

GENERATIONS

2024 BI-ANNUAL REPORT

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



I can't wait to see you at conference this year! So many wonderful things are happening around our state, as we continue to strengthen our churches and reach those far from Christ.

We all know the importance of making sure our kids, youth and young adults not only find Jesus but also their God given calling. Therefore, we are focusing our conference on generations. In February this year, Mark McCrindle from McCrindle Research released helpful research on what young people are looking for in leaders; 72% of them said they need leaders who are more like mentors than teachers. They don't simply want to be told about faith, they want to see us live it out.

In Psalms 78:6-7 we read *"So, the next generation might know them—even the children not yet born—and they in turn will teach their own children. So, each generation should set its hope anew on God, not forgetting his glorious miracles and obeying his commands."*

After 18 years on the State Executive and 6 years as President, I believe it's time for me to pass the baton. There are many things we were able to achieve in the past 6 years but here are some I'm most thankful for:

- **Women are well represented with our movement.** Lou Antonius and Roz Zaia have been amazing contributors to our State Executive team and our state. We have more women represented in our Regional Executives than ever before. I am thrilled to see the number of women who are ACC credential holders in NSW & ACT has grown to 352 over the last 6 years - a huge 37% of our total credentialed pastors.
- **Pastors' Health has been a big focus over the last 6 years,** as we continue to understand the importance of supporting and resourcing our pastors and leaders. We have also sought to foster a culture that values mentoring and supervision. So far, 30 pastors have taken part in mentoring and supervision through our initiatives.

- **Young Adults' Ministry continues to grow** under Joel Mitchell's leadership. Joel and the team continue to work with young adults across all spheres of life, helping them understand that whatever their vocation, God is calling them. We were excited to host our first retreat this year, with over 400 young adults attending. Since October 2022, we have had 82 people in NSW and the ACT take part in the Youth Alive Academy.
- **Intelligent Gospel.** Through our hands-on approach and innovation within the state, we engaged in meaningful conversations with young leaders and pastors, to create the Intelligent Gospel forum. Inspiration alone isn't enough to reach the next generation with the gospel. Instead, we believe that the gospel and the Bible offer intelligent and relevant responses to contemporary cultural and societal challenges.
- **Churches planted.** We have seen 81 ACC churches planted throughout NSW & ACT over the last 6 years.
- **Discipleship has been another huge focus.** In 2021, we recognised the need to redefine and re-invigorate how we make disciples and build a discipleship culture in our movement. Hundreds of leaders and pastors were surveyed and as a result, the team led by Andy Flaherty developed a menu of discipleship tools, resources, and partners that our churches could engage with, to see a discipleship culture grow in their local context. Since then, we have resourced our movement in several ways:
 - providing more than \$150k of free training and resources in effective discipleship,
 - gathering hundreds of leaders, across multiple platforms like state conference, ministry essentials intensives and online professional development sessions, learning from each other,
 - and developing key partnerships with Alpha, BDC, Pais and Alphacrucis University College, to ensure we are continually improving ourselves, our people, and our practice of making disciples.
- **COVID19** - I am very thankful for how ACC NSW & ACT stayed strong as a movement during the very trying pandemic. Behind the scenes, ACC NSW & ACT became a significant voice to the NSW Premier and government, ensuring our churches and pastors were treated fairly and respectfully during this time.

I am looking forward to celebrating with you, in Port Macquarie, the 24 churches that have been planted (since 2022), the 54 people who have taken part in our Starting Stronger training, the 74 people who have taken part in our Ministry Essentials intensive, the 58 OMC credentialed pastors who have now been endorsed, and the 64 PMC/SMC pastors that have been credentialed into the ACC.

I want to thank all our wonderful regional leaders who work incredibly hard to lead the pastors and churches under their care. Equally, I want to thank our ministry department leaders, who take on the huge task of ensuring that the ACC priorities continue to grow and influence across our state.

I want to thank Darren Bonnell, Elizabeth Johnston, Ken Fischer, Laura Creelman, Jeanette Howden, and Chris Smith, who work tirelessly behind the scenes, along with Jeffrey Bartlett (ACC National General Manager), who helps as needed. A special thanks to the State Executive team who make leading the state an incredible joy. It has been a privilege to work alongside you all.

Personally, I want to thank each pastor for allowing me to lead you. I will miss you the most. I encourage you to continue to believe in the calling of our future generations and the assignment God has for them and to encourage them as you walk alongside them. Keep up the great work in finding new and alternate ways to reach the lost and care for those in your churches and your wider communities.

And finally, congratulations to the newly elected President and State Executive. My prayers are with you and I'm confident that ACC NSW & ACT will continue to grow even stronger.

God Bless.

Paul Bartlett.
State President

MARK ZSCHECH

President Nominee

Mark and Darlene serve as Lead Pastors of Hope Unlimited Church (Hope UC) with campuses in Charmhaven, Gosford, Peninsula, Newcastle, Maitland and Port Stephens, as well as internationally in the US and India. Mark lives on the Central Coast of NSW with his wife Darlene and they have 3 daughters Amy, Chloe, Zoe Jewel, sons in law Andrew, Hosanna & Matt, and 6 grandchildren.

On a family trip to Rwanda, Mark was challenged by the plight of the Rwandan people. In response, Mark and Darlene launched Hope Rwanda: 100 Days of Hope and Hope Global, which continues impacting the nation of Rwanda with deliverable programs such as teacher training and the Village of Hope (housing for widows and orphans).

