

Treasurer's Report to 30 April 2020

GUY BUTLER

	4 months to 30/04/20 Actual	4 months to 30/04/20 Plan	12 months to 31/12/20 Plan	12 months to 31/12/19 Actual
Income	28,442	25,105	87,054	88,854
Expenses	37,779	40,995	87,054	89,884
Net Income	-9,337	-15,890	0	-1,030
Net Assets	27,757	21,204	37,094	37,094

As usual, I begin by thanking all who give to support the work of CCSM. We closed out 2019 with net assets of \$37,094 after our expenses for the year exceeded our income by \$1,030. Income from donations slowed significantly in the second half of 2019, and this trend has continued in 2020. This seems to be largely because fewer one off donations have been made by individuals. In 2020 this could well be a result of the COVID19 situation. Included in the actual income for 2020 we have \$10,000 received from the Australian government as part of the COVID stimulus measures they have announced. The CCSM board has decided to keep Darren Gray employed as our high school teacher under his regular terms and so we are currently going through the Jobkeeper application process, which if successful will yield further income support for us. Given all of the above, our income for the year so far is satisfactory. Our expenses for the year to date are lower than planned, largely because we have not incurred costs in sponsoring Easter events at schools. Our net assets are ahead of what we planned, which is very encouraging. Please continue to pray for CCSM. These are strange times and we do not know how the return to schools will play out. As the return to school begins, it will be great to think that students will again be able to hear about our great God and His love for all of us. And please pray for our finances. May we always have sufficient to meet the needs we are here to meet.

Coffs Coast Schools Ministry Inc Post Office Box 1515 Coffs Harbour NSW 2450

Chairman: Keith McPherson

Treasurer: Guy Butler Ph 6658 9732

Secretary: Caryl Martin

Email: info@ccsm.org.au Web: www.ccsm.org.au



CCSM NEWSLETTER

May 2020



Big Change - Lois Drummond steps down

by Keith McPherson



Anyone who has had anything to do with Scripture in Coffs Harbour Schools over the last couple of decades would know Lois Drummond. She and Ed have been the back bone, the energy, the organisers and the work horses of this vital ministry. The chairman's role has always been relatively easy with Lois as secretary as she has been across all the various areas of what needs to happen and when. Both Ed and Lois were awarded commendations at a parliamentary dinner for their long years of service to SRE. Ed taught SRE in NSW schools from 1956-2019, a total of 64years.

Sadly, this year Lois has had to step down from her position as secretary on the grounds of ill health. She is getting better with treatment but will not be able to return to her previous role as secretary. Please continue to pray for Lois and Ed, which they would very much value. Ed tells me that he is extremely thankful to his children and grandchildren, who fill the fridge and cook meals, even purchasing a mobile phone for Ed, which he can sometimes get to work.

As a consequence of Lois' departure SRE hasn't been quite as organised as we would like in 2020. Add to this the lockdown through COVID19 and it has been a rather disappointing year as far as having access to teach children about the Lord Jesus, who loves them.

The CCSM Board are muddling through at the moment. Please pray for us as we are all people busy in other ministry areas. Pray that we will facilitate SRE; that we will be wise; that the Lord will continue to support the ministry financially; and that we can continue to recruit and train the SRE teachers of the future. Thanks for walking beside us in this ministry.



Reflections on 40years of Teaching Scripture

BETH ROGERS

How much things have changed!

I started teaching shortly after the Ministers' Fraternal decided to go Interdenominational.

We were trained by Olwyn and Lionel Nobbs weekly for six weeks. We were given very few tools but we did have the Holy Spirit to go with us. The class teachers vacated the classrooms when we arrived and we did the best we could.

I can remember finding out that a year three class at Tyalla wasn't being taught and the informer said that they were too naughty to have scripture. I said I was happy to teach them.

When I was learning the story I had prepared for their first lesson I kept getting the message that I wouldn't need it. As it turned out, the children kept asking sensible questions about God and Jesus for the whole half hour! They were so thirsty for the word that there were no behaviour problems.

We were allowed to ask the children to say the prayer of committal if they wanted to follow Christ. We can no longer do that but we can still sow the seed and allow the Holy Spirit to do the rest.

What a wonderful privilege it has been to teach so many hundreds of children over the many years.

Imagine how thirsty the children will be once we are allowed back into onto the schools after COVID19?

Now is the time to do the training on line. Please ask Keith our Chairman about it.



Wanted, preferably alive: the donation of a laptop computer. If anyone has upgraded their laptop and the old one is quite reasonable for running email and Microsoft Office, we could use it as a dedicated Secretary Computer.



News from High Schools

DARREN GRAY, HIGH SCHOOL SRE TEACHER

What a year we have had! Fires, floods and a pandemic! However, we can be assured that God goes before us as we share the Good News in schools all over the Coffs Coast.

In our High Schools this year, we have continued to share Jesus with young people, who will become the influencers of this city and beyond. In addition to our previous commitments, we have been given the opportunity of teaching year 11 for the first time ever! We're working with a new curriculum and are strategizing the best approach to connect with students.

Last year saw the phasing in of opt-in, for year 7 SRE in our High Schools. This dramatically affected student numbers in 2019. I am pleased to report that year 7 numbers are on the rise again this year, praise the Lord! Please continue praying about the whole process though, and for God to be moving in the unseen. Our desire is that no young person is denied an opportunity to discover God for themselves.

In 2019 I was challenged by the Holy Spirit to maintain the enthusiasm and momentum of a full classroom, with one that only has a handful of students. How did I go about doing this?

Start by never assuming a person's personal relationship with Jesus. In a classroom, office, sporting event, church, or wherever you may find yourself (post COVID 19), share genuinely about Christ. Remember what God has done for you and try to instil a sense of wonder, awe, excitement, reverence, honour and appreciation that will make people want to discover more. More than ever, we need to point people to God with authenticity and let Him do the rest.

Blessings, Darren.

