

# GFS Australia Inc.



## 24th National Council

7th to 13th January 2018

Kurri Kurri TAFE  
McLeod Road  
Kurri Kurri NSW 2327

## **GFS Prayer**

God our Father

We thank you for your goodness and your love to us  
and to all who belong to GFS and KidsPlus.

Help us to bear one another's burdens  
as members of one family through Jesus Christ.  
May we grow in grace, through your Spirit who lives in us,  
and know in our lives the joy of your eternal kingdom.  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **Many Parts ~ One Body**

### **Theme Prayer**

Gracious God,  
we come to you as members of GFS throughout Australia.  
We give thanks for the many talents and abilities of your people  
and rejoice in each other's gifts and uniqueness.  
Take all that we bring, our gifts and talents,  
our longings and our faith  
and use these to build up your work and witness  
in everything we do.  
We ask this in your name. Amen.

## **National Executive 2015 - 2017**

President - Gail Orchard (Newcastle)  
Vice President - The Reverend Canon Cheryl Selvage (Brisbane)  
Chaplain - The Venerable Canon Sonia Roulston (Newcastle)  
Secretary - Nicole Baldwin (Newcastle)  
Treasurer - Noeleen Stewart (Perth)  
Junior Delegate - Tegan Hudson (Sydney)  
Junior Delegate - Abuok Majuk (Gippsland)  
Ordinary Member - Helen Petering (Melbourne)  
Ordinary Member - Marj Wellings (Brisbane)  
World President - Canon Val Gribble (Rockhampton)

## **GFS Statement of Purpose**

People belonging to a Christ-centred community,  
locally, nationally and globally through the Anglican Church.

# **24th GFS Australia Inc. National Council**

**Kurri Kurri, NSW**

**7th to 13th January 2018**

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# Program

## Sunday 7th January 2018

3.00 pm	Executive Meeting
5.00 pm	Opening Worship
6.30 pm	Drinks and Conference Dinner

## Monday 8th January 2018

7.30 am	Early Eucharist (optional)
7.30 am to 9.00 am	Breakfast
9.10 am	Morning Worship
9.30 am	Business Session
11.00 am	Morning Tea
11.30 am	Many Parts - One Body : Celebrating Children's Ministry
1.00 pm	Lunch
2.30 pm	Workshops :      Messy Church and Mainly Music Community Ministry Leader Development
4.30 pm to 6.00 pm	Fellowship Time
6.00 pm	Dinner
7.00 pm	Diocesan Reports :      Ballarat, Brisbane, Gippsland Trivia Night

## Tuesday 9th January 2018

7.30 am	Early Eucharist (optional)
7.30 am to 9.00 am	Breakfast
9.10 am	Morning Worship
9.30 am	Open Space : Looking to our Future
11.00 am	Morning Tea
11.30 am	Open Space : Looking to our Future
1.00 pm	Lunch
2.30 pm	Workshops :      Prayer and Spirituality Craft (Angels) Pastoral Care Today
4.30 pm to 6.00 pm	Fellowship Time
6.00 pm	Dinner
7.00 pm	Diocesan Reports :      Melbourne, Newcastle, North Queensland  Movie

**Wednesday 10th January 2018**

7.30 am	Early Eucharist (optional)
7.30 am to 9.00 am	Breakfast
9.10 am	Morning Worship
9.30 am	Business Session
11.00 am	Morning Tea
11.30 am	Many Parts - One Body : Children's Spirituality
1.00 pm	Lunch
2.30 pm	Bus Trips : Kurri Kurri Murals Historic Morpeth Vineyards
6.00 pm	Dinner
7.00 pm	Diocesan Reports: Perth, Rockhampton, Tasmania World Council Report

**Thursday 11th January 2018**

7.30 am	Early Eucharist (optional)
7.30 am to 9.00 am	Breakfast
9.10 am	Morning Worship
9.30 am	Many Parts - One Body : Celebrating Townsend Ministry
10.30 am	Morning Tea
11.00 am	Workshops : Prayer and Spirituality Craft (Card Making) Open Space (Diocesan Chairs, Executive)
1.00 pm	Lunch
2.30 pm	Open Space : Follow Up
4.30 pm to 6.00 pm	Fellowship Time
6.00 pm	Dinner
7.00 pm	Diocesan Reports : South Australia, Sydney, Wangaratta Guest Speaker : Sergeant Debra Rowe

**Friday 12th January 2018**

7.30 am	Early Eucharist (optional)
7.30 am to 9.00 am	Breakfast
9.10 am	Morning Worship
9.30 am	GFS Australia Inc. AGM
	Morning Tea
10.30 am	Leave for Newcastle
12.30 pm	Picnic on the Parade Ground at Fort Scratchely
1.00 pm	Tour of Fort Scratchley
4.00 pm	Closing Worship at Christ Church Cathedral Newcastle
6.30 pm	Closing Dinner

**Saturday 13th January 2018**

7.30 am to 8.45 am	Breakfast
9.00 am	Morning Worship
9.30 am	Departures

# Agenda

1. Welcome and Opening Prayer
2. Apologies
3. Meeting Procedure
4. Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Annual General Meeting (4th February 2017)
5. Business Arising
6. Reports
  - 6.1 President
  - 6.2 Treasurer
  - 6.3 World Council 2017
  - 6.4 PNG
7. Diocesan Reports
  - 7.1 Ballarat
  - 7.2 Brisbane
  - 7.3 Gippsland
  - 7.4 Grafton
  - 7.5 Melbourne
  - 7.6 Newcastle
  - 7.7 North Queensland
  - 7.8 Perth
  - 7.9 Rockhampton
  - 7.10 South Australia
  - 7.11 Sydney
  - 7.12 Tasmania
8. Motions
  - 8.1 **Moved** Julie Smith. **Seconded** Canon Val Gribble.  
  
*"That the 2018 National Council discuss the content of the GFS England and Wales new webpage (<http://girlsfriendlysociety.org.uk/>) with particular discussion on the lack of acknowledgement that GFS is a Christian organisation."*
  - 8.2 **Moved** Canon Val Gribble. **Seconded** Gail Orchard.  
  
*"That the signatories for the continued management of the GFS Australia Inc World Council account (World Emergency funds, Philippines fund and Web expenses) be the GFS National President, the GFS National Treasurer and the current GFS World Vice-President"*



9. New Business
  - 9.1 Clarification of National GFS Membership Requirements
10. Budget
11. Election of National Executive Members
12. Appointment of National Chaplain
13. Appointment of National Secretary
14. Any Other Business
15. Correspondence
16. Close of Council AGM

# Meeting Procedure

From Rules of Incorporation

## 16. Voting at General Meetings

- 16.1 Upon any motion arising at a general meeting of the Association, a member has one vote only by secret ballot.
- 16.2 All votes must be given personally.
- 16.3 In the case of an equality of voting on a question, the Chairperson of the meeting is entitled to exercise a second or casting vote.
- 16.4 A member is not entitled to vote at a general meeting unless all moneys due and payable by the member to the Association have been paid.

## 17. Poll at General Meetings

- 17.1 If at a meeting a poll on any question is demanded by not less than 3 members, it must be taken at that meeting in such manner as the Chairperson may direct and the resolution of the polls shall be deemed to be a resolution of the meeting on that question.
- 17.2 A poll that is demanded on the election of a Chairperson or on a question of an adjournment must be taken immediately and a poll that is demanded on any other question must be taken at such time before the close of the meeting as the Chairperson may direct.

## 18. Manner of Determining Whether Resolution Carried

- 18.1 If a question arising at a general meeting of the Association is determined on a show of hands or secret ballot
  - (a) a declaration by the Chairperson that a resolution has been
    - i carried; or
    - ii carried unanimously; or
    - iii carried by a particular majority; or
    - iv lost; and
  - (b) an entry to that effect in the minute book of the Association - is evidence of the fact, without proof of the number or proportion of the votes recorded in favour of, or against, that resolution.

## 19. National Executive

- 19.1 The affairs of the Association shall be managed by the National Executive.
- 19.2 The National Executive
  - 19.2.1 shall control and manage the business and affairs of the Association; and
  - 19.2.2 may, subject to these Rules, the Act and the Regulations, exercise all such powers and functions as may be exercised by the Association other than those powers and functions that are required by these Rules to be exercised by general meetings of the members of the Association; and

19.2.3 subject to these Rules, the Act and the Regulations, has power to perform all such acts and things as appear to the National Executive to be essential for the proper management of the business and affairs of the Association.

19.3. Subject to section 23 of the Act, the National Executive shall consist of

19.3.1 the officers of the Association; and

19.3.2 no more than three ordinary members

each of whom shall be elected at the National Council AGM.

## **20. Office Holders**

20.1. The officers of the Association shall be

20.1.1 a Chairman;

20.1.2 a Vice-Chairman;

20.1.3 a Treasurer; and

20.1.4 a Secretary.

20.2. Subject to subrules 20.3 and 20.4:

20.2.1 the provisions of rule 22, so far as they are applicable and with the necessary modifications, apply to and in relation to the election of persons to any of the offices referred to in subrule 20.1;

20.2.2 each officer of the Association shall hold office until the National Council AGM next after the date of his or her election but is eligible for re-election; and

20.2.3 in the event of a casual vacancy in any office referred to in subrule 20.1, the National Executive may appoint one of its members to the vacant office and the member appointed may continue in office up to and including the conclusion of the National Council AGM next following the date of the appointment.

20.3 The person who holds the office of Chairman immediately before the National Council AGM shall not be eligible for re-election.

20.4 The person who holds the office of Vice-Chairman immediately before the National Council AGM shall be appointed to the office of Chairman at the said National Council AGM as of right and, notwithstanding anything in rule 22 to the contrary, no nominations shall be accepted for the position of Chairman other than those which may, in the event that the said Vice-Chairman is unwilling or unable to accept the appointment to the office of Chairman, be received at the National Council AGM and in such event an election shall be conducted for the office of Chairman in accordance with subrules 22.4 to 22.6 inclusive.

20.5 In the event of a casual vacancy in the office of Chairman:

20.5.1 the National Executive may appoint the then Vice-Chairman to the vacant office;

20.5.2 the office of Vice-Chairman shall be deemed vacant and shall be filled in accordance with subrule 20.2.3; and

20.5.3 the person appointed to the office of Chairman pursuant to this rule 20.5 may continue in office up to and including the conclusion of the National Council AGM next following the date of the appointment.

## **21. Ordinary Members of the National Executive**

21.1 Subject to these Rules, each ordinary member of the National Executive shall hold office

until the National Council AGM next after the date of his or her election but is eligible for re-election.

- 21.2 In the event of a casual vacancy occurring in the office of an ordinary member of the National Executive, the National Executive may appoint a member of the Association to fill the vacancy and the member appointed shall hold office, subject to these Rules, until the conclusion of the National Council AGM next following the date of the appointment.

## **22. Election of Officers and Ordinary National Executive Members**

- 22.1 Nominations of candidates for election as officers of the Association or as ordinary members of the National Executive must be
- 22.1.1 made in writing, signed by two members of the Association and accompanied by the written consent of the candidate (which may be endorsed on the form of nomination);
  - 22.1.2 accompanied by CV and reference from their parish priest; and
  - 22.1.3 delivered to the Secretary of the Association not less than 90 days before the date fixed for the holding of the National Council AGM.
- 22.2 A candidate may only be nominated for one office, or as an ordinary member of the National Executive, prior to the National Council AGM.
- 22.3 If insufficient nominations are received to fill all vacancies on the National Executive, the candidates nominated shall be deemed to be elected and further nominations may be received at the National Council AGM.
- 22.4 If the number of nominations received is equal to the number of vacancies to be filled, the persons nominated shall be deemed to be elected.
- 22.5 If the number of nominations exceeds the number of vacancies to be filled, a ballot must be held.
- 22.6 The ballot for the election of officers and ordinary members of the National Executive must be conducted at the National Council AGM in such manner as the National Executive may direct.

## **23. Vacancies**

- 23.1 The office of an officer of the Association, or of an ordinary member of the National Executive, becomes vacant if the officer or member
- 23.1.1 ceases to be a member of the Association; or
  - 23.1.2 becomes an insolvent under administration within the meaning of the Corporations Act; or
  - 23.1.3 resigns from office by notice in writing given to the Secretary.



**GFS Australia Incorporated**  
ABN 92 153 260 694  
**Annual General Meeting**  
**Morpeth, NSW**  
**4<sup>th</sup> February, 2017**  
**Minutes**



**Meeting opened :** Gail Orchard, our National President, officially opened the Annual General Meeting at 2.05pm, thanking the members of GFS Newcastle, Tanya Brown from GFS Sydney and Barbara Phillips from GFS Tasmania for being present. The Venerable Canon Sonia Roulston led us in prayer and Acknowledgement of Country.

**Present :** Gail Orchard (National President), The Venerable Canon Sonia Roulston (National Chaplain), The Reverend Canon Cheryl Selvage (National Vice-President), Canon Val Gribble (National Executive Member and World President), Noeleen Stewart (National Treasurer), Helen Petering (National Executive Member), Marj Wellings (National Executive Member), Abuok Majuk (National Junior Delegate), Nicole Baldwin (National Secretary), Rhonda Stevenson, Barbara Phillips, Joan Nicholson, Audrey Fuller, Rosemary Neave, Tania Brown, Ella Means, Noelene Lentfer, Evelyn Turner, Elaine Wilson

**Apologies and Greetings :** Leanne Kapetanovski, Lauren Kitwood, Deb Wadeson, Kate Brewer, Elizabeth Petering, Mary Nicholls, Yvonne Round, Lillian Morgan, Jennifer Buckby, Julie Smith

## **Minutes**

The Minutes for the previous Annual General Meeting at Belair, South Australia on 5<sup>th</sup> June with amendments were then moved by The Reverend Canon Cheryl Selvage and seconded by Helen Petering to be a true and accurate record.

## **Business Arising**

No Business Arising.

