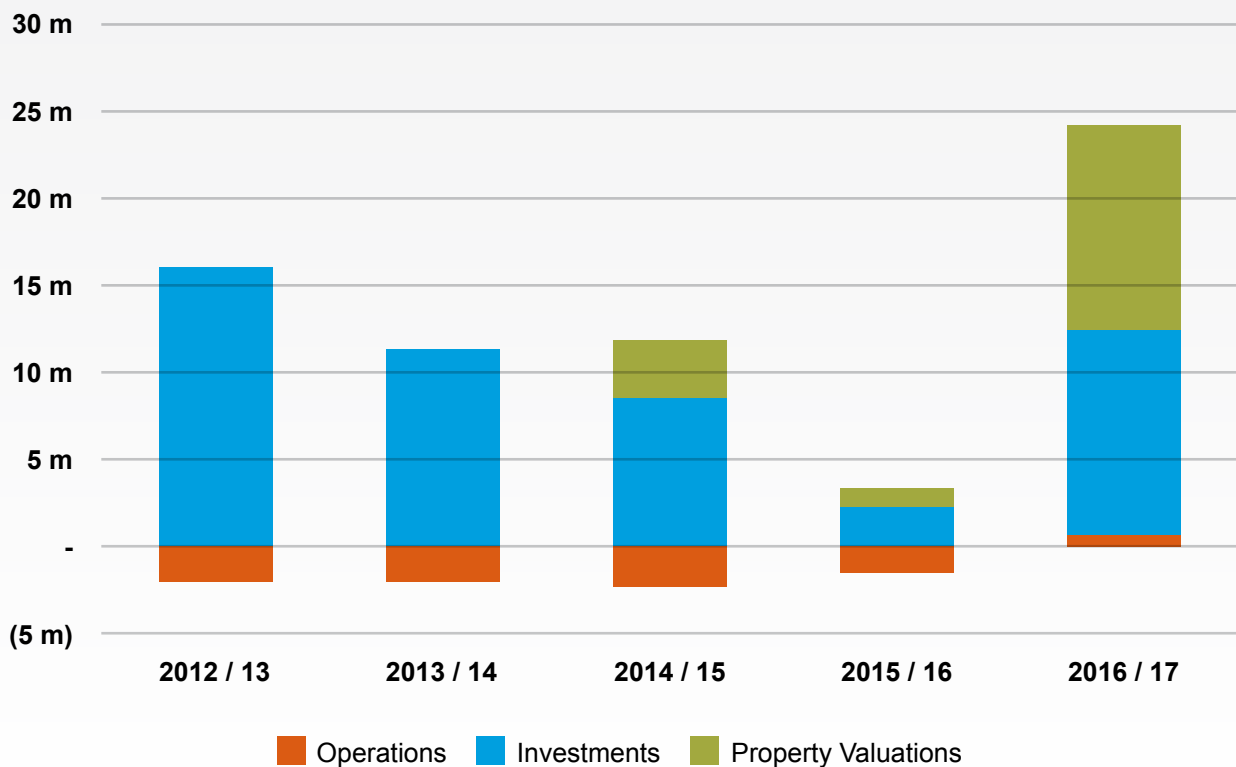
FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

The financial result for the year ending 30 June 2017 was a total surplus of \$24.3 million, which was well in excess of the surplus from the previous financial year of \$2.1 million. Our operational financial performance, excluding revenue from investment returns and asset revaluations, was \$750k, which was also an increase from the previous year of \$2.5 million.

There were many operational improvements implemented throughout the year that contributed the result for FY17, mainly through:

- Improvements in the funding process for our residential aged care services;
- Increased pricing in line with market standards for our home care aged services;
- A reduction in workers compensation insurance premiums through reduced claims and more effective return to work programs.

HISTORICAL / FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE



Financial Report

Financial Performance / Investments

Some of the higher than expected increases in expenditure from FY16 to FY17 were seen in the areas of staff costs, care services and administration. The recent changes to consumer choice in the home care industry increased our costs in providing home care services. However, the increase in revenue from the introduction of new pricing on 1 July 2016 outweighed the cost impact from the consumer choices legislation.

Fresh Hope Group Operations was established in FY17 to increase capability for all Fresh Hope Agencies in enterprise governance, financial reporting, regulatory compliance, operational financial management, enterprise risk and insurance, information and communication technology (ICT), procurement / asset management and human resources.