This work has also spread to Cambodia and India. Mark also runs 4B Media and 4B Serve, its focus being to pioneer and lead in the accessing of TV in developing nations, helping ministries to maximise their reach, and utilise local support services. 4B has also developed a Diploma of Screen and Media course, in partnership with Alphacrucis University College, to help students become Media Missionaries via their “Learn and Earn” program.

Locally, Mark was part of the team that brought the Australian Christian Channel (now rebranded to Good TV) onto Foxtel, and rolled out (in his role as Senior Pastor of Hope UC) the “Can We Pray For You” campaign, which is designed for Kingdom purpose to

impact the regions and cities by highlighting the spiritual practice of prayer into the marketplace and creating another pathway for people to access a local church.

Recently appointed to the ACC National Executive member and a State Executive Member for the past 2 years, Mark has a strong passion for the local church and its mission to see the hope of Jesus Christ reside in every heart. He is passionate about pastors and leaders being people of faith and worship, who put God at the centre of their lives, and he is focused on supporting pastors and churches.



PASTORS HEALTH

Our Pastors Health team exists to advocate for and resource pastors and leaders in the health and wellness space. We encourage our leaders to connect to their calling, enjoy holistic health and lead with confidence and courage. Over the last two years we have been intentional in our initiatives to keep our pastors and leaders healthy.

THE TEAM

We welcomed Steve Farr to the team last year. Steve has served in pastoral leadership for over thirty years, with a proven track record in leading teams, cultivating healthy communities and building a flourishing discipleship culture;

STATE CONFERENCE

In **2023** we hosted a Monday night dinner and stream on Succession with John Sikkema. This was well attended and started a very important conversation.

In **2024** we are offering 8 free supervision sessions for any of our pastors who have never had supervision before.

SUPERVISION/MENTORING

Over the last two years we have seen an increase in pastors signing up for mentoring, supervision and coaching.

This year we have endorsed a few people to mentor/coach our ACC pastors who each have an area of speciality. These people bring different strengths and experience, providing a spectrum of support for our Pastors and Leaders. We have mentors/coaches

that can help with Marriage, business, identity and different ethnicities.

State Pastoral Team: We have a group of experienced ,trained ministers who work with the regional leaders, to care for (take out for a coffee if needed) and sit with our senior leaders. Sometimes all we need is another person who understands, who will listen and provide a safe space for us. Caleb and Renee Dwyer are doing a great job in this space growing and overseeing this team

WEBPAGE

This year we have recreated and updated our website page to bring clarity around the services we provide. We are very proud of it, so why not check us out by clicking or scanning the QR Code.



PASTORS HEALTH HOTLINE

We have set up a Pastors' Health Hotline (PHH). If you call this number 02 4075 2710, Ps Marilyn Brett will be available to talk to you and help you find the right support. Marilyn is a coach, mentor and has pastored along with her husband for 35 years



Marriage & Ministry Retreat

NEW INITIATIVES

In June we hosted our first “Marriage and Ministry” retreat for seven couples. The venue was in the beautiful Hunter Valley, our guest speakers were Mark and Roz Zaia, Mark and Darlene Zschech. We had excellent feedback from the couples who attended and we are looking at hosting it annually.

In August we hosted our first ever Professional Development zoom for Pastors health. Ralph Estherby was our guest speaker and he provided a very informative and helpful session on “Pursuing Positive Mental Health for you, your team and your church”.

We are grateful to the State Executive that they place such high value on Pastor’s health. We encourage you to go to our website, reach out and take advantage of the resources we have. Here’s to finishing well and being well when we finish!

**Roz Zaia, Caleb Dwyer,
Susan Marcuccio & Steve Farr**
State Leaders



Our first ever PD for Pastor's Health (thank) Ralph Estherby

DARREN BONNELL

Vice President Nominee

Darren and his wife Bronwyn, lead The Chapel Collective, a multisite Church in 7 locations throughout regional NSW. Darren has served on the State Executive for 10 years, overseeing Church Planting and serving as the Vice President since 2018.

In 2023, Darren formerly launched Multisite X (part of The Jethro Project) which has been adopted by ACC nationally as a part of a church planting training rollout. Darren consults with churches across several denominations nationally using Multisite X.

Darren is passionate about positioning people in their God appointed purpose and raising up churches to thrive in their God appointed future. Darren is known for his conviction, authenticity, and love of sports, his love is his wife. the gorgeous Bron and their three children.





CHURCH PLANTING

If you planted a church or started another location in this last Conference Period...well done...we are so proud of you (and so grateful for your act of sacrifice and faith)! If you joined the ACC in this last Conference period...welcome to the family!

At the time of writing this report, we have endorsed **24** ACC NSW Churches, (13 churches in the 2022-2023 Conference period, and 11 churches in the 2023-2024 Conference period) from all over NSW & the ACT.

Church Planting ACC NSW & ACT is passionate about seeing churches planted...and the pastors of these churches trained, resourced, financed and coached in launching churches that not only start in strength, but go the distance.

INTERESTED IN PLANTING A CHURCH OR LOCATION?

1. **Attend a starting Strong intensive.** These training intensives are free to every prospective church planter in the ACC. 
2. **Join the Multisite X pathway** to get your church in a strong position to start another location. 
3. **Speak to us** about personal coaching.
4. **If you've got a well thought-through plan** and strategy there is generous church planting funding options available.

