



Scripture Union Australia

Annual Report – Nov 2011

Chair's Report



This comes as my last report as Chair of SUA before the new structure of relationships between SU States and Territories comes into being. I have completed four years as Chair and believe it is time for a fresh person to take up the position, as chair of the new Council of Members (MemCo) made up of the eight S&T chairs and 2 independents.

SUA as we know it has served us well over many years but there was a groundswell of opinion that we needed to examine whether we were best served by the present model, or if it was time to adopt a structure better suited to the movement as it now stands. This process has been a major concern of Chairs, Directors and M&D over the past year. Every member of SUA was interviewed. David Bartlett of Resolve Consulting facilitated combined discussions and gradually a new structure for future relationships of S&Ts emerged. This has been discussed by all S&T Councils, Directors and Chairs. We are especially grateful to the drafting committee (Peter James, Mark Schultz & David Bartlett) who spent many hours drawing up the Covenant of Agreement, before it was reviewed by Prolegis Lawyers. It has been a long process of discussion, feedback and adjustments with the final adoption expected to take place at the AGM November 12.

SU across Australia is in good heart, although financial pressures are a constant concern. The scope and variety of the activities in each state is totally different, but there is a good level of cooperation and collegiality between those who share similar ministries. Resources For Ministry is keeping its head above water in these tough times for the book trade, thanks to our dedicated staff team under Kevin Hooper and more recently Aiko Abbas, but some hard decisions will need to be made shortly. Promotion of E100 in some states and development of creative new Bible reading resources for young people has been encouraging.

On the International scene, SU in some S&Ts has developed partnership relationships with movements in the Pacific Region which have proved of mutual benefit and blessing. Australians are well represented on the International Team under Janet Morgan's able leadership.

I do not wish to add to Lloyd's comprehensive report, but I want to express my appreciation to him for all he has done so willingly in service for SUA over his years as National Director. He has given more than 100% in everything he has done. This year particularly has not been easy, but he has given of himself unstintingly, to enable the restructure process to move forward. Many of the finer details which may have been overlooked, have been attended to. It has been a time of uncertainty and change for Lloyd personally and he has always put the needs of the movement and the kingdom of God before his own. I have valued the opportunity to work alongside him in serving the movement. I also want to express our thanks to Jenny for her support especially because Lloyd's work has taken him away from home so frequently both interstate and overseas.

My thanks also go to the great M&D group for their support and wisdom over the past year in this difficult time of change. Thank you especially to Mark Schultz as vice chair. You have carried a heavier than normal load; to Mike Larri who extended his time as treasurer for another year; to Ruth Pinkerton, Jim Dunk and Alan Dutton. I value you each as friends and will miss our times together. I also want to thank God for his enabling, and allowing me the privilege of serving him through Scripture Union. My prayers are with all those who carry forward SU's unique ministry in Australia under the new structures to be put in place.

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Sylvia Collinson

Chair, Australian Council

Secretary's Report



As SUA now moves toward implementation of a new governance and management structure, this will be my final annual report. The changes in the reporting relationships relative to my two roles mean that I will conclude my service as National Director and Secretary in March and concentrate on my role as Regional Director.

Looking back I want to give thanks to God for the opportunity to serve in this capacity and with the wonderful family of SU in Australia. While the role is very broad and diverse expectations are impossible to meet at times, it has been a pleasure to exercise my gifts and energies in the environment of tremendous ability, support and grace that exists in SU. I have felt a high level of ownership of the mission and vision of SUA; possibly greater than its real place in the larger world of SU; and this has energised and excited me in so far as it serves the shared Aims of SU. This report will focus on the year past but much will reflect the journey of the last six years.

