

Board Chairman report for the HOPE worldwide Australia AGM 2019

22nd Sept 2019

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

This year has seen a steady increase in the number of our activities across the South Pacific and Australia (SPA) region. There has been ongoing support for local, church-based programs through the leadership of the Congregational HOPE Reps supported by their bimonthly conference calls.

HOPE worldwide PNG has continued to develop its health programs, and engaging volunteers in service programs 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 Priscilla Mal, who has been working energetically as country director for the past year. HOPE worldwide Australia continues to support programs in PNG through financial giving and technical expertise. Technical expertise has been geared towards improving the quality of primary health care and primary education through engagement of nurses and teachers from Australia and New Zealand.

In 2019 local programs in Australia and New Zealand are currently on track to impact **1,125 people** and engage volunteers in over **3,000 hours of service**. This has been made possible by the continued work of the congregational HOPE Reps: James Macaulay (Brisbane), Angela Corcoran (Gold coast), Ricardo de la Costa (Sydney), Jo Donado (Melbourne), Jordan King (Perth), Phil Bohringer (Adelaide) and Duncan Wilson (New Zealand). We would like to thank Rowan Macaulay (Adelaide) who stepped down as the HOPE rep after serving for two years and has handed over to Phil Bohringer. We would also like to appreciate Melinda Smith (Gold coast) who stepped down after 2 years of service due to a planned relocation to Melbourne. She has handed over to Angela Corcoran. In addition, programs in Fiji and Papua New Guinea have increased our regional volunteer impact to over **10,000 people and 6,500 hours of service**.

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 schoolwork through **Homework club for refugee children**; feeding the homeless through **Soup kitchens**.

Our largest planned service activities in 2018-19 were the **HOPE Volunteer Corps in New Zealand, Auckland (Dec 2018) and Papua New Guinea (Scheduled Dec 2019)**. The Auckland Volunteer Corps involved over 100 volunteers from New Zealand and 40 international volunteers from our sister Churches of Christ across the world. The program was a great success and supported the vulnerable Moari community through sustainable development of community gardens (see video: <https://www.hopeworldwide.org.au/new-zealand>). I would like to thank the members of the New Zealand Church of Christ who worked very hard to make this happen. The scheduled Volunteer Corps in Papua New Guinea is planning to engage 25 volunteers from around the globe in developing early childhood education in Port Moresby. An added impact of the HVC program is through donations of

water filters that each participant is able to deliver to the local community and provide much needed clean drinking water (see https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P6KE71cRq_c)

Louie Arcilla continues to volunteer his time and expertise to provide robust financial oversight. This has seen a dramatic increase in available program funds. Mary Martinez continues her part time role as our bookkeeper, administrator and company secretary and as is working closely with Louie and the Country Director. We thank her for working hard to ensure efficiency in administration. Jordan King (Perth) and John Esper (Melbourne) have been voluntarily updating and developing the HOPE website- thank you!

The Board continues to meet quarterly and develop strategies to involve more church members in service activities. Dave Bliley who leads the Auckland Church of Christ has stepped onto the Board as a casual appointee pending election at the 2019 AGM. Willem Hattingh resigned in early 2019 due to personal family reasons. We thank him for his service as Board member and HOPE rep.

We are particularly excited by the recent SPA Mission Corps to Papua New Guinea and Fiji which combined rapid impact projects with spiritual outreach through partnership with the Port Moresby Church of Christ in Papua New Guinea and the Suva Church of Christ in Fiji. Since their inception 2 years ago, the SPA Mission Corps programs have had a positive impact on the community and strengthened the local participating churches.

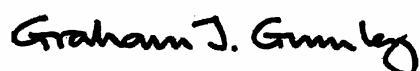
We are grateful for the ongoing financial support from so many. Church based financial support has continued mainly through individuals across the participating churches. The annual HOPE Day of Giving has been especially useful in sustaining regional programs and of note in 2019 we have had our largest collection (over \$30,000) and participation from all the SPA Region churches. The funds for the 2018 and 2019 HOPE Day of Giving supported PNG programs and a portion of funds has been set aside for the planned HOPE Community Centre in Port Moresby.

The financial standing of HOPE *worldwide* Australia is stable and 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 and support for regional programs, namely in Fiji, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea.

For more details of our programs, including financial audit please visit our website at: hopeworldwide.org.au

On behalf of the current active HOPE *worldwide* Australia Board members: Mike Fontenot, Jun Pablo, Winvie Mendosa and Dave Bliley may I present this brief overview of the activities of HOPE *worldwide* Australia.



Board Chairman,
HOPE *worldwide* Australia