

A close-up, low-angle shot of a basketball hoop. The red rim is prominent in the foreground, with the white net hanging down. A basketball is visible in the background, slightly out of focus. The background is a light-colored wall.

Churches of Christ in Western Australia ANNUAL REPORT

NOVEMBER 2015

ON MISSION

ON MISSION CHURCHES

Albany Church of Christ
Bassendean Church of Christ
Beckenham Church of Christ
Binningup Church of Christ
Bridgeley Church of Christ
Bridgetown Church of Christ
Bruce Rock Church of Christ
Bullcreek Church of Christ
Bunbury Aboriginal Christian Fellowship
Carnarvon Church of Christ
City Church of Christ Perth
City Lighthouse Church
Collie Church of Christ
Cornerstone Church of Christ
Corrigin Church of Christ
Dalkeith Road Church of Christ
Dowerin Church of Christ
Dunsborough Church of Christ
Eastlake Church
Elevate Church
Encounter Church
Esperance Christian Fellowship
Foothills Church of Christ
Fremantle (Subiaco Church)
Geraldton Church of Christ
Harvey Church of Christ
Indonesian Family Church
Jesus es el Camino
Kalamunda Church of Christ
Kalgoorlie Church of Christ
Kelmscott Church of Christ
Kingsley Church of Christ
Lifestreams Christian Church

Lifestreams Karawarra
Living Grace Dianella
Maylands Church of Christ
Merredin Church of Christ
Midwest Church of Christ
Morawa Church of Christ
Mount Pleasant Church of Christ
Mukinbudin Church of Christ
Mundaring Church of Christ
Narembeen Church of Christ
Nollamara Church of Christ
Noranda Church of Christ
Norseman Church of Christ
Rivers Christian Life Centre
Rockingham Church of Christ
Roleystone Community Church
Scarborough Church of Christ
Serpentine Church of Christ
South Bunbury Church of Christ
South Central Church
Southern River Church of Christ
Spires Life Church
Subiaco Church
The Rocks Church
Thornlie Church of Christ
True North Church
Valley Church of Christ
Warnbro Community Church
Warwick Church of Christ
Wembley Downs Church of Christ
Westcity Church
York Church of Christ

ON MISSION PARTNERS

Bethanie
Bethesda
Building Extension Mutual Fund
Churches of Christ Sport & Recreation Association
Compassion
Crossways
Global Mission Partners

Kwinana Christian School
Life Support Ministries
Moorditj Keila
SonLife International
World Vision
YouthCARE
Youth Vision WA

COMMEMORATING 125 YEARS

I have been pondering - What should I get the association for our 125th anniversary?

I am pretty sure that we are well beyond paper, silver, gold, and even diamonds. This is not a common thing to be able to celebrate the life of any organisation or organism that lives this long. And it is even more uncommon to celebrate the longevity of a voluntary relationship between dozens of very different and complicated personalities.

But yet, here we are. So what shall I give the association that will be a fitting celebration of what we have accomplished, who we are today, and what we will surely become in the future?

My answer is simple. I will give the most precious gift I have... today. I will give, "right now" to this movement of Christ honouring men and women. I have already given my past actions and therefore cannot see the value in counting them as my contribution. I have no ability to give my future as it belongs to the Lord so I cannot count this as my contribution either. All I can give is today.

It is my pleasure and my privilege to give my time, my energy, my attention, and my prayer to the work of our movement. I am confident that my sacrifices are being used by God to accomplish his will in and through our family of faith. I am confident that Jesus Christ is using our collective "today" to draw more and more new believers to himself in and through our church communities. I am happy to give this gift to our association because I know that God is at work right now, today, in us and through us, and I would not want to miss that for all the world.

On behalf of the Board, it my honour to say happy anniversary to our movement and it is my joy to say with confidence that today is the best day we have ever had in our 125 years of shared ministry in Western Australia. I hope you too are excited about what God is doing right now in and through his people, through us, and through you.

God bless you and thank you for your time,

Ryan Laden
Chairman, COCWA Board



WE ARE CHURCHES OF CHRIST

125 years ago, Church Planter Thomas Bates arrived in Fremantle to begin the work of establishing a movement of Churches of Christ in WA. After seven weeks of meetings and a baptism service at the Swan River witnessed by 500 people he wrote, “Seldom, I think, has a missionary movement been made more opportunely than in the present instance nor with greater promise of permanent success. Seven weeks of labour have confirmed in me the belief that Perth will one day contain one of the largest churches in the Colonies ...”

Throughout the history of Churches of Christ in WA, we have been a people dedicated to being On Mission. The first gathering of WA Churches in April 1898 took as its theme the topic of what it means to be Churches of Christ: “Its Beginning, Its Progress, Its Demands, Its Prospects”.

Our Association has weathered seasons of growth, decline, discussions about uniting with the Baptists and the preservation of local church autonomy. It has established missional endeavours, social welfare enterprises and always, always a passion for the proclamation of the Gospel.

In 2015, we face the challenges of our time on the platform of faithful proclamation and witness of those who have gone before. We continue to believe that a missionary movement in this State is needed right now and we believe that the promise of success in the Lord as a result of our labour is a promise we too can claim. We continue to be a people who establish missional endeavours, grapple with questions around sustainability and viability as a movement, and the strengths and weakness of autonomy. Above all else, we remain a people with a passion for the proclamation of the Gospel. We remain On Mission.

Perth has grown rapidly and its culture has shifted significantly. We are, in effect, missionaries in our own land. For this reason, the Board and COCWA Staff are working to ensure that the combined resources of the churches are stewarded well so that they can be focused and directed towards supporting local churches as they seek to bring people into the light and life of Christ.

As we celebrate 125 years, it is good to be reminded of our beginnings and the progress of Churches of Christ in WA. I believe we can be

confident of our prospects as we walk in the light of the promise that the Lord has given to us: that our churches will be full of new believers. But how might we contemplate the ‘demands’ that our forefathers pondered at their first gathering? Drawing upon the ‘distinctives’ of our movement, I offer the following thoughts:

1. EVERY FOLLOWER OF CHRIST IS ON MISSION TO LEAD OTHERS TO CHRIST

As an On Mission movement, it has always been part of our understanding of ourselves that every follower of Jesus has the responsibility and privilege of living out and proclaiming the Gospel in and through their lives. We are a grass-roots movement of people. Being On Mission is not the special responsibility of a set aside group of people or leaders as ‘ministers.’ It is the prerogative of the whole people of Christ’s church.