To explore all that's possible you can email us at darren.bonnell@nswacc.org.au or chris.smith@acc.org.au

Darren Bonnell
State Leader

BEN SATTLER

Secretary/Treasurer Nominee

Ben and his wife Amy serve as the Lead Pastors of City Church in the Blue Mountains. They have served in a variety of staff ministry roles over the last 15 years and as lead pastors for the past 6 years.

They are passionate about building a healthy, multi-generational church and seeing people reached for Jesus, raised as disciples, and released into their God-given purpose. Ben is a visionary leader, a relatable pastor and is passionate about helping people thrive in their unique gifts and calling.

Ben and Amy have been married for 16 years and have three incredible kids - Cooper, Georgia, and Hudson.



AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN WOMEN

Australian Christian Women NSW & ACT exists to create gatherings where women can connect, be equipped and have a God encounter. We do this through retreats, conferences and cohorts (zooms) across the regions. Every region has a leader who works alongside the regional teams.

This year we have added a Gen Zedder and a couple of millennials to our team.

We welcome Jemima Jabez representing the south west Sydney region, Amy Hagan from the central coast, Linnea Barlow from New England and Jules Coleman from Port Macquarie.

STATE EVENTS FROM LAST TWO YEARS:

Two Leadership retreats We host these in the beautiful surrounds of Mt Carmel, Varroville. In 2022 we launched our first one, called "Finding her Voice" and it was so successful we followed it up with a second one in 2023 on Resilience. Margaret Stunt was our speaker and brought inspiration, experience, prophetic words and lots of laughter.

Annual State lunch In 2023 we hosted Darlene Zschech who shared a message on "What I would say to my 20 year old self". The room was packed as we gleaned from her years of wisdom.

TWO PILOT RETREATS

May 2024 | "Leadership Intelligence" We took 16 of our leaders away to the central coast, looking at topics such as difficult

conversations, prayer, personality tests and tempered leadership. We included a ministry night, had all the generations and it was a significant time of investing into current and future leaders.

July 24 | Staying strong This retreat was all about health - finishing well and being well when we finish. We hiked, learnt about intuitive eating, worshipped and enjoyed an afternoon session with Susan Marcuccio. The leaders gave this one the tick of approval and have asked for a repeat! Watch this space

REGIONAL EVENTS

These gatherings prove fruitful and impactful as women from across the state meet in their own regions, without the hassle of travelling vast distances. Shout out to all our ACW regional leaders who work hard to create gatherings where our women can connect, grow and experience God.

Sydney Central | May 28 Katherine Fletcher and Pramila Jabez, who lead women in this region, hosted a gathering called "A loud Whisper". There were over 200 women in attendance, many from ethnic churches. This event is gathering momentum and growing every year. Pramila Jabez did one of the best acknowledgements to countries I have ever heard.

South Sydney | June 1 led by Michelle Hobbs hosted a beautiful women's event for her region. Kirrily Lowe from C3 took the women through a presentation called "Invisible She" with over 150 women in attendance.

Norwest Region | July 27 Maureen Sharma and team hosted an event called "SHE". The tables were magnifically decorated, there were scones, jam and cream, home made soup and wonderful ministry - thank you Norwest.

Hunter Region | August 16-17 Rise Womens Conference

New England | August 30-31 Shine Conference in Tamworth

Riverina | September 20-21 Brave Conference 2024 (Riverina)

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 16, 2024

State Women's lunch at conference: "The Generations Unplugged" an honest conversation about mistakes, mandates and mission.

Speakers:

- Roz (Baby Boomer)
- Bron (Gen X)
- Bonnell Beck Wilesmith (Gen Y)
- Jabez (Gen Z)

March 31 - April 2, 2025

Leadership Retreat - Guest speaker Vicki Simpson, Venue is Varroville, more details to come.

New initiative in 2024/25

Cohorts are coming: In November this year we are kicking off our first ACW zoom cohort. These groups will meet around a specific topic, our first one is called "How I survived being a pastors kid". These gatherings are a way of connecting the generations and equipping our leaders around specific themes we don't otherwise have a chance to talk through. More details to come.

Roz Zaia

State Leader



Our first group at Varroville



Leadership Intelligence crew



We made it! Hiking Group from Staying Strong



State Lunch 2023



South Sydney | Invisible SHE



Norwest Sydney | SHE

SRE

LARGEST REGULAR INTERFACE BETWEEN CHURCHES AND THEIR COMMUNITIES

What a privilege it is to be able to teach the Christian Faith to students in Government schools!

FACT: There are over 2,000 schools in NSW with over a quarter of a million students involved in SRE. These are serviced by over 10,000 SRE teachers, mostly volunteers. This is the largest regular interface between churches and their communities.

Currently 72 of our 332 churches provide SRE teachers to local schools. With 200 SRE teachers representing ACC, we are educating approximately 3,000 students in the Christian Faith each week.



Our **teacher training team** has grown to five trainers and we are regularly training people to teach SRE. We have recently launched an online SRE Teacher Training course, this provides people with the opportunity to

train in their own time. A photo on this page shows our newest teachers in a zoom with me.

More young adults are taking up the opportunity to teach SRE, fitting it in with their Uni studies or shift work. Others who are working from home are using their lunch time to teach SRE.

Our regions with the highest number of SRE teachers are:

- Blue Mountains 34 teachers
- Hunter 32 teachers
- Sydney Central 18 teachers
- North Coast 18 teachers

This year I took on the role of Advisor to ICCOREIS (Inter Church Commission on Religious Education In Schools) and Pastor Rick McNamara from East Coast Church has stepped into the role of ACC Representative and Board member of the Commission.

