

**GBC Annual General Meeting-2**  
**30 March 2025 at 11.30am**  
(HYBRID: Held via Zoom Meeting and Onsite)

## Agenda

1. Welcome.
2. Members and Guests record attendance.
3. Apologies.
4. Devotion and Prayer.
5. Confirmation of Agenda.
6. Confirmation of Minutes from last Meeting (AGM-1 01/12/2024).
7. Accept the Annual Report.
8. Treasurer's Report – Finance.
9. Senior Pastor's Report.
10. Hopefield Report.
11. Prayer and Close.

# GBC Annual General Meeting-I

1 December 2024 at 11.30am

Hybrid: Onsite and Online via Zoom

**1. Welcome.**

Meeting started 11:30

**2. Members and Guests record attendance.**

Quorum achieved – 43 at 11:35 am

**3. Apologies.**

Bruce Mullins, Phillippa Lowe (see Karen)

**4. Devotion and Prayer (MR).**

John 20: This is not just a meeting, it is part of our work to participate in God's plan and be faithful to what God has invited us into.

**5. Confirmation of Agenda.**

No additions to agenda.

**6. Confirmation of Minutes from last Meetings: Mid-Year Meeting – Sunday, 23 June 2024; and Extraordinary Meeting – Sunday, 23 June 2024.**

For both sets of minutes:

*AGM meeting minutes*

Moved: Marc Rader

Seconded: Marie Renneberg

Confirmed: Show of hands

*Extraordinary meeting minutes*

Moved: Marc Rader

Seconded: Marie Renneberg

Confirmed: Show of hands

7. Reports:

i. **Church Council Chairperson** – Marc Rader explained intent of report as PL is an apology.

See report

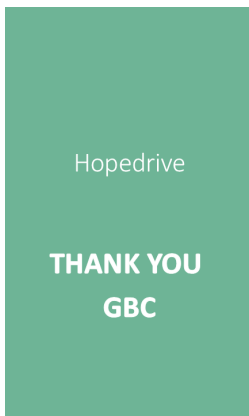
ii. **Hopefield** (Vicki Sherry)



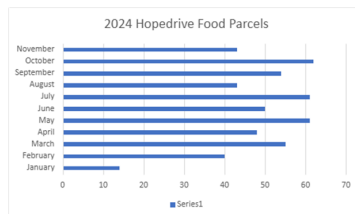
160+ no-gap mental health sessions delivered in Cronulla to support marginalised individuals.  
 300+ sessions autism and ADHD service in Kirrawee  
 Support for 67 individuals experiencing domestic and family violence and trauma. (Hopetember)

Expanding community hubs groups (men's, Women's, and therapeutic psycho-educational groups)

Graduation of 9 women from the first intake of The EVE Project



Hope Drive has become a critical part of Hopefield service:  
 ✓ Over 500 food parcels year today  
 ✓ Over \$7,000 in top up food support



What's Coming Up in 2025 ?





Creating a multi-disciplinary DV/Trauma team



planning to launch social enterprise on-line store



Celebrating 30 years in 2025 – more info to follow

Vicki closed by thanking the Church for its support.

Questions:

None.

iii. **Senior Pastor;** (Marc Rader)

Theme: Lives Changed by Jesus

Related to our strategic priorities in several ways:

- The ongoing transformation of our lives as followers of Jesus (Spiritual Journey).
- The invitation to begin to follow Jesus (Community Engagement).
- Our commitment to each other as we find our place in God's mission (Belonging).

GOALS (related to our Strategic Priorities)

1. Life Groups: Term 2 Focus
2. Spiritual Practices: Prayer & Sabbath
3. Work/Faith Integration
4. Community
5. Evangelism\*
6. Governance

Questions:

None

iv. **Treasurer (Glenn Smith)**

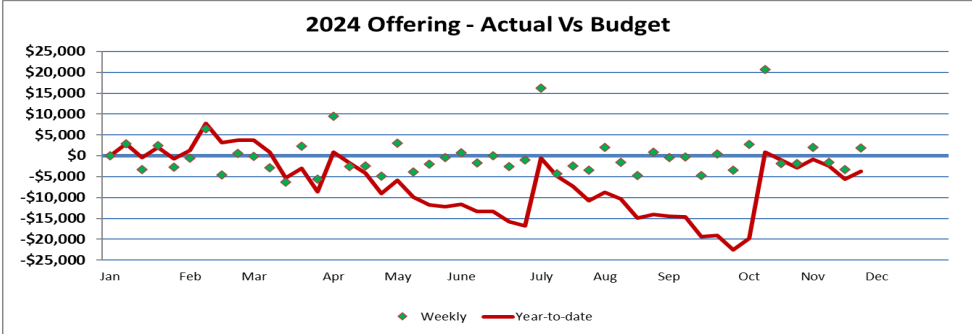
Reminder - Special Purpose Versus General

Two categories of activity.

1. Special Purpose income (e.g., Interest on Property Trust money, MMM, and Music Trust). Responsible to collect, account for and allocate this income to the relevant purpose.
2. General income and expenses (e.g. Offerings, Miscellaneous Income and Ministry Expenses). Responsible to collect, account for, pay our bills, and maintain a positive bank account.

Significant project in 2024 to make it easier to distinguish between these in the Budget and the reporting of the accounts.

