

## Faithful service

In this month's *TCFNews* we give honour to Anne Wray one of TCFNSW's most faithful servants. Anne was a mature aged teacher trainee. She taught at Pymble and St Ives South Primary Schools. On her retirement from teaching she was honorary TCF Secretary from 1986 to 1995. During this time she wrote articles, organised conferences and workshops, arranged prayer meetings and promoted TCFNSW while attending to all the administrative tasks of secretary. After that she moved to Tasmania to live where in recent years she battled cancer until the Lord took her home in February 2015.

Current service is also recognised in this edition through the 2014 annual reports of the President, Secretary and Treasurer. Of special note is the completion of work by the outgoing President, Harley Mills, who has faithfully extended the life of TCFNSW. During his time as President Harley has kept TCFNSW at the forefront of issues in education providing excellent professional learning activities and ensuring the efficient management of the Fellowship. His achievements are not to be underestimated and the new President will have an excellent example to follow.

In addition, this edition has an article on *Writing a school-based student welfare plan* and another *Funny thing that happened on the way to the office*.

John Gore

## Past chairman honours Anne Wray.

I first met Anne Wray soon after returning from India in 1963 where I had been Principal of Wynberg-Allen, a large boarding school, for seven years.

Anne was a charming lady, the wife of Ken who was rector of Roseville Anglican Church. She was Secretary of NSW Teachers' Christian Fellowship and in due course I became chairman. We served in partnership together for many years. A very efficient and responsible secretary, Anne had a real heart for people. She was a lady of deep prayer and a great memory for what had to be done, initially without a computer.

At first the Committee met at the Roseville rectory but subsequently at Scripture Union House, in various locations, and then in our house at Blaxland. Not long after we started meeting at Roseville, Ken went to be with the Lord and this was naturally a great loss for Anne.

Three incidents at or following Committee meetings could be mentioned. Anne and I shared a love for classical music and it was a great joy after one meeting in Roseville to go together to the Domain in Sydney for Opera in the Park. On a second occasion we met at SU House in Homebush. It was a most eventful (and expensive) meeting. I went by public transport but Anne drove to the meeting. There was a massive hailstorm with hail larger than golf balls and Anne's car (and many others) were a write-off. The third event was at our home. During the meeting it poured and poured. Ian Cochrane's car became bogged and was finally removed with great difficulty.

TCF Annual Conferences, generally held in the Mountains, were wonderfully organised by Anne with as many as 80 attending. Each year we held an Annual Dinner with excellent speakers with about the same number in attendance.

In due course Anne retired and moved to Hobart. When Helen and I sailed around Australia we had the joy of having a whole day with Anne in Hobart. We wondered how TCF would survive when Anne retired but the Lord supplied a wonderful replacement in Pam Griffin.

A few months ago Anne joined the Lord in heaven. It was a great joy to hear testimonies from her family and friends at her memorial service at Roseville Anglican Church.

Peter Kidd.

## Farewell Anne Wray

(Here is part of the eulogy by her son, Richard, from a Memorial Service held at St Andrew's, Roseville on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2015.)

I stand here a little cautious - one of Mum's many instructions was that we weren't to talk about her at this time, but I suspect she's gotten fairly used to me ignoring her over the years so I'll plough on.

Our mum was born in 1931, the youngest of three sisters at Deniliquin in south western NSW. I don't know much of her early years. The family moved to Sydney about 1946 where Mum finished High School at North Sydney Girls where she was a school prefect and not surprisingly a diligent student. She took an office job for a short while and then enrolled for nursing training which came to an enforced halt in 1952 when she married dad who was twice her age.

This began the ministry years and there were high expectations of a Rector's wife in those times - and mum took on her role with great energy - excelling in hospitality, active in women's groups, helping care for the congregation and keeping dad on the straight and narrow. But it was also a time of supporting dad in ill health. He contracted rheumatic fever in 1957 causing him to resign his post at Merrylands and head up to the Atherton Tablelands to convalesce with mum and two kids - Jenny and me - with nothing but what they could pack in the car. With little money and nowhere to stay it was one of those faith journeys that so characterised mum's life.

