

**Armidale Youth Futures: Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
Wednesday 22 October 2014, 7.30 pm at St Peter's Cathedral Parish Centre, Armidale**

1. Rob Dewhurst welcomed and thanked all attending noting that we were all intent on seeing God's purposes fulfilled. The meeting began with prayer led by Peter Holford; David Wysel was in the chair.

Attendance: Philip Ward (Secretary), David Wysel, Rob Dewhurst (Vice President), Rob McClenaghan (Treasurer), Les Moreman (SRE teacher), Diana Riley, Jason Riley, Polly Wong, Peter Holford, Merrilyn Pearson, Catherine Dodds, Suzanne Robertson, Gwenda Lewis, Keith Lewis, Rebecca Pezzutti, Sharyn Holmes, Barbara Edgar, Sam Smith, Neil Hunt.

2. **Apologies:** Barbara East, Graham East, Andrew Coburn, Linda Wysel, Margaret Teitzel, Pamela Roach, Simon Reeve, Andrew East.

3. **Confirmation of Minutes of AGM, 23 November 2013:** Minutes of the 2013 AGM were approved by the members of the association.

Moved: Polly Wong; Seconded: Jason Riley.

4. **Business Arising from Minutes:** None.

5. 2014 Reports.

5.1 Les Moreman (SRE teacher)

Les Moreman tabled a written report which he read to the meeting. There have been some major challenges and changes and much to praise God for. In summary the report noted:

- Classes for years 7 & 8 have increased at AHS from five to six per term per class. Participation has dropped to 80% which is consistent with rates of SRE in primary schools.
- Classes with years 7 & 8 have continued on a fortnightly basis (five per school term). Participation at DHS is 40–50%.
- The fruit of the SRE teacher sharing primary SRE with Merrilyn Pearson at Ben Venue primary is bearing fruit in increased participation at DHS and good pre-existing relationships with students moving into high school.
- Presentation of SRE seminars has been re-negotiated with the high schools for years 9 & 10 with an increase in hours available. A team of volunteers has been recruited to assist in teaching the large groups involved. Les thanked all who have helped and noted that more will be needed in 2015 and there will be a focus on training.
- Visiting ministries presenting seminars: Word of Life, Presbyterian Youth NSW, Dr Patricia Weerakoon.
- ISCF is continuing in both schools. DHS—smaller number but increasingly student led. AHS—Larger group drawn from all school years. The Armidale contingent was the largest at the ISCF leadership conference.
- Excited about moving into a full-time role in 2015.

Questions/comments for Les Moreman from the meeting were then invited.

Neil Hunt asked if there were opportunities for relationships with families of students. *Les Moreman* said that he had increasingly got to know Christian families (and also through deputations at local churches). There was not a great deal of contact with non-Christian families but also no hostile reactions to his ministry. He attended parent evenings, introduction to year 7, information BBQs and sports carnivals. Also saw parents around the town. He did feel that parents were generally disengaged with the school.

Suzanne Robertson asked for more details on Les moving to full-time work. *Les Moreman* noted that this would be mentioned later in the meeting. *Les Moreman* was asked about homerooms. He told the meeting that only at AHS was there a designated SRE room shared with English classes equipped with an Interactive White Board (bought by AYP)

David Wysel thanked Les on behalf of the MC.

5.2 Rob McClenaghan (Treasurer)

Rob McClenaghan tabled the financial results for the year ending 30 June 2014, along with a review of the accounts prepared by Mr Robert Locke, chartered accountant. He also gave a brief report.

- Operating income for the year was \$76,797.06 with \$67,966.23 in expenses leaving a surplus of \$8,830.823.
- Main sources of income: Gifts & Donations, Annual Dinner, Garage sale & Interest.
- Main expenses: SRE teacher employment, Annual Dinner expenses.
- Net assets of the association as at 30 June 2014: \$78,559.76 mainly in term deposits.
- AYF is in a sound financial position but we need to be diligent in raising money. Expenses will increase in 2015 with Les being employed full time (extra \$12,000) and seminar expenses (up to \$4,000). The change in employment had been brought about by the increased work load required to organize the seminar programme which relies on a team of volunteers to be organized. On current income we would be looking at a loss of \$10,000 in 2015.
- There is a possibility of AYF becoming involved in chaplain employment under the government scheme which will be re-started in 2015. This would involve increased expenditure.