2024 Offering - Actual Vs Budget



Year to Date Highlights

Income

Offerings

- Close to Budget
- Expectation to end year - \$810k to \$820k

MMM successful, \$201k

Other income up, driven by room hire and interest earned

Expenses

Salaries significantly under budget

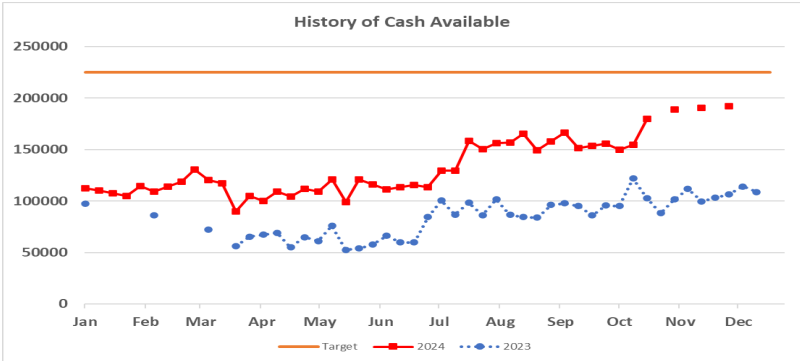
Innovation under budget

Ministry and Mission, in line with expectations

Operational costs should end slightly under budget

Property costs should end year in line with budget

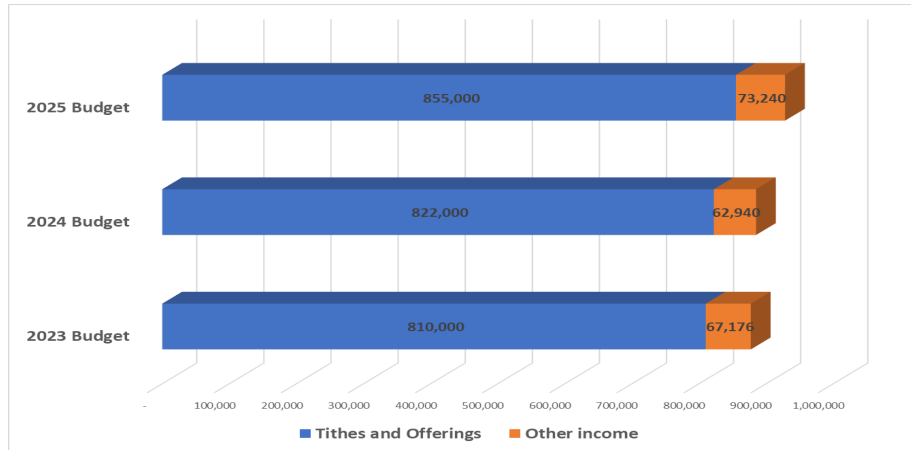
Cash Available



Questions:

None

#### Funding of General Income – comparison



## 8. Budget 2025.

### Funding Of General Expenses

Another Balanced Budget

Very similar to 2024

Asking the Congregation for an additional \$33k in giving (4.0%)

Expenses

- Increased total staff cost
- Innovation line significantly reduced
- Ministry, Mission and Outreach, and Operations very similar
- Slight decline in Property due to Insurance and Maintenance

Questions:

*Jan Speckman Please explain more about endowment funds*

*Answer GS – We propose to have the endowment fund ready for early next year. It is money that is put aside for the future, eg so that the church can continue its ministry in future times. The hope would be that the money invested would also provide an income that could be added to our general annual income. It is not tax deductible. Money can be invested at any time for example as additional weekly giving or as a bequest.*

*Alan Williams – What sort of repairs are you talking about in the budget. Can you be specific?*

*Answer GS – The downpipes needed to be fixed (to prevent future flooding) before the insurer would pay our insurance claims (eg to fix the carpet after damage). This money has come from the property fund.*

*AW - Is the Church debt free?*

*GS - Baptist Insurance will lend us money to pay the insurance bill in order to smooth the payments at a very low interest rate. We chose to do that this year but will probably not do that this year.*

*AW - There is no income from weddings.*

*GS encouraged people to get married in the church. We have not had any this year.*

*Steve Ford – What would be the consequences if the Music Trust was suddenly oversubscribed?*

*GS – That would be a wonderful thing. It was set up in the 90s to pay for Carols. It has brought in 80-100k each year to support this work. Carols is now finished. Supporters have stopped supporting as they could not see what it was funding. The new Christmas activities will need support here. It also covers things like music stands and other music equipment. We hope that in 2025 it will double. We would like to do some things that could use that funding. But please don't give at the expense of your normal giving as that is still necessary for our normal ministry.*

### **Acceptance of 2025 Budget**

**The 2025 Budget is being recommended to the membership by the Church Council on the recommendation of the Finance Committee.**

Moved: Glenn Smith

Seconded: Marc Rader

Confirmed: Show of hands

### **9. Elections.**

The nominees for the Church Council are:

- Rob Seaton (2<sup>nd</sup> Term)
- Cameron Shipway (3<sup>rd</sup> Term)
- Debbie Williams (2<sup>nd</sup> Term)

Motion: That Chris Moffat and Marjy Robinson be scrutineers

Moved: Marc Rader

Seconded: Meddwyn Hinton

Confirmed: Ballot

Motion - The nominees for the Nominating Committee

- Hannah Fraser
- Glen Nelson

Moved: Marc Rader

Seconded: David Beresford

Confirmed: Show of hands

### **10. Close.**



# GYMEA BAPTIST CHURCH

## ANNUAL REPORT 2024





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# SENIOR PASTOR'S REPORT

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From Marc Rader

2024 marked the seventy-fifth year of ministry at GyMEA Baptist Church. Since 1949, when the chook shed Sunday School officially became an affiliated member of the Baptist movement in NSW, we have witnessed the power of God at work in changing lives through Jesus Christ. We continue to rely on the enabling presence of the Spirit as we seek to be faithful participants in God's mission.

Our theme in 2024 was "Our (Extra)Ordinary Life Together" which served as a reminder that our ordinary lives together are made extraordinary by following Jesus and that "our" life together includes more than those who are part of our local community of faith here at GBC (a big thank you to Jackie Martin who kept the church colours up-to-date over the course of the year).

This theme was woven into our sermon series for the year. From our January series "Jesus and the Sydney Morning Herald" (dealing with such topics as "Should the Church be Woke?", "Why is Israel so Important to Christians?", and "The Taylor Swift Effect"), Good Job (exploring how our faith in Jesus is integrated in our vocation; that which we do with intent and purpose), Learning to Pray/Rest with Jesus (series on two spiritual practices: prayer and Sabbath), and While We Wait (studies in Chronicles that reveal how to live while we wait for God's promises to be fulfilled), we sought to reflect on our (extra)ordinary life together.

As part of our wider life together we participated in a combined churches Easter project which included the publication of "The Shire Gospel of Luke". More locally, we performed a pulpit swap with Menai Baptist as a small demonstration of our common mission.

There were other opportunities for wider engagement with the mission of God that we participated in. As a leadership we completed the Adaptive Capacity Course offered through Fuller Seminary, as well as the Faith/Vocation pilot group with 17 other churches across Australia. A big thanks to Leeanne Smith who was part of the former and Grant Nelson and Rachel Turner who were part of the latter.

