

**Armidale Youth Futures: Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
Wednesday 8 November 2017, 7.30 pm at St Peter's Cathedral Parish Centre, Armidale**

1. The meeting began at 7.35 pm with welcome from Rob Dewhurst followed by prayer lead by Julie Tadman and a song lead by Kevin Tadman. Rob Dewhurst then introduced David Wysel to chair the meeting. David explained why an AGM is held; it is a government requirement, it gives the SRE teacher an opportunity to report on the work and it gives the members of the association an opportunity to ask questions.

Attendance: Philip Ward (Secretary), David Wysel (Management Committee), Julie Tadman (MC), Jason Riley (MC), Rob Dewhurst (Vice President), Matt Mulready (SRE teacher), Catherine Dodds, Lynda Wysel, Margaret Teitzel, Kevin Tadman, Cory Dewhurst, Beth Mainwaring, Sharyn Holmes, Tamara Ramsey (MC), David Moen, Merryl Christie, Andrew Coburn, Keith Dawson.

2. **Apologies:** Rob McClenaghan (Treasurer), Gary Eastment, Barb & Graham East.

3. **Confirmation of Minutes of AGM, 19 November 2016:** Minutes of the 2016 AGM were approved by the members of the association.

Moved: Jason Riley; Seconded: Margaret Teitzel.

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

5. 2017 Reports.

5.1 Matt Mulready (SRE teacher)

(Copy of report tabled at the meeting by Matt Mulready)

It has been a joy building on relationships with students and staff, now in my second year as the employed Armidale Youth Futures SRE Teacher at Armidale High School and Duval High School. The year's highlight for me has been seeing Year 9 and 10 students more frequently for SRE. I have been encouraged and humbled by the commitment to SRE from so many volunteers in the Armidale Christian community. I continue to thank God for the good news of Jesus that we have to share in high schools and I pray that students will grow in wisdom and understanding of God's will for their lives.

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. We successfully negotiated with both schools to increase the frequency of Year 9 and 10 SRE seminars from every 4 weeks to fortnightly. This was an increase in frequency, not face-to-face time. The structure for SRE was as follows:

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.

Volunteer SRE helpers & teachers

SRE is offered to Year 9 and 10 students in a seminar format. In order to facilitate small discussion groups a number of volunteers are involved. All volunteers have completed Working With Children Checks and have obtained authorisation from an authorised SRE provider. I am very thankful for their partnership and commitment. The regular volunteers for 2017 were: Merrilyn Pearson (Armidale City Church), Peter Clark (Armidale District Baptist Church), Robert Baker (St Mark's UNE Church), Josiah Elsley (St Mark's UNE Church, Terms 1-2) Graham Knuckey (St Mark's UNE Church) and Kurt Langmead (St Peter's Anglican Church).

Occasionally, when either I or a regular volunteer was unavailable, I have called upon a number of replacement volunteer SRE helpers and teachers. I am most thankful for their willingness to fill in, often at short notice, in order for SRE classes and seminars to continue. This demonstrates to students and the school community AYF's strong commitment to SRE. These volunteers included: Fiona May (Armidale District Baptist Church), Travis Barnes (Fresh Hope Church), Maria Craven, Michael Hemans, Tam Ramsey (all St Mark's UNE Church) and Kurt Langmead (St Peter's Anglican Church).

The AYF Committee and I would like to thank these volunteers 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 2017 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.

Enrolment and attendance

At the start of 2017 Year 7 SRE enrolments at Duval High School were significantly lower (32%) than the previous year (41%). However, at Armidale High School enrolments in Year 7 SRE increased from 59% to 70%. Once again, SRE enrolment decreased at both schools as the year progressed. However, SRE attendance has generally improved. Duval High School use an online system for SRE rolls, which enables a high level of accuracy and efficiency for following up student attendance. Armidale High School use a system of paper rolls which is less than ideal and results in a lower student attendance rate.

Inter-School Christian Fellowship groups

ISCF groups continued to meet weekly at Armidale High School and Duval High School. 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 OHS students in this capacity.

Each ISCF meeting includes Bible input, discussion, fun and food. This year included Bible input from Romans 8, Acts 22 Challenge (telling your story), 1 Peter and Ephesians, along with the teaching resources from Crusaders and Scripture Union.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership with AYF in inspiring hope and purpose.

In Christ,
Matt Mulready
SRE Teacher, Armidale Youth Futures

Questions/comments for Matt Mulready from the meeting were then invited.

Kevin Tadman asked if any students have made commitments? *Matt Mulready* said that one girl at DHS made a statement of faith in the last few weeks.

David Wysel thanked Matt for his report.