Governance

- SUA has continued to be served well by the **Management and Development Group** comprising **Sylvia Collinson** (Chair), **Mark Schultz** (Vice Chair), **Lloyd Carter** (Secretary and National Director), **Mike Larri** (Treasurer), **Ruth Pinkerton**, **Jim Dunk** and **Alan Dutton**. Their support, commitment and diligence have been important in guiding the work, especially through the course of the **SUA Review**. I especially wish to thank **Sylvia Collinson** as Chair. She has made herself available to advise and support me, to work hard, and she has wisely, graciously and firmly guided the M&D Group. I want also to give thanks to **Mike Larri** as he steps aside as Treasurer. His assistance to **Wes Leake** (Finance Manager) and **Colin Marsh** (RFM) has ensured that our financial management is accurate and efficient. The M&D Group have functioned with an appropriate level of independence and taken their role seriously.
- The Review was outsourced to **David Bartlett** of Resolve Consulting and involved a significant amount of discussion and work. A **Covenant Agreement** was adopted by the General Assembly on 25th August. The Constitution has since been revised for consideration at the Annual Assembly on 12th November when the M&D group will hand the governance responsibility to the newly configured **Executive Council (ExCo)**. The membership of SUA Inc. will now take the form of a **Council of Members (MemCo)**. The transition will require a significant amount of diligence and work by the Executive Council and I have agreed to continue until March 2012 in an interim EO role.

State and Territory Support

- I have visited all State and Territory movements throughout the year and maintained contact and awareness through reading, telephone calls and an interminable number of emails. Visits included observing ministry, meeting with staff and key volunteers, discussing issues that are being faced locally and sharing on what is happening in other places. The reader can obtain a fuller understanding of the SU ministry in Australia through S/T websites or www.scriptureunion.org.au.
- I have also begun to conduct the **SUI Healthy Movements Checks** which provides an opportunity to dig a bit deeper, more comprehensively and helpfully into the local work. In the future this task along with some others will revert to the Regional Director under the new structure and I look forward to continuing to engage in these discussions while still in that role. I am conscious as others are that the level of support could have been greater. However I can say that the work around the country remains healthy and still growing with some of the greatest challenges universally being in the areas of fundraising and managing cashflow, especially when taking up new initiatives.
- **Chaplaincy** has been a major focus with this year with several issues of significance where SU is an em-

ployer. The Federal Government has announced that funding will continue through until 2014 and have budgeted to extend the program by 1,000 more schools. The release of new **NSCP Guidelines** indicates some changes with much of this for the good. However some elements will make it more difficult in areas such as indigenous and remote communities. The option for schools to appoint a secular Student Welfare Worker will provide the opportunity for chaplaincy to establish its credibility more objectively. The **High Court challenge** to federal funding required a significant amount of work, especially by SUQld as one of the defendants, but has seen huge endorsement from the public. A decision is still to be handed down but this may only affect the way that funding is provided rather than cut it off. **SUNT** have joined **SUQld**, **SUTas** and **SUACT** as a chaplaincy provider but faces challenges to expansion due to the difficulties indigenous communities will face in meeting the Cert IV employment standards. **SUSA** partner the SMG as Chaplaincy service providers in SA and likewise **SUNSW** are partners in Genr8 in NSW. **SUVic** is currently expecting to become a provider with the next round of funding. All of this will mean a huge workload for these S/Ts over the next few months.

- Other ministries continue to grow. Around 130 Community Outreach programs run annually. Over 150 camping programs are conducted and there are numerous student groups and programs operating in Primary and State schools. Currently SU has more than 610 chaplains placed in over 750 schools plus 40 in NSW through partnership with Genr8. The number of volunteers involved annually is in excess of 7,000.
- Senior leadership has remained consistent throughout the year. However, **Tim Mander** will shortly step aside as the CEO of SUQld and the Chair, **Peter James** has been appointed to replace him with a new Chair yet to be announced.

