

ANNUAL REPORT

October 2014



I have been reflecting on the substantial things that have occurred in Churches of Christ in WA this year. For some reason however, I wondered and thought about the little things that have also occurred, that may have escaped notice.

Your Staff and Executive at Churches of Christ in WA hold the promise of our churches being filled with new believers close to our hearts and minds as we seek to invest our energies and resources wisely. More accurately the "promises" of new believers. Because in some cases new believers will fill our churches one, two, or a family at a time. In doing so, God will fulfil this one promise many times over.

I think of the little things that have occurred this year in our churches, at the altar when a call has been made, when someone invites a friend to church, and also in our

broader church, where people share their lives in the course of sport, craft and other activities that take the Good News to the people who don't yet truly know and love Jesus. I contemplate these things and know whilst they may not be visible to many, they are still substantial. To the people who have come to know Christ in this last year, that one day at church, that one conversation at a women's or men's function, that one new friendship from the sports event, that one thing that helped them decide to give their life to Jesus was substantial and of eternal significance.

To every one of you that has given of their time to have that conversation, to support an event or ministry, to serve, and to simply pray, we say thank you. You too have heard this promise of new believers and responded to it. It has made this last year substantial and significant to many.

As my role as Chairman concludes this year, I would also like to thank you all for the blessing of serving in this role for the last three years. It has been a privilege and pleasure to serve with Tania, Executive and the Staff of COCWA. I commend our new Chairman Ryan Laden to you and look forward to continuing to serve on Executive.

I leave you with Psalm 40: 1 - 3, holding firm to the promise that many more will see and trust:

"I waited patiently for the Lord; he turned to me and heard my cry. He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand. He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see and fear the Lord and put their trust in him."

Michael Petrossian

Chairman

On Mission

Tania Watson, Executive Minister

The analogy of a naval fleet as a means of understanding how we see ourselves as churches and ministry partners in association continues to serve us well. It has helped to bring clarity for the Executive, Committees and Staff as we test the effectiveness of our support for churches as we view it through the lens of a fleet support vessel. I believe it's also been liberating for individual churches: to see themselves as having unique value within the fleet regardless of their shape, size and capacity.

The dictum 'the mission determines who takes the lead' has set us free.

Through this, we have been able to find clarity around the question, 'Who leads the Association?' Together we have settled that it is Christ who is our Commander and it is he who sets us on mission. Sometimes that will mean that it may be a smaller church who leads through its niche activities. At other times it may be a larger church leading through its capacity to innovate. Or leadership may come from a church planter who, like a submarine, scouts out new areas for new works to commence. The Association deploys the combined resources of the fleet, coming alongside the different vessels to support them achieve their mission objectives.

As an Association we are back ...
On Mission.

Fit For Purpose

At last year's AGM, I flagged that having rebuilt the COCWA Ship, I anticipated that a focus of our work as an Executive and Committees this year would be down in the engine room. We recognized that we needed to overhaul COCWA's engines (financial systems and the Constitution) developing their capacity to be fit-for-purpose for our mission. This work, in addition



'We have so much giftedness and diversity amongst our ministry leaders and churches and I enjoy the synergy and energy that comes out of robust conversation.'

Tania Watson

to ongoing resource and support development was undertaken through 5 Key Objectives through 2013/14.

Objective #1 - Financial Restructure

We presented a broad overview of the Financial Restructure at the May 2014 Council Meeting. Our key objective was to clarify COCWA's cash and property assets and align them with COCWA's strategic objectives.

Through the entire process, we ensured that all fund and property assets were meticulously researched so that we were able to consolidate assets in accordance with intended use.

We are grateful for the assistance of Mr Andrew Foote who spend considerable time in turning our plans into reality. We are also grateful to our Auditors, Shreeve & Carslake for the manner in which they supervised the restructure, providing advice to the Executive & Finance Committee.

In summary, COCWA funds are designated as follows:

- Executive funds include a number of provisional reserve funds including leadership development and training. These

funds are for operational purposes as COCWA seeks to fulfil its Objects in the service of the Member Churches

- Revolving Capital Funds reflect the merge of the previous Revolving Capital Fund and the Centenary Fund. This fund provides interest free loans to churches of up to \$100,000 for two years for building/renovation works. We currently have 4 churches who have availed themselves of this fund
- Property Funds reflect the cash asset of the former Churches of Christ Properties Inc. These funds may only be used for the purpose of acquiring land for future church use. The Properties Committee is charged with the opportunity to utilize these funds and to grow these funds in conjunction with the Future Fund. We are mindful that we need to be very strategic in any land that we acquire because we recognize that the present cash allows for one, possibly two land purchases. Given this situation, the Properties Committee is exploring creative ways in which the Association may be able to grow assets in order to assist in future church and ministry development through property



Executive Funds \$3.27m
Revolving Capital \$1.27m
Property Funds \$1.28m
Church Planting \$550k
Future Fund \$900k

Figures approximate as at 30 June 2014



- The Church Planting Fund is presently a cash asset that generates interest. The interest has been used to assist church planting endeavours through single capital grants. It has also been used to fund a 6 month research project commissioned by Executive to ascertain the appetite within COCWA with regards to kingdom extension initiatives. Steve Hall (Senior Minister, Kalamunda) is due to present his research findings to Executive in October 2014.