Dad's health improved somewhat and family returned to Sydney and to ministry at Merrylands. The births of Meredith and Marion here completed our family Mum studied for her teaching qualifications from '69 - '71 then taught full-time at Pymble and St Ives Primary Schools for about 15 years.

A new phase of mum's life began after dad's death in 1995 with emphysema. She moved to Tasmania to a thoroughly modern house in Sandy Bay and became a Presbyterian at St John's in Hobart. Mum spent almost a year at 68 years of age tutoring the children of missionary doctors in remote village in Nepal.

One of the special things since mum's death has been the emails I've received from people who were impacted by mum's life - Libby Hayes, the doctor of some of those kids mum taught in Nepal spoke of her remarkable courage and here's some words from Kester who went out on mission work from mum's church in Hobart: *Anne has had a very special place in my life since I was called to serve here in Vietnam. She was the first person to pray for me when I told people at St Johns about this call and she has always been a great encouragement to me in the almost 20 years that have passed since then. We have been praying for her over the last couple of years as she battled this illness and her faith has been so firm throughout this difficult time. She asked that we pray that she finished faithfully and it comforting to know that that is the case.*

Mum's pastor in Hobart Alistair recounted a story that mum had come to him to have a serious talk about the prayer notes in the weekly bulletin. 'Pretty weak' she said, 'nothing about mission, reaching out with the Gospel - who writes them?' 'Well I do' said Alistair. Unabashed, mum said she'd take them over and provided these weekly up until a couple of months before her death.

Mum inspired us all with her life of faith and prayer, her love of God's word, her insatiable letter writing and remarkable courage and hope for the future especially during her battle with cancer. We love you mum!

Richard Wray.

Contributions for *TCF News* on your memories of Anne would be greatly received.

## **Writing a school based student welfare plan**

### **Why write a plan?**

2015 was to be the first of a new three year plan at school. The principal had already met with the planning team and the Executive to outline the need for three goals and detailed implementation plans.

### **Writing a plan.**

In weekly welfare meetings the support of Stage 4 and Stage 6 co-ordinators was enlisted to work towards writing the welfare plan. Early in 2014 I had attended *Mind Matters* training along with Year 9 Adviser and the Student Support Officer. *Mind Matters* offered a full day training on writing a welfare plan locally. This training was invaluable in our planning process.

A survey from the *Mind Matters* website was administered to small groups of students from Years 7 to 11 with their responses recorded from the interviews by the team. Attendance data, behaviour data and suspension data was collected on the participating students and given to the team members. (Names of individual students were deleted from Year 10 student responses.)

From the *Mind Matters* training the team downloaded onto their laptops a set of planning tools that were provided. From the welfare problems the school was dealing with and attendance data the team identified the need for resilience training.

### **What was in the plan?**

Prior to 2015 we had addressed resilience by the Student Support Officer running *Friends* groups. *Friends* is a program that the school used with Year 7 and 8 students who didn't fit into playground groups. Boys and Girls mentoring groups were also run in the school. Individuals with problems are usually referred to the school counsellor, the Adolescent Mental Health Team run by Public Health Clinical Psychologists or *Headspace*.

The Boys mentoring selected students in Year 8 who were not on track for success. They were individually mentored by male staff and had group excursions which included an overnight hike where the students had to bring their own food and equipment and cook for themselves.

The female welfare staff ran the Girls mentoring program selecting girls in Years 7 to 10 who were lacking confidence. They had excursions and did community service activities where they examined each other's strengths.

These programs will continue to run as part of the school culture.

### **Additions to the plan.**

The school's strategic direction for 2015-2017 is *School Community Wellbeing*. The purpose is *to create and inspire a school community that fosters and values holistic*

*wellbeing through the core values of safety, tolerance, achievement and respect. This is achieved by providing a range of initiatives that target the individual needs of staff and students. This results in a happy and caring school environment.* (Wollongong High School of the Performing Arts School Plan 2015-2017.)

Specific resilience training will be used with selected individuals. Available training modules, especially on resilience, on the *Mind Matters* website will be utilised.

Welfare staff have identified a need for professional development to assist them in their role. They will complete all six *Mind Matter* modules in a Teacher Professional learning Day.

