

BY GLYN HENMAN

"When all is said and done, all the so-called 'secrets of success' will not work unless you are prepared to step out and act."

Our Time to Step Out and Act

For the sake of integrity, our actions need to be consistent with our mission and values.

Here at Young Life we commit to acting in line with our mission and values; it is this commitment that has helped see the organisation develop in the 2013-14 financial year.

With the organisation growing significantly over the previous two financial years, we have not only needed to keep pace with this growth, but prepare for the next wave coming our way.

This year we developed and launched the new website and integrated new software systems into the organisation to help manage the growth we have experienced.

The heart of Young Life – young people in local communities – beat strong as each local area worked hard to not only deliver quality programs to young people, but also to engage with the wider community to build our support base.

From small one-off gifts, to those giving monthly through the Connecting Together program; large and small grants; church partnerships and regular fundraising events and activities – this commitment to engage and act locally continues to be a hallmark of the Young Life success story.

In the 2013-14 financial year, Young Life was able to turn over \$1.2 million.

As a result, we were able to connect with more young people than ever before. Summer Camp was our largest in 10 years; the Central West Waterski Tour was phenomenal; new areas developed in Dubbo and Uralla; new staff commenced in

Melbourne; and the new Young Lives Club launched in Bathurst, meeting the needs of teenage mothers.

Young Life did not forget our volunteers either; once again we ran our bi-annual committee summit, the annual southern and northern leadership retreats and partnered with the Australian College of Ministries to deliver a Cert IV in Christian Ministry and Theology.

2015 will see the launch of our new residential training program Abide which will run from Armidale in northern NSW. We are looking to purchase property for this project to ensure that we continue to deliver quality training to youth and community workers.

Young Life's impact has always hinged upon our relational approach towards young people, communicating that they are important and valued. We persist in driving this value as integral to our culture.

The needs will always be bigger than what we can meet on our own; we need our partnerships with schools, churches, government and other community groups, and we continue to appreciate these connections.

It has been an important year for Young Life Australia. If we are going to see ongoing success, we need to continue to act and take on the opportunities and challenges that come our way.

Thank you for your valuable support as we journey with young people. We couldn't do it without having you to share it with.

Young Life comes alongside young people to walk their journey with them.

Connecting in their world
Offering support and role-modelling

Making a difference
Instilling confidence and values

Building resilience
Empowering and equipping to navigate the challenges ahead



Our Mission Statement
Young Life seeks to build confidence, values and resilience in Australia's young people through significant relationships with adults who model the love of Jesus Christ.

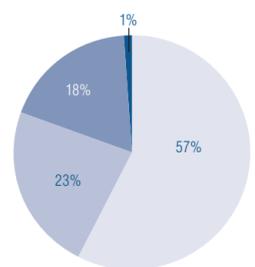
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FINANCIAL REPORT 2013-14

LLEW MORRIS, FINANCIAL CONTROLLER

Young Life Australia experienced a year of solid development during 2013-14, consolidating the substantial growth achieved the previous year. Revenue was maintained at the \$1.2 million mark, with the surplus for the year at \$23,663, which was nearly half the level of the previous year which had been the highest recorded by the organisation.



Category	Amount
Donations & Fundraising	\$695,193
Grant Income (incl Chaplaincy)	\$284,305
Activities (incl Camping)	\$218,826
Other	\$16,256

INCOME

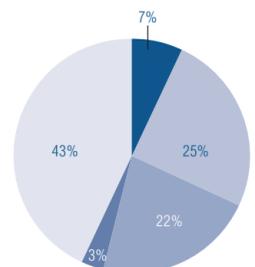
Income from Donations and Fundraising (\$695,193) is the largest component of income representing 57% of income and flows from donations and fundraising activities in the local communities in which Young Life operates: this category grew by 5% in the year.

Much of the growth came from new or recently established operations in Bathurst, Dubbo and Uralla (NSW), Hobart (TAS) and Rosewood (QLD).

The Chaplaincy Program continued during the year with 11 Chaplains and Student Welfare Workers placed in schools in Queensland, NSW, ACT and Victoria.

Funding for this program is mostly via the National School Chaplaincy and Student Welfare Program which is funded by the federal government, with additional support from private donations and the schools themselves.

The third major category of income is from youth activities including camping, which totaled \$218,826, representing growth of 8% during the year.