Objective #2 - COCWA Constitution

The COCWA Constitution was adopted in 2004. As we had been steadily working through the operations of COCWA, it became evident that the Constitution needed to be changed in order for Executive to be able to serve the Association appropriately into the future.

A Committee was formed in late 2013 to attend to the task of reviewing the Constitution and Clive Robartson was approached to be its Chairman. Comprising Clive Robartson, Richard Affleck, Des Croot, David Pyne (and we acknowledge Ron Hancock for his contribution in the early months) along with myself and Natalie Burgis, the Committee has worked steadily towards the goal of having a draft ready for presentation to the October 2014 AGM.

Having reached this point in time, we have recommended to Executive that the Draft Rules be provided to the Members for comment with a view to Council adopting the new Rules in May 2015. We believe that it is

very important that all of the Member Churches have the opportunity to meet with the Committee and to hear the stories and thinking and reflecting that has gone into the reshaping of the Rules.

I sincerely wish to commend the Committee for their hearts and minds in undertaking this task. Over and over again, I have had the privilege of sitting with these men who care deeply about our Association and its past, present and future. I am grateful for their perspective and desire to provide COCWA with a set of Rules that honours the past but that is intended to be 'fit for purpose' in providing COCWA with a platform into the future.

Objective #3 - COCWA Communications & Culture

This objective brought welcome relief to us as an Executive and Team from the below decks focus! We engaged the services of Plain Joe Studios to assist us with a comprehensive review of the culture of COCWA in order to develop an effective communications strategy. We recognized that in seeking to serve our churches well, we need to communicate clearly and simply.

There are two outcomes from this project.

The first is the articulation of a culture expressed in 5 words. We believe these words encapsulate our DNA as Churches of Christ in WA. We believe that they convey something of the heart and mind of our Association as we have prayerfully journeyed together particularly in the season since 2009. We also believe they echo the heart of the Gospel and life of Christ expressed and reflected to one another and to our

community in general.

Empowering, Encouraging, Innovative, Generous, Prayerful. As we serve one another through our various roles within COCWA, we believe that it is as we live out the reality of these words, that we will serve one another in ways that will help us all to see the mission of Christ flourish through our churches and ministry entities.

The second outcome is due to be revealed in November in the form of a new COCWA website. The website is designed to be a location for the easy access of information and resources. However, our primary goal is to have a website that communicates life and hope within our Association primarily through the sharing of our own stories.

Objective #4 - Properties Committee

Evidence of the work to reshape the scope of the work of the Properties Committee can be read in the Properties Report. Again, much of this work has been done down in the engine room as we have reflected on the way in which the Committee can best serve the Association.

Personally I am deeply appreciative of the way in which the Committee has been willing to embrace significant change in its structure and mode of operation. In separating from the BEMF Board, we have been able to be focused on bringing clarity to the past and present property holdings of COCWA. I am thrilled at the way in which the Committee is now keenly looking at how it can be primarily future focused in order to create growth and opportunities for the Association. I am also thrilled by the way that the Committee is thinking about how it can serve churches as churches work through the challenging process of property development. We are all really excited at the burgeoning of churches engaged in property development. If we are looking for evidence of green shoots within our Association then surely this is one indicator that we are once again

looking upwards and outwards as churches.

Objective #5 - Church Planting

As noted in relation to the Church Planting Fund, Executive have commissioned a COCWA study. We look forward to the recommendations that come out of this study and to the potential to support churches and ministries multiply through the strategic deployment of our mutual resources.

On Mission Support

One of the highlights for me in this year has been the opportunity to spend time with ministers and chaplains at the annual Engage Retreat. What stood out this year was the warmth and level of engagement across the whole body of people who attended. The unity and diversity that we hold as a core value was clearly and powerfully on display making it a rich time of fellowship.

John, Bill and myself also had the opportunity to spend 2 days in retreat with a number of newer ministers within COCWA. We called this retreat "Connect". Its purpose is to assist ministers and chaplains as they engage in the process of Accreditation and to provide them with the opportunity to understand the culture and ministry ethos of COCWA Churches. We appreciated the input of John Bond who shared out of the rich history of COCWA and in particular our growth through church planting. David Mitchie helped us to reflect personally in a very practical way to enrich our leadership roles. Josh Nipps made the history of the Restoration Movement come alive in our hearts and minds.

We look forward to offering these orientation experiences and believe that they are an important part to play in the equipping of ministry leaders.

Board, Committees, & Staff

It is a privilege for me to work closely with a wider group of leaders through Executive, Properties & the BEMF. This year has seen all three of these groups working closely together albeit within their distinct roles and responsibilities. Working towards high levels of collaborative interaction is challenging when each group has the task of ensuring that the best interests of their frame of reference is kept in view. However, the rich rewards that have emerged this year have resulted in some good thinking around policy and process and how the combined efforts provide means for which churches to be empowered and encouraged in the fulfilment of their mission.

I also want to acknowledge the work of the Finance Committee of Executive which has certainly had its work cut out for it in overseeing the financial restructure. In a similar vein, the Constitution Committee has wholeheartedly engaged in a robust process with enormous generosity of spirit.