Questions/comments for Rob McClenaghan from the meeting were then invited.

Suzanne Robertson asked about the Annual Dinner income. *Rob McClenaghan* and *David Wysel* answered that this year's dinner had raised \$12,000 in profit which was about \$3,000 increase on the previous year.

Neil Hunt asked what the financial relationship with GenR8 was. *Rob McClenaghan* and *David Wysel* answered that GenR8 is the legal employer of the SRE teacher and pays the teacher. AYF pays GenR8 this cost plus a fee of app. \$3,500 for the administrative work done on our behalf in managing the teacher position. The AYF Management Committee and SRE teacher also receive training opportunities and public liability insurance. We would have to organize this separately if we were not in partnership with GenR8.

5.3 Rev Andrew Coburn (Armidale Ministers' Fellowship Representative)

A written report was presented to the meeting in Andrew's absence. It was taken as read. In summary the report noted:

- Noted the blessing of shared ministry as reflected in Romans 1:11–12. There has been a close collaboration between AYF and AMF in 2014.
- It started with AYF Commencement Service on Wed 30 January.
- AMF aware that reintroduction of SRE seminars for years 9 & 10 is an increase in workload for Les Moreman and as well as praying for this new ministry opportunity will be encouraging suitable Christians in the city to become part of the seminar delivery team.

5.4 Rob Dewhurst (Acting Chairman)

Rob Dewhurst tabled a written report and made some comments. In summary the report noted:

- Negotiating with the DEC for access to teach SRE has been an ongoing task for a number of years. With new guidelines announced in 2013 it was thought that these would open the way for more classroom teaching and allow regular timetabled teaching to commence for years 9 & 10. However this was not case and finally after exhausting all reasonable avenues the MC agreed to undertake delivery of SRE to these years by seminars. This means that 5 hours of SRE per term may be delivered. This is the minimum that must be allowed by the schools although the guidelines allow for up to twice this amount. Seminars began in the second half of the year.
- Changes in the way SRE is administered, particularly around changes to the enrolment form, may see numbers drop off. We had little warning of these changes. The political reality is that Christian parents need to be active to try to ensure that the right to SRE is not lost in NSW. The DEC, P & C Association and Teachers' Federation are all opposed to it.
- A proposed state Government review of SRE in 2014 has not taken place.
- Possibility of AYF becoming involved in chaplaincy programme.
- In Aug/Sept the MC undertook a review of Les and his performance in the schools. He was found to be effective.
- Rob also noted that Les has been involved in ISCF and has also run 'Switched on' camps for interested SRE students at Copeton Dam in 2013 (16 attended) and Green Valley Farm in 2014 (14 attended).

- AYF has held functions through the year: Commissioning service, Prayer breakfasts, Annual dinner, garage sale. These raise awareness of SRE and raise needed funds. They are pivotal to the organisation. We have been assisted in the running of these events by co-opted non-MC people, in particular: Di Riley, Norma Abey and Graham Truscott. We thank all who have assisted AYF in the past year.
- There have been some resignations from the MC and reduced involvement from Andrew Coburn and we encourage new members, especially women.
- Tribute paid to Barb East a foundation member of AYF who has resigned from the MC after 15 years dedicated service. She was overseas and unable to be at the meeting. The following motion was moved by Rob Dewhurst and seconded by David Wysel: *That the AGM offer a vote of thanks to Barb East for her dedicated support of AYF and the SRE ministry from its inception more than fifteen years ago.* This was passed unanimously.
- Rob displayed the seminar programme on screen and also provided photos and video of the recent Word of Life Youth event held after at AHS on a Friday evening. 140 students attended.

