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# CHANGING LIVES TOGETHER

ANNUAL REPORT 2017/18

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Australian Churches of Christ  
Global Mission Partners





Cover Image: Lady from Lomawai Church, Fiji

Above: A boy drinks from the borehole drilled by Showers of Blessings. Boreholes give communities life-changing safe water in rural Zimbabwe.

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## WHAT A YEAR!

Every year, your impact is worth celebrating! Your generosity changes the lives of many, and makes a difference to people in need. Read on for a small selection of important highlights you've helped achieve.



# CHANGING LIVES TOGETHER

Global Mission Partners (GMP) occupies a special place in the life of Churches of Christ. GMP is a national agency of Churches of Christ and we carry this corporate identity through our work. Our role is to be in-between. We link local churches in Australia with churches and communities and their real needs – spiritual, physical and communal. These relationships are at the heart of the way we go about our work. Together with the partners in Australia and internationally, we are investing in actions that change people's lives for the better.

It would be easy for GMP to understand its work as bringing expertise and resources to communities that need it; however, this is not the case and has never been so. GMP is a servant to and of our partners, both in Australia and internationally. No one is the expert and no one has all the power, because we are serving each other for the sake of Christ and Christ's church.

Our role is not to tell others what they should or should not do. Equally our role is not to be passive and to not contribute anything. GMP is in, and values, partnership and so we walk alongside our partners to see what we can do together. It is a wonderful way to work and reflects our heritage of partnership.

The implications of this approach determines our work and opens up the challenges. One challenge is to use the resources at our disposal to gain the greatest effect. This means that GMP and our partners have the freedom to say 'yes' and 'no' to each other. We work in a manner that seeks to set aside dependency.

Working in this way during the past year has meant shifts in the way we partner. In our visits to partners, a new dialogue is emerging that articulates different questions and themes to the past. It is not so much about GMP telling, but exploring what is possible into the future. To achieve this, we have increased our levels of contact with our partners ensuring that this contact is with people trusted by our partners. Such a change in operation requires a greater face-to-face investment of time, including electronic means and physical presence. This process is costly in human and financial terms.

Through face-to-face contact, relationships deepen, honesty and trust grow, and shared decision making becomes the norm. This change is taking root after

many years, and is being shaped by GMP's ongoing investment. Our partners are now feeling safer to be more honest and direct. GMP is facing up to the reality that our history may not have always been positive for others. This has led to mutual expressions of regret and the seeking of forgiveness.

An important part of this process is seen in our response to the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse and the launch of the National Redress Scheme. The GMP Board has a Task Group that is assisting the Board in considering what it means to 'opt in' to the Redress Scheme.

The environment GMP finds itself responding to poses challenges. We are taking initial steps in preparing a new Strategic Map for the years beyond 2020. This is a process that will take a large part of next year to complete. It will set a direction and path for GMP as we engage with partners, churches and supporters.

During the past year GMP completed some work into our branding and identity. With the appointment of a Marketing Manager we explored how to more effectively communicate with and involve GMP supporters. We are becoming more intentional about the ways we understand our opportunities, and how we positively communicate them.

The broader economic and governmental environment continues to be challenging. The lack of an increase in Australia's Foreign Aid budget and the general economic environment all affect our work. The government's resistance to the Uluru Statement has been disappointing for many Indigenous and non-Indigenous people alike.

GMP wants to be known for the way we partner, the relationships we have in Australia and internationally, and the difference that is being made by our work.

This difference will continue to be seen in lives changed, churches planted and developed, people empowered, and churches in Australia knowing they are helping to make a difference.


Thank you to you our supporters, churches, Board members, staff and partners for your part in making 'life changing partnerships' possible in Australia and internationally.



Barrie Yesberg  
Board Chair



John Gilmore  
Executive Officer



Colin Scott, COCOA Director, and Boniface Mpfu, Director of Showers of Blessings, visiting recipients of boreholes in rural Zimbabwe





Suzanne Hayes, COCOA Program Officer, and Esline Toa, Secretary General Churches of Christ Conference Vanuatu.

## HIGHLIGHTS AND CHALLENGES

**GMP is taking new steps for the future and moving into a time of change. We can see that important decisions need to be made in the next few years, decisions that relate to the focus of GMP and our leadership structure.**

As part of preparing for this, the position of Deputy Executive Officer has been created. Staff resources are being reshaped to clarify the roles of Partnership Coordinators (church focused), as well as introducing a new Supporter Care area led by Val Zerna. Additionally, with the completion of the huge task of implementing a new database, website and donor management system, we are moving to make more use of the information that this software unlocks. In this competitive environment, we can never rest or become complacent. Staffing changes in the marketing and communications area will give more energy and opportunity as we move forward.

2019 has been designated as a year of strategic planning. During this year GMP will engage in a consultative process involving partners in Australia and internationally, and explore where we believe GMP needs to be in the coming years. This is all being done in an atmosphere of hope and positivity.

Here are some further highlights and challenges from the past year:

### Indigenous Ministry

The partnerships that GMP has in Australia with Indigenous communities are growing and becoming stronger. In the past year the Dareton Youth and Community Centre has increased its impact so that more and more people are being included in their programs. The leadership of Brendon Garlett and Ilker Deli has been instrumental in this, as has been the support of many volunteers and the Mildura Church of Christ.

### International Partnerships

GMP's international partnerships are in a good space. There is increased involvement with church and community development activities in several settings. One highlight is the development of a leadership team for the United Churches of Christ in Vietnam. GMP has now sponsored two gatherings of church leaders and can see the development of relationships between local churches and improved outcomes in church life.

### DFAT Accreditation

The initiative to become accredited by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) is bearing fruit. This has been most obvious in Vanuatu. Through our involvement in the DFAT Church Partnership Program we have resourced Churches of Christ in Vanuatu to lead part of the response to the evacuation of people from Ambae. We can see the benefit of being accredited in these new ways of working in Vanuatu.

### New Partnerships in South Sudan

This country torn apart by civil war, where tribe is against tribe, needs to find a new way of working towards peace. The newest GMP Partner is the LAID Foundation of South Sudan (LAFOSS). Its first project is focused on peace building. The project trains community leaders and high school students from different tribes in peace building. The students will set up Peace Clubs in the 25 Juba high schools that they attend. This is a project that sews seeds of hope for the future.

### Local Church Engagement

Local church engagement in Australia continues to be a priority for GMP. Many local churches have little strategy in the ways that they engage in global mission. Good engagement in mission (local, national and international) needs intentional, transparent and creative leadership. The GMP Board is committed to working with local churches and to resourcing our individual supporters. Related to this is the level of competition for access to local churches by mission organisations that are competing for local church resources and, at the same time, are not accountable to the setting from which they seek funds.

### embody Review

The embody network is going through a period of re-focusing. With a new national leadership structure and the results of an independent review, a clear direction has been set for embody. embody is a national community of young people passionate about and participating in mission, locally, nationally and globally. embody is part of the GMP family. Its purpose is to engage young people in mission together – locally, nationally and globally. Out of this clarification will emerge a new strategic plan.

### Leadership in India

Not everything that GMP does is easy or straightforward. We continue to wait to have serious leadership matters in India resolved. The Conference of Churches of Christ in Western India has been factionalised for many years. This division has compromised the effectiveness and stewardship of our work. GMP has already given two years of warning that if these matters are not resolved, then we cannot see our partnership continuing. The lack of audits, doubts about project effectiveness, and the loss of the Conference Foreign Contribution Account that makes it possible for GMP to transfer funds for church projects, all complicate this picture. We are at a critical moment after a partnership of over 110 years.

### National Redress Scheme

GMP has inherited the history of Australian Churches of Christ Indigenous Ministries (ACCIM) and its care of 1938 children. We are in the process of deciding whether to opt in to the National Redress Scheme. We are aware of potential claimants and are assessing the potential impact of claims on the resources inherited from ACCIM. If we opt in, what is the impact on the work of GMP? If we do not, what does that say to those abused when in the care of ACCIM? This is not a simple decision and we also know that any future is best built on integrity, and not on the suffering of others.

### DFAT and Church-Based Bodies

There are changes to the Australian Government's regulation of, and attention being given to, churches and their related organisations. In an audit led by DFAT, we were told that the auditors are being required to focus differently on church-based bodies, due to the reports of children being vulnerable in church communities.

There are proposals to regulate Australian bodies in relation to

- Overseas 'orphanages';
- Child safeguarding (protection);
- The sending of funds to individuals overseas;
- Individuals (men) who travel 'independently' on mission trips;
- Standards for volunteers who travel overseas, and
- Standards for staff of agencies like GMP.

Some of these matters are being driven by recent publicity, the work of the Royal Commission, and the regulation of money transfers due to the risk of terrorism. In each of these matters GMP staff are engaged with the staff of other agencies to ensure that the regulations implemented are realistic and reasonable.

We need to be very clear. Many churches proudly support 'orphanages' that often operate outside of formal mission agency structures. Often these orphanages have few, if any, standards to safeguard children, little transparency in relation to the use of money, poor staff-to-child ratios and no screening of volunteers.

When we raise such issues as these with local churches, the response at times is to reject our input with the comment that "GMP is too controlling!" We are called to the protection of children and our standards need to reflect this. When we do so, we also care for our identity as Christ's church.

### GMP Board, Staff and Partners

None of what we do is possible without the commitment of the Board and our staff. I am humbled by the ways that Board members engage with GMP and the ways our staff do more than what is expected of them according to their role descriptions. Thank you to everyone.

John Gilmore  
Executive Officer





Bruce Edwards and a local church member praying together, Fiji

## STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

GMP is blessed with a strong staff team of committed people seeking to fulfill our purpose. Staff appointments are made to assist us in meeting the challenges and priorities outlined in the GMP strategic plan.

We farewelled Cindy Haidar from her role with International Church Partnerships. Cindy has been instrumental in developing this area of activity, and was also involved in the implementation and launch of the GMP website and new Donor Management System.

We also farewelled Mitch Varcoe from his role with embody. Mitch commenced as a volunteer and then became embody's Campaigns Manager, with input into Safe Water September and other embody events.

April Holmes also concluded as the Vic-Tas embody Relationships Manager and Kirsten Luz as the Queensland embody Relationships Manager. Both made valuable contributions to the development of embody and Safe Water September. After a series of discussions about ways that GMP could work closer with NSW's Fresh Hope, a joint position was created for a Mission Catalyst. This role links embody and the ministries of Fresh Hope. Jessie Skelly is the new Mission Catalyst.

After 20 years of service, initially as a volunteer, Anne Hughes has retired. Anne was the person on the phone many people got to know. Her quiet, warm and efficient contribution to our admin team is missed and we wish her a happy retirement. Susan Thomas has

joined the admin team, along with Audrey Lim, and together they focus on receiving.

Another retirement was Jenny Mountford, the GMP Bookkeeper. In her work Jenny was detailed and hardworking. She developed systems and was encouraging and supportive in her role. The new Bookkeeper is Katrina Davidson, and we enjoy having her as part of our team.

Matt Hornby concluded as the Marketing Manager to take up a ministry appointment in Queensland. This was the first time that GMP had a person in such a role and he introduced new ideas, concepts and ways of thinking about our work and identity.

David Gee was the part-time Assistant Accountant in Adelaide and he has moved on to a full-time position as Business Manager with a Baptist church. Kanchi Gebrekiros is now the GMP Assistant Accountant and we welcome her to the team.

We also welcomed Colin Battersby as the WA Partnership Coordinator with a focus on Indigenous partnerships. He is seeking to develop new networks and partnerships with Western Australian churches and Indigenous ministry settings.

## YOUR IMPACT THIS YEAR

This year your support

Reached

**11**  
Countries

supporting

**Church Partnerships**



**Relief and Development**



**Indigenous & Ministries**

Assisting  
**10**

**Indigenous ministry projects**

**15**  
Relief & Development projects

and more than  
**520**  
International Churches & Preaching Points

Celebrating

Over —  
**385**  
baptisms

Giving

**4600**  
people access to —  
**Safe Water**

& giving

**903**  
children access to —  
education

## Meet Unite

Like most parents, Unite is concerned for her children's safety and wellbeing. As a teacher, she cares about their education and their future. Living in rural Zimbabwe, worrying for her children's lives was once a daily reality.