If you would like your church to be part of this exciting opportunity contact: sre@nswacc.org.au or scan or click the the QR code.



Barbara Scott
State Leader



SAFER CHURCHES

It has been 9 years since ACC first implemented a Child Protection Policy and provided churches with a range of resources to assist them to implement child protection policy and procedures across all ministry areas. In this time, we have seen significant legislative requirements we need to meet in NSW including:

- Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998
- Child Protection (Working with Children) Act 2012
- Commission for Children and Young People Act 1998
- Crimes Act 1900:
 - Section 316 - Offence: Concealing serious indictable offence;
 - Section 316A - Failure to Report child abuse (Sexual or Physical);
 - Section 43B - Failure to Protect;
 - Division 10 - sexual offences against adults and children.
- Children's Guardian Act 2019
- Children's Guardian Amendment (Child Safe Scheme) 2021

Alongside this legislation, as churches we need to be aware of our obligations with Work, Health and Safety, including bullying, new consent laws, elder abuse, and, as of, July 1st, 2024, coercive control legislation.

All ACC Safer Churches online training has been updated and will be available from the start of State conference, [online training will be unavailable between September 20-Oct 14] including a new

Teen helper option that costs just \$5/ person and is designed to be facilitated as group in your church.

The refreshed ACC national website now makes accessing the full Safer Churches implementation kit simple. You will find resources to support each of the ACC Safer Churches Guidelines, most of which can be adapted with your church logo and made specific to your church facilities.

As we focus on Generations, I encourage you to refresh your knowledge of NSW law and how this impacts your church, and ensure your teams are up to date with their safer churches training.

Allyson Parker
State Leader



INDIGENOUS INITIATIVE

Welcome to the NSW Indigenous Initiative State Report. In this edition we are excited to bring fresh insights and perspectives of God's emerging opportunities for the next generation of First Nation Leaders in our state & Nation, through the Five Stones Leadership Courses, and we are also very excited to showcase the planting and growth of Aboriginal Christian Schools, while shining a spotlight on the significance of our communities impacted by these initiatives.

 **Five Stones Leadership** is a three-year Leadership Development Project designed specifically for Christian Indigenous leaders across Australia. Students can be located anywhere in Australia, and the course is delivered through online meetings and on-Country gatherings throughout the year.

Our central theme for the course is exploring Uncle Graham Paulson's question of what it means to be "Authentically Aboriginal and truly Christian".

This project is the vision of founding Elder, Uncle Rev. Graham Paulson (now retired). Uncle Graham's God-inspired vision came about when Vincent Lingiari - leader of the Wave Hill Walk-off - requested Uncle Graham to "send back more leaders like yourself." It led Uncle Graham to devote his life to developing leaders who are strong in their cultural knowledge, and able to navigate current society to see their communities thrive. Uncle Graham partnered with the not-for-profit organisation Australians Together in 2010 to see his vision come to life. Ps Sandra Dumas is an Elder, facilitator and guest lecturer on these Course. www.fivestones.org

ABORIGINAL CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

Pacific Gulgangali Jarjums Christian School is part of the Pacific Group of Christian Schools which began with one teacher and one classroom in Sydney in 1979. Since then, the Pacific Group has expanded to multiple campuses across New South Wales.



Pacific Gulgangali Jarjums Christian School established in 2022, with the vision from Ps William Dumas and Dr Tina Lamond, Our School is a Christ-centered educational community located on Bundjalung country. A place where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Jarjums (children) can explore culture while receiving a high-quality, curriculum-based education in a supportive environment.

At the heart of PGJCS lies our commitment to honouring Indigenous traditions and Christian values while providing a quality, curriculum-based education. We strive to create an inclusive and supportive environment where every child feels valued, respected, and empowered to embrace their identity in culture and in Christ. We have connected community and a sense of Belonging, whilst honouring valuable community partnerships as we journey together.

We have great excitement we have further plans for another 2 Aboriginal Christian School on the Mid-North Coast within the next few years.

Will & Sandra Dumas
State Leaders



EMERITUS

As I make the difficult decision to step down from the role of Leader of Pastors Emeritus NSW, after 8 years, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for your unwavering support. The cherished moments we shared, during our lunch gatherings and birthday calls, will always hold a special place in my heart. This decision was not made lightly but, rather, because of the increasing demands on me in the local church where I am a pastor. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to serve in this role and for the support I have received.

After COVID-19, we faced some challenges getting back into our regular gatherings. Many of our Pastors, being elderly, understandably had concerns about going out and socially interacting. However, we persevered and managed to hold some successful gatherings in Newcastle, Penrith, and Liverpool. Some of our Emeritus people have been unwell, and I have spent time with them in hospital and on the phone. I will continue to keep in touch with some of these people. We have also lost some since 2022.