Collaboration

- In April 2010 the Directors Network agreed to review the **Networking** strategy. The change is away from nationally funding of the Focus Groups toward identifying key issues around which to network. Priorities for this new approach are *Schools Ministry, Training, At-Risk Ministry, and Capacity Building*. As yet these groups are still to commence meeting. Focus Groups may continue to meet and both the Primary Schools FG and the Community Outreach FG have met this year.
- Also it was agreed to develop a **Conferencing** strategy. A **Schools Ministry Conference** is seen as a priority. Plans to hold this in May 2012 have fallen apart due to the rapid growth to Chaplaincy expected in the first few months of the year. No alternate date has yet been identified. A Working Group is to consider an **Immersion Conference**. Like the SUI Leading Staff Development Course, this will be an investment in staff who have served a while and hold promise of continuing for some time.
- It has been acknowledged that SUA can assist in developing **Induction Resources** for use by S/Ts. This project will be developed in the New Year.
- The **Directors' Network** met in February, April and September. Their agenda is always very full and the time together is valuable. Other meetings occur by telephone. It will meet again very briefly following the Annual Assembly and inaugural ExCo meeting in November. This group will reassess its purpose and way of operating. It will take responsibility for much of the operational management of SUA Inc and the work of the Secretariat.
- The **Chairs Network** have met by teleconference and in person in conjunction with the SUA Review in which they have taken a leading role.
- The **Finance Managers Network** have not met this year.

Bible Engagement

- **Resources For Ministry.** **Kevin Hooper** completed his contract as General Manager in June. He suffered significant health problems in the early part of this year and is taking a break from paid employ-

ment to recover. Kevin led through a period when it was necessary to rebuild some capital and take some initial steps toward developing the Bible engagement focus. With help from improved efficiencies and some SUA grants RFM did finish the year with stronger equity. Resourcing the **E100 Challenge** continued and the **Soundbytes** development commenced. However overall sales have continued to decline and changes are needed for the structure and focus of RFM and our Bible Engagement strategy. **Aiko Abbas** was engaged on a six month contract to manage the operation but also to deliver a report to SUA on the future of RFM in line with the agreed move toward a Bible Engagement centric entity. This report will first go to a small "Advisory" group which we have formed toward establishing a stronger governing and management facility for RFM or whatever it needs to become.

- We partnered with the Bible Society in a research project on **Young People and the Bible** with the Bible Society and a number of other organisations. *Philip Hughes* of the Australian Christian Research Association found that Young People are rarely reading the Bible today and that engagement will best happen in community rather than individually. This project is being followed up on a state by state basis with Forums being held to identify how interested parties can work together in addressing this challenge.
- The **E100 Challenge** project has taken a significant amount of time and energy and up front financial commitment. **Dan Hardie** continues to manage the project. The agreement with State Directors was that SUA would develop the resources and that SU in the S/Ts would promote and manage the project locally. In most cases this proved difficult with the result that Dan is now more heavily involved in providing support for implementation by churches. However, we are still very dependent on S/Ts to facilitate promotion the E100 Challenge. As yet we have not been able to make much progress in the three States with the largest populations. The experience of E100 Challenge in other countries has not been matched here as yet, largely due to these difficulties. Three launch events are being held across Sydney this month. The spin off opportunity that is the repositioning of SU with churches as a key advocate and innovator in effective Bible Engagement.
- We successfully completed the development of the **E100 Challenge iPhone App**. As I write we have the first quarterly report indicating sales of \$600 net for the App priced at \$4.49. The sales can be expected to increase if and when there is a more effective roll out of E100 Challenge in Vic, NSW and Qld. Our financial commitment was about \$9,000 matched by SUUS. Difficulties with licensing arrangements for the US have meant that the App is only available in the E&W license regions.
- The children's version, **Big Bible Challenge**, has been launched and promotions are planned into the New Year. The Youth E100 has been under development for some time and has now become a larger project known as **Bible Engagement for Youth (BEY)**. We have agreed to join with 5 other global partners in this development with an initial three year commitment. The Bible Society Australia is also a partner in the project.
- SU S/Ts have limited resources to put behind extensive and strategic Bible engagement and I fear that this crucial focus of our Aims will easily be lost. Our experience with RFM and the E100 Challenge has underlined the fact that it is very difficult for SU to deliver a national project well due to competing priorities and lack of cohesion in our vision. ***The restructure will not overcome this unless it is accompanied by a much stronger, effective commitment to agreed nationally strategic initiatives.***
- I do not believe that Bible Engagement is yet "front and centre" for SU in Australia and, until it is, the ability to achieve both elements of the Aims will be seriously diminished. I have been encouraged in recent years by the renewed 'discovery of the Book of the Covenant' and the increased focus on it. ***Much more is yet required if this is not to become a 'Josiah' reform.***

Safety and Care

- SUA continues to manage the insurance interests of SU in Australia. This year we asked **Neil Bull** of **EA Insurance**, our brokers, to go to the market. The outcome was that few insurers will cover our Public

Liability risk. Ansvar still offer us the best cover and premiums.