Category	Amount
Donors & Fundraising	\$87,692
Chaplaincy Program	\$294,154
Activities (incl Camping)	\$256,180
Administration	\$39,171
Employment	\$513,719

EXPENSES

Employment Expenses of \$513,719 make up 43% of Young Life's expenses. This category increased by less than 1%.

At year end, the organisation employed 34 staff including 7 full-time, 23 part-time and 4 casual staff.

Expenditure under the Chaplaincy program reduced during the year due to normalisation of hours worked and the resignation of one Chaplain.

The organization continued to achieve operational efficiencies and ranks highly on standard efficiency measures for charities. Less than 8 cents in the dollar of Donations and Fundraising Income is spent on Fundraising, and less than 3 cents in the dollar is spent on Administration.



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Connections

September 2014 Issue



LENGTHEN & STRENGTHEN

It's been a year of affirming and reaffirming the bright hope we have for our young people.

At the beginning of this year we had the vision and aim to lengthen and strengthen the work we do in every community and aspect of Young Life: we wanted to be more effective in reaching young people; and to have more people on the bus, involved in making this happen.

After our previous year of rapid growth, it has been wonderful to see that frenetic energy be tempered with steadfast and sustainable commitment to our vision across our organisation – this magnificent national community that constitutes Young Life Australia.

This was a year for fortifying our areas; for strengthening our foundations and fostering sustainable leadership and volunteer networks for strong delivery of care and support to our young people.

For more established areas, it was also a year to widen our scope and lengthen our reach to communities nearby, leveraging off the strength and resource pool of a healthy regional base.

We have been incredibly moved by the amount of volunteers, helpers and supporters have connected

to our organisation this year, and have knit themselves into the fabric of Young Life's workings.

Our committees and leadership teams are stronger, our programs are pulsing, and the culture and network of Young Life is vibrant with fresh voices, diverse ideas and one unified, unstinting vision.

A Whole 'Nother Level

We have recently seen new areas become active in Dubbo, Uralla and Melbourne, with Young Life Hobart, the fledgling of last financial year, brought a whopping five cabins of young people to Summer Camp and has a vibrant local presence.

Still, the burgeoning need to reach the next young person, whose confidence is starved and purpose has eroded, drives us to pursue our mission and ramp up our commitment yet again in this new season.

In every community we are part of, we who are leaders have looked into the dull eyes of a teenager who has learnt from their short lifetime not to trust, not to expect, not to put faith in any kind gesture or guarantee that an adult offers; for survival, it is easier to be braced for disappointment rather than hope.

Our greatest pleasure is to see light come into those eyes. We are willing to be consistent and inventive,

tenacious and committed... whatever it takes. Fun, friendship and faith is what Young Life is made of, and it changes lives!

Kate Gardiner, the recently appointed Area Coordinator for Uralla, tells us the story of a Year 7 boy who has been coming to the new Club every week, who has been paying enough attention to what's said to ask some very good questions.

Like 90% of the regulars, he comes from a broken family that still has some issues, and as Kate describes it, "he's just so hungry for hope".

After club one week where he listened intently to the talk, Kate asked if he enjoyed himself and he said yes; when asked what stood out about the night, he simply said, "It was just really emotional."

Though he left it at that, it communicated deeper contemplation under the surface; a sign that something is shifting in his heart and mind.

With Kate's innate and clever insight, she states: "If there wasn't this answer for him, I don't know where he'd be looking."

If we as Young Life can be the guidepost that steers them towards answers, towards the bright hope we have, we look forward to forging ahead with the great work we have been tasked with.

YOUNG LIFE BOARD REPORT: WE STEP FORWARD WITH HOPE

By Mark Stretton,
Board Chairman

At this time of year, we on the board reflect on two questions: How did we go as an organisation in the year just past? Looking to the year ahead, are we confident and excited of our vision and plan for the future?

As Young Life's Board, we do our part in providing vision, direction, governance and providing accountability for our CEO Glyn as he leads the organisation.

There was something that struck me this year, as I sat at a table during the national fundraising banquet: it was the heart of our staff and volunteers.

Many of our staff and volunteers have dreams which turn into plans, and at board level we relish hearing these dreams and helping plans become reality.

This year as we look back, we are so pleased with where we now stand; there

are incredible reports from all over the country of how Young Life is making a positive impact on young people, and growing into new areas of Australia to reach even more.

We want this next year to be a year of growth: so many young people could really do with a Young Life leader in their lives, accepting them just as they are, doing life with them and helping them to flourish and grow strong.

The need for us to step forward with hope for our young people is paramount.