2. ON MISSION CHURCHES VALUE PARTNERSHIP

We are Christians only but do not see ourselves as the only Christians. We recognise that we are a part of the Body of Christ and whilst we value our distinctiveness, we know that as the Body of Christ works together we help one another to show that the Kingdom of God has come. In Christ we are collaborative and not competitive.

3. ON MISSION CHURCHES ARE ADAPTIVE

Methods, structures and forms may change but the Gospel remains the same. There is no doubt that we live in epoch times of sweeping cultural change. God’s people have always learnt to rest in and rely upon the presence of the Holy Spirit in order to discern how to reflect and share the Gospel in a particular culture. In Western Australia in 2015 with all of its tensions and paradoxes, we have an amazing faith opportunity to live as salt and light as we look to Christ, particularly through His Word and prayer, and absorb his words deeply into our minds, hearts and souls.

Like never before, we have the opportunity to live freely and innovatively with an optimism and a hope that is substantively different to what the world offers.

2016-2020 STRATEGIC PLAN

Having right-sized the organisation (COCWA) in conjunction with the adoption of new Rules, this year the Board and COCWA Staff have been working towards the articulation of a strategic plan.



Our core purpose is

“To harness the resources and strength of Churches of Christ in WA in order to support local churches and their multiplication initiatives.”

We look forward to sharing specifics of the strategic plan in 2016.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2015

COCWA Rules: The adoption of the Rules in May was a significant milestone for the churches. One of the great joys for me personally was the opportunity to visit with most of the elders and leaders of the churches to talk through the development and implementation of the Rules. As an Association we strongly affirm the autonomy of the local church and the spiritual responsibility that ministers, elders and leadership teams hold. We trust that as we continue to be together in association, that our combined efforts bless, encourage, strengthen and inspire church leaders so that they can keep their focus on equipping the people within their churches to be On Mission.

State Youth Games 2015: It has been many years since there has been a large number of people responding to an invitation to follow Christ in a

public setting amongst our churches. So it was with great joy that we woke up on Sunday morning of the June long weekend to the news that around 40 young people had responded at the rally on the Saturday night of SYG. There are so many encouraging good news stories about how the young people of our churches are connecting, relating and helping one another through their connection with Youth Vision.

Warwick Stadium: On November 7 we will meet on the courts of Warwick Stadium. It will be 12 months since the churches voted to provide a guarantee to this project. It is an outstanding achievement for everyone concerned, but especially for the Board and Staff of CCSRA to have delivered this project ahead of schedule. Our combined AGM's (COCWA, BEMF & CCSRA) will be a wonderful opportunity to give thanks together for the way that the Lord has blessed this project and to believe together for what the Lord will do in and through the community who accesses this building.

Revolving Capital Fund: For several years this Fund (made up of the previous Revolving Capital Fund and the Centenary Fund) was largely unused by

the churches. It is designed to provide interest free loans of up to \$100,000 for two years for renovation and maintenance projects. Over the past 18 months it has been very encouraging to have 11 churches access the fund. We have seen this as a dramatic increase in the faith of churches as they are looking to invest in their facilities because they want to grow. In September we celebrated the return of funds from the Mundaring and Northam Churches and praise God for faith and giving of the people of those churches.

COCWA Boards and Staff: At the end of 2014, I began to speak to the various Boards and the Staff team about entering into a new season of serving the churches. For most of this year we have been seeking to discern how the Lord wants us to steward resources and structure support. This has meant taking seriously the challenge of questioning what we do and how we operate both as people and in our systems. I want to commend to the churches all those who serve the Association for the ways in which they have all embraced the challenge. I am so grateful for the privilege of serving alongside these wonderful people.

Currently serving on the Board are:

Rod Cousins

Daniel Indradjaja

Ryan Laden (Chairman)

Josh Nipps

Michael Petrossian

Tamara Pilgrim

Max Rivett

Peter Roberts

Andrew Robertson

Tania Watson (Executive Minister)

Rod Cousins and Max Rivett will be retiring from the Board at the Annual General Meeting. We will take the opportunity at the AGM to acknowledge their significant contribution.

2014-15 CHURCH STATISTICS

We want to exercise some caution this year in interpreting the gathered statistical data. We are aware that many churches are experiencing the challenge of people losing jobs, moving to other locations and are also grappling with the slide in what constitutes a regular attender.

This year's raw data demonstrates that from an overall perspective, adult attendances have remained at the same level as the previous 5 years. Baptisms were lower than in the previous 2 years.

For the first time we asked for churches to tell us how many teens regularly attend youth groups. The number is lower than we hoped to see. In addition, there was a significant reduction in the reported number of children attending weekly services. We again want to exercise caution in reading too much into the raw data as some of the numbers reported as youth may have been previously incorporated into the general question about numbers of children. We cannot ignore the obvious conviction that every church ought to consider ministry opportunities for children and young people as a priority.

Every church cannot ignore the call to be On Mission. As has been observed, "the church is never more than one generation away from extinction." Every Christ follower of any age and at any stage is caught up and included in the mission mandate of Jesus to share the good news of salvation in Christ alone.

For four years now we have been speaking about God's promise to our family of churches: that our churches will be full of new believers. Some have challenged me from time to time about the use of the word "will". Every time I have sought the Lord about the expression, I get the same assurance that the promise is true and it is for us to receive. The question is not, "Will our churches be full of new believers?" but "What is our responsibility as churches made up of followers of Jesus?"

Some have spoken to me about feeling overwhelmed by the challenge of taking hold of this promise; of feeling the pressure to get their church full of new believers. I understand this well! Personally, I continue to trust in Christ who said that He will build His church but have also committed to eager prayer that I will have the opportunity to lead people to Christ. It's been a long time since I have had that privilege. I know that I am not alone in this and as I am honest and share this with others. I am encouraging people to join me in prayer, asking the Lord to give us eyes to see and courage to open our mouths and share the hope that we have in Jesus. It is my hope that by this time next year I will have some stories to tell! In the meantime, I am encouraged by an increased number of 'random' conversations I find myself having with people in shops, in carparks, cafes and in my own family.