Unite's children are growing up in a community where safe water was once scarce. Without safe water the children were susceptible to preventable, easily treated diseases like diarrhoea which could be severe or even deadly.

As she reflects, Unite grows sombre. It was difficult to watch children as they collected water. She remembers a time when children from the community drowned in the river as they retrieved drinking water.

As a teacher, Unite saw the devastating impact that a lack of safe water had on children's education. Children would become sick, forcing them to take time away from classes. Teachers also stopped attending work for fear of becoming sick.



Showers of Blessings drilled a borehole in Unite's community, making safe water available. Now, the community has been able to rebuild its school. Unite is thrilled to report that many teachers are applying to teach. As a result, education has become easily accessible to local children.

The borehole has restored the community with health, dignity, education and safety. As she tells of the changes the borehole has made in her community and the lives of her children, Unite runs out of words.

*"I'm too excited."*



# OUR PARTNERS AROUND THE WORLD



- International Church Partnerships (ICP) Projects
- Churches of Christ Overseas Aid (COCOA) Projects
- Indigenous Ministries Australia (IMA) Projects
- embody Communities



**Australia**  
**Projects:** IMA, embody  
**Areas of work:** Indigenous Ministry and embody campaigns



**India**  
**Projects:** ICP, COCOA  
**Areas of work:** Church partnership and welfare programs (ICP); livelihoods (COCOA)




**Bangladesh**  
**Projects:** ICP, COCOA  
**Areas of work:** Church and leadership development (ICP); education (COCOA)



**Indonesia**  
**Projects:** ICP  
**Areas of work:** Church and leadership development (ICP)




**Fiji**  
**Projects:** ICP  
**Areas of work:** Church and leadership development (ICP)



**Papua New Guinea**  
**Projects:** ICP, COCOA  
**Areas of work:** Church and leadership development (ICP); education, access to healthcare (COCOA)



**South Sudan**  
**Projects:** ICP, COCOA  
**Areas of work:** Church and leadership development (ICP); education, livelihood development (COCOA)



**Vietnam**  
**Projects:** ICP, COCOA  
**Areas of work:** Church and leadership development (ICP); livelihood development, water and sanitation (COCOA)



**Thailand**  
**Projects:** ICP, COCOA  
**Areas of work:** Church leadership and development (ICP); livelihood development (COCOA)



**Zimbabwe**  
**Projects:** ICP, COCOA  
**Areas of work:** Church and leadership development, supporting evangelists (ICP); vulnerable children, water and sanitation (COCOA)



**Vanuatu**  
**Projects:** ICP, COCOA  
**Areas of work:** Church and leadership development (ICP); community development, (COCOA)





## INTERNATIONAL CHURCH PARTNERSHIPS

International Church Partnerships (ICP) focused on impacting the global church by supporting our international church partners in their mission commitment. We do this by connecting Australian people and churches to those across the nations so that we can support, encourage and resource the work of the gospel in Bangladesh, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, South Sudan, Thailand, Vanuatu, Vietnam and Zimbabwe.

Community welcome, PNG



International  
Church  
Partnerships





Worship at Lautoka Church, Fiji

## CREATING DYNAMIC PARTNERSHIPS

**The investment by the people and communities of Churches of Christ in Australia in international mission is often interpreted as something that we do for others.**

Through ICP, GMP resources more local Churches of Christ congregations overseas than there are local Churches of Christ churches in Australia. In addition, there are church planting programs, schools, child support, medical services, community development initiatives and income generation projects.

These international partnerships are dynamic and creative and, in several settings, undertake their ministries where they are minority communities that face discrimination and levels of governmental control.

What we do through support, guidance, investment and mentoring is important. However, there is another rich opportunity before us. This opportunity is to allow these partnerships to become resourcing and renewing partnerships for us in Australia.

This involves a shift from a transactional understanding of partnership to a dynamic two-way partnering. The focus moves from deputation visits where partners come and tell us their story and we listen warmly and politely, to a situation where with vulnerability we ask, what is God saying to us through our partners? Asking such a question means we enter into a partnership that has the primary goal of mutual learning and discovery.

Opportunities could include: What does a community development church planting program look like? What does it mean to invest as local churches in the strengthening of the community where we are set? How might we respond to the social situation of our settings, so the church has growing credibility? What new opportunities exist for us to embrace change and release human and spiritual resources to have a focus on making God's Kingdom real on earth?

We are not saying that these initiatives are not already being taken up in Australia. There is an opportunity, where together, with our international partners, we can be stronger communities of learning and growth for the sake of God's mission. The renewing of the church in Australia and the life of GMP's church partners are fundamentally connected. At GMP we desire to see the church in Australia and our international partner churches flourishing together in a journey of common renewal and growth.

A second dynamic is also before us. This is the potential of an international gathering of our partners for their mutual learning and encouragement. This could be by means of a group of two or three partners visiting another. It could also be a gathering for training, inspiration and encouragement.

## Sherley's Story

Sherley, a former student at Shrigonda, attended the centenary celebrations and declared: *"I am a witness to this day because it was my primary school. It was precious for me to see. I enjoyed being a speaker on the day and writing for the school magazine."* Sherley studied at both primary and high school at Shrigonda. After school she studied nursing. Now, she lives in Mumbai with her husband and adult son, working as a centre manager and volunteering as a social worker, as well as being president of the local Church of Christ. Sherley has a heart for the local church, social issues and encouraging various initiatives within the slum community. *"I am very happy to say I am working with the poor people – working in the slum area so that people are knowing God."* Sherley is very thankful for the Churches of Christ in Western India, GMP and the opportunity to receive an education through boarding at Shrigonda, which has given her *"a good position in life."*



### In 2017/18:

GMP had Church Partnerships in **10** Countries

supporting more than **520** Churches & Preaching Points

who celebrated over **385** baptisms

## A New Motorbike for Evangelist Sichoni!

Evangelist Sichoni always dreams big in his work and for a long time was dreaming of a motorbike to make travelling to remote locations easier. Sichoni received a new bike in February 2018. He is excited, and grateful to all the people who contributed to buying him the bike.

Sichoni says, *"It's now easier for me to evangelise."*





# ICP PARTNERS AND PROJECTS



Baptisms in Bangladesh

## Bangladesh

The focus of the Churches of Christ in the Bandarban Hills is outreach. They are committed to growth and are active in reaching out to neighbouring animist tribal communities. Pastors sometimes combine school teaching with their evangelistic work. In another setting, the evangelist is a pharmacist who runs a simple pharmacy. In all cases, the schools and medical support are fully available for all people in the hope that relationships might be built, and Christian faith shared.

Seeking to respond to the situation of women in the Hill Tract communities, a second initiative is the commencement of an intentional ministry to women, led by women. There are many opportunities to address social concerns, encourage women and open up new ministry opportunities for them.

## Fiji

Over the past 20 years, the Australian Churches of Christ investment in Fiji has been on church planting and development. In more recent years, we have been working with the pastors through the guidance of Bruce Edwards to form a spirit of unity and a sense of teamwork. This is happening, and the pastors are becoming more active in supporting each other. Signs of this change can be seen in the greater openness of people to each other and the enthusiasm from the pastors to have time together.

A current challenge is the provision of buildings for two of the churches. The property at Vuci Road has been extended and renovated, and much improved as a meeting space.

After land was donated, the church at Lomawai has worked together to finance and build store rooms and a toilet block. Their building is a simple shelter. There are plans to construct walls and make the structure more weather proof and permanent.



Plang Church, Thailand

The church at Lautoka meets in a rented facility used by other churches on a Sunday, and this limits what the church can plan. We have begun to explore a permanent facility for this growing church community.

The most established church is at Nakasi. It has been a year of ups and downs with the congregation needing to take more responsibility for its own life and circumstances.

At the end of 2018 Bruce Edwards concludes in his role. He and his family will return to Australia. We appreciate the leadership of Bruce and the commitment of his family to Fiji and we wish them well for the future. ICP will continue to provide support and mentoring to the pastors and churches with ongoing regular contact. The house at Nakasi will be sold, and the proceeds used to ensure that each church has a building for worship and a sense of security about the future.

## India

Changing rules in relation to the sending of funds to India has made it impossible for ICP to send funds to support the ministries as we have in the past. The Conference management is being restructured, and this is happening with the hope that with clear leadership and accountability the Foreign Contributions Account can be reopened and ICP can once again be an active supporter of the ministries of the Churches of Christ in Western India.

## Thailand

The Church of Christ in Thailand is reaching out to communities, including ethnic minorities. Typically these communities have been nomadic and settled near farms where they can find labouring work. They have few rights and are easily exploited. Churches are being established in these communities, and young people are being trained as leaders. At the moment there are two young women being supported in their theological studies as they prepare for leadership in their churches. Both are excited about their three-year course and are hopeful about the future.



Student Pastor, Derek, and Hery Susanto, Indonesia

## Indonesia

The commitment to church planting runs deep in Indonesia. The shared goal of the three Churches of Christ networks is the planting of churches in settings lacking Christian witness. Training systems and church structures are set up to support these initiatives. One of the Indonesian church-to-church partners is investing in several new church plants, each of which has self-support and sustainability as a goal. Other ICP activities support the training of church planters, and provide encouragement and input via the mission training schools.

## South Sudan

There are many opportunities in South Sudan and many challenges. The ICP focus includes the provision of a chaplain at the Emmanuel School and support for outreach initiatives to refugee camps, most recently to South Sudanese refugees in Uganda.

## Zimbabwe

Growth in the ministries of the Associated Churches of Christ in Zimbabwe continues. The demand for pastors is increasing due to the growth in the number of churches and the size of congregations. Two students commenced ministry training at the Zimbabwe Christian College, Harare, and at the end of their three-year course will take up positions as pastors.

During the year, more motorcycles were supplied and support was provided for evangelists. This was in response to a particular appeal for help, and another response was given in memory of a person whose life was committed to mission. This year one motorcycle was also made available for the female pastor who coordinates the women and children's ministries in three circuits. ICP maintains and insures all the motorcycles that are used by pastors and evangelists.

Additionally, the guesthouse at Khayelihle Children's Village (KCV) was renovated, and a house was constructed at KCV for the village chaplain. Both of these projects were funded by non tax-deductible donations.



Local Church, Vietnam

## Vietnam

In November, a significant gathering happened when the pastors from the north, centre, highlands and south met for the first time in Da Nang. GMP Chair, Barrie Yesberg, and Board Member, Mark Stevens, also attended this gathering. It was the next step in developing a leadership team for the Vietnamese churches and is the product of prayer and deepening relationships between the churches. ICP continues to resource the various ministries of the churches. A priority is the regional prayer gatherings. Prayer is central, in part due to the levels of unease created by the government and its controls.

Pastor Doan is the key leader and deeply appreciates the spiritual and practical support that is received from Churches of Christ in Australia. ICP also provides practical resources such as an annual church calendar and special gifts for children at Christmas as part of the outreach programs.

## Vanuatu

The work of ICP in Vanuatu has two aspects to it. One is the continuing role of the chaplain at the Londua School. This has been even more critical this year following the volcanic eruptions on Ambae and the two relocations of the school community to Santo. We cannot overestimate the importance of this appointment.

The second aspect is the continuing work following Cyclone Pam. It has taken time to rebuild some of the churches. We have benefited from the support of teams from some churches in South Australia and the use of local builders. The buildings are being planned to be local community shelters as well as places of worship once they are reconstructed.



## Papua New Guinea (PNG)

ICP focuses in PNG on the training of leaders and the support of church life. This means we place our emphasis on the training of leaders through the Bible colleges at Gandep and Yamen. It also means that we invest time with the Melanesian Evangelical Churches of Christ (MECOC) Board to explore strategies and opportunities to build capacity in the leaders of the churches. This involves face-to-face meetings, mentoring and guidance. It has included a curriculum workshop with the staff of the Bible colleges for support as they plan their teaching syllabus.

What does this lead to? Students embrace their program of training with such energy that the staff have to keep up with them. Students are engaging in an immersion church planting training program. Churches are being planted and are seeing revivals in settings where whole generations that had walked away from their faith are renewing their relationship with Jesus.