Several times each year I love to invite a group of ministers and leaders to meet with me over lunch or for a morning where we can sit together and toss insights, ideas and possibilities around the table. We have so much giftedness and diversity amongst our ministry leaders and churches and I enjoy the synergy and energy that comes out of robust conversation.

... and to my beloved Team that is the COCWA Staff. Each year I write about how much change they have lived through! I continue to be grateful for their willingness to embrace adaptability despite it not always being comfortable or easy. I thank God for their diversity and the shared community that we have and the common call and commitment to serve together.

Leadership Transitions

Ken Patterson OAM (1922 - 2014)

It was a privilege for me to reflect on the 25 years of service by Ken Patterson to the Association in the

role of State Organiser from 1963. In preparing a eulogy for memorial service, I read through all of his annual reports and documents. His enthusiasm and energy for the potential for Churches of Christ to be present, personal and dynamic living witnesses in and through Christ continue to burst from his writings.

My favourite reflection of Ken's is as fresh and as potent as when he wrote it in 1973 ...

"The ability to pursue God-given purposes in changing circumstances is a power that God gives His church. God is not caught off guard by change. He pursues His goal, His mission, His purpose: that God might not be 'made known' and that through the church's Lord, he might reconcile to Himself all things, on earth or in heaven'. The church is not just a human institution nor is she restricted by boundaries conceived by man; she is continually crossing humanly set boundaries to encompass all of life, including her own, within the redemptive and transforming influence of Christ. To put it another way: the gospel of God's suffering, serving love can and will match all circumstances and every element ('principalities and powers'). This cross, the resurrection and the ascension are all witnesses to this. The church's 'character', its method and its purpose are defined by reference to Him (Christ). The church, the body of Christ adapts to the world in which it lives; it does not succumb to it or merely acquiesce in it but adapts in order that its work in society

might be accomplished. The method is by way of humble service rather than by revolution or domination. Yet, because the church is itself in the world, it stands in need of transformation, too; and through the renewal of its inner life it brings the revitalizing influence of Christ to the world around it."

Jim Longbottom

31st August saw the end of an era for me personally, and for us as an Association with the departure of Jim Longbottom from the BEMF. Jim and I have shared a hugely enjoyable and complementary leadership season and his transition out of the internal workings of COCWA and the BEMF has been painful for me ... Together we were able to achieve some major goals and am so grateful for the opportunity to work alongside Jim. His role as Executive Minister of CCSRA means that we still get to work together ... the redevelopment of the Warwick Leisure Centre and the expansion of kingdom extension ministry out of the activities of CCSRA has enormous potential for our whole Association. This project is the biggest project that we have shared together in Association for many years and along with the dramatic upswing in individual church development projects presents some big challenges and also gives us great hope about who we are as Churches of Christ and what we

have to offer in the name of Jesus to the people of our State.

Michael Petrossian

As at our AGM this year, Michael Petrossian concludes his term as Chairman of the Executive Committee. Michael's goal has always been to leave a legacy of sound internal operations for COCWA and he can certainly step back from the Chairman's role knowing that this has been achieved. I have, and will continue, to appreciate his friendship and support and the huge amounts of time that he has given in a hands-on sense when we were working through various operational challenges. Thank you Michael, your efforts have helped to bring the Association to a new and important transition point and the next season will be all the more easy to walk into as a result of your Chairmanship.

From The Bridge

An ex-naval friend was recently explaining to me the military concept of "select and maintain". One blogger describes it this way:

"Selection and maintenance of the aim is the number one principle ... is it simply known as the principle of objective. To achieve anything of consequence, you must know what it is you wish to achieve and then persist in achieving it against obstacles, uncertainty, risk, friction, resistance,

and opposition.

Selection implies that there must be a deliberate process of analysis and evaluation of options prior to deciding on an overarching objective.

Maintenance implies the fact that nothing ever works the way you plan it or wish. You have to be willing to stay in the fight until you achieve your aim."

Richard Martin

www.exploitingchange.com

My report this year focusses on the getting-hands-dirty-engine-room work. However, at all times, the key objective in getting the COCWA engines fitted was so that we can serve local churches in the accomplishment of their mission to go and make disciples. Barely a day goes by where we don't mention or talk about "churches full of new believers". We can't afford to get discouraged when challenges come or hard situations need to be walked through with love, grace and compassion. We keep hold of this audacious hope and promise that Churches of Christ in WA means something important and offers life and hope in the name of Jesus into our communities.

... and so we do not lose heart! And for that reason, I have chosen not to publish our combined statistics! If you really want to have a look, by all means, get in touch and I'll send you a summary. The bottom line is that whilst some churches are growing, others are struggling and we should not allow statistics to be the cause of unhelpful comparison.

We saw two churches take the courageous step of engaging in a process that has seen them choose to come under the wings of larger churches. In both cases, people have embraced a season of pain and have clung to Christ for help and hope as they have made decisions in community. Far from defeat, we commend each faithful Christ-follower who has been a part of the Fremantle and Powerhouse Churches and thank them for their example of faith and perseverance and persistence. We stand alongside them in the hope that out of their willingness to lay down what was precious to them, that what is resurrected is an abundant harvest of people finding and following Jesus.