- **Jeff Mason** as Safety Management Officer continues to facilitate the **Risk Management Officers Forum** and handles safety management and insurance enquiries. The Forum met in April and we continue to be grateful for the relatively low number of accidents on SU events. We are constantly reminded by our insurers that the effective implementation of ChildSafe is a key factor in obtaining cover and keeping our premiums low.
- I continued to serve as Chair of **ChildSafe Ltd** and the associated **Public Fund Trustees Board** (www.childsafe.org.au), of which SUA Inc. remains the only member, until earlier in the year. **Jeff Mason** is now the Chair. Under **Owen Riley's** leadership and the dedicated team ChildSafe have strengthened their performance, redeveloped core product and are continuing development of training resources. The full ChildSafe Annual Report will be distributed with this report.

Business Office

- **Wes Leake** continues to capably manage the accounts for SUA along with the Deposit Fund and the Pacific Region. With Wes I attend the quarterly meetings of the **Deposit Fund Management Committee**. We are thankful for the careful management of this Fund by the Committee under the Chairmanship of **Guy Amon**. The DF Inc. AGM will be held in conjunction with the SUA Annual Assembly (AGM).
- Along with the whole NFP and Charitable sector we are closely watching developments around the **Federal Government Tax Law Reforms**. These include the establishment of a *Charities Commission*, *Unrelated Income Tax*, the *'In Australia' Test* and the *Definition of Charities*; with others anticipated. ExCo will consider the opportunity to join with a NFP peak body to enable us to better monitor the developments and participate in the reform process.

International Involvement

- I continue to serve as the **Director** of the Pacific Region with **Sam Emery** as Pacific Islands Coordinator operating out of New Zealand. **Wayne Fraser** (SU NZ) serves as Chair. **Ron Lawrence** (Brisbane) continues as Treasurer with **Wendy Rayner**, (SA) **Albea Nalissa** (Vanuatu), and **Sisa Teilai** (Fiji) making up the Executive. We next plan to meet in Brisbane in February.
- The **Pacific Council Meeting** was held during **Children's and Youth Ministry training Conference** at the SU Campsite near Port Vila in Vanuatu in December 10. A number of SU representatives from Australia attended and a Forum on partnering was conducted during the conference. Establishing strong **partnerships** has been difficult with the most notable success being with NSW/ACT and Vanuatu. A significant meeting will be held between SU Pacific, SUPNG and SUQld in December to attempt to strengthen this partnership and move forward on a plan to develop the SUPNG property through the "Sustain" initiative.
- I attended the **Int Team/ExCo** meetings in France in June and Germany in September.

I look forward to continue to exercise my gifts and use my time on behalf of SU Pacific Region which will continue to provide opportunity to serve SU in Australia including the need to pick up responsibilities formerly undertaken by the National Director. To do this well will require an increase in funding to provide more employment hours. A proposal from the Pacific Executive is with ExCo for this.

*We give thanks our Lord for his guidance and enabling in this ministry. It is a pleasure to serve in the SU family at national, regional and global levels. Stories abound of the impact on many thousands of children, young people, families and communities nationwide and elsewhere. Thankyou to all who help to make this happen. We value your ongoing partnership in active involvement, prayer and giving. **All the glory to our God!***

Lloyd Carter

Secretary/National Director Scripture Union Australia

ChildSafe Ltd Report (as included in the CS Ltd Annual Report)



We all know those famous words spoken by Neil Armstrong when he stepped off the ladder of the Eagle onto the surface of the moon: "That's one small step for [a] man, one giant leap for mankind." Progress is often made with 'small steps'. I feel ChildSafe has made a small step this past year towards financial recovery and a giant leap towards a safer world for children and young people in the care of organizations throughout Australia and New Zealand.