MECOC Leaders, Papua New Guinea

### In Papua New Guinea GMP supports:

**101**  
Local Churches

**26**  
Outreach —  
preaching points

Who this year  
celebrated  
**150**  
baptisms

## Singing into the Night

Evangelist Menpoi is a man with a mission, sharing the gospel, travelling and visiting villages among the Mru and Bawm communities. His primary aim and focus includes teaching songs and leading worship services. He leads many Mru songs as well as Bible teaching studies with both children and adults. He loves to share the story of Jesus and his salvation with them. He also leads worship services at his village. He shares individually with many people and has seen them become Christians through his teaching. Menpoi is also empowering the youth through leadership training. New Christians come from different religious backgrounds. Through the literature ministry, GMP provides a songbook and a Bible for new converts and teaches them Christian songs, as well as studying the Bible together. Menpoi says, "We encourage them in reading and singing themselves so that they may establish boldness in public. These people work in the field in the daytime



and offer their time at night to learn gospel songs. The songbooks and Bibles in their language are limited. We would like to have enough to provide one to each person."

## ICP ASSOCIATE PARTNERS

One of the ways GMP supports mission is by making available practical, administrative and financial support for ministries that do not have an Australian presence, or the systems required for operational support.



### Mother's Love, India

Mother's Love continues to provide care through the provision of pre and post-natal support for women, and for children trapped in poverty. Mother's Love was founded in tribute to Ruth Skillicorn and is led by Pamela Kumar, the adopted daughter of Keith Skillicorn. Keith died during the year having made a huge contribution to the lives of people in India and in Australia. ICP provides support with the management of finances and the sending of regular payments for support.



### International Christian College of Manila, Philippines

During this year ICP began a partnership with the International Christian College of Manila (ICCM). HumeRidge Church of Christ supports this Churches of Christ ministry and teacher training institute in Antipolo City. ICP is in the process of beginning a long-term partnership with ICCM. Such a partnership offers church communities in Australia new opportunities to be part of strengthening the development of leadership potential of young people in the Philippines who have a call to ministry and service.



### Reaching Hands, India

Dr. Iris Paul founded the Reaching Hands Society in Orissa, building on the work of her late husband. Their son, Remo Paul, is its Director. The focus of Reaching Hands continues to be community health clinics, education, church planting and prison ministry. The door is opened for them to share the Christian message through their healthcare and education programs. The villages they work in are isolated and people there have few resources.



### Geon Homes and Asia Gospel Mission, South Korea

Geon Homes continues to focus on the care, support and education of children. This includes residential (for abandoned children) and non-residential programs (local children). The second ministry, Asia Gospel Mission, supports pastors and churches in rural settings with few resources. This ministry has been led by Dr. Yoon Kwon Chae, who has begun the process of retiring after many years of leadership.



### Newbigin School for Urban Leadership, Birmingham, UK

Newbigin School for Urban Leadership is based in Winson Green, Birmingham, UK. This multiracial, inner city neighbourhood was the seedbed for the industrial revolution where some of the first urban industrialised neighbourhoods began over two hundred years ago. The centre is led by Dr. Ash Barker and seeks to cultivate a seedbed for urban change, raising up more resilient, compassionate and innovative urban leaders, able to shape our new urban world from the ground up.





Outdoor classes at Emmanuel School, South Sudan

## CHURCHES OF CHRIST OVERSEAS AID

Churches of Christ Overseas Aid (COCOA) is the relief and development program of Global Mission Partners. Gifts to COCOA are tax deductible under the Overseas Aid Gift Deduction Scheme. COCOA projects are developed with, and implemented by, our partners around the world. Our vision is to see our partners resourced and equipped to pursue their own aspirations and be agents of change in their own communities.





A Bright Solutions worker making one of their vast range of children's products in Vietnam. Photo Courtesy of Ngoc Tran/Oi Vietnam

## RESOURCING AND EQUIPPING

COCOA worked together with partners around the world to achieve some new turning points. Here are some of the COCOA highlights from the year:

### Kensington Meeting

A key turning point this year was the 'Kensington Meeting.' The GMP Board, COCOA Reference Group and COCOA staff met together at the Kensington retreat centre to refine COCOA's program objectives – the key objectives that we want our project to pursue. The final outcome was as follows:

#### Aim of the COCOA Program

- Working to overcome poverty – accompanying communities living in poverty toward realising their aspirations for wellbeing.

#### Objectives of COCOA Programs

- To increase access to sanitation and safe drinking water;
- To increase access to primary health care;
- To increase participation in quality schooling;
- To increase productive livelihoods;
- To help communities reduce disaster risk; and
- To respond to disasters and humanitarian emergencies.

The impetus for this came from a review in October of COCOA's effectiveness framework in light of our goal of achieving full accreditation with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). We have made a significant achievement with base accreditation, and hope to have full accreditation by 2022. Three of our projects were supported through the Australian Government's Australian NGO Cooperation Program this year. An external consultant discerned that our way of working was in good shape, but sharpening our goals would help clarify what we wanted to be effective at.

### Gender Review

Another initiative this year is a Gender Audit. This will look at the way we include both genders in what we are doing within GMP, as well as developing more ways for our partners and our projects to do the same.

### Collection of Learnings

Each year we bring all of the learnings from our projects together into a final collection. 2017 was the second year of doing this and the progress in the level of understanding and sophistication amongst our partners was noticeable and encouraging. There were three new categories, and 80% more learnings than in 2016.

### New Partnership in South Sudan

We also took on a new partnership in South Sudan this year. John Gilmore and Colin Scott met up with the directors and board of the LAID Foundation of South Sudan (LAFOSS) through an introduction from our partner there, Christian Mercy International. LAFOSS developed from a Churches of Christ Church plant in Juba that was initiated by a Dinka and Nuer pastor working together. These are the two warring tribes in South Sudan, so the organisation itself is evidence of the unity Christ brings. What's more, their first project has been about peace building!

### COCOA Reference Group

Many thanks to the COCOA Reference Group - Gordon Buxton, Julie Trinnick, Kelly Hayduk, the outgoing Ben Thurley, and the newly arrived Scott Girvan - for keeping our projects and policies sharp, and to my colleagues Jan Bayliss (COCOA Partner Education Officer) and Suzanne Hayes (COCOA Program Officer) for their passionate pursuit of good projects and good relationships with our partners.



LAID Foundation of South Sudan (LAFOSS), Peacebuilding Training, South Sudan

### COCOA Partners with:

15 projects

8 partner countries

Working in 6 program areas

## Teaching Leaders of Tomorrow

Butros, Mary and Jonah are committed and caring teachers at Emmanuel School in South Sudan. Jonah is thankful for the opportunity to help others. "There is a need for more teachers in South Sudan. GMP helps me have that chance. I enjoy teaching the children and putting in lots of effort." Some of the hopes that these Emmanuel School teachers have for the future include the introduction of vocational studies, such as carpentry, electronics, computers and tailoring. Butros says, "I wish to teach in this school to show the kids there is life and that they will be helped and become better people in the future. I'd like the children that I am teaching to be different – to know that life is good and that they can help other people because they have been helped." Mary holds a strong conviction that when a girl is at school she is in a safe place



Jonah

as she has teachers looking out for her. "It is good that I am here teaching at this school! I want to teach other girls to know they can be teachers, too."



# COCOA PARTNERS AND PROJECTS



Vocational Training, Hosanna Ministries, India



Goats for carers of Emmanuel School Students, South Sudan



Chicken project, Church of Christ in Thailand



Water Committee, Ranwas, Vanuatu

## Bangladesh

### Thlaituah – Bandarban Hills Churches of Christ (BHCOC)

During a monitoring visit in September 2017, we met the very capable hostel managers and experienced a warm welcome from the children at Bandarban. Unfortunately, Rwangchary Hostel was not accessible to us and we have agreed with BHCOC to move the hostel to a more accessible location. There are about 87 children at the two hostels and the standard of care is high. Gender and disability policies have also been developed. The hostels enable children to access education that is not available in their rural homes. The farm project, especially the pigs, is on track to meet its target for contributing to the operational expenses of the hostels.

## India

### Vocational Training – Hosanna Ministries

This project has been successful in equipping vulnerable people, living in the slum areas of greater Mumbai, with vocational skills in tailoring and basic computers. The project targets orphaned children, single parents, widows, and separated women who fall under the government of India's poverty line (approximately US\$1.90 per day). Of the 24 participants in the tailoring course, all completed the course and now have the skills and confidence to sew clothes to earn an income. In the basic computer course, all 15 students completed the course and many have started working. During a monitoring visit we met with some of the participants and heard first hand how their lives had been changed by attending these courses.

Evaluations were conducted on Vocational Training, GSRS 3 (Gnyan Sampada Residential School) and the Storm emergency projects. The evaluations showed that all these projects achieved their outcomes and were managed well. Some of the lessons learnt included updating the partner child protection policy and the continued need to encourage parents to allow their daughters to gain qualifications.

## Papua New Guinea

### La'o Curriculum Development – Melanesian Evangelical Churches of Christ and Pioneer Bible Translators

This project created a curriculum to teach one popular vernacular language – La'o. Research indicates that children who learn to read and write in their mother tongue learn more effectively. The evaluation confirmed this with everyone who was interviewed describing the learning amongst the students who used the materials as 'faster' or 'better', and enabling children to learn other things. In particular, learning English more easily was affirmed as a benefit of learning La'o first. Greater participation by the children was also noticeable. Ready access to appropriate materials meant that lessons were better prepared and ordered. There was also a strong feeling that the curriculum prompted a switch to a more child-centred mode of learning, from the usual rote learning. All La'o speakers interviewed affirmed the importance of teaching the language as a way of preserving culture. This project is now complete.

## South Sudan

### Academic Support– Aweil Health Sciences Institute

Unfortunately, this project never really got started. Some tutoring sessions were held and a workshop was planned. Despite core funding for the wider program being promised before GMP got involved, this did not come through. Unfortunately, good governance structures were not put in place, so there is not enough happening for our supporting project to be effective. Consequently, GMP has withdrawn from this project.

### Emmanuel School – Christian Mercy International (CMI)

There is a new maturity about the Emmanuel School. With a fence built and a row of mango trees planted, it looks neat and complete. Every teacher spoke about particular goals for their classes, and the students have a routine. In response to last year's evaluation, we have begun

a livelihoods program with the carers at Emmanuel. Working grade by grade, we are setting each family up with two she-goats and a he-goat. This will enable them to earn more income toward supporting their children's education. The World Food Programme has taken over the lunch program as planned, though the Department of Education has only taken up one teacher's salary. Carers reported that there is hope for orphaned children because of the program. The children like the protection from the wind and rain that the buildings offer and the atmosphere at the school where there is no bullying and teachers are approachable. The children felt safe at school. The fears that they did list were from the wider environment, including having no food, meeting a dog or some other danger on the way home, or losing a pen and not being able to replace it.

### Ploughs – Christian Mercy International (CMI)

Many isolated communities in South Sudan plough by hand. This is an arduous task, which can only be completed in the three days after rain, before the ground becomes hard again. This project supplies ploughs and oxen (the poorest people do not have oxen) and training in communities currently ploughing by hand. The roll out is complete in Mayan Tiit. It was exciting to visit people who had increased their harvest up to eight times. The second community, Maluooth, has just received its oxen, ploughs and training.

### Mill – Christian Mercy International (CMI)

A visit to Chelkou, where mahogany trees grow, prompted a conversation about increasing the productivity of this endeavour, rather than just providing funds for a school roof. The community has agreed to pay for half of a portable saw mill and has identified poor families who will benefit from training in how to use it. Some policies and training are next, before the mill arrives.

### Peace Building – LAID Foundation of South Sudan (LAFOSS)

This project is the first of its kind for GMP. Church and community leaders were invited to a workshop, which networked them together and motivated and equipped them to be advocates for peace in their own networks. The aim was to encourage peaceful resolutions of conflict at every level. Students from 25 high schools were also brought together in a separate workshop for the same purpose. They were trained to lead peace clubs in their schools. There will be mentoring of the peace clubs as they get started.