My view from the bridge is full of amazing opportunities. As I write this report, John, Bill and myself are engaged in a process of strategic thinking. We want to continue to bring our best in and through Christ. Together with Executive, the BEMF, the Committees and Staff, we keep our eyes fixed on Jesus so that as we select objectives that shape our future together as an Association, we are well stocked and prepared for the challenges that we know will come our way.

Wherever you are and whatever Church or Partner of COCWA you are involved in, I hope that you will not lose heart. Christ is present. Christ is our Captain. Christ is our all. We stand, willing to stay in the fight together until we achieve our Christ-mandated aim.

We are on mission!

Tania Watson

Executive Minister



Church Property Matters

During the past 12 months the Committee has been kept busy in providing counsel and practical assistance on a variety of fronts. Advice has been given on the acquisition and disposal of properties and support given to churches.

Some highlights for the year include:

Implementation of COCWA Land Policy

Following adoption of the COCWA Land Policy in 2013 we have developed a program of work with towards entering into Deeds with each church whose buildings are sited on COCWA held land. (Other aspects of the implementation of the Land Policy are dealt with later in this report.)

COCWA Properties

Property Management

Properties are mainly managed by COCWA Staff (primarily through Natalie Burgis) with the Committee

advising when building expertise is needed. Over this year a significant amount of maintenance work has been done on the Fremantle properties and this is likely to continue into this next year.

Property Dealing Disposals

Land in Coppin Road and the land in Richardson Road were both placed on the market this year. Coppin Road was sold and settled. An offer was accepted for Richardson Road and awaits settlement once the Charitable Trust Caveat is removed. Proceeds from the sale of these properties will be used in the purchase of land as a part of COCWA's growth fund strategy.

Property Dealing Acquisitions

South Central Church (Yangebup) identified a parcel of land and, in accordance with the COCWA Land Policy, asked COCWA to purchase it with a view to it being used by SCC in the future. We are in negotiations with SCC to assist the Church to purchase this land from COCWA.



Future Church Sites

The services of Des Croot were employed and Des researched church locations with a view to identifying possible sites for acquisition. The Committee considered his findings and recommended to the Executive that we start looking for two sites between Merriwa and Yanchep and a site between Warnbro/Baldivis and Mandurah.

Church Property Matters

Albany Church

A MOU has been agreed with the church, allowing the church to continue with its building project, on land in which COCWA has an interest.

Fremantle Church

COCWA took over the responsibility for management of the Fremantle rental properties and moved to bring them up to a satisfactory standard needed to maximise the rental return. We have engaged a new Agent to assist in the management of these properties. We are liaising closely with the Subiaco Church in relation to the

manse and Fremantle Church property.

Committee's Role and Function

As a consequence of the separation of the Boards of the Properties Committee and the BEMF we have undertaken some renewal of the Committee membership. Max Rivett has stepped down and Jess Radny has joined the Committee.

The Properties Committee is Chaired by Richard Affleck. Members are Tania Watson (COCWA), Ray Fewster (Bassendean), Jess Radney (Lifestreams), Audrey Ko (Subiaco) and Mouse Qaqish (Whitfords).

The Committee has done considerable work on clarifying how it can best work with the COCWA staff resources it has available and its inherent expertise to achieve the best outcomes. A redraft of the Properties Committee Policy is in the process of being drafted for Executive approval.

The Committee is seeking new members and any suggestions from

within COCWA Churches would be warmly received.

The Year Ahead

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

- Finalisation of the COCWA Properties Committee Policy and Properties Committee Manual;
- Drafting a Church Building Manual containing helpful information, some suggestions, some checklists and lists of resources that churches may find useful;
- Involvement in considerations of the future of the Beaufort Street property;
- Assessment and feasibilities of underused COCWA land assets to maximise ministry opportunities;
- Planning for a Church Design Seminar;
- Building Committee capacity;
- Identification of suitable land for acquisition for future church sites;
- Exploration of investment opportunities to return surpluses to fund church site acquisition





'I have been very encouraged working with and mentoring leadership teams that are intentional in learning and developing their team dynamics and leadership skills.'

John Hutchinson

Encouraging Year

John Hutchinson

It is a great privilege to continue to journey in ministry through our Church and Ministry Support Team.

This past year has provided many diverse opportunities to partner with Ministers, Leadership Teams and Churches, in the dreaming and planning of new ways forward and the negotiating of good process and decisions in stormy situations.

I count it a huge privilege to join many of you in your lives and ministry and to work along side you and your leadership teams. These opportunities to serve together with your teams have been highlights for me. I have been very encouraged working with and mentoring leadership teams that are intentional in learning and developing their team dynamics and leadership skills. One particular team made the intentional decision to bring on younger people who traditionally may have been considered too young or inexperienced. Wow! This has seen these young people grow and own responsibility with passion, in a safe, supportive, learning environment.

It is always exciting to hear about the organically developing networks that are happening amongst you. This is a vital need for our health in so many ways. Please be proactive in connecting with your fellow Ministers. A number of our Ministers are part of cross denominational groups with great support and encouragement.

One of the regular struggles in churches the team encounters is the constant struggle between ministering to the saints and reaching the lost. A good number of our churches are exploring how they develop an exciting mission DNA in their church while discipling and caring for those already in the church.

It is always a thrill when I visit country churches. It has been very encouraging to help city churches

partner with country churches in supporting and sharing ministry together.