The establishment of this team has seen an increase in administration costs in FY17 with the financial and operational benefits to be realised in FY18/19. Improvements in financial and operational efficiency have already commenced through competitive contracting (procurement), ICT infrastructure upgrades, reduction in utilisation of recruitment agencies (through improved internal capability), improved board reporting, and competitive insurance premium renewals, to name but a few.

INVESTMENTS

Revenue from our investments portfolio through market value movements, dividends and interest payments made up approximately 48% of our total surplus for FY17. This is a particularly strong result given our investments charter dictates a conservative investment strategy whereby 55% of our entire portfolio is invested in cash or fixed interest products, which have a relatively low risk profile.

The average consolidated return on investments for FY17 was 8.6%, with individual returns for each Fresh Hope agency delivering similar returns. Our investment policy and governance, in partnership with our current wealth management advisers, has been very effective in delivering strong consistent returns over the past 18 months.

Financial Report Surplus and Deficit

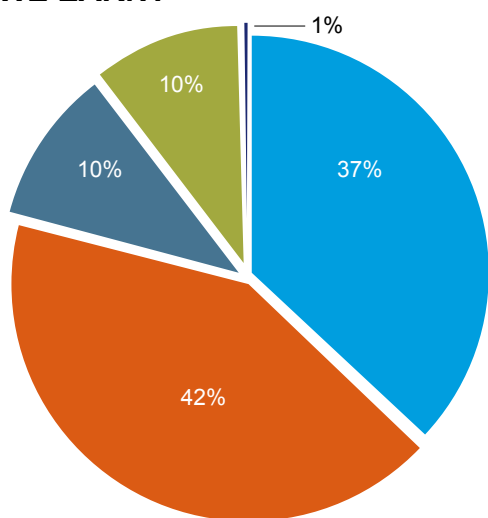


SURPLUS AND DEFICIT STATEMENT

REVENUE	FY17 (\$'000)	FY16 (\$'000)	Change (%)
Fees from residents, clients, students and customers	43,679	39,487	11%
Government funding	49,673	44,919	11%
Revenue from investments	11,713	2,832	314%
Asset and property valuations	11,858	986	1103%
Other revenue	513	580	-12%
TOTAL REVENUE	117,436	88,804	32%

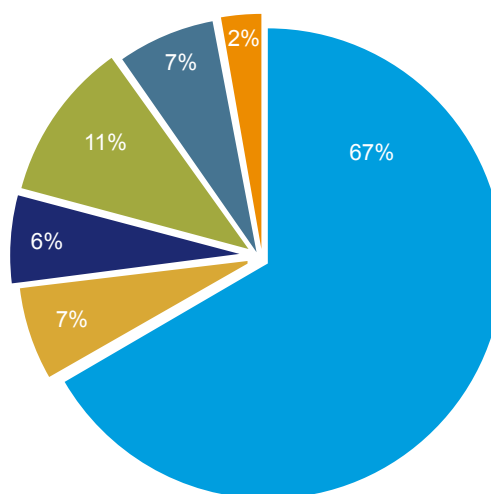
EXPENDITURE	FY17 (\$'000)	FY16 (\$'000)	Change (%)
Staff costs	62,013	58,361	6%
Operational and care services	6,253	4,069	54%
Hospitality services	5,796	5,638	3%
Property, utilities and depreciation	9,930	9,915	0%
Administration	6,966	5,006	39%
Other expenditure	2,165	3,704	-42%
TOTAL REVENUE	93,123	86,693	7%
TOTAL SURPLUS	24,313	2,111	1052%

WE EARN



■ Fees
 ■ Govt. Funding
 ■ Investments
 ■ Asset Valuation
 ■ Other

WE SPENT



■ Staff costs
 ■ Operational / Care
 ■ Hospitality
 ■ Property, utilities & depreciation
 ■ Administration
 ■ Other