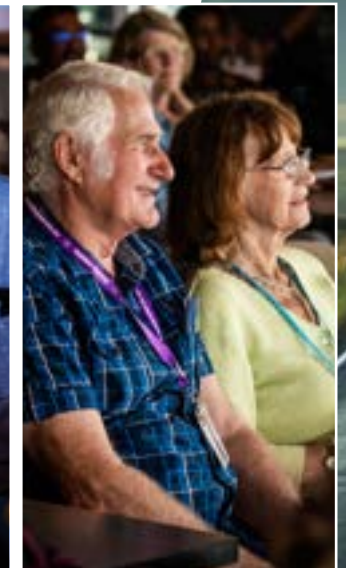
All the Emeritus friends appreciated being remembered. They could ask questions and get information directly on State matters through the attendance of the then-State Secretary Chris Smith and Executive Member Roz Zaia. They also felt the connection with the state executive was being restored, and those still in some form of ministry could share things they were excited about. Many are in chaplaincy or pastoral care

roles in the church. Some are still out there doing evangelism and involvement in prayer groups. Lastly, some in the rural areas met of their own initiative.

Ian & Doreen Bartley
Outgoing Emeritus Leader NSW

Debbie and I were asked to consider taking on the role of State Leaders for the Emeritus group following Ian and Doreen Bartley's decision to stand down. We are honoured to have been asked and are slowly getting our heads around all that this role entails and getting to know the wonderful Emeritus Pastors. We are currently organising a lunch with any available Emeritus Pastors during the week of NSW ACC State Conference and look forward to growing our connection and relationship with them.

Ian & Debbie Wood
Emeritus State Leaders



LOUISE ANTONIUS

Member Nominee

Louise “Lou” Antonius and her husband Felix, lead Eastcoast Church in Caringbah, Sydney’s Sutherland Shire. Lou has been an integral part of Eastcoast Church for 20 years. After serving on the Pastoral team for 11 years in various leadership roles, Lou & Felix transitioned into Senior Leadership 6 years ago.

Lou’s leadership and preaching style endear and inspire people of all ages. She has a deep love for the local church and a passion for it to share the hope of Jesus Christ with the world, starting with the local community. Lou holds portfolios on the State Executive for SRE, Youth Alive, Young Adults, and Kids and she loves state initiatives, such as the Intelligent Gospel Conversation.

Drawing from her personal experience of serving God while raising her three young children, Lou creates opportunities for people to serve and participate in ministry at any stage of life.



CALEB DWYER

Member Nominee

Caleb is a seasoned pastor and leader with a heart for church planting, community impact and helping leaders maintain health. Alongside his wife Renee, he has spent 15 years pioneering multiple church plants and establishing community initiatives in regional NSW and South Asia.

Today, Caleb serves as the Senior Pastor of Generocity Church, a multi-site church spanning diverse communities across rural, regional, and coastal NSW. His leadership extends beyond his church, as he has held the role of ACC NSW Western Region Leader for eight years and continues to serve on the ACC NSW Pastoral Health Team.

A therapist with a Master of Counselling from Alphacrucis University College and extensive ministry experience, Caleb is deeply committed to equipping Christian leaders with paradigms and principles for healthy, sustainable and fruitful ministry. He is dedicated to helping pastors, their families, and their churches thrive spiritually and emotionally, in an ongoing, God-honouring and joyful way.

Caleb, Renee, and their four daughters enjoy ‘living the dream’ on their 100-acre bush property near Bathurst.



GRANT HOBBS

Member Nominee

Grant and Michelle Hobbs have been Senior Pastors at Revival Church since 2012 and together, they have built a dynamic team and ministry. Grant loves the local church, outreach, and seeing people encounter Jesus Christ; he also loves discipling the next generation of church leaders.

Grant has served in various capacities in ACC, including being a regional leader in Western Victoria and Southwest Sydney, ACC Missions Director and assisted the state executive, overseeing regional leaders.

Grant has recently taken on the role of Chairperson for iHope (AAOM). He is passionate about planting culturally relevant churches in every Indigenous community in Australia and fostering a national focus.

Grant and his wife Michelle live in the Sutherland Shire and have three wonderful children. Grant loves motorbikes, cars, boats, and anything else with an engine.



“LOTTY”

Member Nominee

Born in Bangalore India and raised on the Coffs Coast of NSW, Stephen “Lotty” Lott has been a part of LifeHouse Church for over three decades. Starting as Youth Pastor of LifeHouse, then church planter, and then State Director of Youth Alive NSW.

In June 2018, Lotty and his wife Cie took on the role of Senior Pastors of LifeHouse, a church that gathers at five locations across Northern NSW, with a big focus on the local community. Lotty has also served as a member of the State Executive since 2020.

Lotty is a highly relational and innovative leader and a gifted speaker; he also has a passion for mission and chaplaincy. One of Lotty’s greatest joys has been to mentor young leaders and see them move into significant roles and churches across our nation.

Lotty and Cie have been married for 24 years and have four amazing children. They live in “paradise” on the Coffs Coast, where Lotty loves playing soccer, as the Coffs Coast’s no. 1 goalkeeper!



ACC KIDS

FUN. FAITH. FRIENDS. FOUNDATIONS. FORMATION. FUTURE.

It has been an amazing year since last conference for ACC Kids NSW & ACT.

In February, we commenced with the Kids' Pastors and leaders undertaking the scholarship so generously provided through the offering taken up at last year's conference. Each person involved was enrolled into the Ultimate Kids Min training course, ACC kids coaching and has been supported to attend a personal training session with the ACC Kids Director, Ps Andy Kirk, plus attend Kidshaper Conference on the Gold Coast. The feedback from all involved has been extremely positive:

"Thank you for allowing me to be a part of the ACC Kids scholarship! With your help and guidance, our ministry is slowly being transformed into something else! There is more awareness, direction, resources, and support than I could have ever hoped for. Thank you :)"

One of the loveliest aspects of the scholarship has been the connection and friendships made. There is such strength that comes to our ministry journey when we know we are not alone. Please consider if one of your team could apply for this scholarship next year.