Tania Watson
Executive Minister

PROPERTIES COMMITTEE

The process that started in 2004 with a new Constitution, and continued into 2015 with the adoption of new Rules resulted in the Board reviewing the role of the committee and adopting a new policy for its operation. This has had, and should continue to have, far reaching consequences as the Committee focusses on land matters and COCWA property assets.

Our agenda over the last year has included:
PROPERTIES STRATEGIC PLAN

An annual role of the committee is the preparation for Board approval of a Strategic Plan for the properties COCWA owns. From this strategy specific plans for individual properties are developed.

IMPLEMENTATION OF COCWA LAND POLICY

We continued to encourage churches to own land and for all churches on COCWA owned land to enter into either a Deed or a Licence.

COCWA PROPERTIES

Property Management

Properties are mainly managed by COCWA staff with the committee advising when building expertise is needed. Fremantle properties continued to receive attention and this is likely to continue for FY16.

Port Hedland

With the cessation of the church ministry the manse has been refurbished. The church has not

been refurbished as future ministry plans should influence any work carried out. A public expression of interest process is underway to ascertain if any sustainable visions or plans for ministry may require the church site and/or manse.

Property Dealing Disposals

The land in Richardson Road awaits settlement once the Charitable Trust Caveat is removed.

Future Church Sites

This continues to exercise the committee, however funding limits our options in this regard. The committee is also mindful of the potential for considerable maintenance works on key properties.

THE YEAR AHEAD

In addition to the usual and routine matters the year ahead holds for us:

- Involvement in considerations of the future of the Beaufort Street property
- Assessment and feasibilities of underused COCWA land assets to maximise ministry opportunities
- Identification of suitable land for acquisition for future church sites
- Exploration of investment opportunities to return surpluses to fund church site acquisition

Richard Affleck

Properties Committee Chairman





SUPPORT IN HIGH STAKES

This has been an amazing year full of new experiences, learning, and opportunities to join many of you in the journey of life and ministry. I have truly valued partnering with many of you in a great diversity of situations.

The re-introduction of regional seminar days were very encouraging and we saw most of our country churches represented. These days were relational, informative and inspiring. Each day was concluded with individual churches being prayed for and sent out with the charge to be the love of Jesus in their community.

We are very excited about our upcoming *On Mission One-Day* for everyone on November 6. The team have put together an inspiring and practical program that will stimulate thoughts, ideas and energised dialogue.

The Church & Ministry Support Team continue to see our role as a privilege to serve you in any way that we can. This has and will continue to include church consultation for those looking to move forward, or others just wanting an outside perspective. Individual mentoring and coaching is also a significant part of our role.

The ongoing desire to serve effectively was one of the key motivators behind me enrolling in a D.Min program through the Alliance Theological Seminary (ATS) this year. I had been looking at different courses for about two years when I was encouraged to look at the course from ATS. The

combination of spiritual formation and leadership development caught my attention and interest. With a clear sense of God's leading and the course focus on spiritual maturity, I enrolled. It has been quite a ride spiritually, emotionally, and mentally. I can add physically because sitting in a classroom again was quite the challenge. It is my hope and prayer that as I process my experiences and learning through my own life, I will be able to share much of what I gain with you.

I encourage ministers to be proactive in connecting with each other. Put something on your desk to remind yourself just once a week to text, email or call one other colleague, hear how they are doing and pray for each other. You will be amazed at how you are encouraged.

I continue to be challenged by the role of serving each one of you as a member of the COCWA team. The stakes are high and I believe God has a very strong desire for us to relentlessly pursue Jesus and our relationship with him. So it is with a clear purpose that I will continue to encourage you to pursue your relationship with Jesus, so that it is the power of the Holy Spirit that enables your ministry.

Isaiah 26:3 "You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you."

John Hutchinson
Church & Ministry Support

IN ALL THINGS – CHRISTIAN LOVE

I remain truly appreciative of the privilege of being able to relate with the pastors, leaders and churches of our Association. I believe that we are a movement – a great movement – and that we are moving, thanks be to our great God and His great promises to us.

Recently I heard the sentiment expressed that the local church needs to get out of the church to be the church; a sentiment that I sense is consistent with the view of our Sunday ‘services’ being like quarter time breaks at the football – valuable opportunities to encourage and equip believers for the primary work of service – living for Christ and therefore as Christ’s ambassadors in our world. My ministry experiences of the last year have served to remind me that this goal is a significant challenge for many of our pastors, leaders and churches, particularly given the increasing requirements of running the organisation of the local church and the aging membership of a number of our congregations.

In seeking to serve our association I have engaged in the spiritual mentoring and ministry coaching of a number of our pastors; assisting church boards with leadership, constitutional and governance issues; providing a process of ongoing consultation for several churches; helping to facilitate our regional ministry days; working with churches as they explore the possibility of taking up membership with our association and exploring options of re-imagining church as we move into the future.

It continues to be a privilege for me to work as part of the COCWA Church & Ministry Support Team and the wider Churches of Christ in WA Association. I am looking forward to the ongoing adventure that is involved in being part of a movement that holds strongly to the sense of unity in essentials, diversity in non-essentials and in all things Christian love.

Bill Addison
Church & Ministry Support



ENCOURAGING AND EMPOWERING

Being a part of a team where you are valued and supported is so important. That is what I endeavour to do with COCWA ministers and chaplains; help them experience encouragement and empowerment. It has been very encouraging to listen to their stories, see what God is doing in and through them and pray for them. This has happened through phone calls, one on one meetings, emails, and connecting at various events during the year.

Being involved in the country seminars for ministers and leaders in the Wheatbelt (Merredin) and Southwest (Busselton) were great opportunities for prayer and encouragement. My responsibilities include accreditation, renewal of accreditation, marriage licenses, prayer and support so these events provide great opportunities for me to minister. The March Connect Retreat was also a great place for me to meet and mix with some of the newer ministers.