## Thailand

### Chickens – Church of Christ in Thailand (CCT)

Church of Christ Thailand has set up a community-based chicken farming initiative, which involves the breeding, rearing and the slaughter of chickens for sale in local markets. Training has been conducted in basic accounting, administration and use of the slaughterhouse in anticipation of the approval to construct a slaughterhouse. Small-scale farms are being established in ethnic minority communities to help increase their economic independence.

## Vanuatu

### Church Partnership Program – Churches of Christ Conference in Vanuatu (CCCV)

The project has been working with three communities (two in Tanna and one in Pentecost) to raise awareness in child protection, gender and disability inclusion and to implement a local community project in each of these villages. In Tanna, the project funded a market house for each of the two villages and in Pentecost, replacement water pipes were supplied to improve the quality of the water supply. The project also continued networking with other church agencies through the Vanuatu Church Partnership Program to share knowledge and resources. This project is supported by the Australian Government.





Toilet recipients, Vietnam

## Vietnam

### Binh Phuoc Association for the Disabled, Poor and Orphans (BPADPO)

A new project was implemented where vulnerable communities were identified and assistance given in providing latrines, repairing houses and conducting community training on topics such as personal hygiene, inclusion of people with disabilities and child protection. This year we worked in Hon Quan, Dong Tam and Binh Long communities within the Binh Phuoc Province.

### Bright Solutions

Bright Solutions works with marginalised women to build their employment skills and confidence through sewing high quality children's educational resources. The current project is assisting Bright Solutions to become a sustainable company, as well as providing further training for the women to assist them in developing skills to either continue working in Bright Solutions or establish their own business. The business plan is almost complete, and Bright Solutions has also been present at various markets and events that it has never been to before. This project is supported by the Australian Government.



Borehole recipient, Zimbabwe

## Zimbabwe

### Khayelihle Children's Village (KCV)

Reconnecting children with suitable relatives is now the main focus of Khayelihle Children's Village. Feedback from three children that we visited was that it was, "amazing to be part of a family". Not everything has been smooth sailing, with pressure from the authorities to speed up the process, and some relatives misusing their business grant. KCV has learnt from these experiences and put in place strategies to address them. Their record keeping is now excellent, which helps to ensure the best care for the children, as does the follow up of children in their new families. They are also working hard to renew their Board. An evaluation found that education is the key asset that KCV provides. Education is valued as a way out of poverty and helps children avoid being sexually exploited. Graduates rated themselves highly on being "self-sufficient good citizens" (KCV's goal), giving as evidence their employment, getting married and self-confidence. A review of the productivity of the KCV farm is under way. An appropriate solar power system has been identified, which we anticipate will reduce the use of grid power by 75%, saving the environment and money.

### Wells 3 – Showers of Blessings Trust (OSBT)

This is a new phase of OSBT's work with additional activities at each location to leverage the impact of clean water. These include household surveys before and after installations, workshops on water use and local development opportunities and a small grant for a local project. A field officer, Ntando Msimanga, has been recruited to assist with the expanded program and help preserve OSBT corporate knowledge. These initiatives flow from the evaluation conducted last year. Surveys are underway, using an innovative mobile app that OSBT has developed, rather than using a potentially overwhelming amount of paper. This project is supported by the Australian Government.

## Stories of Courage in Vanuatu

Among the volcanic devastation in Vanuatu there are examples of courage. There is Leah's story, of losing her entire fish breeding program overnight to acid rain—120 fish raised by hand, and killed in a single night. Or a lady from South Ambae, who brought her washing to dry inside because the hot scoria falling from the sky was burning holes in her clean clothes. One community we visited in the south was struggling as their main water source was contaminated with ash. Among the stories of fear or struggle, there were also stories of courage. A community in the east was positive and beginning the process of rebuilding, pushing forward with church renovations. When we arrived in the community where I met Leah, they had their community hall full of people. They had taken in a community from the south indefinitely, because they had been evacuated from their village. They were in the process of discerning how best to help care for them. We heard stories of leaders staying until their whole community had safely been evacuated. We saw people who still



Suzanne Hayes, COCOA Program Officer, records the challenges for Ambae residents

trusted God, despite all the challenges they were facing. The long-term investment in one another, the willingness to stay in communities together, to listen, to share stories and to eat together—this all reflects relationship. No matter what the volcano does now, that relationship holds.

Elise Andrews,  
Global Mission Partners

### This year through COCOA projects:

**4600** people got access to **Safe Water**

**215** people accessed a new toilet

**2530** people received basic medical care and health education

**903** children got access to education

**807** people increased their ability to earn their own income

**515** people helped to shape new projects and expressed their needs

**191** households received livestock to improve their livelihoods

**4** vulnerable children found safe & supportive families



# COCOA ASSOCIATE PARTNERS

Where Church of Christ churches and affiliated organisations have strong relationships with international communities, COCOA enables these groups to operate development projects with their international partners by providing a design and quality assurance service. With some change in the interpretation of domestic tax deductibility provisions, some of our partners have moved to use this channel, rather than working through COCOA.

## The Avenue (Surrey Hills) Church of Christ (Vic)

### Building Capacity and Sustainability – Nicaragua

Si a La Vida (SALV) cares for at-risk children in Nicaragua. The Surrey Hills project aimed to build the income base and governance strength of the organisation, and increase the skills of the staff. Income generating activities included a chicken farm, raising cattle and a guest house. The Surrey Hills partnership with SALV concluded in February 2018, with the evaluation showing that the objectives were largely achieved. Some lessons learnt included a better understanding of the expectations of both the partner and GMP, and the need to update the project design when needed.

## HumeRidge Church of Christ (Qld)

### Access – Papua New Guinea

Working with the Melanesian Evangelical Churches of Christ, HumeRidge is increasing access to trade, education and health resources by rehabilitating a road between the Ramu and Keram rivers. A mid-term evaluation found that the equipment was more than adequate for the task, and 80% of the total plant equipment has been assembled. The challenges are: fundraising for the remaining equipment, transporting it to PNG, and establishing a transport service and maintenance plan. The evaluation found that experience of the team and the equipment assembled are more than adequate to build the road. An environmental risk assessment, plan and policy have also been developed. The attitude of the participants in PNG was also investigated. About half said that progress was slow, but very few had negative attitudes to the progress of the work. Of those surveyed, 87% thought that the equipment was being prepared or that it was being transported. The average estimate for completion of construction was 2021.

## Live Connection (NSW)

### Bor 2 – South Sudan

The Bor Agricultural Centre project has been in caretaker mode for some time due to civil unrest and is now closed. There is no foreseeable opportunity for it to re-open.

## Poultry Farm for Vulnerable Children – Uganda

Live Connection, Australia's partner in Uganda – Father's Divine Love Ministries (FDLM) is developing an innovative model for caring for orphaned and vulnerable children. After reconnecting children with their relatives wherever possible, the remaining children are fostered into families, living in a purpose-built village, set up by FDLM. Live Connection's project is to build a large chicken farm that will provide employment for the carers, enabling them to live as a family rather than as part of an institution.

## Urban Neighbours Of Hope (Thailand)

Klong Toey is Bangkok's largest and most notorious slum. The UNOH teams living there are creating opportunities for people to improve their lives both in terms of wellbeing and income generation. Activities include conducting basic English lessons in the local schools, supporting slum residents to attend medical services and running children's activities after school. Local staff are taking greater responsibility in the management of Second Chance Bangkok, Upcycled Wares and Royrak Jewellery enterprises. This promotes the sustainability of these initiatives. During the year UNOH decided to cease using GMP as its channel for tax deductibility.

## Elizabeth Church of Christ (SA)

### Education – Vanuatu

Elizabeth, with help from Victor Harbour Church of Christ, has been working with Isla Primary School to increase education standards. This year they have provided training for teachers and building maintenance, installed a solar power system and given training on sewing skills and the provision/repair of sewing machines. From the monitoring visit it was clear that there was a good working relationship between the visiting team and the Isla School community.

According to the evaluation, the objectives were largely achieved. The lessons learnt included developing a better understanding of the local culture including their decision-making process and the importance of building relationships. Another lesson was when designing the project to have appropriate indicators and verifiers that will assist in reporting progress and in the evaluation.



## COSMOS HealthCare (WA)

### Zimbabwe – Sizolwethu Mobile Health 2

Sizolwethu Mobile Health (SMH) increased access to medical services in nine peri-urban communities. An evaluation found that the incidence of sexually transmitted diseases and diarrhoea fell noticeably as a result. For example, the community in Fort Rixon noted that when SMH began working in the community there were about 200 children with cholera but, through education, the community has contained the disease. The project finished in December 2017, and COSMOS is now operating independently of GMP.

## Hartwell Church of Christ (Vic)

### School 2 – Zambia

Arising Life Ministries (ALMS) in Zambia provides education services for about 85 children and their carers affected by poverty and HIV/AIDS. Hartwell has supported ALMS with a second cottage this year. The required government registrations are now in place to enable the survey for the perimeter wall. A piggery is being developed as an income generating opportunity.

## Churches of Christ in Queensland

### Medical Santo – Vanuatu

Evaluations were conducted for Medical Santo's response to Cyclone Pam and also on the Rural Health Visitation Project. Evaluations showed that the project objectives were achieved. During the Cyclone Pam immediate response, Medical Santo conducted over 50 visits to the Northern Islands as well as to Tanna with the treatment of over 5,000 people.

For the Rural Health Visitation project, over 20 health clinics and workshops for over 1,900 people in remote rural areas of Espirito Santo and surrounding islands were conducted.

The lessons learnt included an improvement of reporting to include appropriate details to explain the situation and progress against the objectives. Also the better coordination with the local government authorities to ensure the project activities align with the strategies of the government.

## Meet Ntando

Showers of Blessings Zimbabwe welcomed Ntando as their new Field Officer. Ntando was working as a sales person when he saw an advertisement for a job with Showers of Blessings. He had known of Showers of Blessings for some time and saw the opportunity to drill boreholes as a way to positively impact rural communities. Ntando and the Showers of Blessings team (including Boniface Mpofu) conduct research, visit the local council area and work with the community to install boreholes, assessing and implementing the best way of utilising water. Ntando makes many trips to decide where the borehole will go, to recruit help from the community and to install the borehole. People get back a lot of time in their day by collecting water from a borehole, than from distant and possibly dirty rivers and streams. Being able to access safe water from a borehole



means that they no longer have to worry about contracting a disease from their drinking water. While it is a difficult task, Ntando sees the impact that safe water is having on rural communities, and it makes him smile.





Welcome to Country at Churches of Christ  
Vic/Tas Courage Summit 2018 by  
Corina Eccles and the Deadly Dancers of  
the Wathaurong peoples.  
Photo by Vanessa Smith

## INDIGENOUS MINISTRIES AUSTRALIA

GMP seeks to partner with and among Australian Indigenous people, focusing on Indigenous ministry and development. Our Indigenous ministries have been developed and planned by a council of Indigenous people to allow for in-depth direction setting from key Indigenous leaders and communities around the country.





Western Australia Ministry Retreat

## PARTNERS IN INNOVATION

**It was a year of investment in growth and innovation within IMA and our ministry partners. This was particularly evident in WA as we implemented a well researched and thought-provoking strategic plan presented by Colin Battersby, which partly resulted in us employing Colin as the GMP Partnership Coordinator in WA with a particular focus on the work of IMA.**

The context of Indigenous ministry across Australia is characterised by isolation and loneliness for ministry workers, lack of time and resources, and often 24/7 community and family issues presented to ministry workers rather than conventional services because of their cultural safety and Christian compassion. This compels us to look to innovate, and not only rely on partnerships for support but to see mutual benefit and learning as integral to the ministry itself. Much of our work in this area has been creating spaces for meeting together, benchmarking ideas and looking 'outside' of our own contexts whilst at the same time, respecting and continuing to honour our history, traditions and elders.

We've also been working hard on developing pathways for partnership between Indigenous and non-Indigenous churches and communities, and we're incredibly thankful to have seen a real growth of interest and activity in this area.

We continue to work alongside Indigenous Christian communities in Bunbury, Perth, Norseman, Esperance and Port Hedland in Western Australia; Dareton and Mt Druitt in New South Wales; Footscray in Victoria, and Ceduna in South Australia. In each setting and with each partner project we continue to affirm locally led and owned community visions for ministry and development as this is both culturally consistent, as well as offering the best chance for local engagement and sustainability.