Kidshaper conference was back for the first time since 2019 in June this year. It was a rich time of impartation, learning and community with guest speakers Ps Terry Parkman and Ps Dave

Adamson, as well as Andy and Christie Kirk and electives with the State leaders. Kidshaper is always such a blessing to anyone involved in children's ministry and your team will always benefit from attending. Your church will see the impact from the vision and ideas that your team glean at Kidshaper, whether this is a one day event, or the full conference.

As we look to 2025 make sure your Kids' Pastor or Leader connects with me and other great kids' leaders across your region whether this is for training, or general pastoral support. Our children are facing a challenging world, but we know, that with Jesus, they are also the generation the world needs. The stronger our children's ministries are, the more we can reach the generations for Christ.

Allyson Parker
State Leader



ACC Kids

CHAPLAINCY AUSTRALIA

Chaplaincy Australia has seen incredible growth across the state, now with 470 Chaplaincy members. Chaplains continue to be the face of the church in many communities, working in ways that transform lives. Along with promoting Chaplaincy as a key link to community engagement, we are delivering professional development and building relationships with individuals and churches across the state, including other denominations.

OVER THE LAST 2 YEARS, WE HAVE FOCUSED ON: Professional Development

Professionalism and accountability are what communities and organizations seek, along with connection and authenticity. We have presented 22 key PD topics for pastors, leaders, and chaplains to ensure qualifications and professionalism align with current issues. Some of these topics include:

- Debriefing for Individuals and Groups
- Navigating Difficult Conversations in a Complex World
- Pastoral Health and Wellbeing
- Our Response to PTSD and Moral Injury
- Trauma-Informed Care

Highlights

- **Northern Rivers Community Workshop:** “Supporting You and Your Community in Mental Health & Grief.”
- **MHFA Training:** Delivery of 8x2 day accredited courses.
- **Corrective Services:** We have three new female chaplains in Grafton, Parklea, and Riverina Youth Justice.

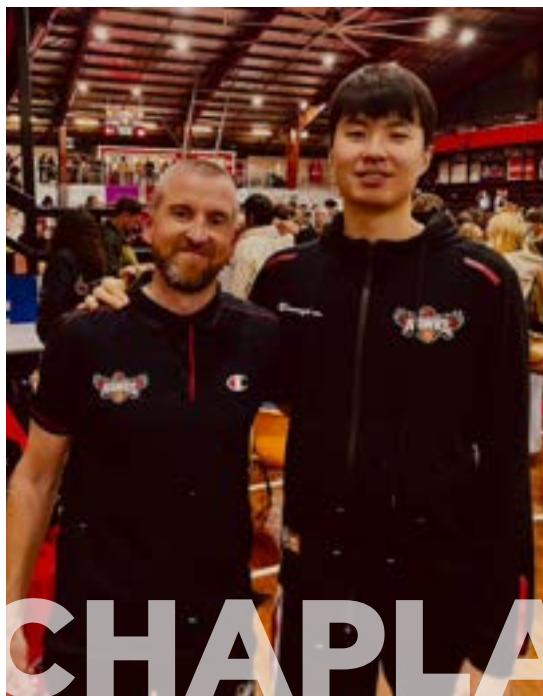
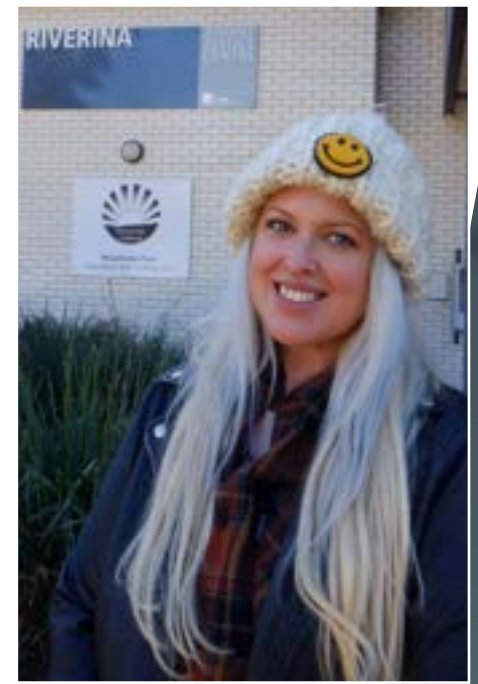
- **Conferences:** Two State Chaplaincy Conferences were held in Terrigal and two of four Empower24 conferences have been held in regional areas this year.
- **Growing Sectors:** Schools, Aged Care, Ambulance, Workplace, Community and Sports
- **School and Workplace Chaplaincy:** Sector highlights held via Zoom to provide exposure to those interested in these areas.
- **1800 Chaplain:** continues to be a key support to churches and communities - Top 4 Categories of Calls:
 - General Pastoral Care - 23%
 - Relationship Issues - 20%
 - Spiritual Wellbeing - 20 %
 - Mental Health Issues - 9%

Chaplains are actively contributing to their communities, providing crucial support and making a significant impact on individuals' lives. As we continue to grow and develop, our focus will be on building teams, paid roles workplace chaplains, training and development for pastors, leaders and chaplains and assisting churches implement Chaplaincy Hubs for their communities.