These programs were also part of our ongoing development of the strategic priority areas that we identified as a community of faith in 2022: Spiritual Journey, Belonging, and Community Engagement. Other progress was made in strengthening our Life Groups, exploring spiritual practices and vocation/faith integration, and we also updated our constitution – a project that we'd been working on for a few years. At our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary we also took up a special thank offering to launch an endowment fund and raised over \$30,000.

From a staffing perspective we appointed Jeremy Brough as youth and young adult coordinator with Jeremy and his wife Sam joining us from Perth in January. Marjy Robertson also took on more responsibility; adding Operations to her GBC Serve role. It's been great having both of them in their respective roles.

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SENIOR PASTOR'S REPORT Continued.



2024 was also my tenth year as senior pastor at Gynea Baptist Church – How time flies! I continue to enjoy my roles; here and at Morling College. In 2024 I was involved in the Morling Preaching Conference and subsequent intensive which was focused on AI in preaching. I was also a participant in the National Senior Pastor’s Gathering held in Hobart and continued to be involved in the Sydney pastor’s group and the regional pastor’s group as well through Transform Southern Sydney (TSS). I also produced a preaching resource for beginning preachers and mentored three pastors in their own preaching which was very enjoyable. The opportunity to be involved in wider ministry is very rewarding and I’m thankful for it.

The year has not been without its challenges, but overall I am grateful for the faithfulness of God. I am also particularly thankful to the Church Council for their work over the year –especially Susan Kusch who stepped down from the Chair role and into the Secretary role, Philippa Lowe who became the Chair, and Glenn Smith for his continued service as Treasurer. I am also thankful for the elders and their commitment to the care of our congregations, and to the staff for their commitment to the mission of God here at GBC.



# CHURCH COUNCIL

From Philippa Lowe (Chair)

## Summary and purpose of the ministry of the Church Council

The Council is the body responsible for Church governance, as described in Clause 6.2 of the Constitution of Gymea Baptist Church:

*6.2 (a) The Church Council is responsible for the governance of the Church. These responsibilities include:*

- i. giving prayerful and spiritual oversight to the Church*
- ii. developing and advancing the Church's mission, vision, and values*
- iii. engaging in strategic planning*
- iv. legal compliance*
- v. financial accountability*
- vi. producing written governing policies and processes*
- vii. determining the responsibilities of the Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer, consistent with the requirements of the Constitution*
- viii. reviewing the Senior Pastor's performance*
- ix. establishing and reviewing ministry teams and other such bodies to best suit the fulfilment of the Church's mission*
- x. recommending to the Church those deemed fit for appointment to the Church Council and to the Pastoral Team*
- xi. appointing ministry, administrative and operational staff as necessary in line with approved budgets and strategy.*

*(b) The Church Council may delegate those of its responsibilities it considers to be appropriate.*

## The Church Council as a ministry

Sitting on church council involves actively serving the church community by participating in leadership, decision-making, and oversight roles that directly contribute to the overall health and mission of Gymea Baptist Church. Essentially, it's a form of service to the church through governance and strategic planning. Possibly the equivalent to the Book of Leviticus from some people's perspectives! Whilst we may not find ourselves discussing defiling mould (Lev. 14: 33), issues like the impact of church flooding certainly get tabled.

It is a ministry of the less flamboyant kind, yet a vital one, for as "Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another." (Proverbs 27:17). Personal and spiritual growth is a communal affair, as Scripture reminds us in various ways. In the beginning, God did not make just one human being but two (Gen. 1:26–27). David had Nathan the prophet, a faithful friend who brought him to repentance (2 Sam. 12:1–15). Jesus appointed not just one overseer; rather, He has chosen for His church to be governed by a body of elders and deacons (Acts 6:1–7). We all need others in our lives to sharpen us and encourage us in the work of ministry. I am thankful to the other volunteers on Church Council who serve alongside me and sharpen and encourage me in this particular calling.

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CHURCH COUNCIL CHAIR'S REPORT Continued.



**List of Volunteers on Church Council:**

Philippa Lowe (Chair); Susan Kusch (Secretary); Glenn Smith (Treasurer); Cameron Shipway; Rob Seaton; Deborah William; Jordanne Collins; Derek Mullins (Elder); Snr. Pastor Marc Rader.

**Highlights**

Assisting and supporting the Senior Pastor as required.

Overseeing an appropriate level of the Safe Churches program takes place.

Leveraging support of church staff for Council Papers

Developing centralised management of Council communications, governance processes, and procedures.

**Did the Council try anything new?**

New agenda structure to facilitate greater opportunity for discussion and time management.

Centralised repository of church board papers and agendas, action register and church health consultancy action log.

Determining the responsibilities of the Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer.

**What Worked?**

Linking in with members of the staff who are skilled in the areas of management and administration (note of thanks to Karen Watkins for Council Papers support and Marjy Robertson for WHS reports).

The use of working parties to look at specific projects made it less overwhelming (e.g., Flood Mitigation and Reparation works).

New board agenda and action log enabled Council to stay on track with priorities whilst managing council meeting time to facilitate effective discussion.

**Any Challenges?**

Finding people willing to volunteer time and skills is an ongoing challenge.

Realistic use of time, and timelines, always brings a certain amount of pressure to develop Council reports and papers with sufficient lead time for reading.

**What did the Council learn?**

Scheduling lead time for council papers, reports, reading time and delivery to enable effective volunteer management.

**Future Plans**

Health check and revision schedule of Church Policies and Procedures.

Instigating a future building development plan of the church property.

Ongoing commitment to the church health consultancy action log.

Set out and plan to meet the future needs of church staffing.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Marc, Karen, Cameron, Glenn, Jordie, Debbie, Rob, Derek, and Susan for their support, time and contributions over the previous 12 months, and for their willingness to listen to the call of God and take up His invitation to serve in this way.



# ELDERS' REPORT

From Derek Mullins (Chair)

At GBC, elders are appointed to the Pastoral Team to share in the spiritual oversight of the church and to provide pastoral care for the congregation. Under the updated Church Constitution, elders now serve four-year terms (reduced from five years) and may serve a maximum of two consecutive terms. The Chair of the Elders is also a member of the Church Council, ensuring effective communication between these key leadership groups.