## IMA PARTNERS AND PROJECTS



Andrew, one of the volunteers said, "We got to slow down and simply listen and learn from our Indigenous brothers and sisters and, in doing so, we grew in our respect for them and all they are doing to bring reconciliation and healing to not only their community, but to all Australians." IMA lead another volunteer group from Melbourne churches and a school group to the Juraki Indigenous event in August 2018.

### Networking and Consultation

IMA continues to work in close partnership with the following organisations and communities:

- AICF (Aboriginal and Islander Christian Fellowship)
- AEF (Aboriginal Evangelical Fellowship)
- Australians Together
- SURRENDER
- UAICC (Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress)
- TEAR Australia
- Dhiyaan Aboriginal Church
- Global Interaction (NT mission workers, Bill and Pauline Morrison)
- Grasstree Gathering
- Aunty Jean Phillips

### Advocacy and Awareness

#### Melbourne Songlines

On average IMA is conducting around one Songlines tour per month with Churches of Christ groups, as well as other churches, community and corporate groups.

#### Juraki

IMA again had the privilege of taking volunteers from chilly Melbourne to the idyllic beaches of Fingal to listen, learn and serve under the guidance of the Slabb family. Highlights included the powerful Welcome to Country and Mixing of the Waters ceremony on the main surf beach, the culture and music night, and sleeping in our Dhiyaan swags under the stars.

## Meet Brendon & Amy Garlett

Brendon, a Noongar man originally from south-west Western Australia, is the Indigenous Ministry Outreach Worker in Dareton, NSW. Together with his wife Amy (with Wiradjuri heritage and a member of the Naden family) and their five children Taylah, Kiarna, Lily and Israel and newest member, Jacob, they have made Dareton their home over the last eight months. They are becoming 'locals' themselves at the Dareton Primary School, as well as joining some of the local sporting teams and events.

Brendon is pioneering culturally relevant and relationship focused outreach opportunities amongst the local Indigenous community in the Sunraysia district as well as working closely with Ilker, Jacqui, Josh and the team at the Dareton Youth and Community Centre. Recently they started a new Sunday School program with a focus on the local Indigenous children. He is also joining the Mildura Church of Christ ministry meetings for peer support and mutual learnings with Andrew Tonkin and Josh Cole.



Brendon's own life experiences and struggles have given him a passion to come alongside Indigenous young adults, to lead by example and relationally share the Kingdom's good news through the healing and freedom God has brought in his own life. It's a truly local approach bringing change where it's so desperately needed.





IMA Western Australia Ministry Retreat

### IMA – Western Australia Ministry Retreat

A great weekend of fellowship down on Noongar Boodjar (Burekup) with the ministry leaders and workers from IMA (WA) was held in July 2018. We had kangaroo tail on Saturday night, sing-alongs in traditional language and lots of yarning around our inside campfire! Please continue to pray for this inspiring group of people, impacting their communities throughout WA.

### Welcome and Respect in Vic/Tas and WA

IMA were privileged to help facilitate a Welcome to Country from Corina Eccles of the Wathaurong peoples at the recent Vic/Tas Summit gathering, as well as at our Churches of Christ in WA Ministers Retreat in Mandurah with local Noongar elder, George Walley. For the first time, WA State Youth Games included a Welcome to Country as part of their Bunbury event. This was performed by local Noongar elder, Uncle Dennis Jetta from the Bunbury Aboriginal Fellowship. Much of our work is in consulting with churches and church affiliated groups around connecting, walking with, and learning from Indigenous communities.

### Hedland Aboriginal Fellowship

Under the leadership of David and Margaret Moses Martin, the church is exploring ways to create safe and enjoyable spaces for fellowship and ministry, as well as providing a suitable office space for church administration and community outreach.



Courage Summit, Victoria

### Bunbury Aboriginal Fellowship

In April, Bunbury Aboriginal Fellowship hosted a successful Easter Convention, with around 200 people attending each night. It was encouraging to see a few young people make commitments to follow Christ for the first time. A month earlier, four people from the church attended the SURRENDER Conference in Melbourne (23-25 March) and were inspired and encouraged by this experience. The church continues to be a place of hospitality, hosting the GMP Board members for a weekend gathering in March, and providing some catering to July's IMA Ministry Retreat in Burekup.

### Norseman

Kevin and Debbie Tucker and their family are settling back into life and ministry in Norseman really well. The church has commenced an informal Sunday night gathering called "Eventide" where everyone comes together for food, fellowship, singing and ministry around a campfire – an excellent new initiative!

### Esperance

It was wonderful to have Sonny and Frances Graham with us at our IMA Ministry Retreat in Burekup. They will both be celebrating their 80th birthday later in 2018. Once a month the Wongutha CAPS students attend the Esperance church. Recently, 14 students were baptised in the local swimming pool following a Sunday morning service. Some students made decisions for Christ at the William Graham Crusade held in Kalgoorlie earlier in the month.



Community Barbeque, Dareton

### Moorditj Keila (Perth)

IMA recently approved a joint grant contribution with two other funders for Moorditj Keila to employ a Project Officer that will develop its capacity in governance, strategic planning, operations and sustainability. IMA's contribution to this initiative will also have broader benefit to IMA's other ministries and programs. There will be opportunities throughout the year for shared learnings in the areas of leadership and management development.

### Dareton

The Dareton Youth and Community Centre and the Sunraysia Indigenous Ministry outreach work are two of our projects in NSW. Both have been growing and developing in a spirit of enthusiasm and partnership. Brendon Garlett, together with his wife Amy and five children, took up the ministry outreach worker role at the end of 2017 and have been building local relationships as well as starting new programs such as Sunday School. The Community Centre is connecting daily with around 20 Indigenous youth after school and is offering a positive and culturally safe space to hang out and connect with other services. Centre manager, Ilker Deli, continues to grow the services at the centre with basic cooking classes being a recent addition. The centre continues to partner with the Dareton/Wentworth parish, Mildura Church of Christ, local service agencies, Legal Aid, TAFE, Indigenous leaders and the NSW police.



SURRENDER Campfire, Brisbane

### SURRENDER Campfire

Once again IMA participated in partnership with the SURRENDER Campfire gathering on 28-29 July 2018, which was hosted by the Dhiyaan community (a Brisbane based Indigenous faith community) at their property in Dalby, QLD. This year's gathering had around 30 Indigenous and non-Indigenous emerging leaders joining in times of honest sharing, contemplation, storytelling and mutual support.







Maddison Tweedie, Natalie Oakes, embody National Coordinator, April Holmes, embody Relationships Manager (VIC/TAS), and Jessje Skelly, Mission Catalyst (NSW) at SURRENDER:18 (VIC), connecting with young people who are passionate about global mission



## EMBODY

embody exists to empower, encourage and support a national community of young people who are passionate about mission. We want to see God's Kingdom come, to be the best stewards of the resources we currently have and to support those who are the most vulnerable and marginalised in our world.





Natalie Oakes, embody National Coordinator, and Matt Hornby, at State Youth Games (VIC) 2018

## A COMMUNITY OF YOUNG PEOPLE

The past year at embody has been a year of trying out a few different things and saying goodbye to some staff, too! We said goodbye to our Campaigns and Resource Manager, Mitch Varcoe, and our Queensland Relationships Manager, Kirsten Luz.

Natalie Oakes (National Coordinator) moved to Melbourne from Sydney in July 2017. We have had many highlights this past year and these have included Safe Water September, attending Surrender Adelaide and Melbourne, running two mission conversations nights, and attending State Youth Games Victoria.

### Safe Water September

We were blown away by the result for Safe Water September. Just over \$109,000 was raised, providing nearly 5,000 people with access to safe water in rural Zimbabwe. After four years of Safe Water September, we have raised over \$400,000! We had 276 people from 29 teams complete the challenge. We received 1,780 donations from 1,072 people, and 1 in 5 people gave more than once to the campaign. One person even gave to the campaign 28 times! We had 15 teams who raised more than \$1,500, with the highest team raising over \$13,000. The top five churches were Bendigo Bendigo Church of Christ (Vic), Howrah Church of Christ (Tas), Balaklava Church of Christ (SA),

Hawthorn Church of Christ (SA) and Christ Church Gladesville (NSW).

### Surrender Adelaide

We attended SURRENDER Adelaide in October 2017. This was a great time of learning and listening to diverse people. The theme of the conference was Embodying the Way. We were challenged to think about what does it actually look like to follow the way of Jesus? As one body with many parts, we were convicted to think about how can we fit together to fully embody mission, justice, community and prayer for both our local and global communities.

Last Safe Water September  
**276** people raised  
**\$109k**

### Mission Conversations

In December 2017, we launched our first mission conversation night in collaboration with GMP and Richmond Vietnamese Church of Christ. The first mission conversation included sharing how people are already involved in mission in their local community and how we can continue to encourage one another in this! Due to the success of the first mission conversation, we decided to run another one at Fitzroy North Community Church in April 2018. We ran this one in collaboration with Gregg Moriss from Mahana Culture. April Holmes, our Vic/Tas Relationships Manager reflected that: *“Gregg spoke about cultural intelligence – a process that begins with deeply understanding who we are and how our culture forms us. Without a connection with our own cultural tale, we treat relationships with people of other cultures as one-way exchanges. When we just have questions about another’s culture and have nothing to share of our own, our relationships become consumptive rather than mutual.”* It was important to reflect on our cultural intelligence particularly as we want to engage more respectfully and in a more loving way towards different cultures.

### State Youth Games Victoria

State Youth Games Victoria was another highlight for us as an embody team. In June we ran a smoothie bike stall and had some wonderful engagement with youth. We had over 40 sign-ups for Safe Water September and raised over \$300!

We thank God for how He keeps growing the embody community. We look forward with anticipation to see what God has in store for the next 12 months.



### Engagement with Indigenous Ministry

In March, we spent SURRENDER Victoria conference sharing a stall space with the team from Juraki Surf and Culture. Joel and Mary Slabb founded Juraki to support young Indigenous people who are passionate about surfing and to ‘close the gap from an Indigenous perspective’ by sharing their culture with the broader surfing industry. We hosted a campfire conversation with Joel and Mary at SURRENDER, and with Brendon from Dareton Church of Christ, which was well attended. It was encouraging to hear how we can continue to support these important ministries. Due to this, embody decided to support both these ministries by visiting Dareton in November 2017 to explore future possibilities of an embody trip and an upcoming trip to attend the Juraki Surfing Carnival in August 2018.

## Meet Maddison

This year has been full of adventures with embody. I’ve been able to visit some camps and conferences to promote embody and Safe Water September (SWS), travelling to Melbourne twice. Later this year I’ll be joining the team up at Fingal Head for a surf competition hosted by one of our partnering organisations. I’m excited to see more people join the cause to bring light into the world, while also seeing their active sacrifice during SWS grow them personally as well. I remember after being part of SWS the first year it started, I was so challenged and told myself that I was happy with just doing it for that year. When the next year came around I signed up again and was so touched by how much support I got, especially on the days that I was having major coffee withdrawals! Being part of embody is rewarding for so many reasons. I’ve been encouraged and have grown in my journey, and in turn have been able to encourage others in their journey with embody and SWS.



The people on team are so great, and you form binding friendships and always have a good laugh. It never feels like work – building a strong community through God’s love is so rewarding, and I can’t wait to see what is in store for the years to come!

Maddison Tweedie, NSW





## PEOPLE & PROGRAMS

People and programs are intimately linked in GMP. We don't have programs without people behind them, people sustaining them and people benefiting from them.