One of our Big Audacious Goals is to purchase a property in Armidale – a place that has a great legacy of producing leaders that end up spreading across the country – to facilitate training and equipping.

Please support this plan: there are already substantial pledges of money and people developing the property

management plan; we still have a way to go, so if this is an area where you can help, please let us know.

I would also like to invite anyone who hasn't really experienced Young Life first hand to come as adult guests to our Summer Camp; you will see a snapshot of young people having the time of their lives, and to meet staff and volunteers as they play their part.

As one who became involved in Young Life after my teenage years, I am so amazed at how many staff and volunteers – from the Board level to being on the coal face working with teenagers – who when asked why they are involved, reply something to

the effect of: 'my Young Life leader was there for me in my teenage years, and they had a profound impact on who I am today; so therefore I want to be there for others who might need someone to be there for them'.

Young Life has a great story, and wouldn't it be great if it became one of the most significant organisations impacting young people in Australia.

Thankyou staff, volunteers and supporters for the year gone by, and I pray that you will stick with us and help us grow to have a greater impact on the great country we live in.





HOBART

by Area Manager Fudge Jordan

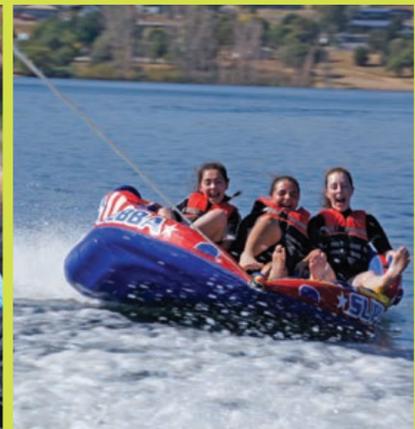
This has been a great first year for Young Life Hobart!

We officially commenced weekly clubs each Friday night and regularly get around 12-15 young people.

We were able to train four leaders who help steer local activities, and came to Summer Camp as Cabin Leaders and Summer Staff; these leaders have been a fantastic asset to our area in helping to create a fun, caring environment for young people to walk in to.

Our Survivor-themed Winter Camp went off with a bang with around 12 campers, and we have continued to run our pancake breakfast program at Rokeby High, which feeds 20-25 young people each week.

Looking forward to 2014-15:
Employ a field staff for 1-2 days per week to expand the work we do in Hobart
Continue to focus on Rokeby area and solidify our presence in this community
Get another 2-3 volunteer leaders to help us connect with more young people!



CANBERRA

By Area Manager Sharon Lopez

Gingerbread Houses built by parents and their children last Christmas provided a novel way for Macquarie Primary School families to build community; we received overwhelming feedback from families saying how great it was to do something creative with their children.

Our Young Life volunteers had the opportunity to establish a youth information stall at Belconnen High School where they had contact with approximately 200 students who received information about Young Life and filled in a brief survey in exchange for chocolate.

We discovered that a significant amount of students at high school have few avenues to connect in the community outside of school, and a number of them expressed interest in coming to club when it starts up.

In the last twelve months we have experienced renewed focus for the Canberra region and meeting the needs of young people, and our committee have been preparing and planning for the next phase of impacting young lives in the capital.

Looking forward to 2014-15:
To identify and train new leaders and volunteers and committee members
To increase community partnerships
To locate a community space where we can open a youth drop in and run club



MELBOURNE HUB

with Development Officer, Andre Linossier

The Southern Regional Development Group continue to develop an active presence in the existing areas of Maroondah and Monash, in addition to pursuing new opportunities and continuing to support the work of our two Chaplains Chris Douglas and Jody Hauser.

Maroondah appointed a new staff person Megan Sparkes who has started connecting with young people through a local school in the area; Monash completed their interview process and have appointed

SOUTH EAST QUEENSLAND HUB

with Regional Manager Joshua Schloss and Field Staff Chloe Wright, Jonathan Lee and James Beutel

Ipswich

As well as continuing our regular club and volunteers in schools programs, the area has been given fresh opportunities to connect with young people in our community.

The RiverLink Crew, a Thursday night weekly outreach, has proved an incredibly fruitful way of connecting with young people who frequent the local shopping centre.

At Bremer High, we have been able to come alongside the Youth Support Coordinator to fortnightly work with a small group of independent high schoolers to help build résumés and other practical skills.

We have been able to perform some much needed renovation and repair on The Hub, Young Life Ipswich's longtime base for Club and other activities, which will enable us to make greater strategic use of the space in the year ahead.