In 2024 there were seven elders. Greg Williams was appointed in December 2023, joining Barbara Higgins, Sonia Beresford, Ian Giles, Bruce Harbour, and me.

As elders, we embrace our calling as servant-leaders, supporting and caring for our church family in practical and spiritual ways. Throughout 2024, this included involvement in a variety of ministries:

- Contributing to the Missions and Catalyst teams
- Coordinating Special Religious Education (SRE) at Gynea North Public School
- Corporate prayer and Bible reading in Sunday services
- Encouraging individuals grappling with spiritual challenges
- Hosting the Thursday evening Zoom prayer meetings
- LifeGroup leadership and participation
- Offering one-on-one prayer after services
- Praying intentionally for GBC's ministries, leaders, and congregation
- Serving through the Hopefield Community Hub
- Visiting and supporting those facing illness, frailty, or other vulnerabilities
- Welcoming newcomers and assisting with guest services.
- Contributing to GBC News Encouraging Elder Editorial.

We strive to be others-focused, walking alongside our church family as we pursue the vision of seeing lives transformed by Jesus. While maintaining our emphasis on congregational care, we have also increased our focus on supporting LifeGroups and their leaders, especially as new young adult groups were established in 2024. We recognise the essential role LifeGroups play in building community within our diverse church. It has been a joy to connect with the leaders and encourage them in their vital ministry.

I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to my fellow elders for their dedicated contributions throughout 2024. Each one brings unique gifts, and together, we form a team that is enriched by our diversity. Special thanks go to Marc, Roxane, and Karen, our Congregational Care Coordinator, for their invaluable support and encouragement. They have been vital partners in ministry.



# FINANCE REPORT

From Glenn Smith (CC Treasurer)

Thanks for taking a minute to reflect with me on the finances of GBC in 2024. Overall, 2024 was a very positive year for our finances. I have listed below some of the highlights and some of the challenges we encountered. Thank you to all who contributed in so many different ways to the overall result.

## Highlights:

- We were excited to see further increased needs to fund volunteer and staff training, resources, materials and other support for our ministry activities.
- May Mission Month again beat our annual targets, raising over \$201k to support missions at home and abroad.
- Due to the efforts and careful management by the staff, our overall expenses were under budget.
- Over the course of the year our cash available to pay regular bills increased to the level we were aiming for. Many of you will remember that this was a key financial goal of the CLT in 2023 and 2024.
- In November we commenced the Gynea Baptist Church Endowment Fund with the proceeds of the Thank Offering for the Church's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.
- Great exposure from the visitors to our first Christmas Festival. Future growth of this event will be financed from our tax-deductible cultural trust.
- Perhaps most pleasing, our giving through personal Offerings finished the year above budget.

## Challenges:

- Who can forget the images of Marc and many volunteers in ankle deep water, sweeping it out of the Church? The required remediation works have cost us about \$80,000 from our Property Trust account. However, even this cloud had a silver lining. The new arrangements with our insurer BIS proved to be robust. The team that Marjy brought together (Brian Stewart, Glen Nelson and Lawrie Green) did a magnificent job in identifying and guiding us through the required work.
- Our better Cash situation has come at the expense of lower staff numbers. We did not hire the Ministry staff member in 2024 as planned. Following extensive work by the staff and leadership, we have budgeted for that position to be filled in the first half of 2025.

Throughout 2024, I was encouraged by the big-hearted way that people within our congregation offered their resources, time and money for the work of the Church. As we consider our contributions to GBC for 2025, my prayer is that each of us will be On-Purpose; prayerful, considered, and intentional about our involvement in God's work here.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank several people whose "others-focus" has focused on assisting me throughout the year. Thanks to Neil Evans, Ross Langford, Marc Rader and Lawrie Green for their general counsel and the roles they play on the Finance Committee. Also, to the administrative team of Beryl, Marjy and Karen who continue to be the day-to-day drivers of the activities required to successfully administer the Church finances. Thank you also to Tony Gilbert for his work in conducting the audit.



# HOPEFIELD

Report from Vicki Sherry, CEO.



## A Year of Growth & Impact

Despite challenges in the not-for-profit sector—Hopefield has flourished, thanks to our dedicated team, generous supporters, and God’s on-going incredible faithfulness.

### Delivering Meaningful Change

In 2024, we refined our impact through the **Hopefield Wellbeing Continuum**, ensuring programs aligned with client needs and measurable progress. Community Hubs continued to foster safe connections, with new initiatives like Black Box Parenting and Hope After Abuse addressing critical gaps. Support Services expanded across Cronulla and Kirrawee, and we celebrated the graduation of our first TEP participants.

Clinical Services met its budget while providing significant pro bono and subsidised care. Thanks to Gymea Baptist Church’s Hopetember initiative, we sustained specialist DV trauma counselling twice a week. Domestic and family violence remained a significant challenge, with 25% of Support Services clients facing DV-related struggles, highlighting the need for long-term trauma-informed care. We are so grateful for this incredible support from the GBC community.

With our Cronulla lease secured until October 2025, both locations now offer structured, safe spaces for diverse client needs.

Over the year, Hopefield supported over 400 individuals in 2024, including 252 new clients. Nearly 40% remained engaged for over a year, emphasizing the need for long-term support, while one-third of clinical service appointments were provided pro bono or at reduced rates.

### Expanding Our Reach

This year also saw the successful launch of:

- Neurodiversity support for all ages, benefiting 50+ clients.
- No-cost mental health support for Cronulla clients, helping individuals move towards stability.
- Growth of our Employee Assistance Program (EAP), generating income to sustain low-fee and pro bono services.

### Strength in Community & Partnerships

Hopefield remains financially stable with an expanding supporter base. We are deeply grateful for **GBC’s** ongoing commitment to Hopefield and especially to supporting our Domestic Violence Services.

Our Food Program thrives through the amazing partnerships with **Gymea Baptist Church, HopeDrive**, while the **Giving Tree initiative** provided essential hampers to families in need around Christmas time.

### Looking Ahead with Gratitude

Hopefield’s impact is made possible by extraordinary support from GBC. This includes financial support, in kind support, prayer support, and a growing team of volunteers including the Hopefield Board of Directors. To every donor, volunteer, and partner, we say THANK YOU —your generosity changes lives.

