

Armidale Youth Futures
Annual General Meeting for 2018

Wednesday 14th November, 2018 St Peter's Parish Hall at 7:30pm

Minutes

- 1. Welcome and Introduction** The meeting began at 7.35pm with welcome from Graham Truscott followed by prayer led by Tamara Ramsay and a song led by Kevin Tadman. Graham thanked members for their involvement with AYF and commented that it is exciting to have a Christian presence in our secular schools.

Attendance:

Management Committee: Graham Truscott, David Wysel, Rev Tamara Ramsay representing Armidale Ministers Fraternal, Jason Riley, Julie Tadman, Julie Cook, Matt Mulready, SRE Teacher.

Catherine Dodds, Lynda Wysel, Rob Dewhurst, Cory Dewhurst, Keith Dawson, Jim Cook, Gary Eastment, Derek Repp, Kevin Tadman, David Moen, Marg Teitzel, Sharyn Holmes.

Apologies:

Bishop Rick and Janene Lewers, Rev. Kurt & Bec Langmead, St Peter's Anglican Cathedral

Rob McClenaghan, Sue McClenaghan, Philip Ward,

Rev David Seaman, Armidale Presbyterian Church

Rev Andrew Coburn, Central Baptist Church

Warren & Bronwyn Yeomans, Chapel Street Baptist Church

Rev. Jo-Anne & Lou Smalbil, Armidale Uniting Church

Johannes and Anne Meier, Bruderhof Community

- 2. Confirmation of Minutes of AGM, 8 November 2017:** Minutes of the 2017AGM were approved by the members of the association.

Moved: David Wysel Seconded: Jason Riley

- 3. Business Arising from Minutes:** None

- 4. 2018 Reports**

- 4.1 President's Report - Graham Truscott** (Copy of report tabled at the meeting)

Armidale Youth Futures

2018 Annual General Meeting - Chairman's Report

Without any doubt, we in New South Wales are extremely blessed in having such open access to our schools to teach Christian Special Religious Education (SRE) for students to make an informed decision about the Christian faith. Section 32 of the NSW State Government Education Act 1990 requires that "in every government school, time is to be allowed for the religious education of children of any religious persuasion." The Special Religious Education Procedures detail how that is to be enacted.

The generous help and support of the Armidale Minister's Fraternal and all our churches in Armidale and surrounds has enabled Armidale Youth Futures (AYF) to deliver Christian SRE to our public high schools, Armidale High and Duval High. AYF has funded our professional secondary school teacher, Matt Mulready, to teach SRE, support Christian students through Inter-School Christian Fellowship (ISCF) groups and to be a blessing to students and teachers alike. Our supporting churches include:

- Anglican Churches (St Marks, St Mary's, St Peters)
- Armidale City Church
- Baptist Churches (Armidale District Baptist Church, Chapel Street Baptist)
- Christian Outreach Centre
- Church of Christ (Fresh Hope Armidale)
- Emmaus Church
- Presbyterian Church
- Salvation Army
- Seventh Day Adventist Armidale
- Uniting Church.

Through Matt and his team's loving care we have seen the pain of this world's brokenness soothed and the love and joy of Jesus revealed to many young people in great need, providing hope and purpose in their lives.

Matt is now in his third year, teaching SRE to Years 7 and 8 in the classroom fortnightly and conducting SRE seminars with Years 9 and 10 fortnightly. We have also achieved a breakthrough with Duval and Armidale High School Year 11 SRE seminars, which commenced in Term 2. The Principals also have agreed that the Year 12 students can attend the Year 11 seminars and ISCF if they wish.

Meetings with the Principals, Carolyn Lasker at AHS and Stafford Cameron at DHS, in April were positive. Subsequent meetings in September to introduce Graham Truscott were considered even more positive. Carolyn was particularly supportive and open about SRE and AYF's role in AHS. She was also very supportive of Matt Mulready, considering him to be a positive influence in the school, and very busy moving across the two schools. Matt has a desk in the English Faculty but is rarely there as he has so many commitments when at the school.

Plans for Armidale Secondary College, the new school combining Duval and Armidale High Schools, are well underway, with the two schools combining on the Duval campus in 2019 while the new facility is built on the Armidale High grounds. Carolyn Lasker has been appointed Principal for the

College which is very fortunate given her expressed and demonstrated support for SRE. Overall this move is seen as a real benefit to SRE, with Matt's team able to focus on one campus, bringing students together and reducing administration.