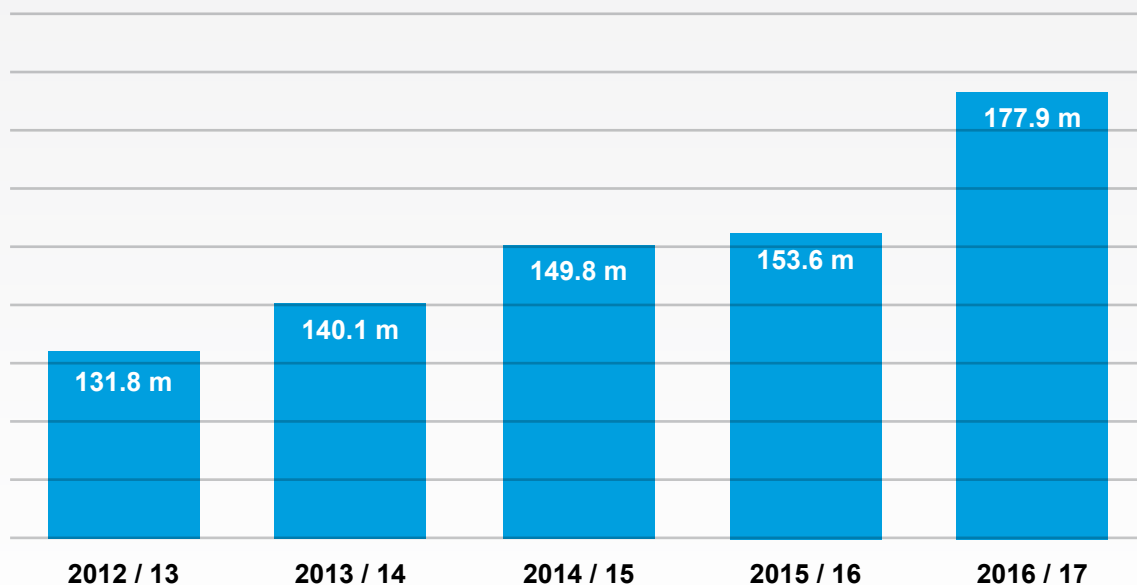
Financial Report

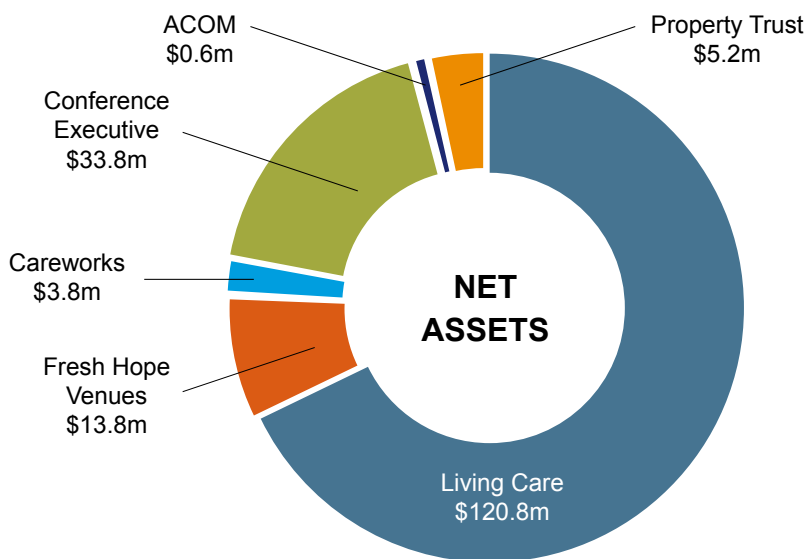
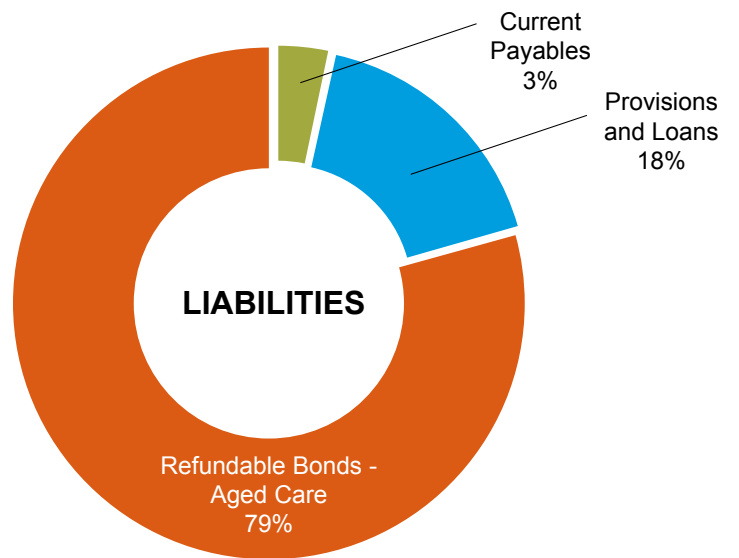
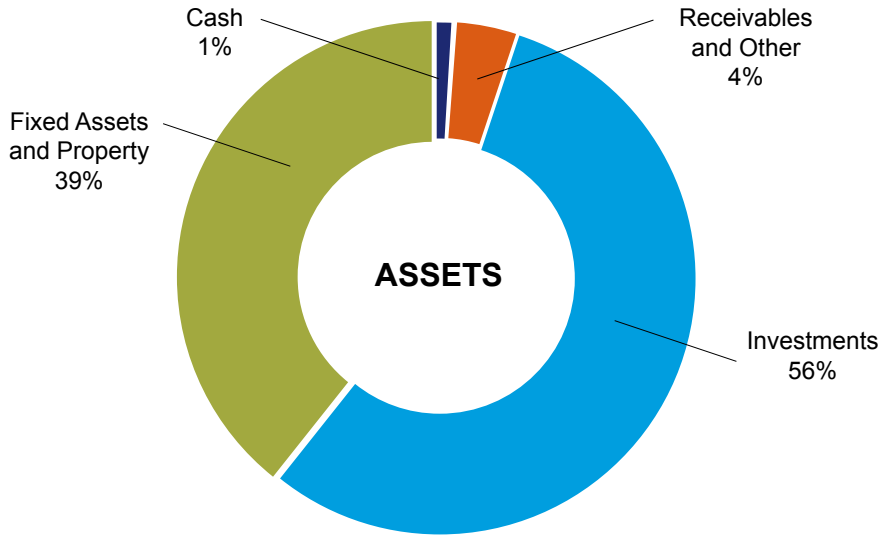
Assets and Liabilities