Our full 2024 Annual Report along with our financials can be found on our website <https://hopefield.org.au/about-us/annual-reports/> following Hopefield’s AGM on March 26.





# MISSION PARTNERSHIPS

From Derek Mullins on behalf of the Mission Partnership Team

In May 2023, GBC began a series of three-year partnerships with organisations supporting one project in Australia and two overseas. We continued those partnerships in 2024, as well as supporting our front-line missionaries serving in various parts of the world. The projects are:

**Baptist World Aid, Lebanon** (a longstanding project due to the crisis continuing more than 10 years after the Syrian Civil War began)

The outbreak of the Israel-Hamas war in October 2023 brought an escalation of hostilities between Israel and non-state armed groups in South Lebanon. September 2024 marked a significant increase in hostilities, which led to mass displacement of hundreds of thousands of people (both in the country and across the border into Syria). The people faced increased vulnerability, growing poverty and rising needs across the country. Over 1.3 million people have been affected since the start of the hostilities. The project is specifically aimed at improving wellbeing and enhanced educational outcomes among displaced Syrian and marginalized host community children living in Lebanon.

## **Mother's Heart, Cambodia**

In Cambodia, one in five women face crisis pregnancies lacking access to social services and risking trafficking, abuse, and poverty. Mother's Heart Organization (MHO) offers holistic care, establishing support networks and providing resources for new mothers to build a secure, enriched life. Currently MHO is serving a combined total of 149 women and girls over two locations. They are moving forward with a new three-year strategic plan designed to ensure every woman and girl who goes out of their door is independent, stable, and able to support herself and her baby.

## **Tearfund, Northern Territory**

Initially, GBC supported Strong Women Talking (SWT), based in Queensland. Following SWT receiving a substantial government grant, we are now supporting the Faith and Wellbeing project, a course operating out of Nungalinya College, Darwin. The project supports Indigenous students from six remote communities. Delivered over 24 months, the course equips church members to strengthen their families and support others in addressing challenges like grief, trauma, and domestic violence. Current cohort: 23 women and five men.

We've continued to see the generosity of our GBC community, who have raised \$200,000 for our missionaries and projects, exceeding our 2024 May Mission Month Target of \$190,000, a reflection of GBC's values of being big-hearted and others-focused.

**Front-line missionaries** supported during 2024: Ben and Manje Hurley (Mongolia); Kath Ansell (Sydney); Gary and Jan Speckman (Australia); Jonathan and Sarah McCallum (Basque Country, Spain); Heather Druce (UK); Shane and Ruth Sparks (Spain); Brett and Gill Davis (Australia) – retired end 2024.

During 2024 and continuing into 2025, the Missions Team has been reflecting on how we can improve our partnerships and make our support more impactful. We also want to foster an ongoing "mission heart" in the GBC community as we live out our lives and support the work of our missionaries and mission partners.

Thank you to the team in 2024: Sarah Foxe, Jordie Collins, Derek Mullins, Joanne McLachlan, in particular Sarah and Jordie for their leadership and attention to detail in a challenging year. We would appreciate your prayers as we head into May Mission Month 2025 and progressively strengthen the team.



# MEMBERSHIP & BAPTISM

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From Karen Watkins, PA to Senior Pastor

**Membership:** In 2024 we welcomed three people into membership by interview process: Jeremy Brough, Samantha Brough, Anthony Smallwood. Rachel Uhlman transferred her membership from another Baptist church; and Berenice Gordon “re-activated” her membership.

At the end of 2024 the total number of active members was 296.

For those prayerfully considering membership at Gynea Baptist Church taking this next faithful step is as easy as 1 – 2 – 3!

1. a) New Member: Fill out an Expression of Interest and we’ll be in contact with you to arrange an interview; or  
b) Membership Transfer: Email Marc Rader (or me, Marc’s Assistant) to request your membership be transferred to GBC from another Baptist Church. We will arrange for the transfer with your previous church and upon receipt of transfer advise GBC’s Church Council and add your name to the Membership Roll of Gynea Baptist Church.
2. New Member Interview: Candidates for membership are interviewed by two existing members of GBC (e.g. Elder or Church Council) and it is a wonderful time as the interviewers meet and get to know the candidate and a little of their spiritual journey.
3. Church Council Approval: The interviewee is recommended to the Church Council and if approved by Church Council, the candidate is welcomed into membership at Gynea Baptist Church with their name added to the membership roll. Then they’re ready to vote at the next Church Meeting.

**Baptism:** In April 2024 as a community of faith we celebrated four baptisms: Jack He, Tim Jones, Owen Laycock and Zac Shipway.

At the time of baptism, each Baptismal candidate affirmed their belief in Jesus for the forgiveness of sins and committed to leave their old life behind seeking to follow Jesus with a readiness to do the will of the Father. Those who are baptised are asked to commit to follow Jesus in the community of faith, here at GBC, displaying a readiness to join in the restoring and renewing work of God in Christ through the Holy Spirit.



# SAFE CHURCH TEAM

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From Marjy Robertson

The GBC Safe Church Team provides governance of our faith community to release people to find where God may be inviting them to participate here at GBC as we seek to see lives changed by Jesus by ensuring we are a trustworthy and on-purpose community of faith. The Safe Church Team plays a key role in ensuring that Gymea Baptist Church is and remains a space that is safe for people to come and explore the person of Jesus. The Safe Church Team provides oversight of GBC's Safe Church Program.

This comprises:

- monitoring and reviewing Safe Church Policies and Procedures;
- managing all Safe Church and Child Protection concerns and reports;
- responding sensitively to child protection concerns; and
- supporting vulnerable people.

The highlights of 2024:

- Safe Church Health Check Approval from the Baptist Association;
- reviewing and implementation of updated Safe Church policies and procedures;
- creation of a clear system for supporting vulnerable people, managing concerns and updating volunteers as needed.

What we are planning for 2025:

- completion of reviewing updated policies released by the Baptist Association;
- re-development of our GBC volunteer induction process;
- continue to support vulnerable people and manage concerns as needed.

The following people have dedicated and committed time and energy to meeting regularly and I would like to thank the team in 2024 which consisted of Susan Kusch (Church Council), Greg Williams (Elder), Marjy Robertson (Staff), and Leisel Savage (Member of good standing). Leisel stepped down in 2024.