Rosewood

Rosewood has benefited over these twelve months from strong, healthy relationships with the high school and local council, which has facilitated Young Life having a really positive presence in the community.

Our school breakfast program has continued to be appreciated, and our new field worker Chloe has been able to initiate a Year 9 girls program which has between 5-8 girls at Rosewood State high school every Wednesday lunch time.

A fantastic committee has formed to support the area, and volunteer engagement has been integral to our area's function and development.

Redlands

Redlands has experienced a great step forward with partnership and volunteers this year, with two more

joining our leadership team and a new church partnership forming with Birkdale Baptist supporting us with encouragement and volunteers.

Our breakfast and lunchtime programs at both high schools – Wellington Point and Alexandra Hills – continue to grow in numbers; around 100 pancakes are served at both schools and up to 30 youth coming to our lunchtime activities.

We are excited to see attendance of programs has grown significantly since last year, and has cemented Young Life's presence at schools and in the community.

Looking forward to 2014-15:
A value-based mentoring group at Bremer where young people develop personal character and resilience.
Mentoring program located at The Hub targeted towards early school leavers enrolled in a program to attain a diploma qualification through partner organisation Aspire.
A 'Late Night Crew' at Redlands, modelled off the Young Life Ipswich 'RiverLink Crew', building relationships with the 100+ youth that congregate at the local shopping centre on Thursday nights and inviting them to our Club.
A Redlands financial partnership campaign seeking 100 people to partner with Young Life Redlands at \$50 per month, to ensure local ownership and help area grow.



RYDE

by Area Manager Brooke Filipovski

It's been a year of both challenges and great encouragement.

Local and national camps continue to attract new and existing young people to what Young Life offers, while giving us a greater opportunity to take them away from the distractions of everyday life to reflect on what really matters – 45 students have been away with us this past year on a camp.

Our leaders have taken the initiative to start a weekly after-school hangout space before Club on Fridays, to build relationships with more young people in a safe, fun environment supervised by our trained Young Life leaders: this space has averaged ten youth a week and provided an opportunity to 'go deeper' in conversations.

We have reached our goal of doubling the number of leaders in the Ryde area, and making leadership development a vital and essential part of our ministry as we aim to reach more young people in this community.

Northern Sydney

A pancake breakfast and Club has been operating in the suburb of Chatswood for several years, as well as several opportunities to connect with Willoughby Girls High School. Garnering local partnership and volunteer engagement to create a sustainable model has proved challenging, with involvement there being supplemented to varying degrees by Ryde volunteers, committee governance and financial support.

Together with the strain on current volunteers, a decision was reached towards the end of the financial year to formally close our work in Northern Sydney, with the focus on consolidating our efforts on the Ryde area, and then exploring potential opportunities in Western Sydney.

We continue to maintain relationships built in North Sydney where possible, and though sad to reach the end of our season there, we feel excitement for a recent grant opening an opportunity in Parramatta, and what could grow from there.

Looking forward to 2014-15:
Maroondah and Monash to have volunteer leaders come on to facilitate Young Life work in this community, as well as increasing support in order to fund programs
Casey hopes to hold events and outings for young people in the area to generate relationships, with the view of a Club starting
Support Melanie and Megan to grow in their roles as they build leadership teams and connect with youth at high schools, and plan to commence weekly Club.
Creating a videography program for young people to learn how to create films, using funds from a Ryde Council grant



YOUNG LIFE BAROSSA

by Area Manager Vicki Rochow

Young Life Barossa has been continuing to develop strong relationships with local youth through its key programs, "Infusion" monthly youth service, "Fuse" youth activities and the Visiting Schools Program at the local Lutheran College.

As a committee we have been working very hard on establishing our identity and purpose in the Barossa and God has provided some significant openings over the past 12 months; particularly in church partnerships as we have met with key and influential Christian pastors in the region to discuss the possibility of working together.

In addition to our regular activities, we've had several sleepovers and camps that have helped us tremendously to connect with youth who are still seeking a place to belong, to feel a sense of community and experience support in their journey. The Young Life Barossa team continue to make a wonderfully positive impact in the Barossa area, and we look forward to seeing more!

Looking forward to 2014-15:
Establish a visiting schools program for the local public high school based in Nuriootpa.
Form and sustain key relationships of support and partnership with local churches



NEW ENGLAND HUB

with Field Staff Heidi Gerberich

Armidale

This year in May we celebrated 30 years of Young Life in the Armidale area, an amazing milestone that testifies to the faithfulness and grit of so many over those three decades.