## **Reports**

### *President's Report*

- Gail's year has been one full of travel and delight in participating with GFS groups around Australia

Moved by Gail Orchard, seconded by Marj Wellings. Carried.

### *Treasurers Report*

- Noeleen's report was tabled as presented and discussed.
- The Auditors Report was also tabled.
- It's been a busy year of organisation for World Council.
- Leanne Kapetanovski asked by email why World Council monies were going through GFS Australia books. The answer is because to carry out business and have a bank account in Australia, an ABN is required. There is an account that is administered by Val Gribble and Ros Lumsden for these purposes.
- Donations are transferred from ANZ World Project (Japan) account to the World Account two to three times per year, depending on the amount of funds held.
- Total current assets include \$112000 World Council funds.
- The GST refunds will be calculated for GFS Australia and World Council, with the refund for World Council refund being sent to South Africa after World Council is completed.
- Method of operation to accounts is any two directors to sign.
- Reports are available in DropBox so can be forwarded to members if requested.
- THANK YOU Noeleen for all your work!

Moved by Noeleen Stewart, seconded by Marj Wellings. Carried.

### *Diocesan and Other Reports*

- Received as tabled, with members speaking to highlights.
- GFS Tasmania has been very generous in their financial support of our Junior Delegate's activities, the Kathleen Bright Parker Fund, the Pat Franklin Fund, and the fees for World Council for Canon Val Gribble. Funds are utilised from Bequests that are held with the Diocese of Tasmania, the current members want to have a say how those funds are used. One of the Bequests date back to 1902.
- GFS Melbourne shared their financial contribution to Parish Support Packages, thereby supporting Strategic Gospel Ministry. This support is in the form of funding to assist with Children's and Families Ministry within parishes. There is a review process in place to ensure that funds will be available in the second and third year.
- GFS Perth are looking at a Diocesan wide camp in October, with younger children being day visitors and older children camping. They also welcome Des Smit as their new Chaplain. The Lodge has been leased to the Diocese of Perth for 21 years. This leased has now expired, so GFS Perth again have use of the Lodge.
- Val spoke to the PNG report. It was one of the best visits for ages. There are a whole new group of people in Port Moresby (20), that the Diocese of Rockhampton are supporting. Val and Gail visited the school which is so impressed by GFS that two women want to work with young women there. There are four delegates from PNG coming to World Council, Fr Isaiah, Maty, Giraka and Wilma.
- Gail spoke to the Melanesia report. The Solomon's as we have previously known it is known as Melanesia. They are hoping to bring five delegates to World Council. Gail and Julie have been asked to go back to Melanesia, a request that they have agreed to.
- GFS Newcastle has been supporting Stroud with programs (from Joan), as they wish to work with children, but have no desire to become a part of GFS.

- Reverend Canon Cheryl Selvage gave a verbal report for GFS Brisbane. GFS Brisbane is well known in the Diocese as a supporter of children's ministry. The majority of work is through the Grants Programs which can be one-off or continuing. To have access to the Grants Program, membership to GFS is essential. Townsend groups are growing: outreach meetings are an opportunity for social gathering and reconnection. Support of GFS World and GFS Australia Projects continue. There is also ongoing funding for a Chaplain one day a week in the Children's Hospital. They are currently working on their Constitution. Members are a good group of faithful people working together.
- GFS Sydney encourage people who wish to access Playgroup Plus Programs to join GFS so that they can have access to programs. Currently there are nine groups. This may be a way to re-establish GFS Branches.
- GFS Gippsland held 130<sup>th</sup> Celebration – State Day. There is an upcoming camp. Abuok Majuk is our new Junior Delegate. Abuok was born in Sudan, lived in Egypt and moved with her family to Australia nine years ago. She is currently in Year 12 and would like to study to be a Registered Nurse. There are seven children in her family, she is the middle child. Abuok speaks Danca, Arabic and English.
- World Council : There are currently 226 Registrations. This is the largest World Council ever. 202 are staying at the venue and 24 are off site. There are some issues with some delegates not being eligible for automatic entry to Australia who have needed a Personal Letter of Invitation and a Letter to their Consulate, so there is an officer to help sort out the visas. There are 19 countries represented in the delegates who have registered. Of these there are 16 Junior delegates registered to attend. There are 50 youth registered, that is those under 30 years of age. Of the 19 countries attending, 7 are Western Countries, the rest are developing countries. The Immigration Department are waiting on Passport numbers, there are still three outstanding. The Philippines, Swaziland and Dominican Republic will not be coming. There is \$45000 ready to be distributed for airfares. Val suggested that perhaps a World Project could be a fund to grow these funds???

Moved by Barbara Phillips and seconded by Rhonda Stevenson. Carried by acclamation.

Reverend Canon Cheryl Selvage said that reading through the reports is highly encouraging and thanked those who wrote or spoke to reports for the detail they provided regarding the ministry of GFS in their Diocese.

## General Business

### *Motions for GFS National Annual General Meeting*

1. **Moved by Canon Val Gribble, Rockhampton, seconded by Pam Guy, Rockhampton**  
*That the title of the National Chairman of GFS Australia Inc. be changed to National President, in line with all other GFS countries.*  
*That until the Rules are changed to reflect this change, all formal documents will retain the title "National Chair" but that the title "National President" be used informally from this date.*

This motion was discussed highlighting that Australia is the only country that has the title National Chairman. Changing the title to National President, brings GFS Australia into line with the rest of the world. This motion was PASSED.

**2. Moved by Canon Val Gribble, Rockhampton, seconded by Pam Guy, Rockhampton**

*That the monies retained for the Melanesian project (as per the motion moved at the 2014 World Council), be retained in the current investment account and managed by the incoming World Vice-President, the Melanesian Support team (Ms Gail Orchard and Ms Julie Smith) and the incoming National President of GFS Australia Inc.*

These funds need to be managed responsible and well. This motion was PASSED.

**3. Moved by Canon Val Gribble, Rockhampton, seconded by Pam Guy, Rockhampton**

*That Ms Gail Orchard and Ms Julie Smith be appointed as the GFS Australia Consultants to GFS Melanesia and report to each national annual meeting.*

Titles mean a lot in developing countries and people expect that we come with some authority. This motion was PASSED.

**4. Moved by Canon Val Gribble, Rockhampton, seconded by Pam Guy, Rockhampton**

*That The Reverend Canon Cheryl Selvage and Canon Val Gribble be appointed as the GFS Australia Consultants to GFS Papua New Guinea and report to each national annual meeting.*

Titles mean a lot in developing countries and people expect that we come with some authority. This motion was PASSED.

*Australian Council 2018*

- The venue for GFS Australian Council is the Hunter Valley Hotel Academy (Kurri Kurri TAFE).
- Council dates are 7<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> January 2018.
- Gail, Sonia and Nicole to continue the process of planning for Council, updating all members as needed and seeking input into programming etc.

*Questions*

Noeleen asked how much interaction from GFS is there with Mainly Music or other groups?

Children involved in GFS groups is not a reflection of the number of children in our churches, participating in other Christian groups such as Mainly Music. There are many children's programs being run that are not affiliated with GFS.

Pre-school aged children need to build relationships, unchurched families need to see and know that they can trust us, that we are a safe place with loving, protective and caring people.

Young people and parents need to be encouraged in leadership.



**Correspondence :**

04/07/2016      Passing of Ballarat Member – Joan Slade  
Declined Membership – Brett Fullarton, Brian Dixon, David Craig, Deidre Willmott, Eric Ross-Adjie, Ian Leverington, Peter Dawes, Richard Court AC, Venerable Braden Scott, Venerable Lionel Snell

14/07/2016      New Members – Melbourne

09/08/2016      New Member – Joel Gillies

26/08/2016      New Member – Ballarat

02/11/2016      ANIP

3/11/2016      Anglican Church of Australia Directory

29/01/2017      Passing of GFS Member – Rosemary from Wales

Bare Bones Issues 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9

**Next Meeting :** To be advised by incoming 2018 – 2020 National Executive

**Meeting closed :** at 1.50pm

## List of Voting Members Attending 24th National Council

BALDWIN, Nicole.....	Newcastle
BARTLETT, Kathryn.....	Gippsland
BELL, Dianne.....	Tasmania
BOCQUEE, Diane.....	Brisbane
BREWER, Kate.....	Brisbane
BRIGGS, Lesley.....	Brisbane
BROWN, Tania.....	Sydney
BUCKBY, Jennifer.....	North Queensland
CLARK, Rhona.....	North Queensland
CLARK, Rosemary.....	Wangaratta
CLOUGH, Sandra.....	Bendigo
COX, Jean.....	Tasmania
CUNNINGHAM, Keryn.....	Gippsland
DOYLE, Janice.....	South Australia
GEE, Lesley.....	Brisbane
GRIBBLE, Val.....	Rockhampton
GUNTON, Sheri.....	North Queensland
HILLIER, June.....	South Australia
HILLIER, Michael.....	South Australia
HUMPHRIES, Margaret.....	Brisbane
KAPETANOVSKI, Leanne.....	Melbourne
LOOS, Christine.....	Brisbane
LOVEJOY, Carole.....	Perth
LUMSDEN, Roslyn.....	Brisbane
NICHOLLS, Graeme.....	Gippsland
NICHOLLS, Mary.....	Gippsland
ORCHARD, Gail.....	Newcastle
PERROTT-RUSSELL, The Reverend Rosemary.....	Tasmania
PETERING, Elizabeth.....	Melbourne
PETERING, Helen.....	Melbourne
PHILLIPS, Barbara.....	Tasmania
RAMAGE, The Reverend Jenny.....	Gippsland
REED, Clare.....	North Queensland

RICHARDSON, Ann.....	Tasmania
ROULSTON, The Venerable Canon Sonia.....	Newcastle
SELVAGE, The Reverend Canon Cheryl.....	Brisbane
SMITH, Julie.....	Tasmania
STEWART, Noeleen.....	Perth
STORY, The Reverend Janet.....	North Queensland
TREGENZA, Valda.....	Ballarat
VAAK, Lyn.....	Sydney
VEAL, Wendy.....	Ballarat
WADESON, Debra.....	Melbourne
WATKINS, Anne.....	North Queensland
WELLINGS, Marj.....	Brisbane

## **Nominations for Executive 2018 - 2020**

### **Treasurer**

**Noeleen Stewart**

**Perth**

Nominated by Carole Lovejoy

Seconded by The Reverend Josie Steytler

### **Ordinary Members**

**The Venerable Canon Sonia Roulston**

**Newcastle**

Nominated by Lesley Briggs

Seconded by Lesley Gee

**Canon Val Gribble**

**Rockhampton**

Nominated by Bishop Ron Stone

Seconded by Lisbeth Stone

## **Motions to 24th GFS National Council**

The following motions are put forward for discussion.

**8.1 Moved** Julie Smith. **Seconded** Canon Val Gribble

*The 2018 National Council discuss the content of the GFS England and Wales new webpage (<http://girlsfriendlysociety.org.uk/>) with particular discussion on the lack of acknowledgement that GFS is a Christian organisation.*

**8.2 Moved** Canon Val Gribble. **Seconded** Gail Orchard.

*“That the signatories for the continued management of the GFS Australia Inc World Council account (World Emergency funds, Philippines fund and Web expenses) be the GFS National President, the GFS National Treasurer and the current GFS World Vice-President”.*

## **President's Report**

*Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. (Romans 12: 4,5)*

This was the theme that I choose for the last three years and as we have journeyed together, our combined paths have proved just how true this is. What a privilege, a joy and a very humbling experience to be presenting this report. This is truly a reflection of my three year service to GFS Australia and your service to many faithful members of this organisation.

### **Internationally**

We have had quite an involvement with the Worldwide GFS family over the last three years. We started off with Tegan Hudson visiting Sri Lanka in 2015 as our Junior Delegate. We know from her report what a wonderful experience it was for her and it was an exceptional start for the World Youth Exchange programme. Well done Tegan.

We continue our work with PNG and the Melanesian Islands . We actually combined our trips this term with the leaders from Melanesia joining together with Val, Sue, Cheryl and myself on their trip to PNG in 2016. This was primarily due to the change of leadership in Melanesia and the delay to what had been planned as a follow up on the previous visit by Julie Smith and myself in 2013. I would have to say that this was a very successful combination and one which hopefully will provide benefits further on, for both countries.

The hosting of World Council in Perth in July 2017 was a major highlight for many of us. I would like to thank Val and her team for their work over the preceding couple of years . It was truly a wonderful occasion to be able to share with so many countries and to be inspired by the work that is being carried on around the world in the name of GFS.

### **Nationally**

It has been possible to meet with many of you around the country in your dioceses over the past three years. The journey began in Hobart in 2015 at our last Australian Council. I visited both Sydney and Grafton Diocese early in 2016 and this brought back memories for me of the times when we used to get together for Provincial meetings. In the middle of the year I visited Melbourne, Moe and Hobart where I joined in the celebrations for 130 years of GFS in Gippsland. This was a joyous time of sharing both the past , the present and the future plans for GFS with our members. A trip across the Tasman gave me the opportunity to catch up with some very inspiring ladies who gave me the encouragement to look for a way forward for GFS in this country.

In 2017 I visited Brisbane Diocese to share in their celebrations for 175 years of GFS. The opportunity to visit Government House and meet some of the Townsend members who joined us on this occasion was a privilege. To be able to meet some of the organisations that are sponsored by GFS, participate in a Leader Training session and dinner with the members of Brisbane at Lesley Brigg's was also a highlight. Thank you Brisbane for your commitment to GFS.

World Day of Prayer has been celebrated in Newcastle in 2015, PNG in 2016 and in Rockhampton this year. It has certainly shown the breath of GFS when we experience liturgy prepared from around the world in different locations. Thank you to all who have invited me to be a part of your celebrations.

It has been a joy to meet annually as your Executive. Our meetings have been held in Morpeth but we have introduced successfully Skype for these meetings due to the difficulty of some members being able to attend on these dates. I think this has worked well and may be something that could be considered for future meetings. I must thank Morpeth parish for making us feel welcome and providing such wonderful meals for us.