Usually when we are invited in as the resource team, Bill and I will begin most processes together and then work through what effective help we can offer. This could be in the form of help from the rest of the resource team. It may be that both of us continue with the church or just one of us and we may also bring in outside resources. In all these opportunities I continue to see the benefits of working in team, especially when Bill and I share with each other how we saw a situation and then put a proposed plan together.

I continue to enjoy the role of serving each one of you as a member of the COCWA team. We love to pray for you and with you when possible, and also encourage you to pursue and protect rigorously your own relationship with our Lord God and heavenly father.

'But me, I'm not giving up. I'm sticking around to see what God will do. I'm waiting for God to make things right. I'm counting on God to listen to me.'

Micah 7: 7

Serving together

John

Transitioning Well

Bill Addison

I remain truly appreciative of the continued opportunity to relate to our State churches, Boards and Leaders. I believe we are in a significant period of transition as we seek to passionately and sacrificially communicate the Gospel. We are also considering other models that compliment what is already in place. I am encouraged by the willingness of a number of our churches to courageously face their current realities and then look with faith and boldness to the future.

I have served on and with a number of church Boards, including Fremantle Church and Powerhouse Church – both of these congregations are boldly moving through significant times of transition. I have continued in ministry with the Mount Pleasant Church, a ministry that has majorly resourced my ministry to other churches. I have continued to work with Kelmscott Church in regards to the establishment and development of a team of Elders and Ministry Leaders, as well as Encounter Church, Scarborough Church, Nollamara Church and Harvey Church.

I have also had the opportunity to regularly meet with a number of our Ministers, offering encouragement in regards to ongoing growth as disciples of Christ and local church leaders.



John Hutchinson and I have engaged in a number of church consultations and follow ups, assisted churches in regard to the process of ministry appointments, and have continued country travel, seeking to encourage and resource our country churches, leaders and Boards.

I would again like to sincerely thank the COCWA Executive Team, the COCWA Resource Centre Staff and the local churches for the ongoing privilege of seeking to serve in this exciting and challenging ministry position.





Great Privilege

David Stanford

It's a joy and privilege to be engaged with so many COCWA Ministers and Chaplains. My desire is that in some small way I provide encouragement, strength, support and perspective.

Prayer

We value prayer for our Ministers and churches. We pray regularly with and for Ministers. Several days through the year are spent in prayer



– seeking God's face and direction. I have mobilised a good number of Christian leaders, some being COCWA Ministers and some Intercessors from other Perth churches and ministries, who have committed to intercede for COCWA. We are very blessed to have these in place. Often I will pray (the other COCWA leadership do too) for Ministers, out of the Word, and email out what I have prayed. Numbers comment on the relevant timing and content of these prayers, and the encouragement of being supported. It encourages us all to be specifically reminded that God is aware of our situation and is at work in our lives, families and ministries.

Accreditation

I continue to help Ministers through the process of applying for

accreditation and renewing their accreditation. Part of the renewing of accreditation involves Ongoing Personal Growth (OPG), previously OPD, which provides opportunity for Ministers to share resources that have helped them grow and how they have resourced others. These provide great opportunity for conversation when I meet with them. I am always encouraged as I engage with Ministers, hear their stories, explore their joys and struggles, affirm their strengths, give insights on some of their growth areas and pray for each other. I also help Ministers navigate through the process of obtaining their Marriage Celebrant Licence. I love being involved in this ministry of support, encouragement and fanning the flame on what God is doing in and through them.

We champion Churches of Christ youth and young adult ministries through developing, nurturing and resourcing sustainable leaders



Greater Clarity

Rod Thom

Before I get into what we have been doing this year I'd 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 team. Thanks for all your hard work throughout this year! It's a privilege to serve with you.

Youth Vision WA Team 2014

Neale Fong - Chairman
 Leigh McIntosh - Inspire Church
 Kym Edwards - Thornlie Church
 Alethea Ashby - Inspire Church
 Tim Rutter - Warwick Church
 Emily Dickinson - Lifestreams South Perth
 Cameron Barnes - State Youth Games Coordinator
 Brendon Taylor - Kingsley Church
 Ryan Clune - Whitford Church

This year we farewelled...

Peter Roberts - Encounter Church
 Jess Heglund - Whitford Church

Thank you both for your years of contribution.

All of these people and 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 who facilitated a two day workshop to help us come up with a five year strategic plan. We clarified our mission and we settled on our values ...

We are committed to Christ Centred:

Legacy

We are committed to building on the rich legacy that has been left for us to ensure the long-term sustainability of our

mission

Integrity

We are committed to honouring Christ in the way we think, speak and behave. We are open and honest in all our dealings and maintain the highest integrity at all times.

Relationship

We value people and are committed to listening to and respecting each other whilst we work together to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes.

Leadership

We are committed to developing relationship of influence where we inspire and serve our community to achieve our common mission.

Unity in Diversity

We are committed to leveraging each other's opinions, experience and strengths and recognize that our diversity makes us wiser, stronger and better equipped to serve the world.

We then set our strategic priorities as:

- Resourcing youth and young adult ministries
- Identifying and developing leaders
- Strengthening relationships
- Effective governance and leadership

From these strategic priorities we then set 8 goals that will help us move forward strategically over the next 5 years.