Our relationship with Generate Ministries continues to strengthen, adding real value to our teaching. Generate provides our entire payroll, human resources management services and insurances, plus our "Think Faith" curriculum with quality teaching resources and materials. Their support is also available for professional teacher advice and training; and committee support.

The AYF Management Committee as agreed to fund for the first time a Chaplain position for one year at Drummond Primary School. AYF will provide the one third community funding to establish the position from late 2018, with other funding expected to be provided in subsequent years.

AYF fund-raising has once again provided a real joy with some 200 guests from virtually all our churches in Armidale and a number of surrounding churches coming together for a night of fellowship and great celebration under the theme "Bride of Christ", with the keynote address given by Rev Kurt Langmead. Never has the Ex-Services Club looked so beautiful, and all thanks to our wonderful decorating team! Our Monster Spring Garage sale also reached out to the whole Armidale community and provided a spotlight for the work of Christian education in Armidale.

The AYF Management Committee has seen some profound changes with the retirement of our foundational Chairman, Rob Dewhurst, after at least 15 years of dedicated service in that role, for which we cannot thank him enough. Graham Truscott has been appointed interim Chairman until the 2018 AGM which will elect the new Chairman. Also our sincere thanks go to Gill Seglenieks, who has resigned as minute's secretary. We wish Gill and Arthur all the best in their move from Armidale. As always the Lord has blessed us, with Julie Cook generously joining the Committee as minute's secretary. Great thanks must also go to all our Committee members for their many years of dedicated service. Our Committee comprises:

- Graham Truscott, Interim Chairman
- Philip Ward – Secretary
- Rob McClenaghan – Treasurer
- Rev. Tam Ramsay – Armidale Minister's Fellowship Representative
- David Wysel
- Julie Cook
- Jason Riley
- Julie Tadman

Yours in Christ,

Graham Truscott

Interim Chairman

Armidale Youth Futures

Comments/Questions: Graham commented that it was great to have Rob and Cory Dewhurst here tonight. Graham thanked the Armidale Ministers' Fraternal and local churches for their support. It's also encouraging to have the support of the School Principals and to know they value SRE.

Sharyn Holmes asked about the Generate Ministries payroll and Graham replied that we provide the money and they provide the payroll service for AYF to employ the SRE Teacher. A question was asked about the new chaplaincy position at Drummond Memorial School – AYF will provide the community component of \$7000 for the first year only. It was also mentioned that a Young Life chaplain has been appointed to serve the combined high schools.

4.2 SRE Teacher's Report - Matt Mulready (tabled at meeting)

SRE Teacher's Report 2018

I am thankful to God for the good news of Jesus that we have to share in our local public high schools. SRE continues to be a unique opportunity for helping students make informed life decisions and I find it a privilege to be the SRE Teacher in Armidale. It's my prayer that students will grow in wisdom and understanding of God's will for their lives.

The year's highlight for me was seeing SRE made available for Year 11 students and having high engagement from those students who came. I have again been encouraged by so many supporters in the Armidale community who recognise the value of SRE and contribute their time and money accordingly.

SRE Classes and Seminars

SRE Structure

Armidale High School and Duval High School continued to provide access to students for purposes of Special Religious Education with the same structure as last year, with the addition of quarterly Year 11 SRE seminars.

Years 7-8	Fortnightly classes; 55 minutes at AHS, and 60 minutes at DHS
Years 9-10	Fortnightly seminars; 55 minutes at AHS, and 60 minutes at DHS
Year 11	One seminar per term

Volunteer SRE helpers & teachers

SRE is offered to Year 9 and 10 students in a seminar format. To facilitate small discussion groups a number of volunteers are involved. All volunteers were authorised by approved SRE providers and had a verified Working With Children Check. I am very thankful for their partnership and commitment. The regular volunteers for 2018 were;

Merrilyn Pearson	Armidale City Church
Peter Clark	Armidale District Baptist Church
Robert Baker	St Marks UNE Church
Graham Knuckey	St Marks UNE Church
Kurt Langmead	St Peters Anglican Church
Sam Austrin-Miner	St Marks UNE Church

Occasionally, when either myself or a regular volunteer was unavailable, I have called upon a number of replacement SRE teachers. I am most thankful for their willingness to fill in, often at short notice, for SRE classes and seminars to continue. This demonstrates to students and the school community AYF's strong commitment to SRE. These included;

Peter Clark	Armidale District Baptist Church
Gemma Forgeard	St Marks UNE Church
Tam Ramsay	St Marks UNE Church
Kurt Langmead	St Peters Anglican Church

The AYF Committee and I would like to express our thanks to these teachers for giving their time and energies to providing SRE in God's service. We also thank those churches who have released staff to work with the SRE team.