School staff have identified a need to know how to cope with students in their classes with mental health issues. The *Mind Matters* module *Helping individual students* (<http://www.mindmatters.edu.au>) has been included in the school's welfare plan. Parents will be informed of the implementation of the *Mind Matters* program.

Dianne Young

## **2014 TCF President's Report**

It has been my great privilege to serve for several years on Committee as President, with a wonderful group of people who have added greatly to the achievements and depth of TCF. I would like to thank each of them for the time they have given up in their busy lives, around many other commitments and responsibilities, to attend committee meetings over many years. They have seen the importance of supporting their fellow Christian teachers in their teaching careers, understanding the mission field they work in, and the constant shout of the world to abandon that call. Regular contact with other Christian teachers, they understand, sharpens your vision and keeps you directed towards mission in an extremely demanding profession, in a secular world. It has also been a great joy to regularly read the Word of God together, share about our concerns and then pray over them to our great God. So for me, being on Committee, has been at least as rewarding as the effort expended towards it.

In March I had the sad duty of attending a memorial service for a past Secretary of TCF and great friend, Mrs Anne Wray. Anne was the honorary secretary of TCF from 1987 to 1995 and did an excellent job organising TCF during that period. Reg Becker and Peter Kidd, both committee members at that time, were also in attendance at the service. Anne was widely respected for her enthusiasm and organising ability, together with her deep care and concern for individuals. Her letter writing and catch-up phone calls to members, made right up until last Christmas, were legendary, as was her reticence to talk about herself. Typically she had had a double batch of address labels printed at Christmas so that people, not living in her home state of Tasmania, could be contacted upon her passing. Her Christian witness in a very interesting but challenging life was clearly shown. Did you know Anne was a teacher who had to take up teaching as a mature aged student? She then took on the roll of TCF secretary upon her retirement from teaching!

I, on the other hand, will be stepping down from committee due to ill health, along with my retirement from teaching at the end of Term 3 this year but I look forward to seeing what God has in store for TCF in the near future. As always, TCF is about relationships, firstly with our God, each other and the school world we live in. Our challenge is to maintain and develop those relationships under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and through the Word of God.

Harley Mills.

## **2014 Secretary's Report to the AGM of TCF NSW Inc.**

## **Seminar**

A half day seminar was held on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2014 as a follow up to Conference 2013. Andrew Greenfield gave input on *More Practical Strategies for Helping Students with ADHD*. 65 attended with 59 from Redeemer Baptist School. A one day Conference was not held as we were unable to get speakers to run workshops on BOSTES accreditation.

## **TCF Promotion**

Ken Silvester was willing to promote TCF at Katoomba Christian Convention Men's Conference but all spots were taken. Application will be made earlier this year.

Consideration was given to promoting TCF at *Oxygen* Conference. It needed to be in the form of a sponsorship package. High cost (from \$2,500 to \$25,000) was considered not good use of TCF funds as delegates would not be a target audience.

A TCF brochure, with flyer challenging people to think about being Christian in their teaching, was distributed with December edition of TCF News. It is hoped that each member would promote TCF to at least one person.

12 *TCF Starter Packs* for new career teachers were distributed to graduating students from UTS Kuring-gai.

## **TCF News / Communication**

*TCF News* continues to be produced six times a year with the dedication and great work of John Gore to write and edit articles. His insight and discernment in this role is much appreciated. The email version of *TCF News* now has a great heading with thanks to Harley. 24 members receive the electronic version.

Our *Facebook page* needs more input with issues and comments to generate discussion and the website continues to be updated by Colin McKay. A gift of \$200 was given to him in appreciation of his voluntary work.

## **Activities**

The annual bushwalk was on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2014 and keen members braved the conditions and enjoyed the views from Wattamolla to Bundeena. The Illawarra Local Group met for share and prayer each term. The end of Term 2 *Getaway* was at Kihilla at Lawson. This was a new venue and the catered option was great. 13 attended the windy, cold weekend. All appreciated the log fires, Andrew's bushwalk which was followed by coffee and cake! Thanks to John Gore for his thorough preparation in providing background information, statistics and questions for a lively debate on the topic *Can Christianity grow in an increasingly secular and multi faith Australia?*

## **Membership**

There were 144 members as at 30<sup>th</sup> December 2014. There were 3 new members from Redeemer Baptist School and 1 resignation throughout the year.