Keeping in touch with you all has been an aim of both Nicole and myself. We have attempted to produce a newsletter every 3 - 4 months and hope that you have been encouraged by the news shared from others. Thank you to the contributors who helped out and those who responded when we asked for photos etc.

### **Executive Matters**

The work of guiding the development of GFS in Melanesia has proved to be challenging. As Val knows from her dealings with PNG it is difficult working with the GFS when the Executive team can be changed at the whim of someone else. We experienced this with the removal from office of the GFS Leader who was representing them in Wales immediately on her return to Honiara. It has taken us most of the past three years to be able to re-establish contact but hopefully as Betty has been re-appointed to her position by the Provincial Mothers Union Council for another term we can proceed as planned for 2018. I am encouraged by the response of the leaders and Executive to the visit to PNG last year and the seeds that seem to have been planted.

We have continued to provide funds to help the Japanese GFS with the recovery to the tsunami in 2012. It was a wonderful moment at World Council when we were told that the world project was able to be completed due to the overwhelming response from the world countries. I am sure that we will continue to support the new project from Sri Lanka in the coming term.

The continuing Royal Commission into Institutional Child Sexual Abuse has given us some concern at Executive level regarding our own Policies and Guidelines. We have done some work but I think this may need to be re-examined once the findings of the Commission have been released and examined in local Dioceses. I know that the incoming Executive already has this highlighted to look at due to a query from a Diocese.

Thank you to Noeleen and Nicole for their work in overhauling our website for GFS Australia. It has been a lot of work and is still ongoing. Please feel free to look at the website and offer suggestions for content and presentation to your Executive so that this work can continue.

Insurance remains a subject that seems to be ongoing and one that we never fully understand. We are continuing to work with ANIP to give you the best cover. We also needed to do some more work on our Constitution in the past three years resulting from the change of Consumer Affairs Legislation in Victoria. Thank you to Helen for your work in Melbourne helping us to transition our policies to the new form required by this change. We will bring these to you at this Council for your ratification.

### **Mid term conference**

This was held in the beautiful Adelaide Hills in 2016. We had a refreshing weekend where we shared fellowship and friendship. Our guest speakers challenged us to think outside the square and be creative in the ways we approach ministry within our church. Continuing this theme I challenged those attending to be looking at ways in which we could encourage new members to come and join us. We welcomed our new Junior Delegate Abuok Majuk to this conference along with the leaders from Gippsland who supported her through her GFS journey.

One of my main concerns for the future of this wonderful society is continuing along the lines expressed by Val at World Council about the long term viability of GFS. Whilst Val was encouraging us to look at ways in which we could increase the membership of GFS throughout the World, I would like to stress the same thoughts for GFS in this country. As you will have been made aware we have very few people willing to nominate for key positions on the Executive. Is this a sign of our ageing membership or of a much deeper problem?. Do we need to look at where we are going and our vision?. What do we see as the role of GFS in our current church structure and society?.

It is my pleasure to welcome everyone to Newcastle Diocese for the second time as we hold a National Council , and to Kurri Kurri for the first time. We are mindful of those who have passed away over the last three years and are not able to be here, some of whom have often been to these national gatherings. I present this report on behalf of a team of people to whom I express my gratitude for their willingness to give opinions, to take on a task and offer guidance , encouragement and truly represent each and everyone of you all. Thank you to Noeleen as Treasurer, Nicole as our Secretary, Sonia as Chaplain, Tegan and Abuok as our Junior Delegates, Cheryl as our Vice Chairman and to Val, Marj and Helen as our other Executive members.

Gail Orchard  
President  
GFS Australia



## **Treasurer's Report**

Following is the Audited report for GFS Australia Inc. for the year ended 31 October 2017. It has certainly been a busy 12 months with the World Council finances coming through our accounts but this has gone relatively smoothly, given the volume of deposits and withdrawals and overseas currencies we were dealing with.

I continue to use the program Quickbooks (Reckon), however, we did have to purchase a new version of this program this year as the old version was becoming problematic. This may be an issue in the future as well with a lot of computer programs going to yearly subscription instead of buying the product outright.

We continue to use the ANZ as our bank with the Diocese of Rockhampton for the World monies for greater interest earning. We will continue to keep an ANZ account for World monies as we are holding some project monies here in Australia for South Africa and it is easier to do overseas transactions through this account. Val Gribble, Cheryl Selvage and the Treasurer will be the signatories on this account.

The budget figures for 2015-2017 also follow the reports and I will be happy to try and answer any questions you may have regarding the figures.

It is pleasing that we have come in under budget, primarily this is due to a number of factors:

- Membership has increased
- Large donations to the Kathleen Bright Parker Fund and Japan World Project
- Little – to no accommodation costs for National Executive meetings as well as airfares being down nearly \$2000 (2 years no travel from Perth for Treasurer done via Skype)
- Postage was also down a bit
- Insurance costs did not increase as much as thought
- No money was expended for MU meeting, telephone/internet, archives, Chairman/Chaplain expenses

The biggest loss was in the Interest that we did not receive being \$5,053 down in interest payments from the previous 3 years. Looking at information regarding term deposits v's savings accounts on average if we invested some of our money in term deposit the most we would make is maybe another \$400 dollars more. Of course, it will depend on what we are looking to do in the future but we may be able to move \$80,000 into a term deposit account for the next 3 years. This will also mean that if interest rates go up we will not get the increase if we have locked it in for that time.

I will also be presenting a draft budget to the Council for your consideration for the next 3 years, this has been in consultation with our new Chairperson Cheryl.

Thanks to Gail for all her approvals, Nicole, Val and Ros and the rest of Executive who have been there to support me as well over the past 3 years.

With blessings

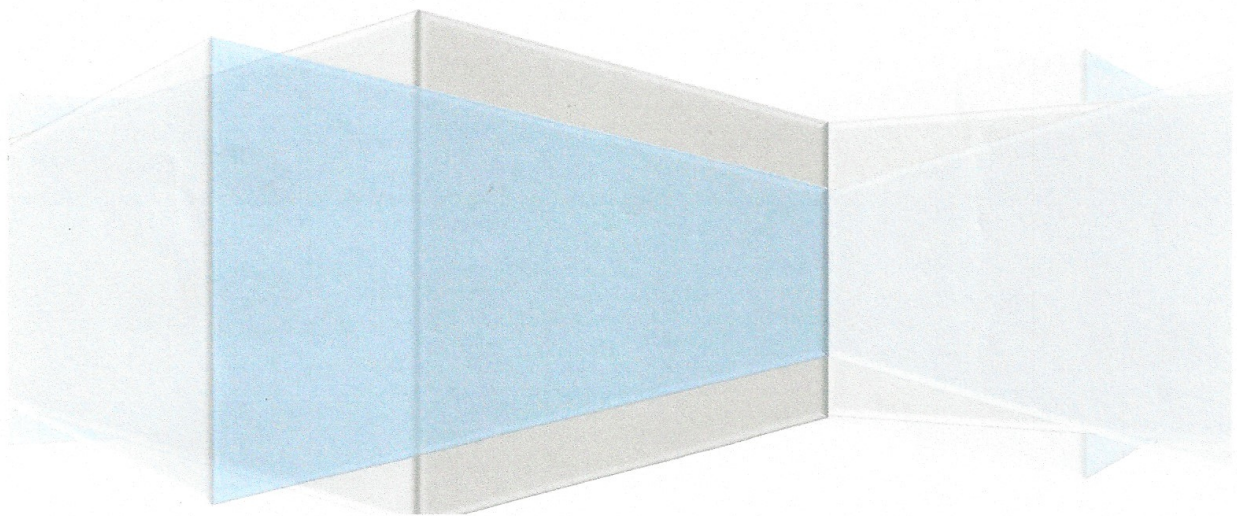
Noeleen Stewart

Treasurer, GFS Australia Inc.

# GFS AUSTRALIA INC.

## *Audited Financial Statements*

For the Year Ended 31 October 2017



Prepared by – Face 2 Face Business Mentors, Lynwood WA

ABN – 69 284 557 061



**GFS AUSTRALIA INC.**

**ABN 92 153 260 694**

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GFS AUSTRALIA INC.

DIRECTORS' REPORT

Your directors submit the financial reports of GFS Australia Inc. for the financial year ended 31 October 2017.

**Director's**

The names of the director's throughout the year and at the date of this report are:

*Gail Orchard*

*Noeleen Stewart*

*Nicole Baldwin*

*Marj Wellings*

*Venerable Canon Sonia Roulston*

*Helen Petering*

*Rev'd Cheryl Salvage*

*Abuok Majuk (Junior Delegate)*

**Principal Activities**

1. To provide ministries to children, youth, families and adults in a safe and accepting environment where Christ's love is evident and the Gospel is proclaimed.

(a) Children's, youth and family ministry

- to encourage children, youth and families in local communities
- to purposefully support and encourage family life
- to equip children and youth with life skills to reach their God-given potential

(b) Adult ministry

- To support and nurture adults in a faith community
- To encourage prayerful support to children's and youth ministry
- To encourage adults to be positive role models to all members, particularly those in leadership

2. To serve the community locally, nationally and globally through our motto "Bear one another's burdens and so fulfil the law of Christ" (Galatians 6:2)

3. To receive and disseminate information and facilitate communication locally, nationally and globally, within the organisation and with related service agencies.

4. To encourage Dioceses within the organisation to maintain appropriate standards in equipping people for ministry.

5. To be responsible and accountable for the assets of the organisation.

6. To be an active member of the worldwide society called "The Girls' Friendly Society"

7. To do all such things as may be incidental to the attainment of such purposes and aims.

**Significant Changes**

No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the year.

**Operating Result**

The surplus for the financial year amounted to \$5,290.24 (2016: \$118,464.69 surplus).

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors.

*G Orchard*

Director

*[Signature]*

Director

Dated this 24 day of November 2017



# INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2017

	Note	2017	2016
<b>INCOME</b>			
Donations & Gifts		94,159	66,077
Interest received		8,937	5,862
Membership Fees		6,446	8,645
GFS World Account		72,936	53,186
World Council Perth 2017		281,064	-
National Council Tasmania		-	-
Mid-Term Conference – Adelaide		-	15,840
Other income		2,631	-
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>466,173</b>	<b>149,610</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
Fees & Charges		3,752	458
Audit Fees		-	727
Donations		3,234	-
GFS Executive Expenses		1,658	2,044
GFS Grant Allocations		-	1,782
GFS World Expenses		152,863	-
Insurance		1,964	1,933
National Council Tasmania 2015		2,263	91
Papua New Guinea Project		4,347	6,597
Postage		495	598
Printing & Stationery		386	1,123
Solomon Islands		7,293	3,340
Website		499	914
World Council		1,179	-
World Council Perth 2017		279,287	-
Mid-Term Conference – Adelaide		-	11,586
Other Expenses		1,663	(47)
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		<b>31,146</b>	<b>31,146</b>
<b>OPERATING INCOME</b>		<b>5,290</b>	<b>118,464</b>
<b>OTHER EXPENSES</b>			
<b>TOTAL OTHER EXPENSES</b>			
<b>NET PROFIT (LOSS)</b>		<b>5,290</b>	<b>118,464</b>

The accompanying notes form part of this financial report.

**BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 OCTOBER 2017**

	Note	2017	2016
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	2	287,812	359,352
Trade and other receivables	3	-	50,067
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<u>287,812</u>	<u>409,419</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<u>287,812</u>	<u>409,419</u>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Creditors & borrowings		-	(2,397)
Other Payables	4	(17,110)	112,184
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<u>(17,110)</u>	<u>109,787</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<u>(17,110)</u>	<u>109,787</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<u>304,922</u>	<u>299,632</u>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Retained earnings		299,632	178,884
Profit / (Deficit) for the year		5,290	120,748
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		<u>304,922</u>	<u>299,632</u>

The accompanying notes form part of this financial report.

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2017

### NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 Victoria. The directors have determined that the association is not a reporting entity.

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historic costs and does not take into account changing money values or, except where specifically stated, current valuations of non-current assets.

The following significant accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless otherwise stated, have been adopted in the preparation of this financial report.

a. Investments

Non-current investments are measured on the cost basis. The carrying amount of investments is reviewed by directors to ensure it is not in excess of the recoverable amount of the investments. The recoverable amount is assessed from the quoted current market value for shares in listed companies or the underlying net assets for other non-listed corporations. The expected net cash flows from investments have not been discounted to their present value in determining the recoverable amounts.

b. Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents includes cash on hand, deposits held at call with financial institutions, and other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

c. Revenue and Other Income

Revenue is measured at the time of receipt for the related financial period.

d. Donations

Donations of cash are brought to account on a cash received basis.

Gifts of equipment are brought to account at a reasonably determined fair value. Both useability and marketability are joint considerations in determining fair value.

Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest rate method, which for floating rate financial assets is the rate inherent in the instrument. Interest revenue is recognised as it accrues.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

f. Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Tax Office. In these circumstances the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables in the balance sheet are shown inclusive of GST.

Receivables and payables are stated with the amount of GST included.

The net amount of GST recoverable from or payable to the ATO is included as a current asset or liability in the balance sheet.



	2017	2016
<b>NOTE 2: CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>		
ANZ General Investment #280422936	70,589	64,208
ANZ GFS Australia Operating #185761788	18,171	31,859
ANZ Kathleen Bright Parker #264375017	21,655	23,545
ANZ PNG Account #185762465	11,678	16,795
ANZ Solomon Islands Account #185762641	-	-
ANZ Grants Account #280422901	13,553	13,476
ANZ Corp Synod Diocese of Rockhampton	139,963	190,187
ANZ GFS World #392526836	12,203	16,818
ANZ World Project (Japan)	-	267
Paypal	-	2,197
	<u>287,812</u>	<u>359,352</u>

<b>NOTE 3: TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES</b>		
Trade Receivables	-	140
Prepaid Expenses – 2017 World Council Perth	-	49,927
	<u>-</u>	<u>50,067</u>

<b>NOTE 4: OTHER PAYABLES</b>		
Accrued Income – World Council 2017	-	112,391
Accrued Income – NC 2018	900	-
GST Liability	<u>(18,010)</u>	<u>(207)</u>
	<u>(17,110)</u>	<u>112,184</u>



## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2017

### **Scope**

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of GFS Australia Inc. ("the association"), which comprises the Balance Sheet as at 31 October 2017 for the year then ended, the Income Statement, a summary of significant accounting policies, other explanatory notes and the statement by the director's. World Council Revenue and Expenditure are also included in the consolidated results.