We welcomed John Cox (Member of good standing) to the team in November 2024, which he prayerfully accepted.

A reminder that you can contact our Safe Church Team at [safechurchteam@gymeabaptist.org.au](mailto:safechurchteam@gymeabaptist.org.au) for any safe church concerns or questions.



# LIFEGROUPS

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From Nicole Jones

The goal for 2024 for the GBC LifeGroups ministry was to support group leaders, strengthen discipleship and help people find connection and belonging.

We had a wonderful response to our call for leaders for the Young Adults groups we hoped to start up, and by March 2024 we had four couples leading four new Young Adult groups, and two other potential leaders in the wings. During the year a Japanese group and an online group also commenced.

The process to join a GBC Lifegroup begins with being invited to a group by someone, the LifeGroups team being approached to place someone, or by filling out an Expression of Interest form on the website. In early 2024, following promotion in our Services, 37 people had filled out a “Join a LifeGroup” form, and by December, 51 people had filled out forms requesting a group. Thankyou to all the existing group leaders who were very accommodating and so keen to add to their number.

We had wonderful plans to conduct regular training sessions on relevant topics, which were affected and delayed almost immediately by April’s “great flood” in the building on the morning of our first scheduled session. This led to the introduction of the Leaders’ Check-In, time set aside after a morning service for leaders to gather and chat with other leaders and have a prayer time with the Elders. It is, perhaps, a larger version of the Pod groups we had hoped, and still hope, to run, and we have more Leader Check-ins planned for 2025. We appreciate the Elders’ commitment to these events, and also for the prayer and connection they now have with a subset of lifegroups – each Elder has a list of groups in particular on their prayer list. This has honed our intention to be Big-hearted and Others-Focused this year.

Throughout 2024 we had 25 groups meeting at various times in various places during each week, overseen by 36 leaders, with over 200 people attending (including 32 Young Adults). LifeGroups remain an essential component of our discipleship (the “you and a crew” context), and we are so thankful for those who have been patient with, prayed for, and partnered in this ministry, and are looking forward to 2025.



# KIDS' MINISTRY

From Bec Venum

2024 was an “on-purpose” year where we saw lives changed by Jesus as children came to our programs to explore God’s truth and experience God’s love.

On average we have about 65 kids per week across five Kidzone rooms. Throughout the year we have had 135 different kids come on Sunday mornings. We have had a quite consistent Kids' Team for a few years and I feel that our level of trustworthiness has been well-established within the team and to the kids. Given this strength the Kids' Team were able to be strategic in the things we led the kids through in 2024.

Our 2024 programs were:

- Term 1 - “Dig in” where we were digging in deeper to the stories of the life of Jesus. This program took stories that kids may be familiar with but focused on a deeper theological understanding of the significance of these events and what that means for us today - all in a fun and engaging age-appropriate program.
- Term 2 - “How to train your attitude” was our May program where we “Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things” whilst also learning from our May Mission Month partners. Followed by a series on The Lord's prayer where we focused on how it was Jesus taught His followers to pray and how we can imitate this in our own prayer lives.
- Term 3 - “Live it out” we looked at the importance of living our faith out loud as we explored examples set for us in the bible.
- Term 4 - “Because of Jesus” - the Gospel of Luke helped us to understand all that we have as followers of our Lord and Saviour Jesus.

We have amazing kids in our church who want to grapple with what it means to be a follower of Jesus, and it is a privilege to be part of a team that is on-purpose with addressing this.

On Mother's Day we held a very successful cake stall in which our Kids sold baked goods provided by our GBC community, with the proceeds going to our May Mission partners. It was wonderful to watch the community come alive for this event; our kids were excited about serving and raising money for Mission and many people enjoying the delicious baked treats. We raised over \$900 for our Mission partners!

Our Kids Worship Disco was in July where our kids invited their friends to dance, sing and play together.

In Term 4, our Year 7 kids, about to be “aged-out” of GBC Kids, had the opportunity to participate in a “Leadership 101” program, led by Jeremy Brough and Brienna Watkins. The program is designed to help young people learn about and discuss what it means to serve in the church. We saw 11 young people participate in this program and all have decided to engage in some form of service in 2025.

And in 2024 we held our very first GBC Festival of Christmas; an amazing three-day event!

As always, I want to express my appreciation to all the kids team – thank you! They are amazing servant-hearted disciples of Jesus!! Special mention to Mel Hunt who, at the end of 2024, took a step back from regular leadership; Mel has been on the GBC Kids Team for many years connecting kids with Jesus.



# EDGE & YOUTH

From Jeremy Brough

2024 was a transitional year for our youth ministries undergoing significant changes in the pursuit to see the lives of our young people changed by Jesus. The year started with the first of the significant changes (for me, a highlight with my appointment as the new Youth and Young Adults Coordinator. Anticipation was high as the church, the youth ministry teams and I excitedly (and nervously) waited to see where God would take our youth ministry under new leadership. So, here is an inside-look at the youth ministry space in 2024.

The Edge and Youth programs continued in 2024, and our young people came ready and eager to grow in their faith and understanding of the bible. The leadership teams were able to deliver some great devotional series to aid in this process.

EDGE Program: In Term One Edge Kids heard stories and testimonies from Edge leaders in our “Stories of Faith”. Term Two, we took a closer look at the key stories in Genesis for “In the Beginning” series. For the second half of the year Edge kids learnt about the seven miracles recorded within the gospel of John in the “Seven Signs of Jesus”, as well as learning important lessons for key bible characters in the “Bible Heroes”.

Friday night Youth had some great devotional series, starting with “Big Bible Topics” in Term One, where we explored some common church and bible topics to gain a greater level of understanding. Inspired by Edge Leaders, the Youth Team leaders shared their testimonies in “Our Story is God’s Story” series in Term Two, and to finish out the year we studied Jesus’ teachings in the Sermon on the Mount and lastly, “In the Names of Jesus” we looked at the different names of Jesus and what they mean in the In the Names of Jesus series.

Another amazing aspect of last year’s youth program was the opportunity for the youth kids to go on two separate youth camps. GBC Youth camp took place first, 40 kids and 11 leaders gathered together for a weekend of epic fun and awesome experiences. As a result of GBC Youth Camp, we saw our young people make serious commitments to live out every day with Jesus, as well as make commitments to form strong connections with one another. We were then able to cement these connections at State Youth Camp, an event where youth groups from Baptist churches across NSW came together to celebrate as one united in Christ. State Youth Camp also offered an excellent opportunity for our new youth leaders to establish relationship with GBC Youth.