Questions/comments for Rob Dewhurst from the meeting were then invited.

Sharyn Holmes asked if there was a plan to manage the change in enrolment forms. *Rob Dewhurst* stated that at this point in time no plan had been formulated.

Rebecca Pezzutti noted on behalf of Primary school SRE that new forms are going to Infants enrolments. She highlighted the desirability for the primary school SRE committee to work with AYF to achieve the best outcomes.

Sharyn Holmes asked if students from both schools went to the camps. *Les Moreman* replied that they were mainly from DHS this year.

Suzanne Robertson asked what the subjects of the SRE seminars were. *Les Moreman* answered that they were part of the GenR8 curriculum with a biblical emphasis—teachings of Jesus, what Christians believe, our response to this in Christian living. *Rob Dewhurst* also noted that outside groups brought in to run seminars usually present their own programme.

Suzanne Robertson asked if there was evaluation or feedback on seminars. *Les Moreman* reported that seminar small group leaders report to him on their sessions and there is the possibility of questions from students at each seminar.

Sharyn Holmes asked what attendances were for seminars. *Les Moreman* noted that at DHS 20–30 students who were not in SRE were coming to seminars as well as those who had been in SRE in earlier years. Numbers are still settling. There will be a clearer picture by the beginning of 2015 but it has increased overall.

6. Questions/General Business

Suzanne Robertson noted a programme on the ABC on the use of Crystal Meth (Ice). Is there a drug problem in our high schools? *Rob Dewhurst* said there were no stats on this from AYF. *Les Moreman* noted that a significant local drug-related event had occurred at a school and that there is a problem in Armidale. We are not sheltered here.

Catherine Dodds asked who is on the AYF MC. *Rob Dewhurst* listed them: himself, Rob McClenaghan, David Wysel, Peter Holford, Philip Ward, Andrew Coburn. He noted a need for people with skills and also people to help with specific event organization such as Annual Dinner preparations. The MC meets monthly and also via email. *Peter Holford* noted that the MC needs teachers. He will be stepping down and teachers who understand the culture are needed.

Les Moreman asked about Chaplaincy. *Rob Dewhurst* answered that the MC had resolved to support chaplaincy if approached by a school and that there was a budget allocation. This would be a new direction if it happened.

Sharyn Holmes asked who would appoint chaplains to school. *Rob Dewhurst* answered that the school has to nominate for a chaplain. The paper work has not yet been released by the DEC. It will happen between now and Christmas to start in 2015. 1300 chaplains. All positions are open and existing chaplains have to reapply. The school needs a group to sponsor and employ. This would be GenR8 if AYF got involved. GenR8 would then delegate to AYF the power to find the employee.

Neil Hunt also asked about chaplains. *Rob Dewhurst* answered they have to be a Christian to be employed by GenR8 and AYF. They need to be approved by the school principal, a member of the school community,

a local church pastor and AYF (GenR8). Schools can't be forced to apply for a chaplain. Probably more schools will apply than funds. Despite media reports chaplaincy is popular with schools. This may be the last round of government funding although it could continue by self-funding. Not sure who makes the decision on how funds are allocated.

Merrilyn Pearson asked about Young life chaplaincy at DHS. *Rob Dewhurst* answered that they will have to reapply. AYF would not seek to employ in any school where Young Life was active.

7. Elections of Management Committee members

David Wysel noted that the meeting was only required to elect three positions: President, Secretary, and Treasurer. He conducted the elections.

President: Rob Dewhurst was nominated by David Wysel and seconded by Catherine Dodds. This being the only nomination Rob Dewhurst was elected.

Secretary: Philip Ward was nominated by Suzanne Robertson and seconded by Merrilyn Pearson. This being the only nomination Philip Ward was elected.

Treasurer: Rob McClenaghan was nominated by David Wysel and seconded by Catherine Dodds. This being the only nomination Rob McClenaghan was elected.

David Wysel thanked all who attended and for their prayers and continued support. Meeting closed with prayers led by Jason Riley. The meeting was followed by supper.