The 'giant leap' is the launch of the second generation of Safety Management Online (SMO 2.00). This represents a complete re-development of the system; the re-writing of the codes in language that brings this online application to a new level of efficacy. Already we are in negotiation with one of our larger customers regarding synchronizing our system with their national database. We have already enhanced the system with our first upgrade SMO 2.01 and intend to continually improve the functionality to provide the features our clients are asking for. This development and ongoing enhancement has only been possible because of the grants from the Genesis Foundation and Ansva Insurance and we thank them for their great support.

The Board and I have established a ChildSafe Development Plan for 2011-2012 that seeks to achieve three key outcomes: supporting new and existing clients; advocating for child safety; and ensuring our financial sustainability. Major strategies for achieving these outcomes include new packages that bundle resources, training and SMO, and marketing that reaches beyond the traditional church markets and appeals to schools and community organizations working with children. The ChildSafe Foundation is also embarking on events to raise funds and raise awareness with endorsement from supporters like Scripture Union, Compassion and Ansva Insurance. We believe these initiatives will increase understanding and lead to sales and greater implementation of our safety management system.

The SafeHere Trust in New Zealand promotes ChildSafe's mission in that country and Maureen and Robin Gunston work closely with us and with their ChildSafe clients. Recently the Methodist Church in New Zealand became subscribers to SMO and are about to implement the ChildSafe system.

Of course it takes team work to make any company successful and I must acknowledge the work of John Thomas who was appointed as Business Development Manager last year and helped secure the Ansva grant. John Paterson, our IT Customer Service Officer, has put in enormous hours with the development of our new generation SMO and the migration of data from the old system. Len Lawrence, our Accounts Manager, is a valued member of the team and keeps our finances in order. And I have to thank Lloyd Carter, our outgoing Chair, for his amazing leadership over the years. Jeff Mason, our new Chair, is proving to be a hands-on financial strategist and wise counsellor. I thank him and the Board for their encouragement and prayers.

With such a good team, an ever improving product and a clear development plan for the future, I believe we are taking small steps towards the goal which is the mission of ChildSafe; to give children and young people the chance to live purposeful lives and grow in maturity in the care of people who value their safety.