### **Director's Responsibility for the Financial Report**

The directors of the association are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report and have determined that the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements, which form part of the financial report, are consistent with the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 Victoria and are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The director's responsibilities also include designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

### **Auditor's Responsibility**

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used, as described in Note 1, are appropriate to meet the needs of the director's and members. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the director's, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

The financial report has been prepared for distribution to members for the purpose of fulfilling the directors' financial reporting under the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 Victoria. We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report or on the financial report to which it relates to any person other than the director's and members, or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

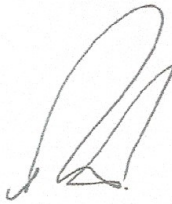
We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

***Independence***

In conducting our audit, we have complied with the independence requirements of Australian professional ethical pronouncements.

***Auditor's Opinion***

In our opinion, the financial report of GFS Australia Inc. (Including GFS World Council) presents fairly, in all material respects the financial position of GFS Australia Inc. as of 31 October 2017 and of its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements and the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 Victoria.



Name of firm: Face 2 Face Business Mentors

Name of auditor: Neville Andrew Robert FIPA

Address: Lynwood, Perth

Dated this 17th day of November 2017

#### DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

The directors have determined that the association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

In the opinion of the director's the financial report as set out on pages 1 to 6:

- 1 Presents a true and fair view of the financial position of GFS Australia Inc. as at 31 October 2017 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
- 2 At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that GFS Australia Inc. will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the director's and is signed for and on behalf of the Board of Directors by:

Director ..... *A.P. Stewart* .....

Director ..... *Richard* .....

Dated this 24 day of November 2017

# GFS AUSTRALIA INC. BUDGET V'S ACTUAL 2015-2017

INCOME	BUDGET 3 YEARS	BUDGET FOR 2017	ACTUAL 2017	DIFFERENCE	ACTUAL FOR 2016	ACTUAL FOR 2015	ACTUAL TOTAL 15-17	VARIANCE OVER 3 YEARS
Fees 2015/16	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,446.00	\$ 446.00	\$ 8,645.00	\$ 4,109.00	\$ 19,200.00	\$ 1,200.00
Interest	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 671.10	\$ 2,328.90	\$ 1,198.28	\$ 2,077.77	\$ 3,947.15	\$ 5,052.85
Kathleen Bright Parker	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 333.33	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,666.67	\$ 400.00	\$ 2,800.00	\$ 5,200.00	\$ 4,200.00
Japan World Project	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 3,333.33	\$ 7,122.00	\$ 3,788.67	\$ 7,129.00		\$ 14,251.00	\$ 4,251.00
PNG Project	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 240.00	\$ 9,760.00	\$ 20,820.00	\$ 1,260.00	\$ 22,320.00	\$ 7,680.00
World Council 2017								
included on a separate report								
World Travel Fund								
included on a separate report								
GST Refund *	\$ 2,200.00	\$ 733.33	\$ 4,673.00	\$ 3,939.67	\$ 865.00	\$ 5,445.00	\$ 10,983.00	\$ 8,783.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 70,200.00</b>	<b>\$ 23,400.00</b>	<b>\$ 21,152.10</b>	<b>\$ 2,247.90</b>	<b>\$ 39,057.28</b>	<b>\$ 15,691.77</b>	<b>\$ 75,901.15</b>	<b>\$ 5,701.15</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>								
Airfares for Exec meetings	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 2,333.33	\$ 1,302.25	\$ 1,031.08	\$ 1,575.00	\$ 2,147.00	\$ 5,024.25	\$ 1,975.75
Accommodation for Exec meetings	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 320.00	\$ 680.00	\$ 470.00	\$ 614.00	\$ 1,404.00	\$ 1,596.00
Gifts/donations	\$ 600.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 35.00	\$ 165.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 35.00	\$ 565.00
GST on membership	\$ 2,100.00	\$ 700.00	\$ 549.00	\$ 151.00	\$ 886.00	\$ 244.00	\$ 1,679.00	\$ 421.00
Insurance	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 2,666.67	\$ 1,964.00	\$ 702.67	\$ 1,933.00	\$ 1,975.00	\$ 5,872.00	\$ 2,128.00
Consumer Affairs Victoria	\$ 180.00	\$ 60.00	\$ 53.00	\$ 7.00	\$ 127.00	\$ 74.00	\$ 254.00	\$ 74.00
Audit**	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 833.33	\$ -	\$ 833.33	\$ 727.00	\$ 1,937.00	\$ 2,664.00	\$ 164.00



Printing and Stationery	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 333.33	\$ 386.00	\$ 52.67	\$ 1,123.00	\$ 257.00	\$ 1,766.00	\$ 766.00
Postage	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 495.00	\$ 5.00	\$ 598.00	\$ 70.00	\$ 1,163.00	\$ 337.00

### EXPENSES continued

Networking - MU	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 333.33	\$ -	\$ 333.33	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00
Telephone / Internet	\$ 300.00	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 300.00
GFS History/Archives	\$ 200.00	\$ 66.67	\$ -	\$ 66.67	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 200.00
Chairman's Expenses	\$ 900.00	\$ 300.00	\$ -	\$ 300.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 900.00
Chaplain's Expenses	\$ 500.00	\$ 166.67	\$ -	\$ 166.67	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 500.00
Senior Delegate (WC)	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 666.67	\$ 2,015.00	\$ 1,348.33	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,015.00	\$ 15.00	
Junior Delegate (KBP fund)	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 666.67	\$ 1,964.00	\$ 1,297.33			\$ 1,964.00	\$ 36.00	
Website	\$ 600.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 499.00	\$ 299.00	\$ 914.00	\$ 82.00	\$ 1,331.00	\$ 731.00	
World Project (Japan)	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 3,333.33	\$ 14,251.00	\$ 10,917.67	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 14,251.00	\$ 4,251.00	
PNG Project	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 4,347.00	\$ 5,653.00	\$ 6,597.00	\$ 26,235.00	\$ 37,179.00	\$ 7,179.00	
World Travel Fund	included on a separate report								
World Council 2017	included on a separate report								
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 73,380.00</b>	<b>\$ 24,460.00</b>	<b>\$ 28,180.25</b>	<b>\$ 3,720.25</b>	<b>\$ 14,950.00</b>	<b>\$ 33,471.00</b>	<b>\$ 76,601.25</b>	<b>\$ 3,221.25</b>	
<b>EXCESS</b>	<b>-\$ 3,180.00</b>	<b>-\$ 1,060.00</b>	<b>-\$ 7,028.15</b>	<b>-\$ 5,968.15</b>	<b>\$ 24,107.28</b>	<b>-\$ 17,779.23</b>	<b>\$ 700.10</b>	<b>\$ 2,479.90</b>	

\*includes some World Council GST as will 2017/18 report as after EOY

\*\*Audit carried out in 2017/18

## GFS AUSTRALIA INC. PROPOSED BUDGET 2018-2020

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>2018-2020</b>
Membership fees	\$ 18,000.00
Interest	\$ 3,000.00
Kathleen Bright Parker Fund	\$ 1,000.00
World Project Donations	\$ 10,000.00
PNG Project	\$ 20,000.00
World Travel Fund	\$ 5,000.00
GST Return	\$ 4,000.00
National Council	\$ 60,000.00
Mid Term Conference	\$ 40,000.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 161,000.00</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Operational Expenses	
Airfares for Executive meetings	\$ 7,000.00
Accommodation for Executive meetings	\$ 3,000.00
Gifts/donations	\$ 600.00
GST on Membership	\$ 2,100.00
Insurance	\$ 8,000.00
Consumer Affairs Victoria	\$ 200.00
Audit	\$ 2,500.00
Printing & Stationery	\$ 1,000.00
Postage	\$ 1,500.00
Networking - MU	\$ 500.00
Telephone / Internet	\$ 300.00
GFS History/Archives	\$ 500.00
Chairman's Expenses	\$ 1,000.00
Chaplaincy Expenses	\$ 500.00
Senior Delegate (World Council)	\$ 2,500.00
Junior Delegate (KBP fund)	\$ 2,500.00
Website	\$ 400.00
World Project	\$ 10,000.00
PNG Project	\$ 20,000.00
National Council	\$ 58,000.00
Mid Term Conference	\$ 38,000.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 160,100.00</b>
<b>EXCESS</b>	<b>\$ 900.00</b>

## **GFS World Council Report**

**January 2015 to January 2018**

I have asked to present this report as I believe it would be useful information should Australia ever again offer to be host country, but mostly to outline the wonderful support that was given by so many members around Australia, the support which allowed us to run a very successful (according to the evaluation sheets and many emails) World Council meeting.

GFS Australia made the offer to be world host country (2015-2017) after discussion at the 2016 National Council, the motion passed agreeing that Perth would be the venue for the Council meeting. This offer was accepted by the world countries in that year. GFS Australia followed their newly agreed process for electing the World President and I was honoured to be the one chosen. It was a privilege for me, it was a joy to be able to visit so many GFS countries and to meet so many members, church leaders and other faith leaders. It gave me so much unknown information about GFS (and the Anglican Communion) in many parts of the world and that certainly assisted me as we prepared for the World Council meeting.

In preparing my application for the position I always thought of taking on this role as the opportunity to bring to some fruition the attempts of GFS Australia to modernise some of the world's guidelines and practices, something that GFS Australia had been trying to do since June Hillier became World President.

Many Presidents had commented on the difficulty of so little information in the Guidelines as to their role and the role of any other team members. I am known as a communicator and another major goal was to improve the communication between GFS countries. And it was the right time to encourage new countries to begin a GFS ministry. Here I would thank Thembeke from South Africa and Delores from the USA as they worked hard to bring new countries to GFS. It was through their hard work that four new countries were admitted to GFS at our Perth Council with three more countries still considering introducing GFS. I think we achieved all of these goals and so much work was put into the guidelines (now our Rules of Management) and other documents by various members of the team.

I invited people to the world team that I knew would have different skills to help fulfil our goals. Voluntary roles are rarely easy and I am very grateful for the hard work done by the various members amidst their own very busy lives. I believe we worked well together although I am well aware that I am not always an easy Team leader!

I think much of the success of our World Council meeting began with the work we did at the 2015 National Council in Tasmania. Giving the opportunity for dioceses to choose a number of actions they could manage meant that right from the beginning of our term members owned their actions. What great things happened over the next 30 months. I went to the council meeting knowing that most duties were well in hand and organised and that made the time so much easier for me, giving me the confidence to put most of my efforts into the business part of the meeting.

As a world team we started looking at a rough program and costing for council mid 2015. I made a quick trip to Perth to look at SVAC (Swan Valley Adventure Centre but at that stage Swanleigh) Even at that stage after a number of enquiries there was just no other venue that could manage the 250 we thought might attend and that would fit within the usual costing of Council.

SVAC gave us a quote, we considered it rather high and after consultation they agreed to cost our Council gathering at their 2015 prices and that was a very generous offer. However the Anglican diocese then restructured Swanleigh, changed its name and the names of all the cottages, added more outside activities and completed remarketed the venue. We had decided to use the whole of the Centre and so requested a new quote. As more people than we expected asked to live at nearby caravan parks (in the end there were 24 living out) we realised we would not have enough registrations to fill every bed in SVAC. We decided not to use every building at SVAC but to use all the cottages but not the top bunks. We did not receive the final quote from SVAC until very close to the Council meeting so it was difficult to estimate our major cost right to the last couple of weeks.

We received substantial gifts from Perth GFS (\$15,000), Brisbane GFS (\$10,000), Tasmania GFS (\$7000), Sydney GFS (\$500) and a commitment from Melbourne to pay for the IT costs at SVAC, the Flowers and the Water for Delegates. We did not seek any repayment for the items to be paid by Melbourne and SVAC did not charge any extra for IT. Other dioceses also gave major gifts towards the cost of travel, visas, accommodation costs for members not eligible for grants but this report is only in relation to the actual management and cost of the World Council meeting.

The major problem at SVAC was the WiFi or lack of WiFi! I don't think SVAC staff had any idea of the requirements of so many people for such a long period.

There were at least three major medical incidents, including our Assistant World Chaplain fracturing her wrist. Cheryl was an example to us all as she carried on with duties in very difficult circumstances. The injury remains of some concern.

We reported the major concerns from the evaluation forms to the management of SVAC. But on the whole the staff were very generous to us and tried to meet all our requirements. We were conscious that SVAC had not hosted such a long conference with so many people for a number of years and we hope our comments will assist them with any further, similar conferences.

The program seemed to be well accepted. Certainly many complained about the business sessions and the attendance at business sessions was poor. Very few of the young adults attended and perhaps there should be, again, some business sessions just for the young adults to be able to put forward their views about GFS. There are always comments about there not being enough time to see the country they are visiting but I, personally, do not believe that that is a role of World Council meetings. Most appreciated the extra outings we were able to organise on the last days.

We decided to move from an early morning Eucharist each day and Compline at the end of day to different forms of worship at different times. Many said they missed the morning Eucharist, mainly those in the older age groups. It was a joy to have so many clergy attending and it would have been very



very difficult to accommodate all of them in the services offered. I think this is an area that will probably often change as each world team considers what they feel is appropriate.