Esline Toa, Secretary General Churches of Christ Conference Vanuatu, showing Suzanne Hayes, COCOA Program Officer, island cabbage, Vanuatu

## PARTNER VISITS

**Partner Visits change lives. There is an increased awareness of community, compassion and care for others, as well as a broader sense of God's presence and action across the world.**

There is also an increased self-awareness in facing challenges and sharing life with a new group of people – partnership takes on a whole new meaning! Typically, the biggest change is experienced by the person who goes. Good orientation is essential to develop an openness to whatever God may choose to do; expecting and embracing the differences in another culture; willing to observe, learn and to serve. Bruce Edwards, Director of Fiji Community Churches of Christ, reflects, *“People coming with a sense of mission, having made a financial and time commitment; having submitted themselves to being led, both before leaving home and whilst here; open to learning and growing, as well as giving of themselves, have a positive experience.”*

Relationship is key. Margaret Kirk has led a Nowra (NSW) team to Fiji for several years. *“The community, more than longing for our teaching and activities, looks forward to the sharing of our lives and our stories. For those of us who go, the opportunity to share the experience develops bonds that remain long afterwards. Appreciating the character, personality and gifting of fellow team members; watching them accept new challenges and find their feet in a different culture and environment, is something that blesses me every trip.”*

Continuing successive visits deepens the partnership. Bruce says, *“The greatest benefit comes as relationships are built through successive return visits. I always encourage teams to try and include people who've been before and some new faces, so that there's both continuity and fresh encounters.”*

BJ Mpfu has experienced quite a few teams visiting Zimbabwe. *“By seeing with their own eyes, the team quickly captures an understanding of how they can help grow God's kingdom. This stimulates their understanding of what Christ is doing and they go back home determined to share the story.”*

Partner Visits change our perspective on life. Dan Bradbury, from one2one in Victoria says, *“An encouragement for me, as the team leader, was to see how quite a number of the team have come home with a vision and a passion to learn more of the Indonesian language and culture, with a view to seeing how God might use them in the future.”* Hery Susanto, who hosted the team in Indonesia, says, *“We were really amazed with their efforts to learn the language. Language, then, is not a barrier but a bridge to communicate and sense the hospitality, friendship and joy of loving one another. Many activities have benefited the both of us, and many positive things have been learned together. The way they interacted, especially with the children, has made them a joy to have as new family and friends. This visit has changed lives.”*

Over the past year teams from Australian churches have visited Fiji, India, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Thailand, Vanuatu, Vietnam and Zimbabwe and shared in the joy of changing lives together.

**132**  **went on Partner Visits with GMP in 2018**

## PEOPLE IN MISSION

**GMP continues to support the sending of people into mission settings, both as volunteers and as those who are supported financially.**



**BJ and Chipu Mpfu**

BJ and Chipu Mpfu resource and encourage Zimbabwean church leaders. BJ is on the board of the Zimbabwean Christian College and is a key coordinator for GMP partner visits to Zimbabwe.



**Brendon Garlett**

Brendon is pioneering culturally relevant and relational outreach opportunities among the local Indigenous community as well as working closely with Ilker, Jacqui, Josh and the team at the Dareton Youth and Community Centre, NSW.



**Fiona Briers**

Fiona leads the Bright Solutions program in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, giving training, employment and dignity to marginalised women. She is also an encourager to local leaders.



**Dave Powell and Kate Appleby**

Dave and Kate are school chaplains in the Kimberley, flying out from Derby to Noonkanbah and Millijiddee each week, running emotional and social well-being programs in a number of classes, coaching after-school sports programs, as well as connecting with and counselling individual children.



**Bruce Edwards**

Bruce Edwards, Director of Fiji Community Churches of Christ, has been living and working in Fiji for the past six years. He plays a key role in the development and mentoring of local pastors Raj and Nirmala Deo, David and Christie Reddy, Muneshwar and Stella Goundar, and Vipin and Irene Narayan. Bruce's work enlarges the capacity of church leaders and helps local churches move towards self-reliance.



**Martin Reilly and Margaret Nixon**

Martin Reilly and his wife, Margaret Nixon, commenced ministry with Si a La Vida (SALV), Nicaragua, in April 2015. In February 2018 they concluded three years of ministry working in community development programs caring for at-risk children, and building capacity for the SALV staff.



**Dr Ash and Anji Barker**

After 25 years of urban mission in Melbourne and Bangkok, Ash Barker is now immersed in the multi-racial and multi-religious inner city neighbourhood of Winson Green, Birmingham (UK), as the Founding Director of Newbigin House. Together with his wife, Anji, they founded the Newbigin School for Urban Leadership, which aims to mobilise, form and equip Christian leaders.



**Gwenyth Beale**

Born in Papua New Guinea to pioneer missionaries, Frank and Win Beale, Gwenyth returned to the country of her birth in 2016 as a literacy specialist to equip national teachers of elementary school and adult educators to teach literacy in their own language. Health issues have meant she has only been able to work from home this year. Her goal is to help nationals learn to read and write in their own language, and also train and mentor literacy workers to educate others.



**Jamie and Claudia Boland**

The Boland family moved to South Sudan to serve full-time at the start of 2013. In early 2014 they were forced to relocate to Uganda due to the civil war in South Sudan. Jamie joined the faculty of Africa Renewal University where he serves as Academic Coordinator and lecturer of theology. The Bolands are now training more South Sudanese pastors than in their time in Sudan, along with pastors from Uganda and the surrounding East African nations.





Esline Toa, Secretary General Churches of Christ Conference Vanuatu, walking to Saralokamru Community, West Ambae

## EMERGENCY APPEALS

Thank you again to our faithful supporters who gave to relief and recovery efforts in 2017-18.

### South Sudan Famine – ACT Alliance

Famine was declared in February 2017 in South Sudan, fuelled by armed conflict, economic crisis, and below-average harvests that were exhausted before the regular lean season arrived. Working through the ACT Alliance, GMP was able to assist with cash support to 3,500 families. This provided a flexible and effective way to get food to people and stimulate local businesses at the same time. The rapid and coordinated response stopped the famine from spreading though ongoing food insecurity remains in many parts of the country.



Mary, one of many people who has been affected by the South Sudan Famine



Volcanic rock that fell on communities, West Ambae



Damage from the effects of the volcanic activity

### Vanuatu – Ambae Volcano

On 23 September 2017, the Vanuatu Meteorology and Geo-hazards Department (VMGD) increased the activity level for Manaro volcano on Ambae Island to Level 4: a moderate eruption state. On 6 October 2017, the Council of Ministers declared a mandatory mass evacuation of the entire island (11,000 people). People were evacuated to Santo, Maewo and Pentecost Islands.

The week beginning 23 October 2017 saw people return to Ambae following the stabilisation of the volcano to Level 3. In November 2017 GMP, with the Churches of Christ Conference in Vanuatu, travelled to Ambae to conduct a rapid needs assessment and from this data established a voucher program. This provided funds to Ambae communities to access food and basic household supplies over a number of months. From the monitoring visit carried out in April 2018, this form of assistance was deeply appreciated as it allowed the community to decide what items they needed and supported local businesses.

## Meet Leah

Leah called Ambae home for as long she could remember, but when Manaro erupted in September 2017, it threatened to take everything she had.

Leah kept fish in a small pond by her house. While the project started as a way to make a living for herself, the fish became an important part of Leah's life. When Manaro erupted and word spread that an evacuation would take place, her thoughts were immediately with the fish. "I felt sorry for the fish, so I didn't move quickly." Leah recalled. Eventually, on the advice of her children, she left to spend time in Santo.

When Leah eventually returned to Ambae, the fish were still there. Leah was overjoyed that her fish had survived. Unfortunately, her relief was short lived.


"Acid rain came during the night. I went out to check my fish and they were all lying dead. At the time, my tears dropped for the fish," she said.



As part of the emergency response GMP provided vouchers to communities like Leah's, allowing them to access much needed water, food and supplies.

Leah expressed her deep gratitude for those who provided funds following the disaster.

"I love them all!" Leah exclaimed, smiling. "We are so glad, we are thankful for their lives and for what God provides for them to give us what we receive."

**THANKYOU**   
for your generous  
support of the  
Vanuatu Ambae  
Emergency Appeal.

You provided vital water, food and supplies   
for           and            
**620** **Households** **2414** **people** **in their**  
**time of**  
**need.**

## WELFARE PROGRAMS

GMP responds to the needs of people in practical ways. Sometimes these responses do not fit the criteria for a development project. In these situations, with the support of our generous donors, we are able to provide health-care for people who cannot afford it, and care for children so that they can access education. These are well run projects that meet the immediate needs of people.

The children's homes located at Baramati, Shrigonda and the Gnyan Sampada Residential School (formerly Ankoor Children's Home) near Yavatmal, provide quality care for children and ensure that they have access to schooling. At Shrigonda, the girls attend the school linked to the home, and the boys at Baramati attend the local Churches of Christ schools. The Gnyan Sampada Residential School enables minority Christian families to access education and is also an outreach to the local community nearby. Most of these children return home in the school holidays.

The Ashwood Memorial Hospital continues to provide medical care irrespective of a person's capacity to pay. GMP visited Ashwood during the year and reviewed



Ashwood Memorial Hospital, India

progress in the renewal of the governance systems of the hospital and the related programs. We affirmed the steps being taken and encouraged that these be completed urgently. The Ashwood Hospital Board understands what is needed and we remain hopeful of the work being completed.





From Left: Roger Bawden, Suzanne Hayes, Mark Stevens, Natalie Oakes, Val Zerna, Nick Wight, Lisa Szepessy, Rod Cousins, John Gilmore, Barrie Yesberg, Vicki Marney, Remy Sese, Rachel McIlgorm, Mitch Varcoe, Janet Woodlock, Colin Scott, Elise Andrews, Sean Kum, Cindy Haidar, Jan Bayliss

# BOARD MEMBERS



**John Gilmore**  
Executive Officer, VIC

Master of Theology. Executive Director of Mission and Ministry for Churches of Christ VIC/TAS for 10 years. Chair of the Commission for Act for Peace National Council of Churches in Australia (NCCA) Board, and NCCA Finance committee. Ten years active involvement in Christian Conference Asia.



**Barrie Yesberg**  
Chair, WA

Ordained Minister of Churches of Christ, Australian Federal Police Chaplain, Royal Australian Navy Reserve Principal Chaplain, and Indigenous missionary experience with the Federal Aborigines Mission Board. Involved in Warnbro Community Church in Western Australia. Married with four children, their spouses and 6 grandchildren.



**Roger Bawden**  
Treasurer, QLD

Diploma of Business, retired missionary and businessman. Worked in senior management roles for 40 years including Vanuatu, national retail business, aged care and statewide retirement villages. Actively involved in the life of the Bribie Island Church of Christ through Worship Leading, music and other activities.



**Gordon Buxton**  
NSW

Established Yooralla Youth Ministries and Yooralla Overseas Development Fund, which is a registered aid and development fund. More than 30 years experience as a consultant in customer focused operations and human resources management.



**Rod Cousins**  
WA

Associateship in Commerce, member of the Chartered Institute of Secretaries, CPA Australia and the Australian Institute of Export. Worked in management positions for 40 years, including operations across S.E. Asia. Part of the Subiaco Church of Christ Elders Board and Missions Team.



**Mark Stevens**  
SA

Master of Ministry, ordained Churches of Christ Minister; Pastor at Happy Valley Church of Christ. More than 10 years ministry service, four years' experience in theological education, church planter and leader of teams to Vietnam.



**Sean Kum**  
WA

Master of Science, Bachelor of Commerce and Cert IV. R.E. (REIWA), held senior management positions in retail, commercial property management, telecommunication and payment technology company. Multilingual and spent some years living and working in Asia. Experience in leadership, management and cross-cultural understanding. Currently working as a real estate executive in Perth.



**Julie Trinnick**  
VIC

Has worked as a teacher, Churches of Christ Minister and operations manager in a church; now working in aged care chaplaincy. She served for four years at Ranwadi Churches of Christ College in Vanuatu in the 1980s; six years as Associate Director of OMB (now GMP) and worked with Anglican Overseas Aid.

