

Board Chairman report for the HOPE *worldwide* Australia AGM 2016

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 been one of transition, with a greater and growing emphasis on local, Australian, programs and projects.

Since the introduction of HOPE Reps in each of the congregations there has been a valuable sharing of ideas and a sense of collegiality that will underpin the planning and program development required to use the vehicle of HOPE *worldwide* Aust. to meet the needs of the poor in a stronger and more righteous way.

I would like to express my thanks to Phil Bohringer, Willem Hattingh, Jo Donato Duncan Wilson, Eric Lens Van Rija and Wayne Thornton for faithfully serving in this capacity and taking the time to energetically engage in the regular calls with Mark Timlin.

This has led to the steady growth of local programs:

In NZ the Ronald McDonald House event took place in July: feeding and entertaining around 100 kids and their families of sick children included. They received great feedback and the group stood out compared to other groups with lots of volunteers. Plan to continue on an annual basis.

Other activities have included contributing to a local food bank, home baking for a hospice- every 2-3 months.

The disciples in Perth have ongoing monthly visits to seniors in the church while in Sydney a number meet fortnightly with SWAG ministries to help provide food for the homeless on a Sat night, Monday morning and a midweek.

In the Goldcoast the mental health peer program has been running as a more ad hoc arrangement and has incorporated a program to help visitors to the church who may have mental health issues.

Brisbane is undergoing some transition, while Melbourne monthly seniors program promoting health and wellbeing activities include Zumba, singing and games.

For many years the principal activities of HOPE *worldwide* Australia have been undertaken in PNG. HOPE *worldwide* Australia's partnership with HOPE *worldwide* PNG has provided multiple levels of support over many years. The challenges of establishing a skilled and righteous administration regime have been met over the year by a number of week-long visits to Port Moresby (and beyond) by Wayne Merry. He has used his accounting and business practice expertise to provide necessary on-site review, planning and oversight. With

PNG program funding now allowing our partners there to hire a local CPA the need for Wayne to make frequent trips, at considerable financial cost to HOPE worldwide Australia and personal cost to his family, is drawing to a close at the end of the year. Our PNG brothers and sisters understand that it is time to shoulder the responsibility more fully.

They have been encouraged by the fantastic work undertaken by the two HOPE Youth Corps programs in Port Moresby and Gumine. Those in Port Moresby served at 9 mile clinic and spent time with refugees from West Papua with a focus also on evangelism, bible studies, daily devotionals.. They received a lot of positive media exposure - on national TV, radio, newspaper. The Highlands group went to 3 locations: Moroma, Gumine and Kalvary undertaking projects that included health literacy, repair work to the new HOPE clinic at Moroma, installing solar panels at the Kalvary church and delivering books and medicines.

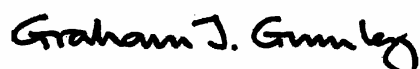
Again this year all of the Churches in our region participated in an Annual Day of Giving, raising more than \$15K that will be used to support adult literacy programs, following a request for this support from the PNG disciples.

We are grateful for the ongoing financial support from so many. The financial standing of HOPE *worldwide* Australia has improved over this year as will be noted in the financial report.

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 Hilary Gumley who stepped down this year after five years of faithful service. We would also like to welcome Dr. Jun Pablo from Melbourne who has added his wisdom to the Board this year.

Mark Timlin has, again this year, quietly and respectfully undertaken his essential role as Country Director. Although a continued effort is required to mentor the PNG programs the Board is supportive of his increased 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