I have also been involved with regular prayer experiences with ministers. These include several COCWA Leadership days of prayer, which are open to all ministers and an overnight prayer retreat at a Gidgegannup bush property with ten ministers. Tania Watson's vision of 'our churches will be filled with new believers' has energised Grant Cullen and myself to facilitate extended times of prayer. These are hosted by a different church once a month.

Listening to God and then praying for ministers as God leads is so encouraging, especially when you find out later about His timing.

I really enjoy playing a small part in helping ministers flourish in the midst of all that happens in ministry. What a blessing to be involved in this ministry. God is at work!!

David Stanford
Minister Support

ON MISSION IN RETIREMENT

There is a new, true Aussie movie based on the life of Rex Bell called *Last Cab To Darwin*. I haven't seen the movie, but the preview seems profoundly stirring. Rex (Michael Caton), wrestling with being told he has cancer, makes the statement "I'm going to drive my cab as long as I can drive." Ministers about to retire or who have retired have a similar wrestle they must engage. "What is left in life for me now, where do I fit, and what is my value now I am no longer employed by a Church?"

When we come through this after many years of faithful service to our Lord and face the unknown territory of retirement, what statement of resolve will we come out with? "Eat drink and holiday?" Perhaps in the spirit of Caton, "I will live life serving my Lord as long as I can, however I can." One person sent me an article entitled, "Better after sixty five." Again in the *The Last Cab to Darwin*, "Its never too late to live."

My role as pastoral support to retired and retiring ministers involves supporting and equipping ministers for the second half of life and ministry. My focus in this role is that many facets of our lives can be better after retirement.

We may have been in ministry for forty or fifty years taking on study, seminars and personal growth but this is the next chapter in our journey and we haven't passed this way before. Our journeys are all unique and society has some very self-indulgent and destructive messages to our age group. Some of the ways we help equip for this phase of life include:

Seminars: This year we have had Centrelink come and explain the superannuations changes. Michelle Harris from Bethanie also presented an informative and encouraging session with many helpful insights into how we can live with and care for people with dementia. David Van Leen and David Bardsley shared in our Bunbury seminar. David Van Leen shared about the role and support of chaplains in Bethanie while David Bardsley shared about cooperation of the denominations in small country towns. Our next seminar will be training retirees in mentoring the next generation of ministers.

Monthly exhorting emails: This year we have looked at being proactive in retirement for our betterment. I encourage our retirees to live fully in your sixties, seventies and beyond. I write on the

idea that 'optimal health is a mixture of many factors, all interacting in harmony.'

Support and encouragement role: I have sent emails when I know a retiree or spouse has a birthday or other significant occasion simply to say 'you are special', 'you are valued for who you are.' As we age constant health challenges are common to many. Through emails we are able to have our community of retirees stay in touch and embrace our brothers and sisters in prayer and stand in the gap for them. In 2014/15 we have celebrated the lives and ministries of Ken Patterson, Kaye Caporn, John Morrow and Roger Ryall and given them our blessings as we said farewell. I also meet with a number of ministers personally for mutual encouragement as well as a coffee fix.

Graham Carslake annually holds a 'Ministers Recognition Dinner' at Nollamara Church. This year Ross Norling and Ron Cook were recognised and thanked for their years of ministry. Ron was also presented with his College of the Bible Diploma which was a great surprise.

Graham also organises the annual Christmas luncheon for retiree ministers and spouses. It's

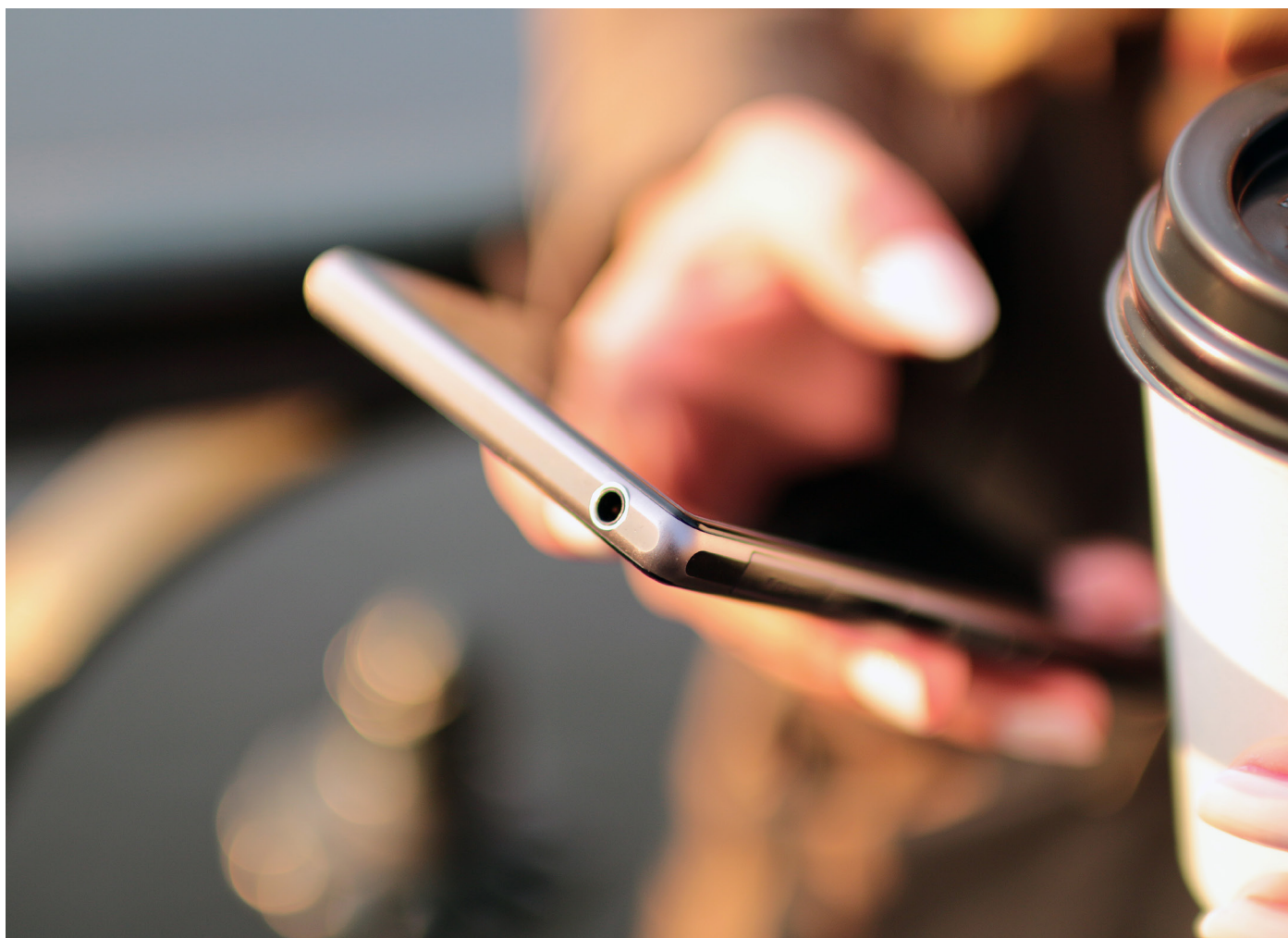
a time to stay connected, do some storytelling and have Tania Watson share some inspirational thoughts. Last Christmas saw the largest gathering of people in attendance.