# MEET THE TEAM\*

Executive Officer \_\_\_\_\_ John Gilmore

## Partnership Coordinators

Partnership Coordinator (NSW/ACT) \_\_\_\_\_ Colin Scott  
Partnership Coordinator (SA/NT) \_\_\_\_\_ Val Zerna  
Partnership Coordinator (VIC/TAS) \_\_\_\_\_ Samuel Curkpatrick  
Partnership Coordinator (QLD) \_\_\_\_\_ Vicki Marney  
Partnership Coordinator (WA) \_\_\_\_\_ Colin Battersby

## Finance and Administration

Manager of Finance and Administration \_\_\_\_\_ Lisa Szepessy  
Bookkeeper \_\_\_\_\_ Jenny Mountford  
(concluded March 2018)  
Katrina Davidson  
Assistant Accountant \_\_\_\_\_ David Gee  
(concluded March 2018)  
Kanchi Gebrekiros  
Reception and Receipting \_\_\_\_\_ Anne Hughes  
Database and Administration \_\_\_\_\_ Audrey Lim  
Administration \_\_\_\_\_ Melinda van Vuuren  
(Maternity Leave)  
Acting ICP Administrator \_\_\_\_\_ Kyra Foster

## Indigenous Ministries Australia

IMA Coordinator (East) \_\_\_\_\_ Nick Wight  
IMA Coordinator (West) \_\_\_\_\_ Remy Sese

## Churches of Christ Overseas Aid (COCOA)

COCOA Director \_\_\_\_\_ Colin Scott  
COCOA Partner Education Officer \_\_\_\_\_ Jan Bayliss  
COCOA Program Officer \_\_\_\_\_ Suzanne Hayes

## embody

embody National Coordinator \_\_\_\_\_ Natalie Oakes  
embody National Campaigns and Resources Manager \_\_\_\_\_ Mitch Varcoe  
(concluded Nov 2017)  
embody Relationships Manager (VIC/TAS) \_\_\_\_\_ April Holmes  
(concluded July 2018)  
embody Relationships Manager (QLD) \_\_\_\_\_ Kirsten Luz  
(concluded Oct 2017)  
Mission Catalyst (NSW) \_\_\_\_\_ Jessie Skelly

## Communications

Communications Team Coordinator \_\_\_\_\_ Nick Wight  
Media and Communications Manager \_\_\_\_\_ Rachel McIlgorm  
Graphic Design Manager \_\_\_\_\_ Elise Andrews  
Marketing Manager \_\_\_\_\_ Matthew Hornby  
(concluded July 2018)  
Social Media Support \_\_\_\_\_ Kyra Foster  
Copy Writer \_\_\_\_\_ Lauren Butler



**Gemma Roberts**  
QLD

Currently works for Indigenous Family and Child Support Service (IFACSS). Proud to be an Aboriginal woman, mother of six children, active in community and church and is very blessed to have amazing mentors and elders. (Concluded 31 Dec 2017)



**Janet Woodlock**  
VIC

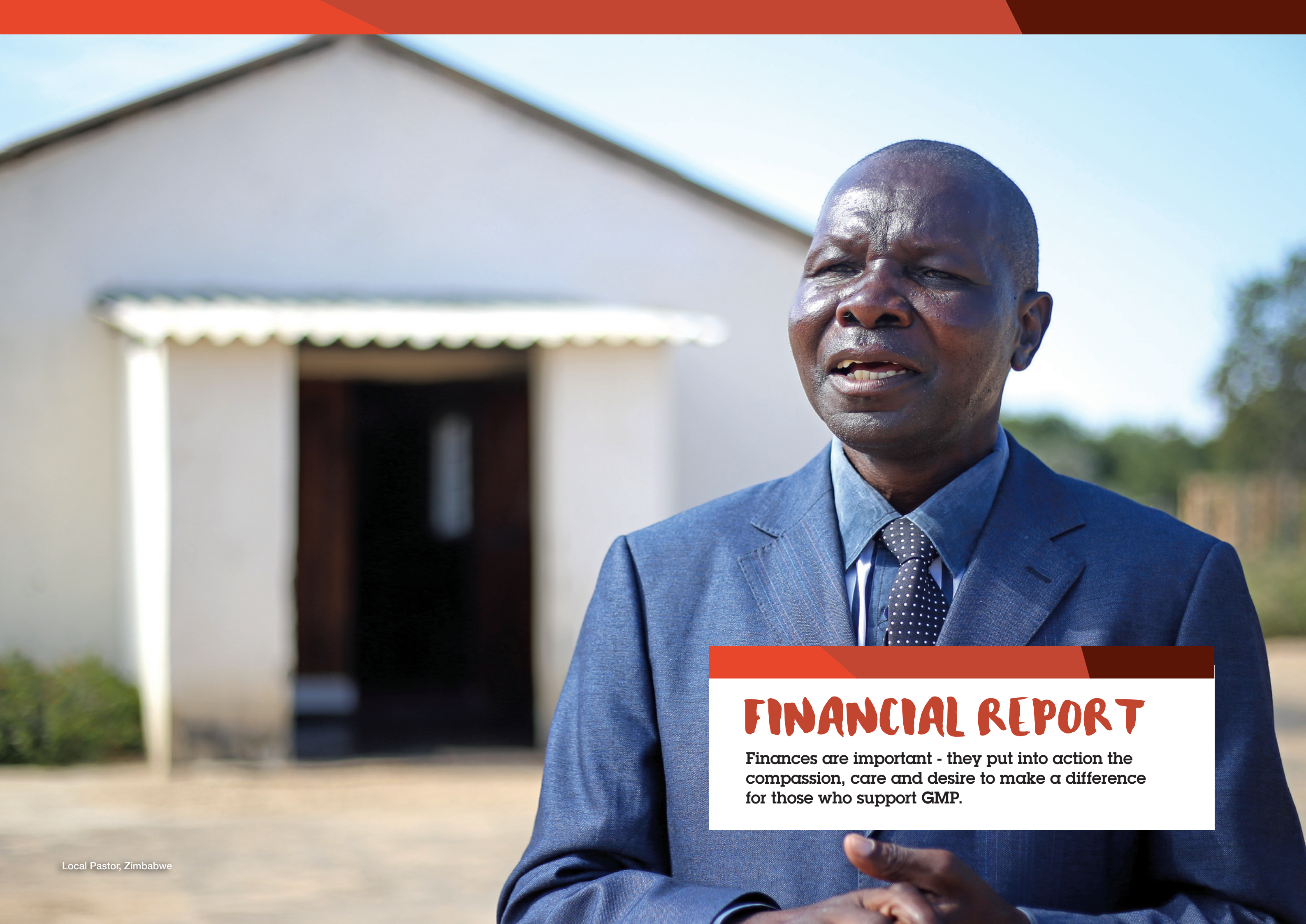
BSc, Dip Ed, MDiv, Cert IV in Workplace and Business Coaching, immediate past Federal Coordinator for Churches of Christ in Australia. Currently working as a coach and trainer with the Christian Coaching Institute and Project Officer with the NCCA.

**30** **Volunteers**  
worked with **GMP**

**THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS**

Thankyou to our amazing volunteers! We appreciate you so much!





## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Finances are important - they put into action the compassion, care and desire to make a difference for those who support GMP.

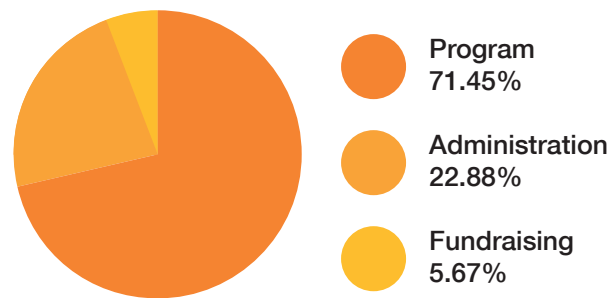


# Finances at a Glance

Global Mission Partners has three separate funds that reflect our total program. Each one is managed and accounted for separately.

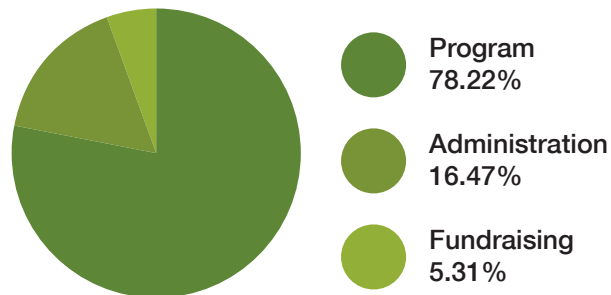
## International Church Partnerships (ICP)

The International Church Partnership fund supports church projects that place a priority on evangelism, church development, leadership development and welfare programs for adults and children. In 2017-2018 \$701,397 was made available for program implementation and community education.



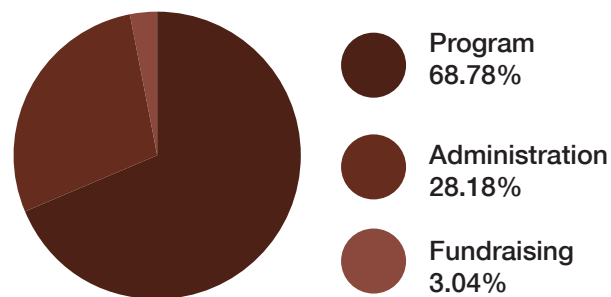
## Churches of Christ Overseas Aid (COCOA)

Churches of Christ Overseas Aid is an approved fund under the Overseas Aid Gift Deduction Scheme and has Base Accreditation from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. COCOA has policies and priorities that guide the use of funds. In 2017-2018 \$1,629,726 was made available for program implementation and community education.



## Indigenous Ministries Australia (IMA)

Indigenous Ministries Australia is supported through the Indigenous Partnership Fund. The mission statement of this program is 'Encouraging new directions with Indigenous Christian ministries'. In 2017-2018 \$350,085 was made available for program implementation and community education.



The amounts and percentages above are derived from the Audited Financial Statements and calculated based on percentages of particular forms of expenditure according to ACFID definitions. The following summary report complies with the presentation and disclosure requirement of the ACFID Code of Conduct (see [www.acfid.org.au](http://www.acfid.org.au)). The Audited Financial Statements are available at [www.gmp.org.au](http://www.gmp.org.au)

# Breakdown by Country

ICP		COCOA		COCOA		COCOA	
ICP Program	\$	Associate Partners	\$	COCOA Program	\$	Associate Partners	\$
Bangladesh	19,272	Mother's Love	2,975	Bangladesh	23,577	COSMOS Health Care	2,870
Fiji	56,029	Geon Homes and Asia Gospel Mission	8,724	India	5,571	Urban Neighbours of Hope	120,322
India	45,280	Reaching Hands	1,221	Papua New Guinea	9,421	Live Connection	475
Indonesia	26,949			South Sudan	135,872	Nicaragua Project	16,963
Papua New Guinea	52,096			Thailand	6,202	HumeRidge PNG	369,263
South Sudan	5,767			Vanuatu	30,554	Vanuatu Medical	13,157
Thailand	5,000			Vanuatu ANCP	74,828	Vanuatu Elizabeth Education	494
Vanuatu	13,639			Vietnam	58,343		
Vietnam	35,571			Vietnam ANCP	11,272		
Zimbabwe	65,859			Zimbabwe	337,885		
People in Mission	157,007			Zimbabwe ANCP	70,000		
Other	48,942			Emergency	40,728		
<b>Project Total</b>	<b>531,411</b>	<b>Project Total</b>	<b>12,920</b>	<b>Project Total</b>	<b>804,253</b>	<b>Project Total</b>	<b>523,544</b>
<b>ICP Total</b>	<b>544,331</b>	<b>COCOA Total</b>	<b>1,327,797</b>				

## IMA

IMA Program	\$	Associate Partners	\$
Projects and Ministries	66,989	Indigenous Connections	12,980
<b>Project Total</b>	<b>66,989</b>	<b>Project Total</b>	<b>12,980</b>
<b>IMA Total</b>	<b>79,969</b>		

Note: These figures are derived from the Audited Financial Statements available at [www.gmp.org.au](http://www.gmp.org.au)

**Grand Total** 1,952,097

# Overall Comments

There are several ways to look at the GMP finances. First, we continue to have a strong Balance Sheet with good reserves supporting our activities. These reserves are made up of designated funds, bequests, trusts and accumulated surpluses. As you will see GMP recorded deficits. Much of this was anticipated. COCOA's equity reduced in the year due to reduced income and an expansion in activity. This situation is being managed to minimise the risk of this being repeated.

Secondly, in the Balance Sheet you will see that GMP is investing these reserves to generate income, and some capital from the bequest reserve is also being applied to support marketing and fundraising initiatives. The investments are well managed and the capital value stable, even with the drawdown of our assets. The bequests of previous years are creating new pathways for the future.

Thirdly, you will note in the Profit and Loss report that GMP continues to provide strong and reliable support to our partners. We do this through direct investment in activities and through monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of their work. We have done this even when facing deficits. We are pleased to say we have honoured our commitments to our partners.