- Owen Riley

Owen Riley

Operations Manager

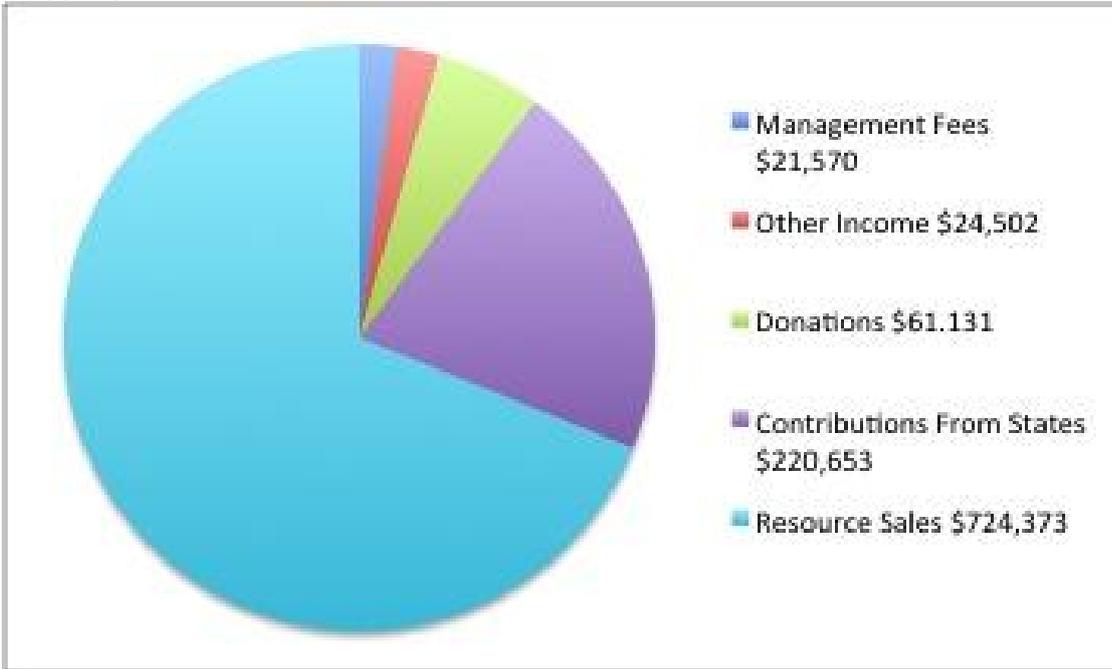
Resources For Ministry Report

(Please note the brief comments in the Secretary's Report. A separate Report by Aiko Abbas acting as the General Manager has been provided to the Executive Council along with recommendations for the future of this entity)

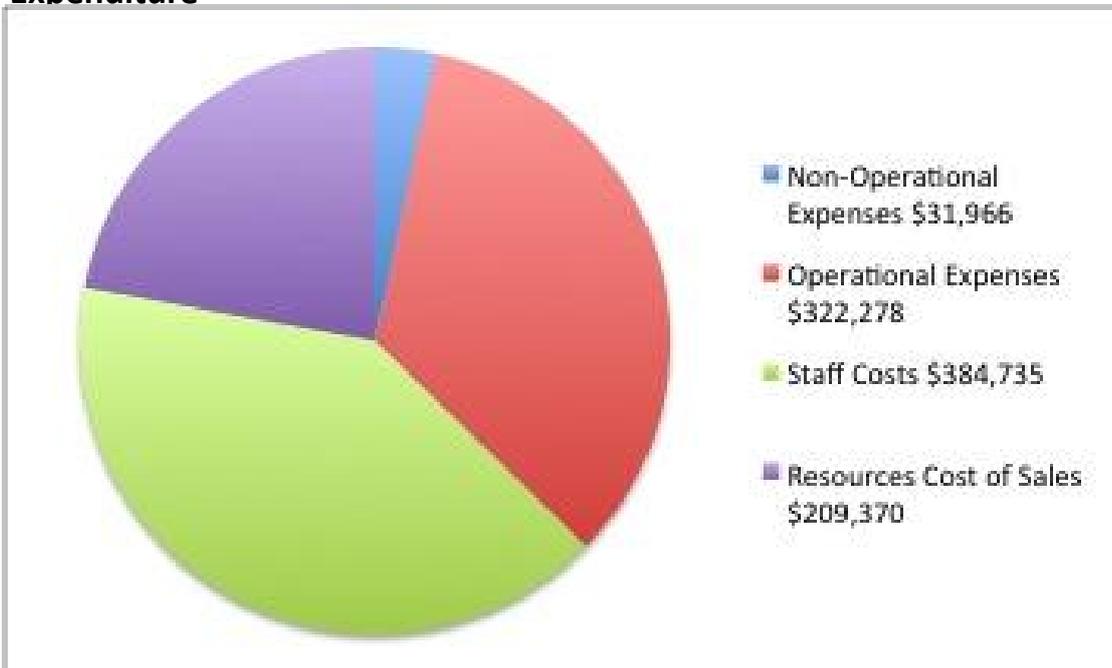
RFM Financial Summary as at 30 JUNE 2011	
INCOME	
Sales	724,373
Donations	42,756
Other Income	3,991
TOTAL INCOME	771,120
EXPENSES	
Operations	661,203
Management Fee and Rent	36,036
TOTAL EXPENSES	697,239
NET PROFIT	73,881

Financial Snapshot

Income



Expenditure



Current Assets	\$ 360,628
Non Current Assets	\$ 387,146
Total Assests (A)	\$ 747,774

Current Liabilities	\$ 264,496
Non-Current Liabilities	\$ 27,350
Total Liabilities (L)	\$ 291,846

Equity (A - L)	\$ 455,928
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