

Treasurer's Report to 31 December 2018

GUY BUTLER

| | 12 months to 31/12/18 Actual | 12 months to 31/12/18 Plan | 12 months to 31/12/17 Actual |
|------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Income | 95,436 | 97,162 | 106,954 |
| Expenses | 94,544 | 97,162 | 87,337 |
| Net Income | 892 | — | 16,617 |
| Net Assets | 47,470 | 46,578 | 46,578 |



Looking back over the year, our finances have followed a now familiar pattern with donations dipping in the middle of the year when compared to plan, only to increase later in the year. The overall result is as shown above. Full year income and expenses were within \$3,000 of planned amounts, and the net assets at yearend were \$892 ahead of where they were at the beginning of the year, at a very healthy \$47,470.

So, I have to say a very big thank you on behalf of the board to our Lord and to all our faithful financial supporters.

I have looked back at where CCSM's income comes from. CCSM really is a local grassroots organisation! 100% of our income comes from locals churches (40%) or local individuals (60%) - give or take a few "grey nomads". This really excites me. It shows that we are a local organisation dedicated to taking the good news of Jesus out from our local churches and into our local community.

Please keep up your giving in 2019. We still have an open door to present Jesus and the Christian faith in our schools. Let's make the most of it!

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CCSM NEWSLETTER

Volume 18 Issue 1

February 2019



Politicians and educators support SRE

LOIS DRUMMOND

Scripture teachers of various faiths and cultures from across NSW and 10 or 12 politicians from various parties made up a crowd of 400 at the Celebration of SRE at Parliament House on 22 November that Ed and I were privileged to attend for the first time.

Attending this Celebration showed us that CCSM teachers' faithful service is widely valued. The Minister for Education, Mr Rob Stokes and the Shadow Minister, Mr Jihad Dib told us about their own faith journeys and their appreciation of the part SRE can play for children today.



Two Jewish Professors, Zehavit Gross (from an Israeli university) and Suzanne Rutland (Sydney University) spoke about a study they have released on Special Religious Education and its value to contemporary society, an extract below:

SRE provides key benefits including:

- An effective **values education** that empowers student decision making, fosters student action and assigns real student responsibility
- Important **psychological benefits** to students' mental health and wellbeing
- **Strengthening the multicultural fabric** of Australian schools
- Creating safe place for students to explore deeper questions of faith and belief

With both Houses sitting, bells rang several times calling politicians to vote; so various members left and returned shortly after – an entertaining interruption, but heartening evidence of their support.



Introducing Caryl Martin

Caryl Martin is the newest member of the CCSM board. Caryl is a wife, mother grandmother, teacher and follower of Jesus. She and Cliff emigrated from South Africa in 1986 with their three pre-school aged sons and settled in Bathurst.

When her youngest son started school, Caryl resumed her teaching career, although two of her teaching subjects, Latin and Biblical Studies, were not taught in Bathurst. She was astonished to discover that only one student in her Year 8 English class had heard the story of Daniel in the lions' den, which was referenced in the novel the class was studying. In South Africa, RE had been compulsory and every teacher required to teach it, (not that she advocates or supports this system) and so children in public schools had all heard the Bible stories.

She was pleased to discover that RE was available in the primary schools and became a member of the Combined Churches' Committee, formed to employ a scripture teacher in the local high school.

Over the years Caryl, because she worked part-time, was able to teach SRE in three primary schools in Brisbane and found this a source of great pleasure and fulfilment.

(From information supplied by Caryl, with next paragraphs added by Lois)

Since joining the board as assistant secretary Caryl organised CCSM Dinner 2018, assisted Darren and Kent with curriculum editing and taught scripture at Kororo - all this in a year when visits to family in South Africa, Switzerland and Victoria were already scheduled! We welcome her warmly!

Please pray God will make us wise as we move towards a shared and workable administration system for this vital task.



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Kent Cheney on High Schools

It seems like it was just yesterday that I was getting ready for 2018 Scripture, and now here I am heading into 2019! What an honour it is to teach God's Word to students who otherwise wouldn't get this chance.

I'm particularly looking forward to a lesson early on which looks at what the students value. It's a great lesson because it gives them a chance to think about what's important in their lives both now and for the future.

Their responses generally include relationships (family, friends, romantic), money and social media.

We look at how all these things are great but particularly focus on the importance of relationships. After all God created us for relationships, firstly, with Himself, then with others. We see how much the Bible values relationships and encourage the students to invest into theirs.

This includes developing a relationship with God, loving their family, choosing wise friends and showing self-sacrificial love to a potential partner.

Please pray for the students as we look at these great topics and get into 2019!



Prayer focus:

- * More new teachers ready to do necessary training
- * Retired teachers keen to teach or job-share classes
- * Darren working on editing our high school curriculum