

Board Chairman report for the HOPE *worldwide* Australia AGM 2018

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 the number of our activities across the South Pacific and Australia (SPA) region progress. There has been growing support for local, church-based programs through the leadership of the Congregational HOPE Reps supported by their bimonthly conference calls.

HOPE worldwide PNG has managed to continue its health programs despite government funding cuts, whilst starting new initiatives such as feeding the hungry, caring for the disabled and developing primary education. This has engaged members in the Port Moresby Church of Christ. We would like to thank Joan Timothy, for her years of service leading the organisation, especially through a time of significant financial crisis. Towards the end of 2017 she moved to Brisbane with her family. We would also like to welcome Priscilla Mal, the new country director who moved from Japan earlier this year to take on the challenging role of leading the organisation. HOPE worldwide Australia continues to support programs in PNG through financial giving and technical expertise.

In 2017 there has been a greater focus on Australian and New Zealand programs and we are currently on track to serve over **1,000 people** and engage volunteers in over **3,000 hours of service**. This has been made possible by the work of the congregational HOPE Reps: James McCaulay (Brisbane), Melinda Smith (Goldcoast), Ricardo de la Costa (Sydney), Jo Donado (Melbourne), Willem Hattingh (Perth), Rowan McCaulay (Adelaide) and Duncan Wilson (New Zealand).

Our main national programs include: Serving sick children and their families who are going through cancer treatment through **Ronald McDonald House-meal and entertainment events**; addressing loneliness and general health and wellbeing of seniors through **Seniors afternoon tea activities**. The range of activities includes Zumba, Bingo, Art and Craft, Cabarets, Christmas parties and Quizzes.; supporting refugee children who are struggling with school work through **Homework club for refugee children**; feeding the homeless through **Soup kitchens**.

One of our largest planned service activities in 2018 is the scheduled **HOPE Volunteer Corps in Auckland**, New Zealand in Dec 2018. A lot of ground work has already taken place to set up this program, thanks to the hard work of members of the New Zealand Church of Christ. The program will involve over

100 volunteers from New Zealand and 40 international volunteers from our sister Churches of Christ across the world. The program will support the vulnerable Moari community through sustainable development of community gardens. For more details of our programs, please visit our website at: hopeworldwide.org.au

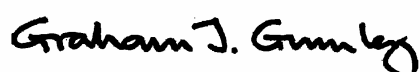
Louie Arcilla continues to volunteer his time and expertise to provide robust financial oversight. This has seen a dramatic increase in available program funds. Shona Kholer was engaged part time as our bookkeeper and administrator and has moved out of her role to take up full time nursing. We would like to thank her for diligence and hard work as well as wishing her well in her new career. Mary Martinez has stepped in to fill in the administrator role and will be working closely with Louie as well as the country director. In addition she has taken on the additional role as company secretary. We warmly welcome her.

The Board continues to meet quarterly and develop a strategies to involve more of our church members in service activities. We are particularly excited by the recent SPA Mission Corps to Papua New Guinea which combined quick impact projects with spiritual outreach through partnership with the Port Moresby Church of Christ.

We are grateful for the ongoing financial support from so many. Church based financial support has continued mainly through individuals across our churches and the financial standing of HOPE *worldwide* Australia is stable. This is reflected in the positive (unqualified) result from our audit this year.

Mark Timlin has, again this year, enthusiastically 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: Mike Fontenot, Jun Pablo, Winvie Mendosa, and Willem Hattigh may I present this brief overview of the activities of HOPE *worldwide* Australia.



Board Chairman,
HOPE *worldwide* Australia