We see Chaplaincy as a bridge to the community and we are here to assist you to increase your footprint into your neighbourhood and beyond.

Deb Kuhna
State Leader





CHAPLAINCY

AUSTRALIA

RACHEL MAIN

Member Nominee

Rachel and her husband Luke have been the Senior Pastors at Beyond Church in the beautiful Hunter Valley for the past 11 years; Rachel has also been the ACC regional leader of the Hunter region for the past 5 years.

Rachel's vocational background includes being a high school music teacher, local government elected councillor and small business founder, all while seeking to outwork a calling to ministry she experienced at the age of 12. Rachel completed a Master of Leadership through Alphacrucis University College in 2022 and is passionate about the role good governance plays in growing healthy church communities.

Rachel and Luke are celebrating 25 years of marriage and ministry together and are blessed with the ultimate assignment of raising four amazing kids to follow Jesus.



JASON MENDIS

Member Nominee

Jason and his wife Katie have 3 incredible children and serve as the Lead Pastors of REVIVE, a multi-site church in Sydney. With a vision to reach cities and raise leaders, Jason and Katie are building a strong church that is multi-generational & multi-cultural.

Jason is a dynamic preacher & visionary leader who is passionate about bringing people to life in Jesus. He has served in ACC leadership roles for more than 18 years; he has achieved a Bachelor of Business and Commerce and a Master in Leadership, through Alphacrucis University College.

From his involvement with Youth Alive, to leading a successful leadership transition within the first AOG church in Sydney, Jason is full of faith and expectation for what God can and will do across our cities, our state, and our nation.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

My focus for the past two years has been to shift the ministry of Community Engagement from being an optional extra for ACC Churches in our State/Territory. This comes from a desire that Community Engagement is more than just a community program run by a church. Rather, a simple framework that every pastor/church can adopt to be the church a city or region can't live without.



This focus has outworked in the following ways

- 75 leaders at 3 x regional CE round tables hosted in the past 12 months. Each Round Table is an interactive experience of teaching, storytelling and prophetic prayer over our community engagement.
- 70 ACC community leaders at our CE morning walk at conferences.



- Taught 4 x sessions in AC Diploma of Community services. This enables a pipeline for qualified community church leaders.
- Led 4 x sessions at Ministry essentials for new pastors to build influence in their local communities.
- \$10,000 raised in 2023 for Ground up Grants. Recipients are new church plants that begin with the community in mind. Applications for this grant are currently being reviewed.

Finally, it has been encouraging to see the continued fruit of CE investment into disaster re-build in the northern rivers, evident in part by this beautiful story 12 months on from a devastating flood in 2022.

Rob / Brenda Stuttle from Tumbulgum initiated a coffee van (The Blonde Baker) on the front lawn of their church. The van was funded by a \$5000 donation from community engagement last year as a re-build project after the 2022 floods. While the church could not meet in their space, they decided to provide hospitality to their community instead. One lady has become curious about faith through conversations at the coffee cart and came to their church for the first time when the chapel finally re-opened, and she has since given her life to Christ and been baptised. While The Blonde Baker continues out front, they have had to also re-arrange the inside of their chapel to make more room for their growing faith community too.

Josh Hammann
State Leader



YOUTH ALIVE

We're so thankful to God for the fruitful season we've seen in youth ministries these past two years. Youth ministries are booming with growth and glowing in health. Through Youth Alive events and high school ministry, we've reached 14,445 teenagers with the gospel. 2,510 of these teenagers made a faith commitment to follow Christ! We seek to help raise all those we reach, and we've been able to connect 757 teenagers to the Youth Alpha program and continue to champion Alpha as a discipleship resource for youth ministries.

Raising leaders is a significant focus of our ministry; we've trained 1,322 leaders through our events and 1-1 coaching sessions. Our Youth Alive Academy had 64 students engage in studying a High Diploma in Leadership through our accredited program. Chris Klum, Jess Bruce, and Aywan Suleiman are an outstanding team!

This year we launched Youth Alive Young Adults (YAYA). Joel Mitchell is leading this young adults movement in ACT & NSW and galvanised 41 Churches to Newcastle for an incredibly unique and groundbreaking retreat. In 2023, Joel personally contacted every ACC Church in ACT & NSW (over 300 Churches) and began to build relationships and teams. Joel's care for young adult leaders and diligence in his work is of the highest standard. He is simply brilliant, thank you Joel!

We gave \$7,500 to local youth ministries to empower their local evangelism this year. We're looking to give a further \$20,000 away to empower youth ministries to reach their community. Please apply at youthalivensw.com.au/evangelismfund

One last highlight was hosting Melbourne Storm Coach Craig Bellamy at the YA Fundraiser. Impacted by the evening Craig texted a generous thank you and then said "That was very refreshing!" God even refreshes the Melbourne Storm.

Matt & Beck Wilesmith State Leaders



SECRETARY/TREASURER

REPORT 2022 - 2024

The past 24 months have been a time of building and refining the State activities to accommodate current demands, while preparing for growth. We currently have 323 churches, 949 credential holders including 575 ordained ministers.

Our Regional Leaders and Executive Teams continue to do a brilliant job of overseeing our 14 regions and, who along with our Ministry Leaders, lead with passion and integrity, assisting the State Executive.

STAFF

Our office staff includes Elizabeth Johnston (Office Administrator), Jeanette Howden CA (Accounts), Laura Creelman (EA to the President), Kandy Tindall (EA to the Vice President) and Aime Collins (Communications). I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Cristy Olmos (Accounts) and Renee Walton (EA), who served the state well for many years.

