

Board Chairman Report for the HOPE *worldwide* Australia AGM 2017

On behalf of the board of HOPE *worldwide* Australia, I would like to thank the members for their enthusiasm, service and support this year.

This year has seen a number of our transition activities progressed. There has been growing support for local, church-based programs through the leadership of the Congregational HOPE reps supported by their bimonthly conference calls.

A major transition has been the completion of the administrative and financial oversight handover to HOPE *worldwide* PNG. Assisting the Board and administration of HOPE *worldwide* PNG has required a significant contribution by Wayne Merry who travelled to Port Moresby on 20 occasions since 2013 to train and refine accounting and record-keeping skills to the point where autonomy is more possible. We are grateful to Wayne for his skill and service and particularly to his family for their sacrificial support.

Future support for programs in PNG would transition to those prioritising literacy and education.

Greater autonomy in PNG has allowed greater focus on Australian and New Zealand programs which have been strengthened by the work of the congregational HOPE Reps: Erik & Joy Lens Van Rijn and then James McCaulay (Brisbane), Wayne Thornton and then Melinda Smith (Goldcoast) Phil Bohringer and then Ricardo de la Costa (Sydney), Jo Donado and Alex Chong (Melbourne), Willem Hattingh (Perth), Rowan McCaulay (Adelaide) and Duncan Wilson (New Zealand),

Programs have included supporting sick children through entertainment nights, health and wellbeing programs for seniors, tuition for refugees, food boxes for vulnerable groups, programs in mental health and support for the homeless.

Following years of dedicated service, both on the board and as our Public Officer and financial controller Wayne Merry has completed his work and moved to a new business venture. We are particularly grateful to Wayne for the many tiring trips to PNG and the enthusiasm he brought to his work. We wish Wayne well in his new situation knowing that he remains a keen HOPE supporter and valued member of the Melbourne Congregation.

Stepping in to the financial oversight has been Louie Arcilla, volunteering as our senior financial advisor with Shona Kohler engaged part time as our bookkeeper and administrator.

As our organisation matures it is timely that a review of our goals and objectives, along with our measurable and virtual areas of progress and challenge, be reviewed and our new Board will plan to meet shortly to create a strategic plan to present to the membership for consideration.

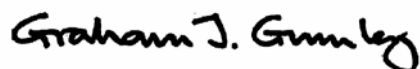
If you have recommendations or feelings for how we might serve the needy in a more righteous way please let us know your concerns and recommendations.

We are grateful for the ongoing financial support from so many. Despite significant reduction in Church based financial support, the financial standing of HOPE *worldwide* Australia is stable over this year as will be noted in the financial report and reflected in the positive (unqualified) result from our audit this year.

The Board of HOPE *worldwide* Australia continues to take its responsibilities both energetically and seriously. We thank those who have contributed to the Board and, in particular, to Kevin Roland and John Hancel who will be stepping down from Board responsibilities at this meeting. We trust they will continue to be strong HOPE supporters. No doubt their wisdom and experience will be called upon from time to time.

Mark Timlin has, again this year, quietly and respectfully undertaken his role as Country Director. The Board is supportive of his continued focus on the development of local programs that will give Australian and NZ disciples encouragement and the ability to directly serve those in need.

On behalf of the current active HOPE *worldwide* Australia Board members: Kevin Roland, Mike Fontenot, John Hancel and Jun Pablo may I present this brief overview of the activities of HOPE *worldwide* Australia.



Board Chairman,
HOPE *worldwide* Australia