Finally, and probably the biggest change that occurred over the course of 2024, was the changes to the youth leadership team. Many of the youth leaders who started the year on the team accepted God’s calling to move on to new ministry service, new seasons of life and new churches. Saying goodbye to amazing leaders was difficult, but we sent them off with lots of blessings, love and thanks for their service.

God has been faithful to this ministry and has raised up a new youth ministry team who has come together to achieve the goal of seeing the lives of our youth changed by Jesus. So, thank you to everyone who served on and assisted the GBC Youth Team in 2024, you all have truly been a blessing to the youth ministry, to our young people, and to the wider community of GBC.



# YOUNG ADULTS

From Jeremy Brough

2024 was a year of significant transition in our young adult community. At the end of 2023, Kat Lewis-O'Connor finished her six-month contract overseeing this ministry with Jeremy Brough starting in January.

As is often the case in midst of staff change, there was a corresponding change in the young adult leadership team with several of the team moving on to new ministry opportunities and new church communities.

The end result was that 2024 was a low-event year with Jeremy seeking to build relationships with the young adults in the midst of significant transition, laying an important foundation for the future.

There were, however, a few bright spots – most significantly launching four young adult Life Groups. These have been particularly instrumental in forming relationships in the young adult community. A big thank you to those who led those groups: Matt and Laura Van Breda, Andrew and Irene Leithhead, Adam and Brianna Aitken, and Matt and Mel Tomlin. Thanks for opening your homes and serving our young adults.

We're looking ahead to 2025 and the opportunity to continue to invest in our young adult community.



# PLAYTIME

From Meddwyn Hinton

Our four Playtime groups continued to meet every Monday to Thursday morning of the school term at Hotham Cottage next to the church carpark. Over 80 people per week, on average, enjoyed connecting through a variety of activities based on our term themes: People Who Care; Numbers; I Can; and Shapes. We enjoyed stories, songs and crafts, and are blessed with many toys and a beautiful yard and sandpit - we are thankful for our “mud kitchen” built by Glen Nelson who attends Playtime with his granddaughter.

A huge thanks to our team of big-hearted volunteers who gave of their time, skills, energy and resources to share God’s love through friendships built at Playtime this year. At GBC we believe that Jesus has sent us to participate with God in His mission of restoration and renewal in the world, Playtime gives us the opportunity to engage with a community of parents, grandparents and young children sharing life together in a safe space for two hours each week. Every family has their own story and challenges in life, and we are privileged to walk alongside them to see how God works in both ordinary and extraordinary ways to change lives.

Some feedback from our families included:

- “The leaders are so kind, welcoming and supportive, the craft is always so well-resourced and prepared, this really is such a fabulous group”.
- “Friendliness and acceptance from leadership is excellent. Activities and structure are well considered”.
- “THANK YOU... We are so, so blessed to have stumbled across your play group earlier this year after a very quick Google search when we moved back to the area... all the stars just completely aligned! We have found the most beautiful bunch of people who have been extraordinarily supporting [sic] and generous to our family with my husband being unwell over the last few months. We have made so many new friends and are extremely grateful and thankful for being so warmly welcomed into your group by everyone! ”

We continue to be on-purpose about inviting our Playtime families to activities and events at GBC and welcoming them when they attend. We visited the church building for our Easter egg hunt, a special week of using the jumping castle and atrium play equipment, and to see the Christmas window boxes. It was a joy to see that many of our families had a great time at the Festival of Christmas with some families attending multiple nights. We also invited our families to share in the story of Jesus through gifts of children’s books at Christmas and Easter.

Friendships made at Playtime often continue for many years. We pray that God will keep watering the seeds planted by our others-focused leaders who listen and share their lives, with the enabling of the Holy Spirit. We look forward to how God will keep using Playtime to bring restoration and renewal to the lives of many in our community.





# GBC SERVE

From Marjy Robertson

The GBC Serve Team seeks to help members of our faith community find where God may be inviting them to participate here at GBC as we seek to see lives changed by Jesus.

There are three main areas in which the Serve Team seeks to fulfil this mission:

- Recruitment of volunteers
- On boarding of volunteers to confirm Safe Church compliance
- Training of volunteers for specific roles

2024 had a focus on training of our volunteers and ministry teams.

The highlights of 2024:

- **Volunteer 2024 Launch & Volunteer Half-time** – This was an amazing opportunity to bring together over 70 of our safe church volunteers across all our ministry areas for encouragement and training.
- **Volunteer Grant Received** - We received a small volunteer grant from the state government that was used to train volunteers in First Aid and Child Protection to ensure that all programs would have a first aid officer available.
- **Leadership 101** – Working with Bec and Jeremy to train up some of our next generation volunteers
- Increase uptake of serving within community through **Working Bee** and the **Festival of Christmas**
- Increased **multi-generations** across our ministry teams
- Implementation of a quarterly **GBC Serve Newsletter** specifically designed to encourage and update all volunteers

What we are looking forward to in 2025

- Strategic Training Opportunities to equip our volunteers
- Recruitment of volunteers across Ministry Areas specifically within Playtime, KidZone, SRE, and Youth teams.
- Recruitment of volunteers for the Festival of Christmas Committee

A huge thank you to each and every person at GBC who is actively serving within a ministry area. You have accepted the invitation from God to participate in His plans to see all things renewed and restored in Christ Jesus through the work of the Holy Spirit. As the Serve Team, we pray that as you serve, you would be growing in your discipleship as part of our strategic direction of Spiritual Journey. It has been amazing to witness the many ways in which God has worked through each volunteer.



# GUEST SERVICES

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From Roxane Lawler

During the year we focussed on “Our Extraordinary Life Together”, the ‘together’ part was assisted by our Guest Services teams who helped facilitate and foster a warm environment for people to feel connected and experience a sincere welcome.

The team, ably rostered by Chris Moffat for the morning service, focussed on greeting, seating and farewelling all who attend Sunday services. We continue in the use of printed name stickers, and although it is a slower process to enter church on a Sunday morning, the benefits of not being embarrassed if you forget a person’s name, as well as the advantage it provides in meeting new people are significant. Children’s ministry continues to use the stickers and check-in system smoothly.