I was overwhelmed with the number of members who arrived early to assist in setting up SVAC and helping Noels at the Perth office. I had totally underestimated the number to SVAC for meals on that pre Council meeting weekend but it was such a joy and encouragement to me to have so many helping hands. We are so fortunate in Australia to be able to encourage male membership and so many of those male members attended the gathering and were so wonderful in the many ways they assisted. I thank you all.

I want to mention one name and that is Doug Calvert. As most would know Lyn (Doug's wife) was to be World Secretary and Lyn and I had so many plans for what we would like to do and how we would work together. But that was not to be when Lyn found she had a very aggressive cancer and she died while we were in Wales. I know that Doug came to Council to support me and I feel that was to offer some replacement for Lyn. I was very touched with his early offer and so grateful for his support as we thought of Lyn together.

I thank everyone who assisted over the three years and at the World Council gathering. What an amazing amount of preparation was done. I was so grateful to be able to concentrate on business sessions and other communications knowing that all was under control.

We need now to discuss the expected profit from the World Council gathering and you would have seen the paper I wrote. It does embarrass me. As a team we should have been aware that we would be eligible for GST refunds. But we certainly over calculated our costs. It has not been easy to manage our funds when we were not able to open a separate World Account because we do not have a world constitution. South Africa, after many problems, have been able to open an account. The President of GFS in the USA is quite certain that the USA will not be able to open a special account and she is now working on a draft constitution to be discussed at the South African World Council meeting.

I again thank everyone who contributed to our World Council gathering and there are so many. Our success was through prayer and commitment to Our Lord. Our success was our ability to take on responsibility for various activities and to see those activities to conclusion. It was truly serving through GFS.

(Canon) VAL GRIBBLE ML  
GFS World Vice-President

## **Junior Delegate**

### **22nd World Council in Perth, Australia**

“ I was both excited and grateful to have been able to attend the 22<sup>nd</sup> World Council of GFS and to have been able to represent GFS Australia as Junior National Delegate. It has been such an honour and pleasure to have been able to experience and contribute to such a big, united worldwide GFS Family. What a delight to be amongst representatives from so many countries, including new member countries of Mozambique, Honduras, Uganda, Melanesia and Rwanda as they all worked to serve God in teaching the faith and caring for those in need.”

As Junior delegates and young adult representatives we planned some additional activities between business meetings and full conference activities including.

- Bonfire including of course marshmallows, chocolate and wonderful singing
- Shopping!
- Activity Day with Obstacle course, rock climbing, flying fox and archery
- Some debriefing discussions following days programs, meetings , speakers
- Chance for group discussions following the humbling , inspiring presentations by several of the GFS adults who spoke of their particular calls to ordained ministries

The GFS projects undertaken are diverse, alive and growing throughout the world. This opportunity enabled me to meet and befriend many wonderful, kind hearted people . GFS has made this possible for me. Sharing one another's stories and backgrounds was an eye-opener and what a privilege to be able to sit together to brainstorm on concerns and possibilities to improve and help in one another's projects possibly helping their communities and improving people's lives.

The biggest thing I personally experienced was the opportunity to meet such strong, committed GFS members who regardless of the difficulties endured, (particularly in developing countries) were determined , strengthened and encouraged by one another to serve their communities, looking towards future generations, with programs improving education, employment opportunities, social justice, environmental conditions and personal and faith development.”

Some of the diverse ministries amongst girls, women, boys and families, reported on included

- Kids Refresh Camp programs for Japanese children, normally retained indoors due to the continued fear of nuclear radiation contamination
- Continued funding for relocation after 2011 Tsunami Japan
- Training for vegetable growing, chicken, Goat Farms Zambia
- Train the trainer programs for many communities, Melanesia, Papua New Guinea
- Nursing and home help in Widows Villages ( Rwanda)

Äuntie Programs (Rwanda) in wake of genocide and communities being stripped of intergenerational society.

- Sewing Projects, establishing cottage industries in many countries, Japan, South Korea
- Café Grace business training and opportunities, free legal advice, for defectors from Nth Korea.
- Leadership Training (Kenya, Ghana, Papua NQ,)
- Sponsoring Scholarshipsand mentoring Tertiary students from disadvantaged backgrounds (New Zealand)
- Prison visits particularly programs for children of inmates preparing for release.

- Life skills programs (Sri Lanka, South Africa, USA, and many others)
- Playgroups, children's youth, school leavers programs (Ireland, England, Australia, Wales, USA, Sri Lanka)
- Hostel accommodation (Australia, England, Sri Lanka)

We acknowledge important partnerships formed with other organizations in many of these projects (MU, Anglicare, Rotary) particularly in Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Melanesia

### **Key Note Speakers**

During the conference we were addressed by Anglicare WA representatives addressing us on programs of education and support of victims of gender based violence . The conference resolved to support the movement against gender based violence, encouraging programs for education, support and prevention amongst our groups and communities.

Debra Saffrey Collins (Anglican Board of Missions) also spoke, encouraging us in forming partnerships for mission, challenging us all for community engagement, offering our support and resources to Tell, Teach, Tend, Transform and Treasure (all marks of Mission)

### **Some New Projects**

The younger delegates presented the progress report on a GFS Youth Exchange program with the resolve that a second pilot exchange be accepted whereby GFS member countries can offer hospitality, service opportunities for overseas applicants to accept short or long er term international experiences. The first pilot was extremely successful with an Australian and an American member visiting Sri Lanka over a two week period.

Sri Lanka 's application for The 2017-2020 GFS World Project was accepted. Funding will be sought to support English speaking classes along with required support services to enable up to 60 girls to maximise their employment eligibility. Currently Sri Lankan statistics show a 95% literacy rate but only less than 50% English literacy required usually for employment advancement.

Leadership Training events will hopefully be arranged through Australian GFS for our Philippine members.

We congratulate and thank Val Gribble (Rockhampton Diocese) for her contribution as World GFS President over this past three years and her co-ordination of this 22<sup>nd</sup> Council. The final service at Guildford Grammar Chapel included the commissioning of our new World president Thembeke Pama from South Africa, where the 23<sup>rd</sup> World Council will be held July 2020.

Abuok Majuk  
Junior Delegate

## **PNG Support**

2017 was the first time since 2000 when members of our GFS PNG Team have not visited PNG. However we had anticipated this would happen with the World Council in 2017, the uncertainty of the country during the election period and with changes in the structure of the ACPNG (Anglican Church of PNG).

Firstly we would recognise Fr Isaiah Masida's commitment to the role of World Chaplain. He was well aware that it would be difficult for him and I personally would thank The Revd Canon Cheryl Selvage for taking on the Assistant's role knowing that she would be doing far more than an assistance would usually give. This was due to distance, lack of good communication and having a firm knowledge of the workings of World Councils. I am grateful to Brisbane diocese for their gift towards Fr Isaiah's World Chaplaincy and this was invaluable for the communication payments we made so that he could continue to receive World team emails and to liaise with Cheryl. A job well done.

I also thank Brisbane diocese yet again for allowing their gift of two years ago to be used for maintenance of GFS Haus. Much had been done when we visited last year but the serious part of sealing the building against vermin and repairing the major problems with water and sewerage were yet to be done. I had enough money over to send more in the last few months to meet the quote of the carpenter we had engaged. I am waiting for a report of whether the work has been completed.

A number of members from Popondota diocese had hoped to come to World Council but the cost ended up being totally prohibitive and only Mary Bagu (the Popondota President) and Fr Isaiah came from Oro and Mrs Girika Sanata from Port Moresby.

You would remember that Ms Wilma Moi attended our National Council in Tasmania. Later in the year I was asked by the Archbishop of ACPNG to attend their Bishop's meeting to give them further information about GFS. At that meeting they agreed that GFS would be formally recognised as an Anglican Ministry in PNG and that Wilma would be commissioned as the Provincial Coordinator.

Unfortunately this decision of the Bishops was not disseminated to the dioceses or people, nor was a letter of appointment ever given to Wilma. This is not unusual. In that year and in 2016 because of the drought it was decided it was not a suitable time to visit other dioceses.

Wilma also found it very difficult to fulfil the expected duties of commencing GFS in her own parish. She did intend to attend World Council and paid the deposit and although a grant was offered to her for both her air fare and the rest of the council fee (from PNG funds and the special fundraising by the World President) we could not make contact with Wilma for some months and in the end had to forfeit the airfare and advise that Wilma would not attend.

There are many cultural matters involved in all this and Wilma has made contact again. Cheryl, Sue and I had discussions before and at World Council and decided that we would suggest to the new Archbishop of ACPNG that we would not want Wilma to continue in the role of Provincial Coordinator and to appoint Mary Bagu in her place and Girika Sanata as the Diocesan Coordinator in Port Moresby. These appointments are in progress. We spoke with Fr Isaiah, Mary and Girika regarding our recommendations.

Mary has served as Diocesan President for Popondota for 7 years, 1 year more than allowed in the constitution. Fr Isaiah suggested to the Bishop that her term be extended until after World Council. In September a new Executive was elected and although we know all of the executive members, none have the organisational skills of Mary, they have little personal finances (Mary paid for so much from her own teacher's salary) and none have email contact. It is the only GFS country that does not have email contact. Mary is going to be the email contact until we can sort all this out. We have no idea what the future holds. During our meeting at World Council we explained to Fr Isaiah, Mary and Girika that they have to now invite us and tell us what they want us to do, rather than we plan everything and then tell them we are coming. We have been invited to Popondetta next year to conduct computer training. We have replied that this is not appropriate as there are many trainers in the area and is only useful where computers are available. Girika is wanting us to go to Port Moresby and has started working on her request. We wait with prayer.

We suspect that we will be concentrating on Port Moresby, firstly supporting Girika's new branch and in training for leaders and for Girika in her role. (Girika was also supported by Ballarat ladies and from the special fundraising for her attendance at Council). Girika is presenting, on behalf of GFS, to their Diocesan Synod, early December.

At this stage we are not sure we will be continuing our Pastoral Care programs at Newton College, Popondetta as there has been a change in management (Wilma's brother, Father Peter Moi who was the Principal was diagnosed with TB and has now been absent for nearly a year. He will not return to Newton but takes up a position with the national church in Lae in January).

Our aim is to see national leaders take up the GFS leadership roles. We have always aimed for this and we feel that the decisions we have made are the appropriate ones for GFS in PNG.

So we report with hope and with concern and ask for your ongoing prayers and continued financial support.

I thank Cheryl as the co-manager of our support for PNG and Sue for their total commitment to our own GFS Australia commitment to support GFS in PNG. It is Cheryl and Sue who do all the hard work in preparing programs.

Please continue to pray for the people of PNG and for the Anglican Church and GFS members in particular. The election of a new government has brought little difference, in fact more turmoil and life continues to be difficult for so many.

(Canon) Val Gribble on behalf of the PNG Team

## Membership Statistics

Diocese	2015			2016			2017		
	Adults	Children	Branches	Adults	Children	Branches	Adults	Children	Branches
Ballarat	55		1	53		1	55		1
Bendigo	3			3			3		
Brisbane	48	23	5	51	25	4	51	11	6
Gippsland	16		1	21	16	1	12		1
Grafton	12		2	11		2			
Melbourne	21		1	33	46	1	34	43	1
Newcastle	19		1	24		1	24		1
North Queensland	15		15	15	1	5	17	150	10
Perth	24	60	6	32	50	4	34	50	3
Rockhampton	51	12	2	50	12	2	40	9	2
South Australia	7			7			7		
Sydney	15	169	7	16	154	14	17	128	14
Tasmania	34		2	33		1	37		1
Wangaratta	4		1	4		1	4		1
<b>Total</b>	<b>324</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>353</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>391</b>	<b>41</b>

## **GFS Ballarat**

GFS in the Ballarat Diocese continues to operate with a Governing Council of twelve members and a Chaplain. Council organises the four Townsend functions held each year and makes business and financial decisions. We have 43 financial members and four male Honorary members - John Saunders, Ken Loader, Graeme Stevens and John Stuchbery. The Bishop is President of our society. Our Annual meeting is usually held in February when nominations are held for all office positions.

Prayerful and practical support is offered to each other and to those in our Parishes and Communities. Many visits are made to unwell members.

The busy and talented hands of members continue to create many, many items for individuals and organisations here and overseas. Approximately 100 rugs each year, twiddle muffs, warm children's clothes, beanies for Seafarer's and items for prem babies to name a few. Toiletries are collected all year and donated to WRISC for their clients. Financial assistance is given to Anglicare, RFDS, ABM appeals, Access Ministries, GFS Funds, Dream stitches and many other appeals.

Members have attended State meetings in Melbourne 2015, Gippsland 2016 in conjunction with their 130<sup>th</sup> celebrations and Melbourne in 2017. Three members attended the Mid-term conference in Adelaide. Three members Allison Benfield, Wendy Veal and Valda Tregenza represented Ballarat at the World Council held in Perth in July 2017. Our group made camp bags and many items for "pillow gifts" and the "shop".

We celebrate our World day of Prayer each year on 29<sup>th</sup> September. Our Chaplain for 2015 and 2016 was Rev'd Anne McKenna. When she accepted a position in the Bendigo Diocese the Bishop appointed Rev'd Chris Keast to be our Chaplain in 2017.

Townsend days have included Coach tours, guest speakers from Aussie Aid Abroad, Police services, Anglicare to name a few, high tea afternoon teas and theatre luncheons. Christmas outings to The Tangled Maze Restaurant and a Christmas Theatre luncheon with visits from Fr. Christmas, exchange of gifts, Christmas music and a collection for Anglicare to support those not quite so fortunate.

Over the past three years we have been saddened by the death of many members - Gladys Beames, Joan Slade, Lenore Ray. Mildred Crosbie, Evelyn Waddell, Isobel Everett, Vera Sproule, Edith Gardner and Mable Sharp.

**LOWS** - The loss of so many members with several others in high care.

Not attracting many younger members. No branches of young girls operating.

**HIGHS** - The addition of several new members each year. The blessing of three younger Members - Donna, Pam and Tracey.