I am available to ministers and chaplains from sixty to seventy plus years of age. I note we have in this group of ministers and chaplains sixteen who may retire within the next five years. There are fifty six who have retired from full time ministry but many of these folk are very active in a variety of ministries and often alongside their spouses. Some of these are also struggling with poor health.

I count it an honour to support these passionate people of the faith. Our greatest desire is to see Churches grow with new believers and we feel privileged to be a part of the local 'cheer squad' encouraging, praying and supporting our local congregations doing ministry in relevant and effective ways.

"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing." 1 Thess 5:11

Barry Thygesen
Ministers in Retirement





YOUTH VISION WA

I say this every year but I would like to start by thanking you, COCWA family, for your partnership, prayers, financial support, time contribution and encouragement. A huge thanks also needs to go to the YVWA Executive Team. Thanks for all your hard work throughout this year! It's a privilege to serve with you.

YOUTH VISION WA EXECUTIVE TEAM

Neale Fong, YVWA Chairman

Leigh McIntosh, Youth Worker, Spires Life

Kym Edwards, Youth Pastor, Thornlie Church

Alethea Ashby, Youth Pastor, Spires Life

Emily Dickinson, Youth Vision WA Minister, Senior Youth Minister Lifestreams South Perth

Cameron Barnes, State Youth Games Coordinator

Brendon Taylor, Youth Pastor, Kingsley Church

Ryan Clune, Youth Pastor, True North Church

This year we farewelled Tim Rutter, Youth Pastor, Warwick Church. Thanks Tim for your contribution.

All of these people and our resources enable us to keep working towards our mission: We champion Churches of Christ youth and young adult ministries through developing, nurturing and resourcing sustainable leaders.

Towards the end of 2013 we engaged the services of Evolve Leadership (Glenn Bergsma) who facilitated a 2 day workshop to help us come up

with a five year strategic plan. We clarified our mission and we settled on seven goals that guide us each year in putting together our operational plan. The goals are:

RESOURCING YOUTH / YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES

1. We will have developed and implemented a coaching/consulting model that builds youth/young adult ministries. This has been carried out in 20 churches.

IDENTIFYING & DEVELOPING LEADERS

2. We will have created a clear and effective leadership development pathway with the majority of youth vision leaders engaged and progressing forward.

3. We will offer all youth leaders a minimum of four cluster gatherings per year for mutual encouragement, communication, support and further connection.

RELATIONSHIPS

4. We will provide six spaces per year that promote relationships, create memories and offer spiritual and leadership development.

GOVERNANCE & LEADERSHIP

5. We will have identified, considered and implemented the best structure going forward to

strategically partner with the COCWA movement.

6. We will have sourced and secured additional funds in interest bearing revenue and developed ten recurring revenue partners.

7. We will have implemented a simple information management system that manages our data, relationships and communication within the Youth Vision community.

Please pray for us as we seek to move forward in our strategic plan. Some of these are BIG HAIRY AUDACIOUS GOALS!

These are some of the things that we have been working on since the last COCWA AGM:

- In November 2014 we hosted ENCORE with the other youth ministry organisations here in Perth. A one day youth ministry conference full of inspiration, training and networking for youth and young adult workers. Our special guest was Krish Kandiah from the UK. It was a fantastic day.
- In January this year we re-birthed 'Forest Edge' - a camp for junior high students held in Waroona. Forest Edge was one of the most fruitful and energetic things that YV used to run through the 90's and early 2000s. It was well attended and we are currently planning to go bigger and better in 2016.

- State Youth Games 2015 was a huge success. We had over 950 participants and about 120 adult volunteers. Cameron Barnes and his organising team did a great job once again. Special thanks to all of our adult volunteers and sponsors with a special mention to Church of Christ Sport and Recreation Association.
- Recharge 2015 held at the atrium in Mandurah was again a great success amongst our youth leaders.
- We are currently developing a coaching/consulting model that builds youth/young adult ministries and we are planning to trial it with a couple of youth ministries soon.
- YVWA Peer Clusters continue to meet and network across our state.
- We have had several YVWA network breakfasts.

As we look to the remainder of 2015 and into 2016 I'm really excited about the following things. Please pray:

- As we seek to resource local churches as 'they' raise up the next generation of leaders in our movement.
- For God to raise up young men and women who want to train in children's and youth ministry.
- As we partner with local churches by providing internships and scholarships.
- For the children, youth and young adults in our churches and for those we are seeking to reach in the community.
- NYMC October 2015, National Youth Ministry Convention hosted by Youth Vision Australia on the Gold Coast. We have a great line up of local and international speakers. We believe that once again chaplains and youth and young adult ministers right across Australia and internationally will be equipped, encouraged and empowered by this fantastic conference.
- For the further development of SYG our major state-wide outreach event. We are still seeking a new coordinator.
- That our churches will be full of new believers.

In this together,

Rod Thom

Director Youth Vision WA

Senior Minister Lifestreams Christian Church





CHURCHES OF CHRIST INSURANCE

Churches of Christ Insurance (CCI) is a national program dedicated to serving Churches of Christ right across Australia. We believe the CCI program provides the highest benefits for our churches. It offers maximum cover in a very cost-effective manner, and is tailored specifically for the insurance needs of the Churches of Christ. This means that churches can enjoy substantial premium savings, while still being ensured they have full coverage for a very broad range of risks.