Outlined below are some of the things that we have been working on throughout this year:

- NYMC October 2013 National Youth Ministry Convention was hosted by Youth Vision Australia on the Gold Coast. We had over 600 delegates, with a great line up of local and international speakers. Chaplains, youth and young adult ministers right across Australia and internationally were equipped, encouraged and empowered by this fantastic conference
- We employed Emily Dickinson 1 day a week as the Youth Vision Minister. Her role is to connect regularly with the YVWA network as well as assist the team with implementing our program and our strategic priorities
- YVWA Peer Clusters continue to meet and network across our state
- We have had 2 network breakfasts
- State Youth Games 2014 was a huge success. We had over 900 participants and about 120 adult volunteers. Cameron Barnes and his organising team did a great job once again. This year our speaker was Mike Pilavachi from the Soul Survivor youth movement in the UK. Special thanks to all of our adult volunteers and sponsors with a special mention to CCSRA
- Recharge 2014 again a great success amongst our youth leaders

As we look to the remainder of 2014 and into 2015 please pray about the following things:

- We are hosting ENCORE with the other youth ministry organisations here in Perth. A one day youth ministry conference to be held at

Lifestreams South Perth on Saturday November 8th a day of inspiration, training and networking for youth and young adult workers. Our special guest is Krish Kandiah from the UK. Krish is Executive Director of Churches in Mission and England Director for the UK Evangelical Alliance, Vice President of Tearfund and Chair of their Theological Advisory Panel. He is also a lecturer in Evangelism at Regents Park College, Oxford University. There will be worship, electives, networking with other local youth & young adult workers and lots of food

- As we seek to resource local churches as they raise up the next generation of leaders in our movement¹³
- 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
- For the further development of SYG our major state-wide outreach event.

Thanks again for your partnership in ministry. I look forward to being part of what God has in store for our movement.

Rod Thom

Director, Youth Vision WA

Ministry Enrichment

Barry Thygesen

I just had another birthday and reminisce on the fact I have never been as old as I am right now. It feels like birthdays are coming quicker than ever before. All of this has caused me to reflect upon 'What is God's purpose in letting us get old?' When thinking recently of my role as Pastor To Retired & Retiring Ministers. I wondered, 'If Aging is a Master Teacher, and not a thief in the night, then exactly what does it teach us?'

- That the true purpose of maturation is gaining closer communion with God
- That as my body diminishes, my spirit advances
- To tend the garden of my soul
- To pursue personal and spiritual transformation
- To embrace my True Self beyond what I do
- To step beyond the "fake" of the world, that you are your body
- The paradox of living: that loss is my primary means for growth
- To become a spiritual Elder, not 'an elderly'

Many of our Retired Ministers, Chaplains and Missionaries wrestle with these issues and that makes them able to minister and bring richness from their experience.

Many of our Retiree Ministers have been very actively involved in ministry. Several prepare sermons that are sent to Pastors in other countries to build them up so they can minister to their own people. Others of us have stepped in and preached in our local churches as well as mentoring Pastors beyond our regions. Other retirees travel overseas to minister in other countries. Some of us are mentoring younger Pastors in WA, standing with and journeying together in ministries.

There are a number of our Ministers who are not in good health and care and support given to them by their retired colleagues.

We have held several seminars throughout the year; some training in specific ministry to churches like relief pastoral help and Intentional Interim Ministries. Recently we had a Financial Information Services Officer from Centrelink address issues we need to consider. We opened this up to younger Pastors as planning should be done anything up to twenty years before retirement. A day of support and ministry was held in Bunbury Church.

There is input via e-mail from myself, connecting one another to pray and demonstrate care to those doing it tough health wise. I reflect and believe the sense of connectedness is something we miss when we enter the second half of life.

Every year Graham Carslake pulls together our Retirees Christmas luncheon. Graham and a team put on the annual Ministry Recognition Dinner. The recent dinner honoured Ken & Shirley Birch, Adrian & Lorrie Van Leen and Rick & Margaret Blockley.

We have a list of the retirees who are available to come to assist in your ministries. Some preach when there is a gap due to a Pastor going on leave, or someone is sick or even for special occasions. Some

are available to stand in for a brief period of time when a Pastor is on Long Service Leave or a Church is without a Pastor.

The challenges we have as Retired Ministers:

- Continuing to grow as we age and embrace who we are as much as what we can do
- To see God has taken 40 – 50 years to shape us to be an encouragement to others
- Skilling up to be the best support we can be to our Association and beyond
- Volunteer in your own church and have fun – I do
- Work on a theology of retirement that goes beyond our culture.

'God spoke to Moses: "These are your instructions regarding the Levites: At the age of twenty-five they will join the workforce in the Tent of Meeting; at the age of fifty they must retire from the work. They can assist their brothers in the tasks in the Tent of Meeting, but they are not permitted to do the actual work themselves. These are the ground rules for the work of the Levites.'" Numbers 8:23-26

- Become an agent of health, hope and healing in your sphere of

influence.

The challenge to our churches:

- To see the value of having older Ministers mentor your younger Ministers and encourage this relationship to grow

- That we are not threatened by older Ministers coming alongside to mutually stand with and journey with you
- Harness the retirees in your congregation as well as do pastoral care to your Retired Ministers; they need it too, especially in those transition years

- Develop a vision and theology for the burgeoning “Boomers” who are at your door and in your community

Barry Thygesen

Pastor to Retiring & Retired Ministers

Insurance Matters

Natalie Burgis

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.