Finally, GMP continues to face two competing realities; the competition from other organisations for income, from churches and individuals and the roundabout of increased operations and compliance costs.

What are we doing? Our supporters are Churches of Christ, and we are experimenting with new ways to invite individuals and churches to partner through GMP, with ministries in Australia and overseas that make a real impact in the lives of people.



**Australian Churches of Christ Global Mission Partners Ltd.**  
**Income Statement – Extract**

	2018			2017		
	ICP	COCOA	IMA	ICP	COCOA	IMA
<b>Revenue</b>						
Donations and Gifts						
Monetary	766,801	1,419,293	230,811	615,488	1,559,058	190,735
Non-Monetary	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trusts, Legacies and Bequests	11	7,075	11	814,461	16,580	9,745
Grants	-	-	-	-	-	-
Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade	-	150,000	-	-	150,000	-
Investment Income	77,244	31,142	97,332	140,853	91,347	124,915
Other Income	78,146	2,502	7,943	27,906	1,542	1,413
<b>Subtotal International Religious Adherence Promotion Programs Revenue</b>	<b>922,202</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,598,708</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Subtotal Domestic Indigenous Programs Revenue</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>336,097</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>326,808</b>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>922,202</b>	<b>1,610,012</b>	<b>336,097</b>	<b>1,598,708</b>	<b>1,818,527</b>	<b>326,808</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>						
International Programs						
Funds to International Programs	544,331	1,327,797	-	497,196	1,416,090	-
Program Support Costs	45,608	110,750	-	46,226	100,706	-
Community Education	111,458	191,179	-	75,591	141,229	-
Fundraising Costs - Public	55,653	110,536	-	48,618	93,888	-
Accountability and Administration	224,613	343,254	-	176,326	322,619	-
<b>Subtotal International Aid and Development Programs Expenditure</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,083,516</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,074,532</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Subtotal International Religious Adherence Promotion Programs Expenditure</b>	<b>981,663</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>843,957</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
Domestic Programs						
Funds to Domestic Indigenous Programs	-	-	79,969	-	-	78,894
Program Support Costs	-	-	228,318	-	-	214,583
Community Education	-	-	41,798	-	-	16,348
Fundraising Costs - Public	-	-	15,466	-	-	12,578
Accountability and Administration	-	-	143,406	-	-	152,025
<b>Subtotal Domestic Programs Expenditure</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>508,957</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>474,428</b>
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>981,663</b>	<b>2,083,516</b>	<b>508,957</b>	<b>843,957</b>	<b>2,074,532</b>	<b>474,428</b>
<b>Surplus / (Deficit) for the Year</b>	<b>(59,461)</b>	<b>(473,504)</b>	<b>(172,860)</b>	<b>754,751</b>	<b>(256,005)</b>	<b>(147,620)</b>

**Notes to the Income Statement:**

- COCOA funds are used exclusively for International Aid and Development activity.
- ICP Funds are used in International Religious Adherence Promotion and Welfare Programs.
- IMA Funds are used in Domestic Indigenous Programs.
- No funds are used for International or Domestic Political Programs.
- There were no grants received from other Australian or Overseas agencies.
- There was no expenditure under the headings 'Fundraising Costs: Government, multilateral and private' or 'non-monetary' expenditure.

**Notes to the Statement of Financial Position:**

- GMP has a nil inventory, holds no assets for sale, has no non-current trade or other receivables, no investment property, no borrowings, tax or other financial liabilities, current or non-current.

**Australian Churches of Christ Global Mission Partners Ltd.**  
**Statement of Financial Position**

	2018			2017		
	ICP	COCOA	IMA	ICP	COCOA	IMA
<b>Assets</b>						
Cash and Cash Equivalents	515,523	(258,877)	99,602	659,167	26,270	40,242
Trade and Other Receivables	19,833	6,944	16,020	30,862	20,033	36,160
Other Assets	11,199	41,396	2,762	17,909	33,259	4,440
Financial Assets	3,164,397	1,238,860	3,278,571	2,953,242	1,222,805	3,184,083
Property, Plant & Equipment	25,095	11,034	319,036	30,776	16,623	325,984
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>3,736,047</b>	<b>1,039,357</b>	<b>3,715,991</b>	<b>3,691,956</b>	<b>1,318,990</b>	<b>3,590,909</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>						
Trade and Other Payables	(23,047)	124,482	63,124	80,491	13,078	38,057
Provisions	24,968	43,537	18,113	21,833	41,148	17,544
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>1,921</b>	<b>168,019</b>	<b>81,237</b>	<b>102,324</b>	<b>54,226</b>	<b>55,601</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>3,734,126</b>	<b>871,338</b>	<b>3,634,754</b>	<b>3,589,632</b>	<b>1,264,764</b>	<b>3,535,308</b>
<b>Equity</b>						
Specified Project Reserves and Trust Funds	3,275,641	1,166,182	3,317,295	3,171,238	886,252	3,013,267
Asset Revaluation Reserve	517,946	178,657	490,999	273,566	116,473	294,841
Accumulated Surplus	(59,461)	(473,501)	(173,540)	144,828	262,039	227,200
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<b>3,734,126</b>	<b>871,338</b>	<b>3,634,754</b>	<b>3,589,632</b>	<b>1,264,764</b>	<b>3,535,308</b>

**Statement of Changes in Equity**

2018	Accumulated Surplus	Asset Revaluation Reserve	Specified Reserves	Total
<b>Balance at 1 July 2017</b>	634,067	673,369	7,082,268	8,389,704
Surplus for the year	(705,822)	-	-	(705,822)
Transfers from accumulated surplus to specified reserves	(20,874)	-	20,872	-
Total other comprehensive income for the period	-	556,336	-	556,336
<b>Balance at 30 June 2018</b>	<b>(92,629)</b>	<b>1,229,705</b>	<b>7,103,140</b>	<b>8,240,218</b>
2017	Accumulated Surplus	Asset Revaluation Reserve	Specified Reserves	Total
<b>Balance at 1 July 2016</b>	1,146,393	458,033	6,218,816	7,823,242
Surplus for the year	351,126	-	-	351,126
Transfers from accumulated surplus to specified reserves	(863,452)	-	863,452	-
Total other comprehensive income for the period	-	215,336	-	215,336
<b>Balance at 30 June 2017</b>	<b>634,067</b>	<b>673,369</b>	<b>7,082,268</b>	<b>8,389,704</b>



## Statement by the Board

The Board declares that the financial extracts of Australian Churches of Christ Global Mission Partners Ltd. for the year ended 30 June 2018, as set out on the previous pages, has been derived from, and are consistent with, the full audited financial report of Australian Churches of Christ Global Mission Partners Ltd. The full financial report is available on request and is in accordance with relevant legislation, accounting standards, provides a true and fair view of our financial position and performance, and indicates that GMP can pay its debts as and when they become due. This Declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the Board and is signed for, and on behalf of the Board by:

Rod Cousins  
GMP Board

John Gilmore  
Executive Officer

## Independent Audit Report

**MOORE STEPHENS**

Moore Stephens Audit (SA & NT) Pty Ltd

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**Australian Churches of Christ Global Mission Partners Ltd**

**Independent Audit Report to the members of Australian Churches of Christ Global Mission Partners Ltd**

**Report on the Extract Financial Report**

The accompanying extract financial report of Australian Churches of Christ Global Mission Partners Ltd comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2018, statement of changes in equity and income statement – extract for the year then ended and the statement by the Board. The report is derived from the audited financial report of Australian Churches of Christ Global Mission Partners Ltd for the year ended 30 June 2018. It does not contain all the disclosures required by Australian Accounting Standards.

**Board's Responsibility for the Extract Financial Report**

The Board is responsible for the preparation and presentation of the extract financial report derived from the full financial report which was prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, the Corporations Act 2001, the Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission Act 2012 and the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) Code of Conduct. This responsibility includes:

- establishing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation of the extract financial report;
- 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 extract financial report based on our audit procedures. We conducted an independent audit, in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, of the financial report of Australian Churches of Christ Global Mission Partners Ltd for the year ended 30 June 2018. Our report for the year was signed on 20 September 2018 and was not subject to any modification. The Australian Auditing Standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

Our procedures in respect to the extract financial report included testing that the information in the extract financial report is derived from, and is consistent with, the full financial report for the year. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion whether, in all material respects, the extract financial report is consistent with the full financial report.

**Opinion**

In our opinion, the extract financial report of Australian Churches of Christ Global Mission Partners Ltd for the year ended 30 June 2018 is consistent with the full financial report from which it is derived upon which we expressed a qualified opinion.

MOORE STEPHENS

Graeme Rodda  
Director  
Registered Company Auditor 5525  
Adelaide  
27 September 2018

Moore Stephens Audit (SA & NT) Pty Ltd ABN (34 144 550 461) Authorised Audit Company Registered Number (374246). Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation. An independent member of Moore Stephens International Limited - members in principal cities all throughout the world.



### Australian Churches of Christ Global Mission Partners Ltd.

Churches of Christ established the Australian Churches of Christ Global Mission Partners (GMP) in 1891. Our strong history is evident in the quality and values of our partnerships, both internationally and in Australia.

#### Our Vision:

Every Church Partnering in Global Mission

#### Our Mission:

Linking People, Churches and Resources across Nations

#### Our Expectation:

Life-Changing Partnerships

#### GMP Values

- Gospel Centred
- Committed to Sharing
- Respecting People
- Meeting Human Need
- Working for Lasting Change
- In Partnership
- Seeking Independence and Maturity
- Demonstrating High Standards of Practice

#### Registered Office:

114 Henley Beach Road  
Torrensville SA 5031

#### Postal Address:

PO Box 341  
Torrensville Plaza SA 5031

**Freecall:** 1800 467 222

**Phone:** 08 8352 3466

**Fax:** 08 8234 5373

**Website:** [www.gmp.org.au](http://www.gmp.org.au)

**Email:** [info@gmp.org.au](mailto:info@gmp.org.au)

### GMP fulfills its mission through three distinct programs:



International Church Partnerships (ICP) prioritises church planting and development, evangelism and outreach, and the training and development of leaders.



Churches of Christ Overseas Aid (COCOA) is an approved aid and development program with a focus on empowering communities in poverty.

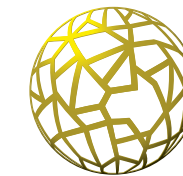


Indigenous Ministries Australia (IMA) focuses on Indigenous ministry and development.

GMP is a company limited by guarantee. The company members are the State Churches of Christ bodies and the Council of Churches of Christ in Australia, and each appoints up to two voting representatives. The members elect the directors. GMP is registered in each State according to local requirements for fundraising.

#### Australian Business Number:

30 455 408 814



ACFID  
MEMBER

GMP is a member of the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) and is committed to full adherence to the ACFID Code of Conduct, which is a voluntary, self-regulatory code of practice ([www.acfid.asn.au](http://www.acfid.asn.au)).

The ACFID Code of Conduct describes standards of practice for its members, including a complaints procedure. Please direct any complaints regarding GMP to the Executive Officer on +61 8 8352 3466. Complaints regarding breaches of the Code can also be directed to ACFID ([www.acfid.asn.au](http://www.acfid.asn.au)).

GMP is also a member of Missions Interlink, the Church Agencies Network, the Micah Coalition, the Campaign for Australian Aid, and the ACT Alliance, and is accredited by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

All photos (unless otherwise credited) are taken by GMP staff, and represent actual GMP projects or partnerships.

Based on communications with our partners, all statistics presented were accurate at the time of printing.

This report is printed on 100% recycled paper that is made carbon neutral, and is printed by Finsbury Green, one of the few carbon neutral printers in Australia.





**THANKYOU**  
**FOR YOUR SUPPORT**  
**WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU**

Above: The Ranwas community,  
Vanuatu, full of spirit. Read their  
story at [www.gmp.org.au/ranwas](http://www.gmp.org.au/ranwas)

Back Cover: Ashwood Memorial  
Hospital, India





Australian Churches of Christ  
Global Mission Partners Ltd.

[www.gmp.org.au](http://www.gmp.org.au)



ACFID  
MEMBER