PROPERTY CLAIMS

We had 22 claims in the 2014/2015 insurance period. The majority of our property claims are from storm damage, burglary/theft and glass breakage. Storm and burglary continue to be the two areas where we see the greatest dollar value of claims. As we approach the summer season it is a good time to get roofs and gutters inspected and trees cut back. Ensuring that in the event of a storm any damage is as a result of the storm and not poor maintenance.

The accompanying diagrams are types of claims and the dollar amounts.

BUSINESS TRAVEL INSURANCE

We have been able to provide a travel insurance

cover at no additional cost to the churches.

Employees and volunteers may now be covered for church mission trips, training, and events that are part of the church activities.

VALUATION AND SURVEYS

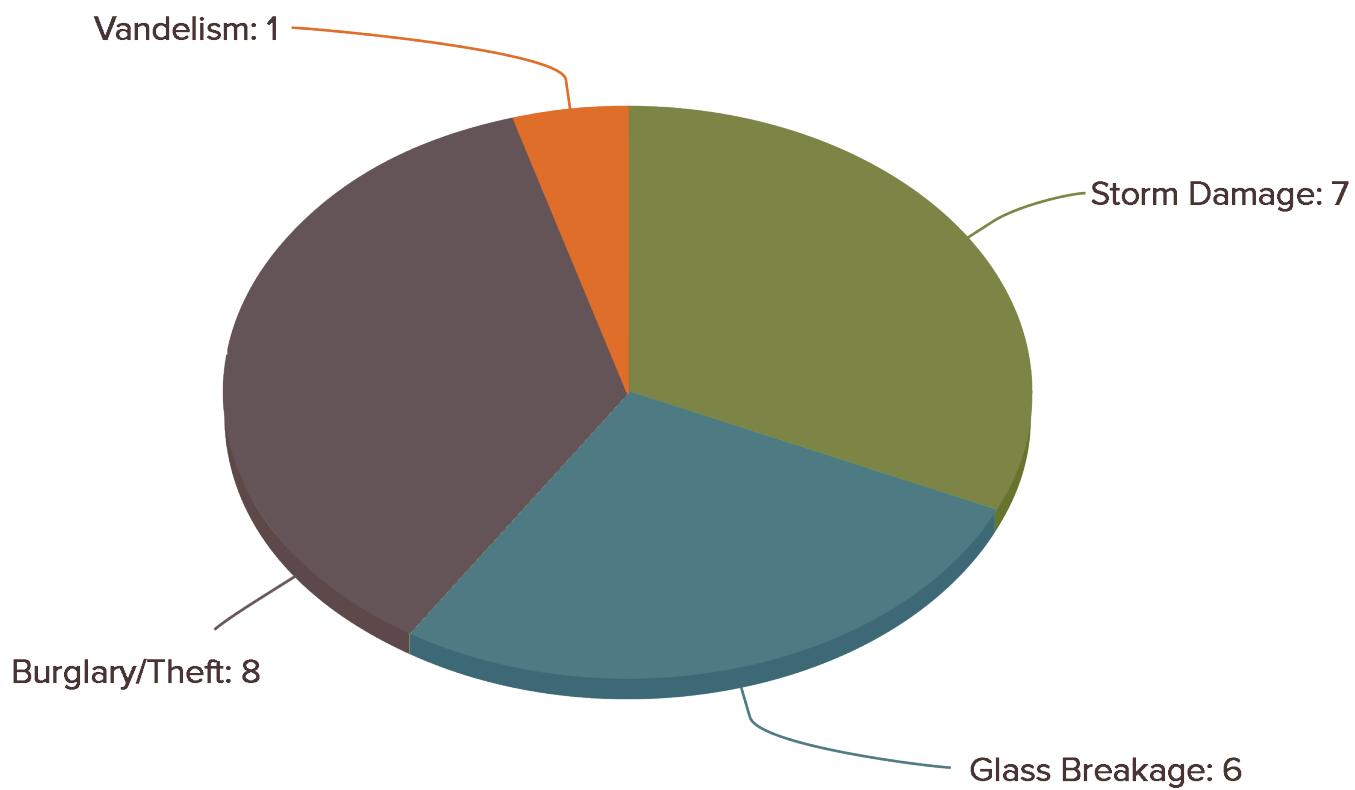
JLT will commence valuations in October this year. A JLT employee will be contacting the church to arrange a time to meet and value all church buildings. The aim of this is to ensure that our churches are safe places to meet and that in the event of an insurance claim the church is not under insured. The cost of the valuations is covered as part of the CCI.

MORE INFORMATION AND CONTACTS

Detailed information on CCI policies can be found at our website, along with a number of articles on risk management and training courses for risk managers, employees and volunteers. The CCI website can be accessed at atcofcinsurance.org.au. Natalie Burgis can be contacted on (08) 9471 8500 or by email at Natalie.Burgis@cocwa.com.au. Russell Hoath or Liz Matheson in Victoria can also be contacted on (03) 9488 8800.