We continue to see great fruit: due to rapid growth towards the end of 2013, we divided into two Clubs in early 2014; a Club for Year 9-12 students, and a WyldLife Club for Year 7-8.

The WyldLife club has exploded, with over 50 year young teenagers attending fortnightly for a night catered to connecting with this age group. We took advantage of a sabbatical from running the Residential Gap Year in 2014 to re-vision the Gap Year program, and through a successful accreditation partnership, look forward to offering a higher level of training in 2015.

Our property fund for a new Regional Training Centre has received generous donations over the course of the year, with \$100,000 being given so far; once this reaches \$500,000, we will be able to look at purchasing a property in Armidale to house our local operations and training initiatives. With our historic lease at Coventry not being continued at the end of 2014, relocation is an increasingly urgent need.

CENTRAL WEST HUB

by Heather Gant, Regional Manager

It's been a year of busy minds and busy feet as Young Life Bathurst became the base for a Central West regional hub!

The success of a free Water Ski Tour last October, which saw 200 kids over three communities in three days take part, opened doors for the team; Young Life was invited back in April to two communities as a result.

We now have over 40 volunteers across the Central West that are engaged in weekly YL events, and potentially establishing a committee within a new area of the Central West Region

Bathurst

The area of Bathurst continues to boom! After the rapid growth of last financial year, we have again seen growth but also have focussed on making

Uralla

YL Armidale has experience a wonderful opportunity for reaching another community. St. Johns Anglican Church, Uralla approached Brendan Hatte, with the desire to reach the young people in their town with the Gospel. Since then, we have hired a day/week worker, Kate Gardiner, to head up this ministry. Kate has started a new Club in Uralla with 10 regular young people attending and increasing opportunities to enter the local Central School.

Looking forward to 2014-15:
A successful first year of Abide, with trainees who are being raised up to serve their communities and committed to seeing the Gospel reach young people.
To have raised an adequate amount of money to buy a property for Young Life Armidale to function out of, including Abide, Residential Mentors and a budding regional training centre.
To see a Work Crew for our fortnightly club working well, with year 11 & 12 kids being better engaged with the Gospel and motivated to serve.

our base strong and sustainable.

Our goal of employing an intern has come to fruition with Alex on board, and staying on with us in 2014/15; we have two part-time field staff, and have almost 30 volunteer leaders across our four clubs, including the exciting new club we commenced this year at the Scots School.

We were also able to put together all the planning and training for a new Young Lives Club which connects us with teen mums, and are grateful for the extremely positive community and media support we have received for this program.

Dubbo

The first half of 2014 saw the establishment of the Dubbo committee, which grew to seven people who enthusiastically began to raise the profile and awareness of Young Life in the community, as well as funds to commence programs in the new financial year.



SKI MISSION

by Brett Taylor, Ski Mission Coordinator

Ski Mission has had an amazing time over the last year, with the Central West Waterski Tour catalysing new vision; a keenness to see Ski Mission be used reach into young people's lives and give them a memorable experience and message.

We have seen some healthy changes in leadership and a new partnership with another water skiing group, Brightwaters, to run Young Life ski activities, and the boat and equipment are all in great shape.

Our goal is to improve the communication and streamline our process; we have put together a new risk assessment for Ski Mission, and updated the qualifications of First Aid and Bronze Medallion. Our focus for this season is encouraging new people to get involved and new groups to take out on the water.

Watersports have always proven to be an awesome way to reach people and encourage them. We are looking forward to another great season!

Looking forward to 2014-15:
Support Central West Waterski Tour, Young Life Study and Summer Camps, and regional Waterski Days
Updating online presence and communications to be more accessible to potential clients
Expand our volunteer base so Ski Mission can function effectively, and grow!

Seven volunteer leaders came on board to complete training, with the purpose of starting a weekly Club in July-August.

With area development off to such a successful start and so many great people involved in this new area, we're looking forward to hearing great things from Dubbo in the year ahead!

Looking forward to 2014-15:
Dubbo Club and Bathurst's Young Lives club becoming established within their respective areas
Employment of 1 Field Staff in Dubbo and 1 Bathurst Intern, as well as starting a Student Staff program, with at least 1 person in this role
Run a regional retreat for volunteers, staff and interested community members,
Run the Water Ski Tour in September/October 2014