5.2 Rob McClenaghan (Treasurer)

Rob McClenaghan was unable to be present but prepared the financial reports for the year ending 30 June 2017 tabled at the meeting. David Wysel noted that the association had generated an operating profit of \$8,558.04. There were no outstanding liabilities and after provisions for depreciation the net assets had increased from \$76,971.50 to \$83,908.54. David expressed thanks to God for the support in gifts and donations received from the Christian community.

Questions/comments relating to the Treasurer's report were then invited from the meeting.

Margaret Teitzel asked does the Association pay Generate? *David Wysel* replied that we do and it is an expense line entry in the Profit and Loss Statement (\$75,423.52). This includes the SRE teacher's salary, insurance for the board, other salary costs including worker's compensation and a levied contribution to

allow Generate to start and develop management boards to provide SRE in other schools. *Rob Dewhurst* also noted that technically Generate employs the SRE teacher and that Generate is currently providing support for new management boards in western Sydney.

Sharyn Holmes commented that the annual dinner this year had been very successful. *Rob Dewhurst* agreed and said that lower expenses for the dinner had resulted in a slight increase in revenue from the dinner compared with 2016.

David Wysel moved that the financial statements be received by the meeting. Seconded by Lynda Wysel. Passed by the meeting.

5.3 Rev Tamara Ramsey (AMF representative)

Tamara Ramsey noted that she had taken over the role of AMF rep on the AYF Management Committee from Pastor Andrew Coburn some 4–5 months ago and enjoys being involved. As she does not attend AMF meetings she reports through Andrew Coburn. Communication is very open. Andrew Coburn thanked Tamara for her reports to the AMF who are thrilled to see the support for AYF growing across the churches in the city.

There were no questions/comments from the meeting. David Wysel thanked Tamara for her report.

5.4 Rob Dewhurst (President)

(Copy of report read to the meeting by Rob Dewhurst)

Overview

The year from July 2016—June 2017 has largely been a year of consolidation. 2017 saw Matt move into his 2nd year here in Armidale working as the SRE teacher at Duval and Armidale High. Matt's 2nd year here saw him look to working with the committee to try and improve a number of issues that had become apparent in 2016. The most prominent of these was keeping track of attendance and making certain those who were meant to attend SRE did so, and those students who had brought notes excusing them from SRE did not attend.

Matt was able in a short period of time working with the Duval High School able to see a system in place which has worked well. Armidale High is still a challenge in this regard but Matt is slowly making progress. After all these years the administration of SRE by the schools still continues to be an issue. Matt has continued to be positive and productive in working with the schools on these issues and continued to gain the respect of the leadership in the schools. Armidale High School has a relieving principal in Carolyn Lupton. She has been supportive of Matt and SRE and it has been good to see the position more settled since Anne Matley's official resignation.

In the Schools—Matt has elaborated on this.

Politics

We finally had the release of the long awaited review of SRE. The review was largely supportive of SRE but has resulted in some administrative changes eg the tightening up of cross authorisation of teachers and the delivery of the curriculum. Otherwise it has resulted in few on the ground changes to SRE.

The 'think Faith' curriculum is now fully implemented at AHS and Duval high.

I attended the Generate conference at the end of June with Matt and came home extremely heartened by the continued leadership of James Flavin as the general manager of Generate and the direction they are moving. Travis Barnes here in Armidale is now the Generate SRE board advisor for the region and it has been a pleasure to have him attend a couple of meetings recently.

The Management Committee

The Management Committee remains stretched with 6 members Jason Riley, David Wysel, Rob McClenaghan, Julie Tadman (our only lady), Phil Ward and myself. Jill Seglenieks continues to help the committee as a minute secretary and has been a tremendous help to the management committee. Andrew Coburn was the AMF rep on the committee over the reporting year but has since resigned his position which at this moment is being filled by Rev Tamara Ramsay.

Our principle roles at the moment as a management committee are:

1. oversight of Matt.
2. what happens in the schools.

3. championing for SRE in the schools and community.
4. the fund raising responsibilities.

Fund raising and running of events now takes up a large portion of the work of the management committee. The management committee continues to be low in numbers and the work load is supported by a few. Without the help of people from outside the committee itself the committee would not have been able to meet its responsibilities. It is always a risk to name names as you always forget someone but at this point I would like to thank the partners of all the committee members who put in an incredible amount of work and support to those on the M/C and also particularly Graham Truscott, Rob Baker, and Graham and Barb East and many others.

I would like at this point to thank all the people who helped with the events of the year without whose help they just would not have happened. Without the fund raising events we would not be reaching our budgets for the year, so these remain pivotal to the continued progress of the organization.