**LOOKING FORWARD** - To continue to encourage new members.

Be a group that will promote happiness and the joy of being Christians.

To take the opportunity to continue doing God's work as long as we are able to.

We wish our representatives Wendy Veal and Valda Tregenza a rewarding week attending the 2018 National Council.

Nathalie Stevens, Secretary

## **GFS Brisbane**

### **2015 Highs**

- January - Australian Council in Hobart where the Rev'd Cheryl Selvage was elected Vice Chairman and Marj Wellings became an Elected Member of Australian Council. Many GFS Brisbane members attended and had a wonderful time.
- Visioning Day facilitated by the Rev'd Tanya Eichler which resulted in 8 recommendations. Work is underway on these recommendations – Chris Rooney has begun building a closer relationship with the Children's, Youth and Families Ministries (CYFM) at MEC, and is also investigating how a group of young former members might stay in touch via Social Media.
- AGM in March, where Carol O'Ryan – the Pastoral Carer (Chaplain) at the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital was the Guest Speaker. Our Diocesan Project for the year was to help support her ministry by paying her wage for 1 day per week. Her passion and drive for what she does brought many close to tears as she told stories of the children and families whom she comes into contact with. She left with a load of books which members had donated for the children at the hospital. We have continued to support Carol by paying her wage for the 1 day each week as an ongoing commitment to her work, and we continue to collect books and colouring pencils and books for the children to use whilst they are patients at the hospital.
- Leader/Personal Development Weekend in May with the theme 'Inviting and Welcoming' run by Chris Rooney with guest presenters attending and speaking to the theme of the weekend.

### **2015 Lows**

- The sudden death of Austin Briggs, a long-time supporter of GFS, especially of Lesley's ministry, and a GFS Member himself for many years. We all miss him greatly.

### **2015 Joys**

- The continuing popularity of our Outreach Functions where we invite past and present GFS members along to two events we hold each year – one in May and the other in September. In 2015 we visited City Hall for our May event with lunch afterwards at the Shingle Inn. These events usually attract between 25 -30 people. The September event is when we have our GFS World Day of Prayer Service followed by a lunch somewhere, and we use different churches to hold our service.
- The Grants Program that we provide to parishes for their Children's/Youth Ministry. We offer two types of grants – a 'Group Grant' for ongoing groups, of up to \$500, to assist them with purchasing programming material, consumables and craft materials etc. Our 'One Off Grant' of up to \$1500 is for parishes to run a Special Event such as a Camp, Holiday Program or Christmas Pageant etc.
- The Women's Shelter or 'Home Away from Homelessness' especially built facility came to fruition in 2015, and was officially opened by the Archbishop, Philip Aspinall. GFS Brisbane gave an initial seeding donation of just over \$20000 after the sale of 'GFS House' in 2009, so it was a real thrill to finally see their beautiful new facility open in Toowong. We still support them by collecting toiletries for the women who use the facility.



- A great joy was the visit that the Southside Townsend Group had to Murwillumbah to visit the Margaret Olley Gallery at the Tweed Valley Art Centre. We stayed overnight in Murwillumbah and then on Sunday morning went to church with Kate at the Tyalgum Anglican church, then had lunch in the quaint little township before heading home. It was a wonderful weekend of fellowship and fun.

### **2016 Highs**

- At our AGM in March we had the Rev'd Michael Bennett as our Guest Speaker. Michael has a ministry with the Fasi Community in Brisbane. Accompanying him was a member of his congregation who also spoke and gave us some insight into her life journey and how she came to Australia. Our Diocesan Project was to obtain Fasi/English Bibles for this congregation.
- As a follow-up to the recommendations from our Visioning Day to form closer ties with MEC, we invited Jonathan Sergeant, the Education Officer for our Diocese, to attend one of our meetings and speak to us about his work. Jonathan worked on the Bible 360 Program, which has been used by many parishes. He and his team are now expanding the project by introducing a Faith 360 stream and a Mission 360 stream to the program.

### **2016 Lows**

- Falling GFS Membership
- Diocesan Solicitor refusing to look at our Draft Constitution as she declared that we weren't part of the Diocese.

### **2016 Joys**

- Our Outreach outing in May to Aspley/Albany Creek Hornets Club where our first Life Member, Ailsa Skippen, who now lives in a Nursing Home, was able to join us and catch up with old friends.
- The Mid Term Conference in Adelaide saw many of our members attend. It was a great weekend and an interesting and informative program was provided.
- In October our Southside Townsend Group travelled to Pittsworth on the Darling Downs where we stayed for two nights to meet up with past GFS members from Toowoomba and Pittsworth. On the Friday evening a huge crowd of us gathered for a meal at a local restaurant in Pittsworth and had a lovely evening catching up with people we hadn't seen in years. On Saturday we went to the Pittsworth Craft/Food & Wine Festival, before touring the prize winning gardens. That evening we had a great time of fellowship at the home of Leah Moore, chatting over a lovely meal. The next morning many of us travelled to Toowoomba to attend church where Marj and Rhys Wellings son-in-law is the minister.

### **2017 Highs**

- At our AGM in March our Guest Speaker was Marjory Morton from the Second Chance Program, which was our Diocesan Project for the year. The money was used by front-line administrators to help those in hostels transition into accommodation. They pay for removalists, help set up the new home, and help to bridge the gap by supporting the women for 6 months to regain their lives.
- A highlight for me personally was to be elected as Chairman for the third time around!

- Jen Tutin and I had an appointment with the Archbishop to discuss the Solicitors statement re – us not being part of the Diocese. He quickly saw the problem as our Draft Constitution was following the GFS Australia Constitution and the sub-committee dealing with this hadn't removed the Incorporated (Inc) at the end of the title, and had just substituted 'Brisbane' in place of 'Australia'. The Archbishop suggested that we meet with the new General Manager once he came on board – Tim Reid – who is a Solicitor himself, to get him to sort it all out. The Archbishop also stated categorically "Of course you're part of the Diocese!" The follow-up appointment with Tim Reid went well and he is working on a new Constitution for us using the basis of the revised draft.
- World Council in Perth in July saw many GFS Brisbane people being involved. Chris, Roslyn and Kate as part of the World GFS team. Marj and Di as House Mothers to the Korean and Japanese delegation. Myself doing the 'Buddy' system and the Australian item for the Concert night. It was a great idea to insert our various segments between the items from the other countries, and this worked well. Thanks for that Val! The song that I had written to finish the evening was performed with great enthusiasm, so it also went very well. It was wonderful to meet and hear from our GFS friends from around the world.

### **2017 Lows**

- The number of us who came home sick from WC.

### **2017 Joys**

- In May Gail visited us as part of our 135 year Anniversary of GFS in the Brisbane Diocese. Cheryl met Gail when she arrived in Brisbane and brought her that evening to meet with many on the GFS Diocesan Council for dinner. Gail then came home with me to stay in a half renovated house for the remainder of her stay! The next day we went to Government House for our Outreach event where we had morning tea before touring the beautiful historical building. His Excellency Paul De Jersey came and spoke to us before we were split into groups and taken on a tour by very knowledgeable guides. Later some of us went for lunch at the North Shore Restaurant which was very enjoyable. The following day Gail met with a member of MEC who told us about their Itcthus Camps, which GFS helps to fund each year. That evening we went to Aspley/Albany Creek Youth Group which is run by Chris Rooney. We had a great time of fun, food and laughter. On Gail's last full day with us we had a Personal Development Morning where Chris and I presented a Workshop each. That evening the Southside Townsend Group came to my home for dinner with Gail, and everyone brought along some food to share. Gail coped so well in my half renovated house, and it was a pleasure to have her stay with me.
- In September our World Day of Prayer Service was held at Bulimba church and it was wonderful to have the Bundaberg Kids Plus+ Group drive down to join us for this event. The children sang a song during the service that they had been learning and many of them received their 7 year star. I received a huge surprise when I was awarded Life Membership of GFS Brisbane. It was an exciting and humbling experience, and I thank my GFS colleagues for bestowing this honour upon me.
- A great joy for me was that in August, Cheryl Russell took over the role of Grant Coordinator, which relieved me of having to hold down two positions. My thanks to Cheryl for taking over this task.
- As part of our 135<sup>th</sup> Anniversary GFS Brisbane put a Motion to the Synod of the Diocese held in September, giving thanks for 135 years of GFS Ministry in our Diocese. Chris put together a Power

Power Point to go with our Motion, and I spoke to it. A lot of us had made Gingerbread Children, 135 to be exact, to give away to the Synod Reps. The Archbishop wanted it noted that our Motion was carried with acclamation.

#### **Future Plans**

- Proceed with our new Constitution and have it in place in the near future.
- Secure our investment for use into the future by either adding a clause to the Constitution or setting up a Trust Fund.
- To continue to support parishes to provide Children's/Youth Ministry by having Grants available for them to access each year.
- To continue to give two Bursaries each year to students at St. Francis Theological College, who have a passion for Children's/Youth Ministry.
- To continue to support Carol at the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital by paying her wage for 1 day per week.
- To assist Cheryl as much as possible in her term as National Chairman, and help her to prepare and run a National Council in 2021.

Yours in His Service

Jennifer Tutin – Chairman 2015 & 2016

Lesley Briggs – Chairman 2017

## Kids Plus Gippsland

### SOME HIGHLIGHTS 2015-2017

- **2016 Celebrations of our 130<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:** We were thrilled to have GFs representatives from Sydney, Newcastle, Melbourne and Ballarat Diocese to our major celebration in April 2016. This along with the attendance of Bishop Kay Goldsworthy and adults and children from neighbouring affiliated parishes certainly helped raise the profile of GFS. Visitors (100plus) enjoyed the bbq lunch, refreshments and adventure activities provided at the Summit Campsite for our younger participants.



Further 130<sup>th</sup> celebrations were held in two of our deaneries as we hosted reunion afternoon teas and we thanked Bishop Kay for hosting our World Day of Prayer service and Olde Time Rally in her home and grounds of Bishop Court Sale. Great opportunity to renew links with past GFs members.

- GFS currently is the only network in Gippsland providing diocesan children's and Youth events. These have included **\*The Annual Camps** open to all parishes, and usually booked in different diocesan locations each year: 2015 Catherine Creek (Yarragon) "Living the Adventure"

2016 Forest Lodge Yarram "Happiness is"

2017 Forest Edge Neerim East Theme: "Go with the Flow"

Attendance varies between 30 and 45 happily each camp has seen some new participants joining with a regular core and a few new leaders.

**\*Family Traffic School Afternoons** giving us opportunity to extend fellowship to affiliated parish groups including those with playgroups, Mainly Music, or MOPS. Often attended by about 40-50.

- **Adult Friends Group:** meet irregularly 3-4 times annually for luncheons, afternoon/morning teas, visiting local attractions. Thanksgiving Service and Dinners. Approximately 30 on our mailing list for these activities, catering for leaders, their young families and more senior adult friends.
- Gippsland had 3 adults and two 16 year olds attend the **Adelaide GFS Midterm** Conference and three adults were pleased to attend the **Perth World Conference**. We were especially delighted to have been able to support Abuok Majuk in her role as National Junior Delegate.
- **Life membership** certificates and badges were bestowed, with our great appreciation, upon Carol Johnstone, Gale Mowat and Annette Lade during this trimester and we also were pleased to present Kathryn Bartlett with a Silver Filigree Brooch recognising over 13 years of faithful service and leadership to parish and diocese.
- **Activity Equipment Trailer.** Continues to be popular for use by a number of diocesan parishes, the \$50.00 affiliation Fees by non GFS member parishes enables new equipment purchases and trailer maintenance. Used by Playgroups, SU Beach Missions, Parish fetes, camps, community activities, Australia Day, Carols by Candlelight and Parish Family Garage Sales etc.

- **COMMISSIONING OF A NEW GFS CHAPLAIN.** The Reverend Jenny Ramage currently children, Youth and Family Minister of Drouin Parish. Bishop Kay commissioned Jenny. on 23<sup>rd</sup> September for a three year term. We are delighted for this official appointment having benefitted greatly from Jenny's role as Camp Chaplain earlier 2017.

#### **CHALLENGES / PLANS FOR THE FUTURE**

- To maintain a viable, diocesan executive( age/ Ministry /parish representaion))
- To increase our public profile , encouraging parish membership of the wider GFS Family Only one Parish ( Moe) maintains a GFS KidsPlus+ group currently.
- Leader Development/ **Encouragement** a necessity to balance the current ( necessary) emphasis on Safe Ministry Diocesan, State and National requirements

Happily two short LD workshops were held September and November 2017 with plans for follow up series. Small and local attendance but an encouraging start.

- Hope to develop our Adult Fellowship Activities, possible weekend planned for this age group around our State Council Meeting in Ballarat 2018. ( Ballarat Townsend Group could be a great example for us!)
- Continuing our Annual Camps: we have now settled on the 4<sup>th</sup> Weekend in March to assist Parish Planning. Training for Camp Leadership ongoing.

A note of appreciation in recognition of the encouragement Bishop Kay Goldsworthy has given us over this trimester. Her term in Gippsland has only been three years, however her personal support as guest speaker for a Fundraising High Tea ( World Project), Opening her Bishops Court Home for World Day of Prayer and Olde Time Rally, 'Joining in our 130<sup>th</sup> celebration, and being an positive advocate for GFS at all levels of the Diocesan structure. We will miss her encouragement but wish her well with congratulations, as she now takes on the role as Archbishop ( Perth Diocese).

CHAIRMAN: Carol Johnstone

VICE CHAIRMAN: Lauren Kitwood

SECRETARY: Mary Nicholls

## **GFS Grafton**

Over the last three years Grafton Diocese has continued with one branch, being Dorrigo, and also supporting GFS in the Solomons through Casino Church.

After prayer and lots of thought it was decided at our meeting earlier this year to close GFS in this Diocese as there really was no point in remaining for one branch.

We have written to Bishop Sarah stating the position and have received a lovely letter back from her.