Curriculum

In 2018 all SRE classes and seminars have followed the *Think Faith* SRE curriculum produced by CEP (Christian Education Publications). This curriculum has been authorised by the Armidale Anglican Diocese and cross-authorised by all AYF member churches. With the Bible as the foundation of all lessons in *Think Faith* the curriculum teaches the major events, concepts and doctrines of the Bible. *Think Faith* utilises contemporary educational theory and provides a platform for quality teaching and learning that encourages students to use higher order thinking in their lessons. A detailed coverage is available on the internet at www.thinkfaith.com.au.

Special Events

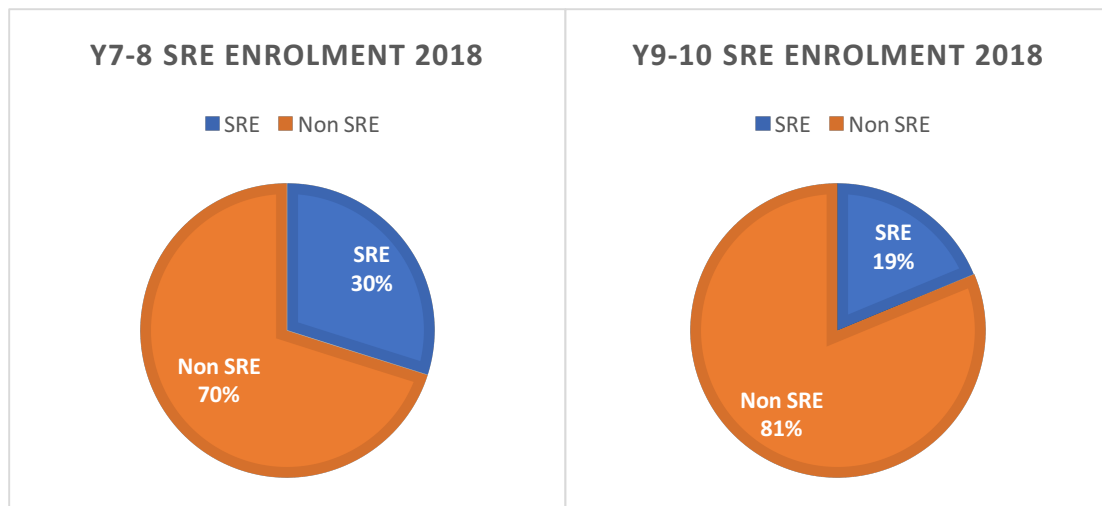
In Term 1 SRE students were invited to a combined youth event featuring the band Iron & Clay, with Kurt Langmead giving a gospel talk.

In Term 3 AYF worked in partnership with a team from Word of Life Ministries. The team presented SRE seminars at both schools, as well as a combined youth event, KICK OFF, on the Friday night with over 100 teenagers in attendance.

Enrolment and attendance

In 2018 SRE roll marking at Armidale High School moved to an online system. This has greatly improved the accuracy of enrolment records and increased SRE attendance. Duval High School used online roll marking for Years 7-8 only, with Years 9-10 using paper rolls. This created challenges for following up student attendance, seeing a drop off in numbers throughout the year.

As our society moves further away from Christian values the number of students in SRE classes continues to fall. Compared to 2017, Years 7-8 SRE enrolment has decreased slightly from 33% to 30%. However, enrolment in Years 9-10 SRE has dropped from 40% to 19%. There are a number of factors that may have contributed to this sharp decrease in numbers, including the roll-marking system.



Inter-School Christian Fellowship

ISCF groups continued to meet weekly at both schools. ISCF aims to provide Christian encouragement for students who are already believers and to provide opportunity for seekers to learn about Christ and the Gospel. Christian students are also given opportunities to develop Christian leadership skills. Amy Gow, maths teacher at Duval High School, has once again continued as an ISCF leader throughout the year. I would like to thank Amy for her ongoing commitment and encouragement to DHS students in this capacity.

Each ISCF meeting includes Bible input, discussion, fun and food. We have used resources from Crusaders Union and Scripture Union exploring Ephesians, Attributes of God, Colossians and Bridge to Life.

On two occasions we combined for BIG Arvo Tea, meeting after school at Armidale District Baptist Church. These were opportunities for students from both schools to meet together for encouragement, fun, food and prayer.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership with AYF as we work together to inspire hope and purpose in the lives of students with the words of eternal life.