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

Fresh Hope continued to strengthen its strong financial position with a 16% increase in net assets from FY16 to FY17. Over the coming years, and in alignment with the Fresh Hope strategy, we will determine the most effective way to leverage our asset base and continue to provide strong returns, whilst delivering our missionary and community-based goals.

HISTORICAL MOVEMENTS IN NET ASSETS





Minutes of Annual Conference

Saturday 13 May, 2017 - 11:30am

The Tops Conference Centre, Stanwell Tops NSW

WELCOME (11:41am)

The Conference Executive President Troy Blair (Campbelltown Church of Christ) opened the meeting in prayer and welcomed all to the Annual General Meeting,

FORMAL APOLOGIES

The following apologies were noted:

Helen Allen, Katoomba Lighthouse

Arthur & Judy Cayzer, Rivergum Community Church

Raewyn Williams & Neil Saltmarsh, Hurstville Church of Christ

Mark & Wendy Speechly, Rivergum Community Church

Larry Galbraith, Epping Church of Christ

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 7 May 2016 as printed and circulated in the Churches of Christ in NSW Annual Report For the year ending 30 June 2016 be adopted as a true and accurate record of that meeting.”

MOVED: Luba Munro, Kingsway Community Church

SECONDED: Mike Hardie, Thrive Community Church

Motion CARRIED by majority.

Notice of Motion 2

“That the Annual Financial Reports 2015/2016 as printed and circulated in the Churches of Christ in NSW Annual Report For the year ending 30 June 2016 be adopted.”

MOVED: Steven Martin, Burwood Church of Christ

SECONDED: Dennis Nutt, Liberty Church of Christ

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 2016/2017.”

MOVED: Grant Pleffer, Liberty Church of Christ

SECONDED: Ray Cheal, Telopea Church of Christ

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 2017/2018, to come into effect from the first full pay period in July 2017.

1. That the salary component be increased to \$939 per week.

2. That the housing component be increased to \$438 per week.

3. That the car component remains the same at \$176 per week.

4. Superannuation to remain at 11.00% of remuneration package.”

MOVED: Glyn Williams, Castle Hill Community Church (also known as Restore Church)

SECONDED: Sandy Timbrell, Telopea Church of Christ

Motion CARRIED by majority.

It is noted, the recommended remuneration is benchmarked with other denominations for salaries for ministers of religion.

Notice of Motion 5

“That the Constitution of the Conference of Churches of Christ in New South Wales be amended by the addition of a Clause 30 as follows:

“30. Indemnity of Identified Persons

(a) In subclauses (b) to (g):

(i) “Agency” means without limitation each and all of Conference Executive, each Conference Auxiliary, Conference Ministry, Ministry Team, Specified Ministry Team and any other committee or organisation referred to in the Act of this Constitution (however known or styled) and any group of persons, committee or organisation appointed or formed by Conference, Conference Executive, or under this Constitution;

(ii) “Conference Body” means Conference and each and every Agency;

(iii) “Identified Person” means each and every person:

(A) who is employed by a Conference Body;

(B) who undertakes voluntary work for, or who provides services on a voluntary basis to, a Conference Body; or

(C) who is a member of any board or committee (or similar group) of a Conference Body.

