



PO Box 1515, Coffs Harbour, NSW 2450

SECRETARY'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2016

14 March 2017

Once again we give thanks to God for supplying teachers and funds to enable us to teach 3,700 primary and 1,000 high school students "about Jesus and the Bible", as one principal expressed it.

In the first week of term when primary schools were not ready for us, 75 enthusiastic volunteers were at training morning with Lynda Mulder, learning about Good Teaching for Classroom management. A university tutor in primary education and former deputy principal, Lynda always uses recognisable classroom scenarios. Nineteen of the 75 came from smaller areas. God's Big Picture throughout the Bible was Chairman Keith's topic at mid-year training for 50 teachers.

Thanks to Justin Pearson's extra DVD training sessions it is pleasing to report that most of our 61 teachers completed the six modules of training agreed to by major denominations.

In the high schools we employed a new teacher for one day a week, Kent Cheney, released to us by Harbourside Presbyterian Church. Darren Gray again taught yrs 7 to 10 at Woolgoolga High School and yr 7 at Coffs Harbour High School, and was assisted by Kent at Orara High School with yrs 7 and 8. We were unable to negotiate a scripture roster at Toormina High School until term 3, when Darren began with one fortnightly class instead of the previous year's five classes. However, we are expecting more classes in 2017.

Darren and Kent completed online training and attended a regional session for high school teachers on Duty of Care with Lynda Mulder on behalf of the Inter Church Commission on Religious Education in Schools.

Darren spoke about schools' ministry in services at 11 churches and Kent at one church. Kent also took yr 6 classes in nine primary schools to introduce students to high school scripture.

At the Annual Dinner on 6 August 124 people from 21 churches celebrated the sowing of the seed of the Word of God in our schools. We are particularly indebted to Matt Guidon and his family for the gourmet meal and to Your Church for hosting us. Not a few commented on the fellowship across denominations and churches.

Ross Willis's resignation from the board after 11 years due to his relocation was received with regret, and Bob Manners joined the board.

Peter Anderson kept our website up to date, and churches were supplied with quarterly newsletters with articles mainly from high school and primary teachers along with a report from the treasurer.

We go forward into 2017 "strong in the Lord and in His mighty power" (Ephesians 6:1 NIV).