Over many years there has been committed leadership and much love poured into the work of GFS. We believe that Mary Elizabeth Townsend, a woman of vision and great love, would understand that times and circumstances do change and therefore we have made this decision.

Dorrigo children's ministry will continue and no doubt there is some other children's ministry in the Diocese - Messy Church being taken up, albeit, once a quarter or once a month in some parishes, including Dorrigo (once a week kid's club and once a quarter Messy Church.)

We wish GFS Australia and GFS worldwide every blessing as you continue to reach out to children and adults through the avenues available through GFS.

With love

Gwenneth Ditchfield

Chairman, Grafton Diocese

## **GFS Melbourne**

Our purpose in serving GFS is to honour and fulfill the motto of our organization – “Bear one another’s burdens and so fulfil the law of Christ”. (Galatians 6:2)

**AGM: 29<sup>th</sup> April, 2017** an election year, with the following nominees elected.

Chairman – Debra Wadeson, Vice Chairman – Elizabeth Petering, Minute Secretary/Treasurer – Leanne Kapetanovski, Committee Member – Doug Petering.

We were delighted that the Rev. Judy Frost accepted an invitation to continue in her valuable role as Chaplain.

**State Day:** was hosted by Melbourne and followed our AGM. Delegates and visitors enjoyed fellowship over a much appreciated luncheon, catered by Olga Forsyth and Pat Lovegrove from St. John’s Diamond Creek. Prior to the business session of the State Meeting we welcomed representatives from some of the Parishes involved in our support packages, who presented detail of their progress. This proved to be a useful and informative session.

**Parish Support Packages:** Since 2015 GFS Melbourne has committed to supporting parishes throughout the Diocese to employ children’s workers and establish children’s ministry within the parish. We have received a lot of interest over this time and ten packages have been granted to date.

The parishes selected to commence in 2017 were:

- |                                 |                                      |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| * St. Martin’s Belgrave Heights | * Anglican Parish of Box Hill        |
| * Brimbank Anglican             | * St. Mary’s Anglican Church Sunbury |

Our Liaison Officer, Helen Petering, has continued to keep in touch with all of these parishes providing practical support, encouragement and prayer. An essential role, professionally conducted, keeping channels of communication up to date.

**Edith Head Hall:** This hostel, owned by GFS Melbourne was leased to Trinity College (University of Melbourne). Our Parish Support Packages are funded by the income received from the rental of this property. In 2016, Trinity College informed us that they were terminating the lease agreement at the end of 2017. This news of uncertain income changed our plans to offer further packages for 2018, as finding a new tenant was a difficult task. We are blessed to have our committee member Doug Petering, whose role is to coordinate the administration of EHH, with his expertise and dedication a suitable tenant has now been secured giving us confidence to start the process to offer packages again.

**World Council Perth: 11<sup>th</sup> July – 21<sup>st</sup> July 2017** it was encouraging that nine members from Melbourne travelled to Perth and participated in this international event. As part of the Host Nation we selected to organize and staff a “General Store” providing essentials for daily needs and quality souvenirs. We recruited assistants from our other Victorian Dioceses. This venture proved to be a very popular and financial success. Another contribution by Victorian male and female members was providing transport by bus and car to over 200 attendees on all manner of journeys.

### **What Next?**

- Form closer links with Parishes which have benefitted from Support Packages so that they may be actively involved in GFS in our Diocese.
- To establish more GFS/Kids Plus + groups in Melbourne.
- Succession planning: - How do we attract people with interest and skills in children's ministry to serve GFS in Melbourne with the similar commitment and enthusiasm demonstrated in the lives of Jean Cheshire, Phyl Whitton and Lorna English, now at peace with God.

In Christ's light, love and service,  
Debra Wadeson  
Chairman,  
GFS Melbourne Inc.



## **GFS Newcastle**

The Townsend group of GFS in Newcastle Diocese continued to meet four times during the year. We have a small financial membership. Following the AGM in February our speaker was the Family and Children's Ministry worker in the East Maitland Parish where she had been a GFS member growing up.

Prior to our next meeting we took Morning Tea to the Retirement facility where Kath Reynolds lives. She was pleased to see us.

Our annual visit to Kurri Kurri TAFE raised money for the World Project.

A small number of us met for the annual World Day of Prayer in Georgetown (minus our Chaplain and National President who were away for the weekend).

Our year concluded with afternoon tea before worshipping together at Christ Church Cathedral, attending Evensong where we were warmly welcomed by the new Dean, Katherine Bowyer, a former GFS member herself.

We look forward to welcoming everyone to the Hunter for Australian Council and meeting you during the week.

Audrey Fuller

Townsend Co-Ordinator

Newcastle Diocese

## **Kidzlink North Queensland**

### **Highs over the past 3 years**

- Our ability to support children's ministry across the Diocese through the provision of resources, grants, support.
- Our inclusion of all children's ministry in our support network e.g. Family Services, Religious Instruction in schools, weekly meetings (very few of those now) other regular meetings such as monthly, in schools, Sunday School at Ministry Units.
- Our continuing to supply the 'bella rae' magazine to Ministry Units across the Diocese as well as some high schools. These are very valued by those who receive them.
- The Celebration of 40 years of our GFS/kidsplus ministry at my home Parish of St. Peter's, West End, Townsville. It was a whole week-end celebration and they came from near and far to be part of it. Our special guest was the World President, Mrs. Val Gribble. We had a great time.
- The 'Messy Church' Workshops run in the Diocese in 2017 at Mackay, Townsville and Atherton. 90 participants gave extremely positive feedback and members of Kidzlink NQ were delighted to receive 'free of charge' a beginner's Kit for MC. The presenters were Glen and Sue Taylor from St. Matthew's Anglican Church at Sherwood, Brisbane. Glen and Sue are the coordinators of Messy Church for Queensland and Northern N.S.W. They were an inspiration to us all. All costs of travel, accommodation, resources were met by Kidzlink Nth. Qld.
- The continuous and valued support of our Diocesan Bishop, the Rt. Revd. Bill Ray.
- We had members who attended both the mid-Term Conference and the World Council in Perth.
- Our close relationship with the Anglican Mothers Union Australia in the Diocese. They offer us all the support that they can and I am presently an Executive Member of MU in the Diocese.
- We have all enjoyed receiving 'Bare Bones' with the news from across Australia, as well as the World Newsletter.
- We were able to assist with the World Council in Perth in July, both financially and from a practical point of view. We were very pleased to be involved in this way.

### **Lows over the past 3 years**

- Certainly, the major low for us was the loss of our darling 'Barbie, Mrs. Barbara Wicks who had been involved in GFS across the Diocese for over 40 years. Barbara's funeral was a great celebration of her involvement with both GFS and MU and both banners were there as we said goodbye. We still miss Barbie.
- While we are satisfied and pleased with the way GFS (Kidzlink) operates within the Diocese, the structure that was such a bonus with GFS is not as evident with Kidzlink. For those of us long-time members, we have the privilege of having lived the journey for so many years. Children's ministry in Parishes 'come and go' and that closeness and relational aspect that characterised GFS for so many of us, is not nearly as strong as it was many years ago.
- And I guess that brings us to the next low – our concern regarding the future of children's ministry within the Diocese. We discuss succession plans and we do have one in place, but sometimes we do

worry. However, we carry on, keep praying, keep reaching out and leave the rest up to our loving and caring God.

**Plans for the next 3 years**

- To continue to provide yearly Workshops across the Diocese.
- To encourage membership of GFS Australia Inc.
- To continue to support our Ministry Units (Parishes) through the provision of financial grants and resources.
- To continue to reach out to the Torres Strait islands area of the Diocese.
- To attend GFS Australia Inc events when they are held.

Jennifer Buckby  
Diocesan Chairman

## **GFS and KidsPlus Perth**

During 2016/2017 GFS/KidsPlus+ Perth has continued to focus on the ministry we have to offer to help people build friendships, support our local communities, connect with Christ and develop their relationship with God.

### **CURRENT MINISTRY AND BUSINESS**

In the middle of 2016 we appointed another part-time Fieldworker Peter Hotchkin to assist Noeleen Stewart in the wonderful work they do supporting the **GFS/Kids Plus+ Groups** that run throughout the year in some parishes. They also lead **Holiday Clubs** in the country and city during school holidays. As well as assist at fetes by taking the Big Games to parishes who have requested them. This gives GFS the opportunity to promote our organisation within the diocese.

Last year not only did we have a wonderful **Mother & Daughter High Tea** run by Noeleen, we also held our inaugural **Dads N Lads BBQ** run by Peter.

We were back in the **Christmas Pageant** on the Nativity float, with a new group of young members representing all the familiar figures involved with the Christmas story. There is a lovely video clip of the event on our GFS website.

This year was the second year of running the **Advent Festival** at the Cathedral on the evening the Christmas lights were turned on around the City of Perth. The Cathedral had a light show on the outside of the building. It was a fabulous opportunity to share the Christmas story about the birth of our Lord with all who came. For one young girl, who came from England, the event was especially meaningful as she took home an angel, which sits on her mantelpiece as a visual reminder connecting her to her young brother in heaven. GFS covered the cost of hiring the Cathedral and produced all the activities for the evening.

**Pamper a Nanna** is a joint ministry where we partner with Janice to bring a day of pampering (hand massages, nails painted), fun, laughter and delectable food to Grandmas who are the primary carers for their grandchildren. Even though the vast majority who are present have no connection with a faith community we still find ourselves being asked to pray for them and their family. It was a humbling experience to be able to offer our services on this day, plus a listening ear to hear their stories.

We were part of the **Perth Together – Prayer for March**. It was a great delight to spend the morning praying for GFS and 125 other churches and missions in Perth during the month of March.

We were part of the **Global Outreach Day** as we hosted a 'Sole Hope Party' on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> May and attended and participated in the **Beacon prayer** event at St George's Cathedral on the Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May.

GFS Fieldworkers ran a **Camp** that was open for all youth and children in the diocese to attend during the

September school holidays. There were facilities for younger children to come during the day like Holiday Club. It was fabulous to have assistance from some of the other members of GFS.

**Reconnecting with Present Members, Plus Recruiting New Members** - on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2017 we held our first 'get together', for what has become a monthly meeting on the first Tuesday of the month, for the members of Townsend Fellowship in the Mina Vincent Room of Townsend Lodge. GFS provides the morning tea, we love seeing who turns up.

New members have joined us this year, which is wonderful. In the years ahead we are anticipating our membership will continue to grow and flourish.

**GFS World Council 2017** – this was a wonderful success with 220 members coming from 22 countries around the world. It was humbling to hear all the ministry that GFS is undertaking around the world. And appreciate once more how blessed I am to be a woman living in Perth, Western Australia (we heard how some members in Sierra Leone lost their husbands due to the Ebola virus).

#### **NEW AND FUTURE MINISTRY**

In 2016 we launched our vision for the next five years, **Awakening – HIS Mission Our Future**. As part of our preparation for the event we compiled a booklet outlining the ministries we intend to establish in the future. Our full 2020 vision can be accessed on <http://www.gfsperth.com.au/homepage-content/awakening-2020-a-vision-for-gfs-kidsplus-perth>

**iCapisce Pty Ltd** – we invested in iCapisce in 2015 and are delighted to hear it has been developed further in the past year, with the target market expanding beyond primary, secondary and tertiary institutions to include preventative and corrective mental health for the elderly. At the moment we are working on getting the GFS landing page completed, plus producing some topics for inclusion on the website. iCapisce will offer an amazing opportunity for GFS be promoted within the wider community amongst people who may never have heard about us and what we have to offer.

**GFS Next Gen** – is our newest group for 16 – 30 year olds, it was inspired by the Young Ambassadors group from USA that we heard about at World Council. On 13<sup>th</sup> November 2017 the inaugural meeting with 6 members present was held at Townsend Lodge. They discussed where they would like to focus their energies, came up with a name for the group, organised to host a monthly dinner for those staying at Townsend Lodge, discussed how to entice other young adults to the group. In this time when many young people feel isolated, even though they have access to Social Media, they want to create a sense of community where young people can feel valued and have something meaningful to do with their time. GFS Next Gen will meet fortnightly throughout the year.

**Parkerville Packages** - GFS bought some brand new toys and gifts to take to Parkerville for the children's Christmas packages. We are looking to deepen our relationship with Parkerville in the future.

**Share the Dignity Donations** – Townsend Lodge was a drop off point in the city for those who wanted to support Share the Dignity. This is an initiative where people fill handbags with toiletries and items that women who may be 'doing it tough' need. On 1<sup>st</sup> December Noeleen and I delivered about a 130 handbags to Bunnings.

**Bella and Strength programmes** - this is an eight-week course that seeks to encourage girls and boys to value themselves and their bodies, respect others, treat others as they would like to be treated, be more intentional in their hobby choices, and think about the quality of the relationships that they want. We look forward to offering these programmes in local schools.

**Who Let The Dad's Out** – this programme is actually run in England and Rev'd Alison Gilchrist here in Perth has been given permission to run it here in Australia in partnership with GFS. We are looking forward to commencing this in the new year.

## **GOVERNANCE**

We now are back up to 10 people on our Executive Committee. After a period of time without a Chaplain it was wonderful to be able to welcome the Reverend Des Smit (Whitfords Parish) as our Chaplain for the next three years. We meet at least 10 times per year. And hold an Annual meeting where financial members are elected to the Executive Committee for the coming year.

GFS Inc is an association incorporated pursuant to the *Association Incorporated Act 2015* and its predecessor. The rights and obligations of its members and Executive Committee are to be found in that Act, its Constitution and by-laws. Those obligations have been and are being met. During the coming year we will be updating our current Constitution and governance to meet the requirements in the Act.

GFS functions as a “para-church” organisation much like CMS. We have a close affiliation with the Anglican Church and any work GFS undertakes within the Diocese does comply with and abide by all Diocesan protocols.

## **TOWNSEND LODGE**

After 46 years the caveat that had been on the land in Adelaide Terrace since 1915 was restored to the Certificate of Title. It was removed in 1970 when the City of Perth resumed some land bordering Adelaide Terrace. When this occurred the caveat was not reinstated. This has now been rectified.