## **Financial update:**

On-line banking was established in July 2014. A new Westpac Community Solutions Cash Reserve account was opened as it gives a higher interest rate than the Community Solutions cheque account. There are five signatories to all accounts with any two to authorise.

Missionary support: \$700 was distributed to four missionary members.

Recommendation from AGM in 2013 to reduce membership fees was considered by the Committee. It resolved that membership fees for 2015 be \$35.

## **Keeping TCF on the move**

John and Elizabeth Gore continue to generously host the office in their home for which we are grateful. Thanks to Ken and Bronwyn Silvester who warmly host Committee meetings

in their home. The members of the Committee continue to faithfully serve to encourage Christian teachers in NSW. Without their dedication TCF would grind to a halt.

There were ten meetings held in 2014. The following show the number attended:

Harley Mills (President)	10
Andrew Poyitt (Vice President)	10
Dianne Young (Treasurer)	8
Pam Griffin (Secretary)	10
Lyn Searle	8
Karen Allsopp	8
Ken Silvester	8

I cannot conclude this year's report without a special acknowledgement of Harley's longstanding commitment to TCF as he resigns his current role. Over the last 30 years Harley has faithfully served on the Committee as Prayer Secretary, Illawarra Local Group leader and President from 1995 to 2001 and currently since 2006. As well as giving Godly leadership, Harley has been 'Mr Technology' for TCF. He has generously given valuable weekend and holiday time to establish and maintain the computer system and to design brochures. Harley's passion for teachers who are Christians to be Christian teachers in all aspects of their career and his reliance on God have kept him steadfast throughout the years. I am indebted to him for his friendship, support, fellowship and encouragement. May God bless you, Harley, as you continue to serve him faithfully.

Pam Griffin  
Secretary

## Treasurer's Report

The accounts of the fellowship have been audited. The following is an abridged summary and the full accounts are available on request from the office.

### Actual Receipts and Payments For year ended 31 December 2014

#### RECEIPTS

Membership fees	5,875
Donations	2,045
Conference fees	650
Getaway fees	1,690
Interest and other	<u>662</u>
	<b><u>10,922</u></b>

#### PAYMENTS

Salaries	4,137
Office costs	662
Stationery, printing and postage	1,345
Fees	351
Conference Costs	950
Getaway costs	1,683
Function, meeting costs	31
Missionary Support	700
Gifts	<u>450</u>
	<b><u>10,309</u></b>
Surplus	<b><u>613</u></b>

Net worth as at 31 December 2014

28,803

Dianne Young  
Treasurer

## Something funny happened on the way to the office

(The fourth in a series of stories that owe their fame to bureaucratic practices.)

### 4. Panic

NSW was one of the first states to take a snapshot of student performance in English and mathematics through the Basic Skill Tests. Eventually these tests were taken up nationally for all students and prepared outside NSW. Each state and territory became obsessed with their performance compared to each other. When results were released Ministers quickly put out a press release to put the best spin possible on the results for their state.

One year the Department's Assessment and Reporting Unit was waiting for the results for NSW to be delivered so that it could prepare a news response for the Minister. But the results didn't come. Some state released their results and everyone wanted to know why NSW had not done the same. Tracking showed that the results had been delivered to the Department but the Assessment and Reporting Unit didn't have them. Where could they be? A desperate note was sent to all directorates to ask if anyone had seen them. I knew I didn't have them.

At Ryde State Office at that time, all deliveries were to the front desk but it was unattended. Recipients were sometimes phoned to say that a parcel was being delivered but basically it was up to the person or unit to collect them. In my unit an administration officer had this task and had recently taken some boxes of resources from a Commonwealth Program and put them under my desk until we needed them. Several days passed and frustration grew about the results. I can not even imagine what was happening in the Minister's Office.

As I reviewed the Commonwealth resources I had received, I noticed a separate folder and, yes, it contained the NSW results. Another case of reducing clerical and administrative staff (this time a receptionist at Ryde State Office) had resulted in this embarrassing delay and a missed opportunity to promote NSW results at the optimum time.

John Gore

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