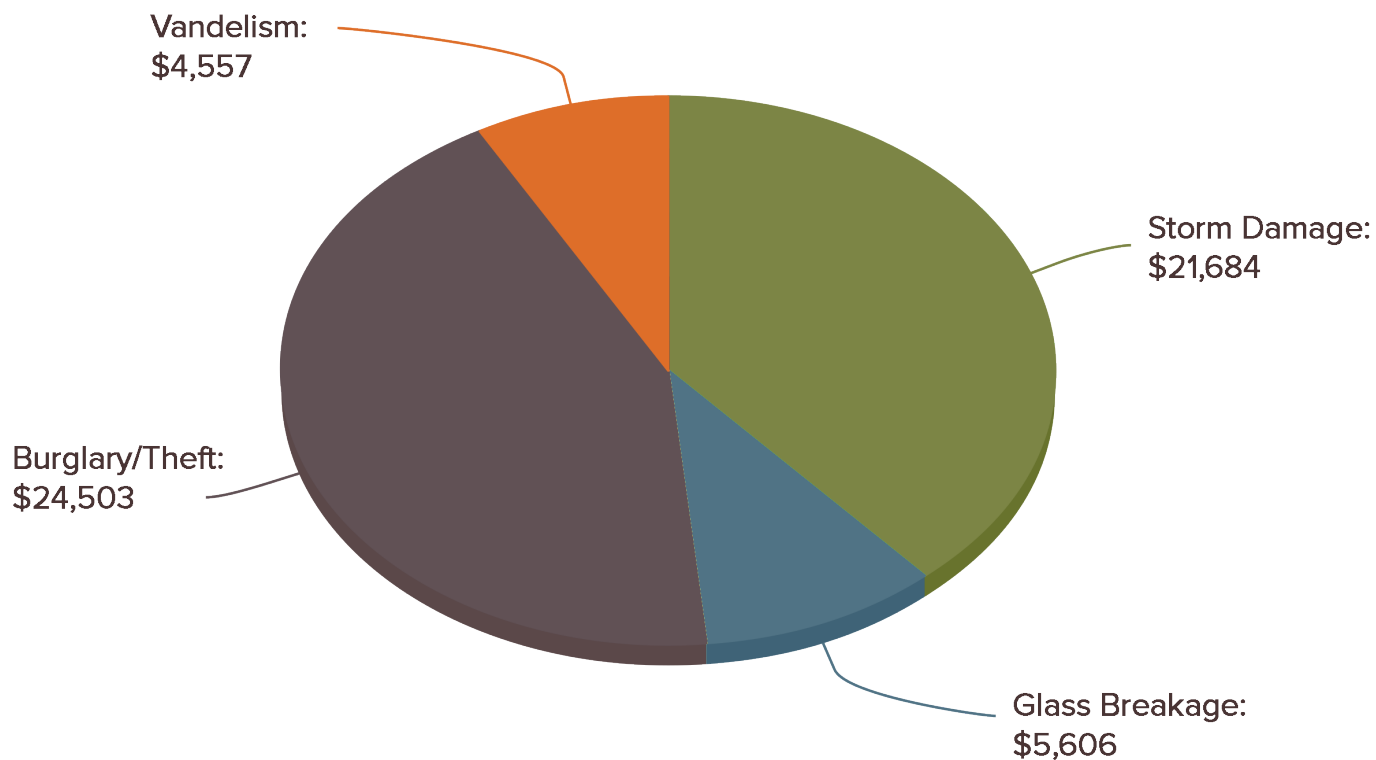
Natalie Burgis
COCWA Staff

TYPES OF INSURANCE CLAIMS:



■ Storm Damage ■ Glass Breakage ■ Burglary/Theft ■ Vandalism

INSURANCE CLAIMS IN DOLLARS:



■ Storm Damage ■ Glass Breakage ■ Burglary/Theft ■ Vandalism



BEMF: BUILDING THE FUND THAT FUNDS THE BUILDINGS

A major milestone in the history of the BEMF has recently been achieved! The largest loan ever provided by BEMF has been approved for the Churches of Christ Sport and Recreation Association Inc (CCSRA). This loan enables CCSRA to double its amount of courts and sporting events, thus serving the community by accommodating more than 10,000 players every week, across a variety of sport activities.

Churches of Christ Albany Inc have this year been granted a loan, assisting them in the completion of their new church after they had outgrown their current facilities.

These loans are the reason why we exist and reflect the important role that the BEMF plays in providing finance within Churches of Christ in Western Australia. We express our gratitude to the COCWA Board for their collaboration and support in the BEMF operations. Under the guidance of the BEMF chairman, Richard Affleck, and the Board we have implemented a marketing plan, allowing BEMF to grow and operate on a new level.

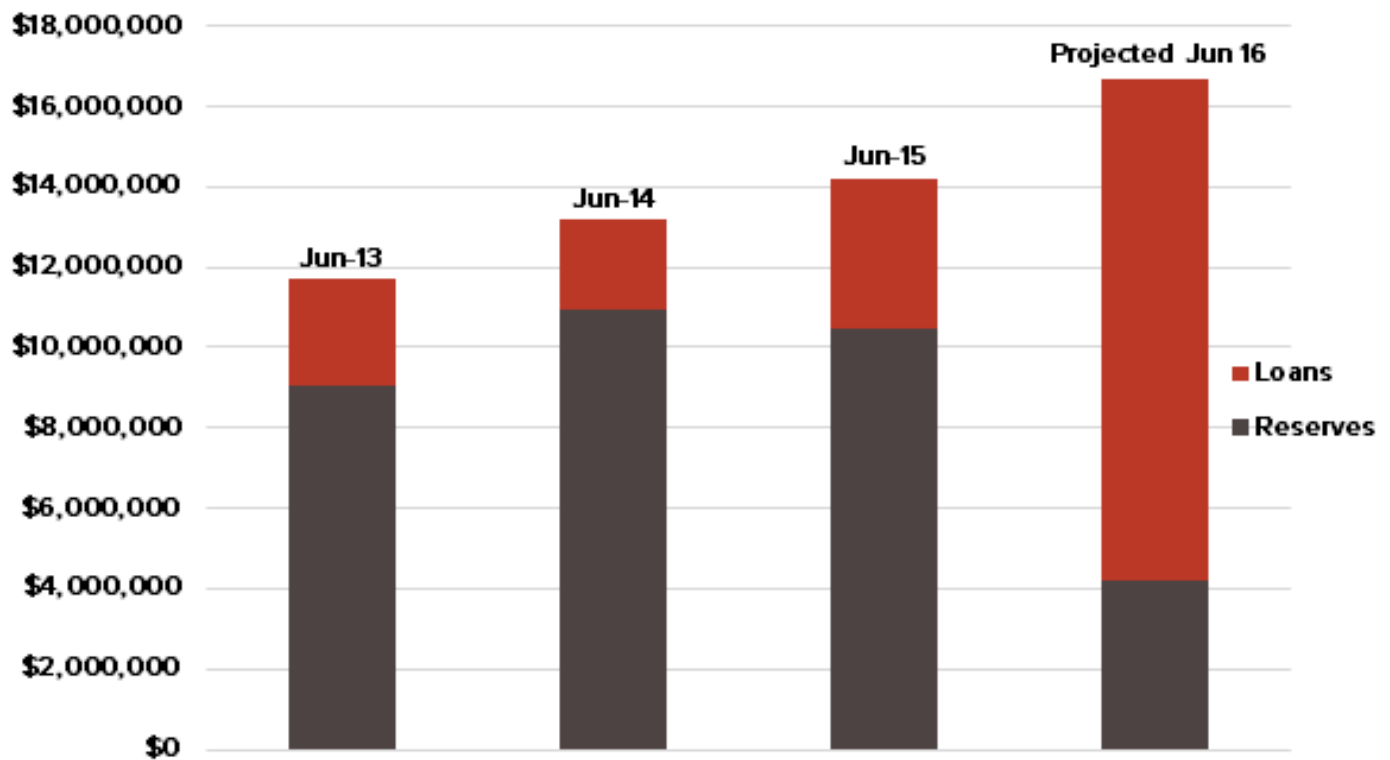
The BEMF fund has grown by 8% in gross assets, mainly due to commitment and investments from individuals within the Churches of Christ family.