On 25<sup>th</sup> June 2016 we held a meeting for all members to be able to discuss in detail the information that had been given out at the Annual General Meeting in regards to possible options for Townsend Lodge. We decided to hold a General Meeting to discuss the matter further and then vote on what we would do.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2016 we held a General Meeting to discuss the various options for Townsend Lodge. Where a motion was moved that GFS is to manage Townsend Lodge for a period of 12 months and after the 12-month period members are to reconvene to review available options.

After 21 years, Townsend Lodge is back under management by GFS. We have been very fortunate to employ Raylene Hindle as the Manager, and have retained some of the staff who were working at Townsend Lodge prior to the end of the lease. It was not an easy transition the diocese were not as helpful as they could have been. We had a great deal of cleaning, maintenance and repainting that needed to be undertaken to bring the Lodge back up to a standard where people wanted to come back to the Lodge. After 11 months all that hard work is finally being repaid.

The Reverend Des Smit conducted a service to bless the Lodge in September. An invitation was sent to all members inviting them to come and be part of this ceremony.

## **CONCLUSION**

2018 will be the **130<sup>th</sup> Anniversary for GFS in Perth** - this promises to be a wonderful year celebrating all that GFS has offered to Perth and looking forward to all it has to offer in the future. We will be holding 3 events throughout the year catering to families, more mature and young members of GFS. All people within the diocese will be invited to be part of these celebrations.

GFS & KidsPlus have much to be proud of as we continue to offer a wonderful ministry to children, families and adults in the Diocese of Perth. I believe all of us want GFS to grow and be a vibrant force in the future as we move our ministry beyond children and youth to adults of all ages. We truly want to live out the purpose of GFS, which is to give glory to God by bringing people into the full life and fellowship of the Church, by helping them to know, love and serve our Lord Jesus Christ.

Through God's grace may this be so.

The Reverend Josie Steytler

Chair, GFS Inc Perth

## **GFS Rockhampton**

I am going to begin my report by thanking all Rockhampton Diocesan Members who have assisted me in any way, during the past years. Your help and advice has made my role so much easier. So 'Thank you' and may God continue to bless each of you in your ministries.

**Diocesan GFS Meetings** - Four meetings are held annually and the most memorable AGM meeting was in 2015 when the meeting had to be cancelled because Cyclone Marcia crossed our coastline on the day it was to be held. These meetings are faithfully attended by a core group of GFS members, who are committed to continuing and furthering the work of GFS - locally, nationally and globally.

### **LOCALLY**

**Membership** - 42 Adult Members is the consistent number registered with GFS Australia for the past 3 years, with 9 of these being Life Members of Rockhampton Diocese GFS. Children no longer pay registration to GFS Australia only to their branch.

Sadly in 2016 we lost one of our Life Members of GFS, Del Inslay from Biloela and only a two months ago a very faithful adult member, Joyce Lawrie also passed away. Our Fellowship Weekends are held at Cool Waters and this is where Joyce was residing and she loved to join us for our Saturday night dinner.

**Prayer Diary** - this was updated, and gives us the opportunity to pray, both for one another, and also for wider GFS family throughout Australia and the World.

**Birthday Cards** - these are lovingly sent out to all Adult Members, with many indicating their appreciation of this gesture.

**All Saints GFS** - continues to be our only children's GFS branch, meeting each Thursday evening during school term. In 2015-16 there were 12 boys and girls but in 2017 our numbers decreased with 4 children moving to Brisbane and 3 others because of moving onto Secondary School. We had an increase of 3 new members in 2017 and this brought our number up to 8.

**Townsend GFS** - meets fortnightly to share fellowship, prayer and Bible Studies.

**Chaplain's Proposal** – in 2015 a proposal put forward by our Chaplain to offer support for Western Parishes, whether it be prayer support, adopting a parish, providing children's resources etc, was presented and adopted at Synod. Sadly this proposal has been put to the side due to lack of response from the Western Parishes.

**Adult Members Luncheon** – Once again the Luncheons have been combined with the World day of Prayer Service and in 2015 this was held at St Andrew's Gracemere. Members shared in the Eucharist which was based on the World day of Prayer Service. The Members were asked to bring along a memento of School Days and many had wonderful things for a "Show and Tell" Session. Of course, the food was delicious.

Val had just returned from her Japan and Korea trip. She had a lot of lovely items sewn by the Ladies from Japan.

In 2016 and 2017 the luncheons and World Day of Prayer Service were held at the home of Val & Fr Paul Gribble. Val lead the services and members offered up individual flags of the GFS counties.

At our luncheon in 2017 we had great pleasure in welcoming our Australian Chairman Gail. It was a privilege to have Gail visit our Diocese but sadly because it fell in the school holidays, Gail was unable to



visit the sole GFS branch that is at All Saints' North Rockhampton.

**Mini Retreat Fellowship Weekend and Fundraising Afternoon Tea** - Sadly both of these events had to be cancelled , due to the ill health and Family commitments of Leaders in 2015.

In 2016 both the Fundraising Afternoon Tea and Fellowship Weekend were held.

In 2017 the Fundraising Afternoon Tea was held but the Fellowship Weekend was once again not organised as 6 of our members were attending the GFS World Council in Perth in July.

Synod- a report on Diocesan GFS is tabled at the Annual Synod each year.

Concerns: Due to an aging Leadership and Membership Base we the executive do have great concerns about the future of GFS in our Diocese.

### NATIONALLY

**GFS Australia Executive Contact** - Val, Pam and Lyn attended Australian Council in Tasmania in January 2015. Val was the only representative at the Mid Term Conference in 2016. During the past 3 years we have receive periodical correspondence from our Australian Chairman and Secretary, and this has kept our diocese informed of most matters as discussed by the National Executive.

**GFS Australia Executive Membership** - Val Gribble is a representative on the Australian Executive.

**Bare Bones** - The majority of our adult members received *Bare Bones*, either by email or post and is enjoyed by our members.

### GLOBALLY

**GFS World Projects** - We continue to support World Projects and proceeds from our Adult Luncheon and Fundraising Afternoon Teas are earmarked for this. "Our Val" who was the current World Chairman regularly updated us with World News.

**World Council** - Rockhampton Diocese funded the cost of the lanyards and name cards for all attending The World Council in Perth.

As mentioned earlier, Annslie & Ken Stovell, Pam Guy, Lyn Reeves, myself (Jacqui Keily) and of course Val attended World Council in Perth.

### Conclusion

This world is an ever changing place, and the concept of GFS that many of us have grown up with, and have fond memories of, is no exception. I pray that God will continue to be both our guide and our companion, as we face these changes, and as we continue to grow and make up 'Many Parts of One Body.'

Yours in Christ

Jacqui Keily

Co-ordinator

## **GFS South Australia**

GFS in South Australia represents the dioceses of Adelaide, Willochra and The Murray.

Over the past three years there have not been any active branches in South Australia.

GFS in South Australia is still searching for ways to keep up the aims of GFS and find people carry out the ministry in a way to meet the needs of today's society.

A small band of members meet regularly to manage the correspondence, finances and liaise with the Mother's Union and Australian Church Women. This team has co-ordinated luncheons and encouraged members and friends to come along. This group also prays for and supports any ministry with family and children in their parishes. In 2016 we hosted the GFS Australian Mid-Year conference which was held at the Nunyara Conference Centre at Belair. We enjoyed the opportunity to support the work of GFS in Australia.

Four representatives attend the 2017 World Council Meeting in Perth, Western Australia.

The Adelaide and The Murray do not have any activities for children or families organised by the wider dioceses but the Willochra diocese does conduct children and family days two or three times a year.

We look forward to meeting with the newly appointed Archbishop of Adelaide, Geoff Smith. Archbishop Smith has been working to discover ways to reach out to the people in the diocese after a long time of very little children's ministry and we look forward to working with him. Our small team needs to be honest in what we can offer. There is a generation gap and our energy levels are lower than in the past.

There is still a lot of experience and ideas which can be offered.

Mrs Janice Doyle

GFS Chairman

## **GFS Sydney**

### **Statistics**

**Playgroups which have GFS Sydney involvement:** Austinmer, Goulbourn, Marsden Park Quirindi, Portland, St Clair, Scarborough Qld, Westmead (three day's a week)

**GFS / KIDS CLUBS operating in Sydney:** Austinmer, Beecroft, Berowra, Camden, Engadine, Oakhurst, St Clair.

**Women's Group:** Sydney

**Number of Groups:** 16

#### **Membership:**

Members over 18 years	Female: 60	Male: 0
Members 12 -17 years	14	0
Children 5 - 12 years	103	21
Children under 5 years	(No numbers for Playgroups given)	

**Sydney Chaplain:** Rev. Tony Galea JP

### **Major Highlights and Joys**

Our theme for 2017 was "Getting Connected" with God, with our girls and with members from Sydney, Australia and the World.

Our GFS Ministry:

- To Playgroups: We currently have seven groups involved in using our programmes. Westmead Playgroup runs a separate group three days a week, and their church is very enthusiastic about our involvement. In November GFS Sydney took leaders and ran a "Little Teddy bear's Picnic day at their Church which was open to the first 50 children registered. The day was wonderfully attended by children and parents.
- GFS and Kids' Clubs: We closed the year with six active branches, spread out over Sydney with approx. 140 children and 20 leaders. We also had members of the Board of Management visit branches, so we could see in what ways GFS Sydney could help them. We were also able to let the children know about GFS World Council, giving them a better understanding of how GFS spreads the word of God in different ways in different countries. The "Sydney Girl's Camp", was held in the September school holidays, at Baden Powell Scout Camp, the theme was "Under the Sea", all the usual activities were included and all went home happy but very tired.
- Women's Ministry: In 2017, our members were able to meet together on five organised occasions.
  1. Car trip to Mittagong 4 Mar 17,
  2. Annual GFS AGM and lunch, at Camden 8 April 17,
  3. Autumn Luncheon at Shalvey 20 May 17,
  4. Train, bus to Coogee 26 August 17 and
  5. End of year Christmas Celebration with dinner and Service 13 December 17.

Members were also able to come together on our monthly prayer days, the 13<sup>th</sup> day of each month, these are held at different areas around Sydney. Some of our sick or recuperating members were visited in hospital or at their homes, or they were sent a Get Well card.

- Mother's Union: GFS Sydney was represented at the Annual Mother's Union Festival Service and luncheon that was held at St Andrew's Cathedral Sydney.
- GFS World Council: Five members attended the 22<sup>nd</sup> GFS World Council in Perth between 11<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> July 2017. (Members of our Women's group had been busy making many pillow gifts, these we were able to be given out at World Council.)

### **Plans for the next 3 years**

- To organise and run the Sydney Girls' Camp and encourage more girls to attend.
- To continue to promote our playgroup ministry. We have many churches with playgroups but very few have the help and support from anyone outside their parish.
- To encourage prayer in our membership by holding Prayer days & creating and distributing a prayer diary 4 times a year
- To hold outings for women to have fellowship together
- To look at ways we can promote GFS via our website and other appropriate media
- To continue to communicate with our membership via letters, emails and a newsletter (4 times a year)
- To support the World Project and the Australia project
- To develop Pastoral Care Cluster Groups
- To continue to provide resources and programme material to GFS leaders
- To train leaders in the GFS component so they can be commissioned as GFS leaders
- To help more leaders to attend courses in Children's ministry, by using our Deeth Award.
- To give recognition to those who have and are still serving God through GFS, for many years.
- To organise our historical documents so that they can be archived appropriately

### **To conclude**

Many thanks must be given to the Board and members for all their hard work during the last couple of years. Although the coming years are sure to be full of more changes and challenges, I am constantly being reminded in Proverbs 3:5-6 "Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek His will in all you do, and He will direct your paths."

With love and blessings

Lyn Vaak

GFS Sydney Chairman

## **GFS Tasmania**

### **Highlights and Joys**



We continue to meet with the Townsend group in the South which has been going for 36 years with the same leader, Betty Dean, caring for this group.

- New members are joining this Townsend group
- Visit by Gail Orchard – travelled to meet with members in the north of the State followed by some time with the Executive group and the Southern Townsend.
- Participation in the world and national events – still some members with these links to keep us all aware of our worldwide focus
- With our secure financial base, we are able to support to many different events and projects – from World Council (travel fund and to provide for the youth events, support for our members travelling to World Council), members' support to travel to National Midterm Conference, Council and AGM, support for Mainly Music groups within Tasmanian churches – and are keeping links with these groups, special projects within the diocese – Heartz Ministry (working through horses and donkeys), Sam Gough working with subcontinental students and medical students at the University. Always looking for new projects to support and encourage.
- Enthusiasm for projects such as knitting the bears and in the many trade tables with a special focus (e.g. World Project)
- Storing the photos and other special materials from our History book project into archive safe book to keep for our members to enjoy.
- Strong fellowship amongst members – particularly as they move into nursing homes – still caring for these members.
- Synod – always try for a subtle presence (eg giving out pens for each member).

### **Lows**

- Our aging groups mean that we have had several members pass away and others have become less able to participate as they have moved into nursing homes.
- Harder to meet often, travel becomes a smaller zone of interest and the responsibilities fall on fewer shoulders.
- Looking to the future – uncertain about our future beyond next 5 years?

### **Plans for the coming years**

- Townsend group continues to go strongly into its 37<sup>th</sup> year with two new members
- Leadership of the Townsend group – support for Betty as she leads the group but forward looking to the time when Betty decides to step aside.
- Continue supporting projects, new ones to be decided at our Annual General Meeting – exciting to be able to seek out new projects and offer them support. We enjoy the feedback and reports of their progress as we sponsor them. We are also looking towards national and international projects to continue to support.
- Meet with our northern members – make an annual event to meet with them over a luncheon.
- Welcome our next National Chairman to visit our state.

**Julie Smith, GFS Tasmania Chairman**