In 2014 we have been able to maintain the cost savings a result of a low level of claims. COCWA was able to avoid price hikes and keep their premiums at a stable level.

Redbook Program

Redbook enables individual churches to maintain their essential safety measures with regard to fire safety, emergency lighting, and building exits.

Under Redbook, churches are provided with an operational manual that is tailored for their unique congregation, enabling them to ensure their building is kept as safe as possible and compliant with

safety regulations at all times. In addition, we have found that when church personnel utilise the Redbook program, they tend to become more aware of risk and safety factors beyond the essential regulatory level. At least a third of our churches are now up and running with Redbook. Pieter Brink has taken on the role of Redbook and will be contacting churches throughout the year to undertake assessments and distribute Redbooks.

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 churches activities.

Valuation and Surveys

Towards the end of this year risk management surveys and valuations will begin. 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

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 www.cofcinsurance.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.



Treasurer's Report

The Executive Minister's Report reflects an overarching perspective on what has been an Executive strategy to restructure COCWA's financial systems.

This work was undertaken in order to bring clarity to the management of COCWA's financial assets. Executive recognized that history needed to be honoured and preserved but that the assets of the Association need to be aligned with the overarching strategy of the organization.

The process of restructure really began in 2011-12 when Executive and the Properties Committee began to resolve issues relating to COCWA's property holdings in relation to some Member Churches. Inconsistencies in Policy, procedure and indeed, in the Constitution itself led to the development of the COCWA Land Policy. The natural consequence of this work led to a desire to bring simplicity and clarity to the holding and reporting of assets for the benefit of Executive and the Members.

The 2013-14 Financial Statements reflect the magnitude of changes that have been necessary in order to align assets and expenditure with the 5 key strategic operational areas of the Association. (This is especially evident in the comparison to the 2012-13 columns.) Throughout this process we have consulted closely with our Auditor, Shreeve & Carslake so as to ensure compliance with sound accounting principles and practice.

On behalf of the Finance Committee (Michael Petrossian, Tania Watson and myself), we also wish to acknowledge the generous contribution of Mr Andrew Foote who offered his consulting services pro bono. Andrew did much of the practical work in reconfiguring the accounting package so as to reflect the outcomes we were seeking.

In May this year we flagged at the Council meeting that there has been a significant material change to the COCWA balance sheet as a result of the financial restructure. Interested persons will note the Auditor's opinion on the major change (approximately \$5 million). In summary, this material change reflects the reclassification of funds that were formerly held as liabilities to designated funds. We had previously advised Council in 2012 that a rigorous and thorough investigation into the original intent and purpose for all COCWA held funds was undertaken and a legal opinion

sought before funds were transferred into each of the 5 designated categories/purposes.

The other significant addition to the balance sheet this financial year was the gifting of the Fremantle properties to COCWA (held in Trust for the purposes of Churches of Christ ministry in the Fremantle area) - \$2.3 million.

One final note that I would like to highlight relates to Opening Bal Equity. This figure reflects the transfer of the small equity holding that COCWA had in the Bunbury Aboriginal Fellowship church property. This property has now been transferred in Trust to GMP on behalf of the church. This was a negotiated transaction with ACCIM as a part of the settlement of properties in WA. We are grateful for the generosity of spirit that enabled COCWA and ACCIM to ensure that the churches impacted by the closure of ACCIM were all settled with properties either held in Trust or in their own right (as is the case for the Carnarvon Church).

The Finance Committee has also worked through a comprehensive review of COCWA's Financial Policy. This Policy captures all of COCWA's operations in a single document providing both Executive and the COCWA Staff clear guidelines in the management of Association resources.

Having gone through this major task over the past 12 months, we will now turn our attention onto questions relating to the management and growth of Association funds. We anticipate that the sale of the Parkerville property at Richardson Road will enable the Properties Committee to acquire property for the purposes of reigniting COCWA's capacity to support church expansion. We are also very keen to see the capacity for COCWA to provide free of interest loans to churches for renovation and building maintenance projects. Whilst we are currently operating from some old policy frameworks for the former Revolving Capital Fund and the Centenary Fund, we will be assessing how this merged resource can be strategically deployed for the long term benefit of the churches.

On behalf of the Finance Committee we welcome questions and comments from interested Members.

Rod Cousins

Executive Treasurer



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- Articles on risk management covering everything from building projects to youth camps
- A Frequently-Asked-Questions (FAQ) section covering a range of insurance topics

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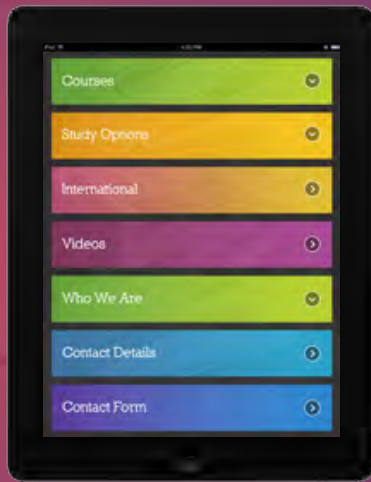
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CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA INC**ABN 31 572 638 871****BALANCE SHEET****FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2014**