Loans increased by 66% compared to the previous year, which is significant in the progress of fulfilling our objectives. A similar growth in loans is expected for the coming year. Although revenue increased in the 2014/15 financial year, it was exceeded by expenses resulting from the development and implementation of the marketing plan. However, this investment is ultimately aimed at BEMF approving more loan applications from churches.

The development of an internet banking platform is still being researched to improve the delivery of our products and services to our members. This is an ongoing project and with the support from PropCorp and Churches of Christ Financial Services, we expect further progress towards the end of this financial year.

The BEMF continues to perform as a Religious Charitable Development Fund under the Banking Exemption Order No1 of 2011. Ongoing research and development seeks solutions for current and future challenges associated with managing larger volumes of investments and loan applications, and this will have a positive influence in improving internal systems and safety nets. We believe that improving our services and products

Cash Reserves & Loans



will equip us to offer loans where they are needed, to see more churches filled with new believers.

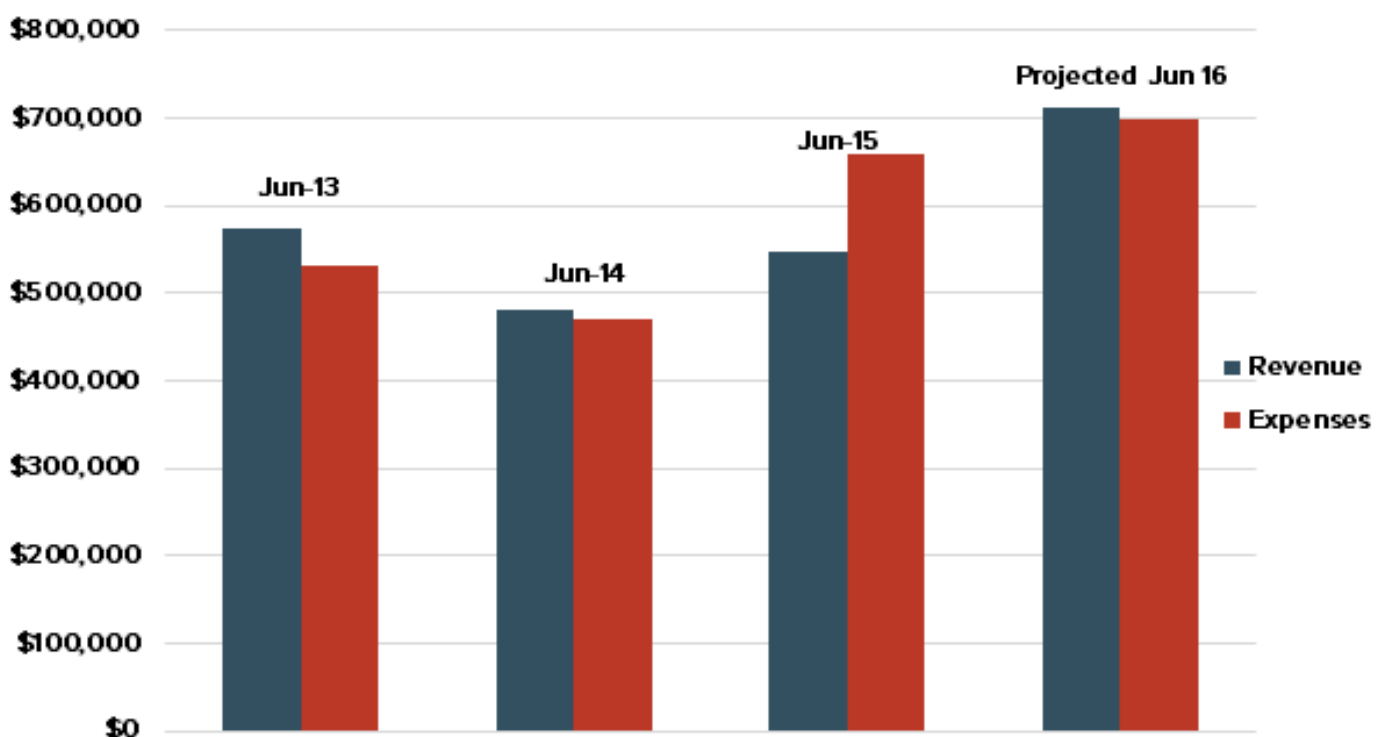
The strategy to increasingly build an awareness amongst our member churches will continue in the new financial year. A particular aim will be to make individuals aware of the potential and market related benefits for investors who have a passion for ministry and church development. The offer to

invest with the BEMF pivots on the notion that we can supply loans to our churches while understanding both ministry and finance needs of investors and borrowers alike. In essence its about

BUILDING THE FUND THAT FUNDS THE BUILDINGS

Pieter Brink
BEMF CEO

Financial Performance





Thank you Churches of Christ in WA

Your support allows us to care for thousands of young people across Western Australia, through pastoral care services and values education.

In 2015, YouthCARE has over 300 chaplains working in more than 600 public schools, caring for the social, emotional, mental and spiritual wellbeing of students, their families and school staff. We also have over 300 Christian Religious Education and Kids Club volunteers teaching primary students about Christian beliefs and values.

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