Several people are also contracted on a casual basis. Michelle Pollock and Fiona Macgregor process all credential applications; Marleis Scharfe assisting with State Conference; Pastor Chris Smith in administration for church planting and Pastor Grant Hobbs who has overseen a review of our ministry regions, leaders, and teams.

In September 2023, Pastors Ralph Estherby and Mindy Newsome were invited to join the State Executive as ex-officio members

and were given specific portfolios. Ralph is representing ACC NSW & ACT to the NSW Government on the NSW Faith Affairs Council and Mindy is assisting the State in areas of governance and finances.

STATE FINANCES

In this past conference period, 2022 was a year of investment, we gave \$108,000 in donations and invested in the ACCI Fund, social media and the state conference. In 2023 we focused on connecting with churches, setting aside funds for dedicated projects and our church planting and health initiatives. We were able to set aside an additional \$65,000 for future projects and vision.

In our connection with churches the financial relief fund initiative was developed, a commitment of \$35,000 to assist churches in difficult times, relieving immediate pressure, offering coaching and strengthening long term sustainability. To date \$18,000 has been committed and we encourage applications on our website.

CHANGES TO THE DESIGNATION OF STATE CHURCH DUES

In 2004, a levy was established as part of State Church dues to support church planting initiatives and ensure the health of churches. Since its inception almost 20 years ago, unspent funds have accumulated, resulting in a reserve of \$520,293 as of January 2024.

The original purpose of the levy was to provide funds for:

- Church planting initiatives
- Support for Natural Church Development (NCD)
- A donation for new church commencements
- Establishing District Teams focused on church planting efforts.
- Continuous development and support of the AOG community

In 2023, the State Executive Team made the decision to allocate this surplus to a “Church Planting and Health Reserve” on the balance sheet to better manage these reserves. The funds will be spent in keeping with their original purpose.

Moving forward, the levy will be integrated into general dues, with the State directing a percentage of dues income to the “Church Planting and Health Reserve” annually. This approach allows for flexibility in allocating income based on the prevailing balance of the Reserve, and the overall needs and vision of the state.

I have been blessed to serve as State Secretary/Treasurer for the past conference period and I am grateful to the Executive, Ministry and Regional leaders and staff, who have worked so hard to achieve excellent results.

Ken Fischer
NSW & ACT State
Secretary/Treasurer



Ministry Essentials Intensive Course

ROZ ZAIA

Member Nominee

Roz and her husband Mark led Macquarie Life Church in Newcastle for over 30 years, overseeing its growth from 20 to 1000 members, while sending out 15 Senior Ministers and planting five churches. Roz, a former schoolteacher, is passionate about raising leaders, healthy pastors, and healthy churches.

In 2020, Mark passed the leadership baton to Roz who, together with the team, transitioned the church to an Apostolic /Five-Fold Model in February 2024. Roz continues serving at Macquarie Life Church, mentoring leaders and this year has launched a Mental Health Ministry.

She currently serves on the NSW & ACT State Executive and leads the Women’s and Pastor’s Health Department. She loves to hike and hang out with her three kids and four grandkids.



BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

Australian Christian Churches NSW As at 31 December 2023

	31 DEC 2023	31 DEC 2022
Assets		
Current Assets		
Cash	833,903	761,722
Prepayments	45,437	51,387
Receivables	11,913	8,563
GST	23,664	(410)
Total Current Assets	914,917	821,261
Non-current Assets		
Plant & Equipment at WDV	11,543	8,470
Loans Receivable	20,000	30,000
Related Unit Trust Investment	143,700	127,181
Total Non-current Assets	175,243	165,650
Total Assets	1,090,160	986,911
Liabilities		
Employee & Other Provisions	77,583	71,931
Income in Advance	67,902	72,487
Payables	8,852	6,673
Dedicated Funds & Offerings	116,893	26,512
Total Liabilities	271,230	177,603
Net Assets	818,930	809,308
Equity		
Retained Earnings	279,571	1,060,194
Current Year Earnings	621	(250,885)
Church Planting & Health Reserve	538,737	-
Total Equity	818,930	809,308

PROFIT & LOSS

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

Australian Christian Churches NSW For the year ended 31 December 2023

	2023	2022
Income		
State & Pastors Dues	736,750	619,617
Conference & Seminars	246,874	262,061
Donations	25,000	1,300
Interest Income	22,286	17,764
Other	9,851	2,611
Total Income	1,040,761	903,353
Expenses		
Accountancy & Audit Fees	5,770	5,590
Bank, Merchant & Interest Charges	8,020	10,747
Board Expenses	146,166	135,745
Communications	22,704	24,871
Conference Expenses	264,943	284,461
Consultancy Fees	1,725	-
Contribution to Ministries	210,651	264,406
Depreciation	1,902	16,280
Donations & Gifts	20,752	40,322
Insurance	7,661	8,680
Legal Fees	18,996	5,004
Office Expenses	9,868	14,976
Rent & Outgoings	20,773	6,771
Salaries & Benefits	212,823	241,958
Seminar Expenses	54,930	65,306
Software & IT Expenses	17,174	12,475
Travel & Entertainment	1,246	128
Impairment of Related Trust	5,036	16,519
Transfer to Reserves	9,000	-
Total Expenses	1,040,139	1,154,238
Net Surplus / (Deficit)	621	(250,885)