Financially it was pleasing to reach our budget and have a very small surplus. The garage sale and dinner raised increased amounts on the previous year and so remained important in reaching the surplus. Giving levels remained fairly static. So an emphasis will need to be made on communicating the importance of the SRE ministry to the spreading of the gospel amongst our young people to the Christian community. We will need increased financial support from individuals in the years ahead.

I continue to believe we would not have SRE in the high schools except for the prayer support we have been given over the years especially from Prayer for Armidale.

Prayer breakfasts have not been well attended although remain a vital part of the program, I would particularly like to thank everyone who attended one of these breakfasts because prayer is integral to this type of ministry. I would like to thank the many people who pray for the ministry, attend the prayer breakfasts and the times of prayer we have on some Mondays at Armidale High.

The Future

Last year we sighted the possibility of combining primary and high school SRE. The momentum for this seems to have died over the 12 months and currently there is no further discussion on the matter.

The other big announcement has been the plan to combine Armidale High and Duval High on the one campus at the Armidale High site. This will have implications for AYF which will become more apparent when the schools combine in 2019 at Duval, and Matt will be working completely at Duval while AHS is demolished and a new building built. Matt is in a unique position being the only qualified teacher working at both schools.

I expect the program in the high schools to remain fairly unchanged for the next 12 months. We will however be approaching both schools in the next few weeks with the possibility of running seminars once a term for year 11 beginning in 2018.

Personal Note

On a personal level as of to-night I am resigning as chair of AYF as I indicated 12 months ago. I believe this is the right time for this for the following reasons:

1. It is approximately 18 years since AYF began to take shape and I have been involved at some level for that period of time.

2. I believe God is moving me into some different areas of ministry and AYF and the new ministry directions do not mix.

3. I think it is a good time to leave as AYF is in a consolidation phase, the finances of the organisation remain sound, we have an excellent teacher and the relationship with the schools is at an all-time high. These things make it a good time for someone else to come into the role and bring new and invigorating ideas into AYF.

I will be resigning from the committee as well as soon as I clean up some loose ends.

I would like to thank everyone for attending tonight, for their prayers, thoughts, donations and many other contributions to AYF over the preceding year.

I pray God blesses each and every one of you,

Dr Robert Dewhurst.

Chair Armidale Youth Futures.

Questions/comments relating to the President's report were then invited from the meeting.

David Moen was touched and thrilled by the comments made about the value to the ministry of the prayer support from the Prayer for Armidale meetings.

Margaret Teitzel asked if when Rob spoke with the presidents of other SRE management committees they had similar stories to our situation in Armidale? *Rob Dewhurst* replied that it varied quite a lot. What happens in each school depends to a large extent on the principal. There are variations in how the guidelines for SRE are implemented. Since the recent SRE review it would be very difficult for a principal to refuse outright to allow SRE in the school. This is partly due to the role AYF has played in pushing for proper provision of SRE being made in Armidale. Our Management Committee is in a better financial state than many others across the state.

Margaret Teitzel asked how struggling MCs get support. *Rob Dewhurst* replied that Generate does not support MCs directly—each MC must raise its own revenues and there is no government financial support. Generate is a service provider and encourages new MCs to be formed to provide SRE in further schools.

Andrew Coburn spoke on his own behalf and for the AMF in thanking Rob for his commitment to SRE over many years and his faithful leadership in the management of AYF. Andrew's comments were endorsed by the meeting with acclamation.

David Wysel supported the above comments and spoke of the tenacity, dedication, time, energy and prayer that Rob, supported by Cory, has devoted to the ministry. The Armidale Christian community owes him its thanks. As a friend and committee member David said: 'thanks Rob'.

Rob Dewhurst responded by thanking Cory for her support. He said the work the Lord calls us to requires desire and strength to see it through. He thanked the Lord for bringing the ministry to this point.

6. Questions/General Business

David Moen noted that James Ward, the architect for the new combined high school in Armidale, is aware of the needs of SRE and possible implications for the design. Rob Dewhurst confirmed this.

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 and declared all positions vacant. He also noted that other positions can be appointed by the MC as required.

President: Rob Dewhurst formally stated that he was not standing for the position. There being no nominations the position of president was not filled.

Secretary: Philip Ward was nominated by Tamara Ramsey and seconded by Andrew Coburn. This being the only nomination Philip Ward was elected.

Treasurer: Rob McClenaghan informed the meeting via David Wysel that he was willing to stand for the position. He was nominated by Julie Tadman and seconded by Rob Dewhurst. This being the only nomination Rob McClenaghan was elected.

There being no final questions David Wysel thanked Philip Ward for taking the minutes and Kevin Tadman and Jason Riley for music and technical help. He then thanked all who attended and for their prayers and continued support of SRE and Matt and his role and ministry in the schools. Meeting closed at 8.30 pm with prayers led by Matt Mulready. The meeting was followed by supper.