In Christ,

Matt Mulready
SRE Teacher, Armidale Youth Futures

Comments/Questions: Matt is thankful to God for the good news of Jesus to share with students. We are all under God's grace. Year 11 seminars have been the highlight this year. Timetable is looking good for combined ACS next year. Commitment of volunteers is appreciated. Prayer times at AHS have been encouraging. YL Chaplain – Mark Simpson – has a psychology background. Professional ping pong player – has been to ISCF.

Question: What do the non SRE students do during SRE? They are supervised by class teachers but no new content is to be taught. Matt commented on the transition from primary SRE to High School SRE – Matt tries to attend Yr 6 SRE classes at the end of each year to meet the students and encourage their continued attendance in SRE at high school.

Gary Eastment asked about the percentage drop in SRE attendance. Are they due to the ebbs and flows of the high school system? Matt replied that each year's cohort is different but also that students are understanding the gospel and voting with their feet. Some are getting the picture of who God is and their response is to not continue with SRE.

Rob Dewhurst asked about next year 's daily timetable– looks like it will be a 60 minute 5 period day.

Matt commented that as the school year ends and both schools begin the transition to the one super high school on the Duval campus staff in both schools are frazzled packing boxes and clearing space – much transition taking place. Wellbeing is very high on the agenda. First 20 min every day next year will be spent in 'crew' groups – "home" groups which are expected to continue through their entire high school life.

Lynda Wysel – asked about numbers of classes for next year. Do you need more volunteers? No, there are sufficient volunteers.

4.3 Treasurer's report - Rob McClenaghan

Ron McClenaghan was unable to attend but prepared the financial reports for the year ending 30 June 2018, tabled at the meeting. Graham Truscott presented the report. The association had generated an operating surplus of \$11,845.78. There were no outstanding liabilities and the net assets had increased from \$83,908.54 to \$95,754.32. Donations from the Christian community are a big part of our support and we must make sure people are thanked adequately. Our financial position is good and resilient.

Questions/comments: Gary Eastment asked about the Monthly Advisor Levy to Generate Ministries. Rob Dewhurst responded that Generate provides advice to the Board as required. Also this Levy is like a mission donation from us to Generate to assist with creation of new SRE Boards around the state.

Sharyn Holmes asked about the amount of money required for the chaplaincy position at Drummond Primary School. Graham Truscott replied that this \$7000 will become an expense item for a 12 month period across the 2018/19 and 2019/20 financial years. Rob Dewhurst commented that it is good to have extra financial reserves to be able to help serve the Lord with this Drummond opportunity.

A question was asked about the new high school – when will the building start and finish? Graham Truscott responded that it is a 2 year time period. The new school should be ready to go for the start of the 2021 school year.

4.4 Armidale Ministers Fraternal response - Rev. Tamara Ramsay

Tamara noted that the Armidale Minister's Fraternal continues to support the work and the direction of AYF. They are grateful for AYF, they receive monthly updates and it is a joy to see the ministry flourish. They look forward to 2019 with great anticipation.

5. Questions to the Board

Graham Truscott thanked Rob and Cory Dewhurst for their commitment to AYF across the past 15 plus years – Rob as President and Cory in close support to Rob - and presented them with gifts and a card. Rob Dewhurst thanked everyone stating it's been a joy to serve.

6. Election of Board members—chaired by David Wysel

David Wysel declared the positions of President, Secretary and Treasurer vacant and called for nominations.

President: Graham Truscott was nominated by Lynda Wysel and seconded by Rob Dewhurst. This being the only nomination, Graham Truscott was elected.

Secretary – Philip Ward was nominated by Graham Truscott and seconded by Tamara Ramsay. This being the only nomination, Philip Ward was elected.

Treasurer – Rob McClenaghan was nominated by Graham Truscott and seconded by Rob Dewhurst. This being the only nomination, Rob McClenaghan was elected.

The meeting was handed back to Graham Truscott who thanked Philip Ward and Rob McClenaghan for their commitment last year. Graham Truscott introduced Derek Repp who has agreed to work with Rob McClenaghan on the accounts and financial management. Graham Truscott thanked Julie Cook for taking the Management Committee minutes; and the AGM minutes in Philip Ward's absence.

7. General business - none

There being no final questions, Graham Truscott thanked all who attended and asked Rob Dewhurst to close in prayer. The meeting closed at approximately 8.50pm and was followed by supper.