(b) Each Identified Person is, to the maximum extent permitted by law, indemnified out of the property of the relevant Conference Body against any liability incurred by the Identified Person arising out of the Identified Person undertaking any activity or role as described in any of subclauses (A), (B) and (C) of subclause (a)(iii) [each a “Role”] except to the extent the liability arises out of any of the following:

(i) a liability owed to the relevant Conference Body that arose out of conduct which was undertaken intentionally and was not undertaken in good faith; and/or

(ii) a liability arising out of any criminal offence or dishonest action or omission.

This clause does not apply to a liability for legal costs.

(c) Each Identified Person is, to the maximum extent permitted by law, indemnified out of the property of the relevant Conference Body against any

Minutes of Annual Conference

Saturday 13 May, 2017 - 11:30am

The Tops Conference Centre, Stanwell Tops NSW

—

liability for legal costs the Identified Person may incur as an Identified Person arising out of the Identified Person undertaking any Role except to the extent the liability is a liability for legal costs incurred in defending an action for a liability incurred as an Identified Person where the costs are incurred:

(i) in defending or resisting legal proceedings in which the outcome of the proceedings is that the Identified Person is found to have a liability, for which they could not be indemnified under subclause (b); and/or

(ii) in defending or resisting legal proceedings in which the outcome of the proceedings is that the Identified Person is found guilty of a crime.

(d) Where any Identified Person is the subject of any legal proceedings arising out of the Identified Person undertaking a Role, the relevant Conference Body may advance funds to that person to assist the Identified Person to defend any such proceedings provided appropriate terms as to the repayment of any funds so advanced are agreed.

(e) Where any Conference Body does not have sufficient financial resources to meet any indemnity under this clause 30 Conference Executive may advance to the Conference Body, sufficient funds to enable the Conference Body to meet the indemnity.

(f) For the purposes of subclause (c) the “outcome of the proceedings” is the outcome of the proceedings and any appeal in relation to the proceedings.

(g) Subclause (b) and subclause (c) are separate and independent indemnities and one is not to be read down by reference to the other.”

MOVED: Graham Reed, Northside Community Church

SECONDED: Willy Van Den Berg, Lower Blue Mountains Church of Christ (also known as Blaxland Church of Christ)

Motion CARRIED by majority.

The President noted the addition of this clause to the constitution provides clarity and indemnification protection to all who serve on Fresh Hope boards.

NOTICES OF MOTION VOTED BY BALLOT PAPER

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

The Executive Ministry Director thanked James Hogan who has diligently served as returning officer over the past number of years and those in the assembly responded with clapping for this service.

Notice of Motion 5 (By ballot paper)

“That Troy Blair be reappointed to the position of Conference President for the Conference year 2017/2018.”

(By ballot paper)

Result: ELECTED by majority.

Notice of Motion 6 (By ballot paper)

“That Ian Allen, Andrew Berthelsen, Simon Brailey, Raymond Cheal, Michael Hardie, Victor Tee, Stephen Toomey and Raewyn Williams be elected to the Churches of Christ in NSW Conference Executive for the Conference year 2017/2018.” (By ballot paper)

Result: ELECTED by majority.

Notice of Motion 8 (By ballot paper)

“Three vacancies for Trustees are required from the following candidates: Steven Martin, Mark Pigot, Wilhelmus (Willy) Van Den Berg, or Allan Vincent be appointed as Members of The Churches of Christ Property Trust for the prescribed nine (9) years, concluding in 2026.”(By ballot paper)

Result: Steven Martin, Wilhelmus (Willy) Van Den Berg and Allan Vincent were ELECTED by majority.

The Conference President thanked the network churches and ministers for what they do for the wider Churches of Christ family and in their local context. He thanked the ministers for their investment, courage, faith, and sacrifice.

Conference Executive members are appointed to oversee and steward the resources and ministries of Conference for the whole movement. They believe in our churches and their ministers and pray for churches and ministers as a key part of their spiritual service.

CLOSE

The business session closed at 12:00pm in prayer.



Love the Lord
your God with all
your heart and with all
your soul and with all
your mind and with all
your strength.

- Mark 12:30





fresh hope



Churches
of Christ
in New South Wales

Fresh Hope / Churches of Christ in NSW
PO Box 3561 Rhodes NSW 2138 | P/ (02) 8719 2600
E/ office@freshhope.org.au | W/ freshhope.org.au
facebook.com/FreshHopeNSW | instagram.com/fresh_hope