	Note	2014 \$
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash at Bank - Executive		3,264,575.87
Cash at Bank - Rev Cap		1,271,574.91
Cash at Bank - Church Property		1,279,925.52
Cash at Bank Church Planting		1,053,232.26
Cash at Bank - Growth Fund		360,202.64
Accounts Receivable		201,608.33
Loans - Executive		58,077.30
Loans- Centenary Funds		215,000.00
Other Assets - Church Property		25,160.70
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		7,729,357.53
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Exec - Motor Vehicles	3	32,743.00
Church Property - Land at ULV		15,295,570.49
Church Property - Land and Building at ULV	3	10,340,596.00
Church Property - Contingent Asset at ULV		520,000.00
Investment Fixed		696,600.00
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		26,885,509.49
TOTAL ASSETS		34,614,867.02
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable		19731.7
Credit Cards		1237.87
Payroll Liabilities		5484.99
Staff Fringe Benefits		12687.37
GST Payable		38,953.40
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		78,095.33
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Church Planting		500,000.00
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		500,000.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES		578,095.33
NET ASSETS		34,036,771.69

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA INC
ABN 31 572 638 871

BALANCE SHEET

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2014

	2014
	\$
EQUITY	
Open Balance Equity	5,029,979.48
Accumulated Funds	878,882.15
Property Capital Reserve	23,179,468.51
Designated Funds Reserve	2,233,861.34
Net Income	2,714,580.21
TOTAL EQUITY	<u>34,036,771.69</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA INC
ABN 31 572 638 871

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2014

	Note	2014 \$
INCOME		
Offering Envelopes		1,018.97
Interest Received		212,352.81
Courses and Seminars - COCWA		2,881.53
Admin Income		15,750.00
Affiliation income		480,464.39
Church Supplies		1,725.67
Donations & Offerings received		58,126.52
Events income		25,368.65
Insurance income		377,023.31
Labour Hire		127,203.44
Profit on Sales of Assets		802.73
Funds Interest		41,876.76
Properties Interest Income		3,268.98
Properties Sundries		1,130.00
Share Dividends		2,122.30
Rental Income		175,502.70
Property Gifts	3	2,320,000.00
Profit on Sale		80,000.00
		3,926,618.76
LESS EXPENDITURE		
Fees & Donations		66,226.81
Church Supplies expenses		936.00
Depreciation		1,553.43
Capital Grants		5,000.00
Gen Ops Expense		36,015.16
Event & Meeting		52,944.06
Merchant Fee		68.80
CCCA Meetings		61.82
Insurance expenses		166,298.91
Office Expenses		115,589.46
BEMF Staff Expenses		29,939.84
CCRSA Staff Expenses		98,173.25
Staff expenses		452,425.08
Vehicles		23,159.41
Church Planting		3,300.59
Christian Centre Insurance		23,586.65
City Church Rental Premises		70,909.08
Christian Centre Building Manag		11,327.79
Parkerville Property		9,305.21
32 Holdsworth St Fremantle		12,064.46
34 Holdsworth St Fremantle		7,203.14
Properties Sundries		8,953.33
1375 Coppin Rd Mundaring 6073		16,996.27
		1,212,038.55
NET OPERATING SURPLUS		2,714,580.21

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA INC - YOUTH VISION WA
ABN 31 572 638 871

BALANCE SHEET
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2014

	Note	2014 \$
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Youth Vision WA		38,708.64
Mutual Fund		413,970.56
Accounts Receivable		825.00
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		453,504.20
TOTAL ASSETS		453,504.20
 LIABILITIES		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable		0.00
Suspense		(666.63)
Tax Payable		(5,648.26)
Contra		(1,050.00)
GST Payable		
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		(7,364.89)
 TOTAL LIABILITIES		(7,364.89)
NET ASSETS		460,869.09
 EQUITY		
Retained Earnings		460,970.93
Net Income		(101.84)
TOTAL EQUITY		460,869.09

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA INC - YOUTH VISION WA
ABN 31 572 638 871

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2014

	Note	2014 \$
INCOME		
Donation		12,111.01
Recharge Leasders Retreat		2,430.00
Sundry		663.64
Interest		9,056.72
Activate		6,800.00
State Youth Games		112,717.50
		143,778.87
LESS EXPENDITURE		
Gifts		306.35
Insurance		1,173.16
Leadership/Pastoral Care		1,164.97
Leadership Development & Training		5,259.09
Postage		144.38
Admin / Finance Cost		2,209.00
Sponsorships		1,140.00
Stationery		188.76
Sundry Expense		91.14
Telephone and Internet		898.47
Website Management		31.82
Recharge Leaders Retreat		4,790.55
Internship Program Support		5,000.00
YVE		761.33
YVPIN		65.68
Directors Travel and Training		2,268.35
Bank Fee		706.50
Merchant Fee		829.01
Interest Expense		18.26
Activate		6,556.00
State Youth Games		88,016.59
Salary Director		8,396.80
Salaries Admin		5,408.38
Chair & Fundraising		6,346.12
Superannuation and Workers Comp		2,110.00
		143,880.71
NET OPERATING PROFIT		(101.84)

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.



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