We continued the ‘meet & greet’ time in the service on weeks when there is no communion. The aim of this time is to help people onsite meet others and begin conversations that can continue at the conclusion of the service. We thank our tech team for facilitating this for the online congregation, as ‘meet & greet’ online enables direct communication to those joining our livestreamed service.

Our PM service also began a ‘meet & greet’ time and this is helping develop relational cohesion in the service. During Term 4 we ran a trial of mid-service snack time which gave people a chance to connect during the service over food. While we have not continued the mid-service break, we plan to re-introduce the hospitality element in 2025, with a free or very inexpensive dinner after the 6pm service.

The PM service guest services team is depleted at present, and we are looking to recruit and rebuild that team in 2025.

Pathways ran in August of 2024, facilitated by Elders and has helped visitors find their place in God’s mission and family here at GBC.



# SERVICES

From Steve Foxe

Throughout 2024, GBC has embraced the theme ‘Our (Extra)Ordinary Life in Jesus,’ and it has been a privilege to see how this has shaped the ministry of coordinating Sunday Services. The goal has always been to put systems in place that enable volunteers to use their God-given gifts with confidence, humility, and joy. By creating a structured yet flexible environment, we have sought to ensure that those serving in Sunday Services feel supported and equipped to contribute meaningfully to the life of the church.

One significant highlight this year has been the purchase and installation of a new E-Drum Kit. This upgrade has dramatically improved the Worship Band’s sound, providing a more uniform mix where the drums are integrated seamlessly into the overall sound through direct input into the mixing desk. This has allowed for a more balanced and controlled worship experience, enhancing the engagement of both our onsite and online congregations.

Another highlight has been the feedback from our Worship Team volunteers. Many have shared that they find the environment to be supportive and filled with grace, enabling them to serve with a deep sense of joy and purpose. This reflects GBC’s mission to invite everyone to follow Jesus in all that we do, and it is rewarding to see this mission being lived out in our Sunday services.

A heartfelt thank you goes to key volunteers, particularly Paul Sheaffe, Darren Robertson, and Martin Johnson, for their incredible commitment to the Tech Team. Their countless hours of service have ensured that both online and onsite services run smoothly, allowing us to fulfill our vision of seeing lives changed by Jesus.

As we continue to courageously take up God’s invitation to participate in His grand plan, we remain committed to being On-Purpose, Big-Hearted, Whole-Life Learners, Others-Focused, and Trust-Worthy in all that we do. I look forward to continuing in this ministry, serving alongside our wonderful volunteers who sacrifice a most precious commodity – their time.



# SCRIPTURE (SRE)

From Bec Venum

GBC are privileged to be able to bring our purpose of “Lives changed by Jesus” out into the community and have a connection with Gynea North Public School to oversee the running of the combined protestant scripture. Derek Mullins is our SRE coordinator who connects our scripture leaders and the school.

In 2024, the members of our church community who gave of their time to teach SRE were: Matthew Bradley, Kathy Foster, Janet Lloyd, Marjy Robertson and Bronte Banach.

In June, Bronte Banach began a role teaching Scripture at Jannali High School two days a week which required her to step down from her primary school SRE commitment, however it was exciting to see how her time on the SRE team was used by God in her career-shift to further scripture outreach in the local community.

During 2024 131 children from Gynea North Public School attended the seven Scripture classes that we oversee. These classes run weekly for 30 minutes each Tuesday.

Our scripture teachers commit to our regular Safe Church training and, in addition, complete the accreditation training every three years, as well as two hours per annum of professional development which includes observations and personal reporting.

The kids always look forward to their weekly scripture lessons that are presented in a fun and engaging as well as professional, 30-minute session.



# KIDS HOPE

From Leanne Langford

It has been a privilege to coordinate our Kids Hope team again this year and 2024, in particular, was to be especially rewarding. It marked 20 years since the Kids Hope program was introduced in Australia.

It is encouraging to know that the successful model of mentoring “1 child for 1 hour 1 day every week” has now made a positive impact in the lives of thousands of children across Australia. It has proven to develop emotional and social resilience in children resulting in enhancing their capacity to learn.

To celebrate Kids Hope’s 20-year milestone GBC was invited to host the NSW event which took place in October. It was a wonderful time for mentors, coordinators and prayer partners from many churches across the state to share their experiences together. GBC also celebrated “in house” across our services to recognise all 49 mentors who have participated since the program began here. It was a double celebration, not only recognising 20 years of Kids Hope in Australia but also our own milestone of 15 years of Kids Hope at GBC. We are one of 50 churches across Australia who have now been running the Kids Hope program for 15 years!

In 2024 we welcomed two new mentors to our team, Irene Leithhead and Matthew Bradley, as well as a returning mentor Richard Dwyer. A total of 10 mentors met with children across our two participating schools, Grays Point and Kareela. Our seven mentors who continued from last year were: Annette Clarke, John Cox, Janet Currie, Leanne Langford, Ron Lucas, Glen Nelson and Michael Roberts. Each mentor was supported by their prayer partner every step of the way, this is such a vital part of the Kids Hope program. Thank you to everyone involved this year - your care and commitment is much appreciated.

What a wonderful privilege it has been to continue to serve our wider community showing our love and care, and as trusted representatives of God’s family. As mentors we are sent out to shine God’s light on children we mentor and the whole school community. I am reminded of the verse above our church entrance John 20:21 As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.



# CONGREGATIONAL CARE

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From Karen Watkins

GBC Cares (alongside Elders) provides pastoral care to individuals and families through prayer, phone calls, visitation (eg bereavements, hospitalisation); as well as Practical and Food Care.

In my role as congregational care coordinator I am the first point of contact for GBC's congregational care needs. Upon receipt of your request for care, I forward it to the appropriate Care Team (Elders\*, GBC Cares, Pastoral Staff, LifeGroup leaders) and then follow-up on the care provided to see if further care might be required by you. I remain available for any questions or follow up care you may require.

In 2024 our GBC Cares team, led by Sonia Beresford, and alongside the Elders and Pastoral Staff, have met with many in our congregation who have required care through prayer over the phone and/or visit to their home, hospital and aged care home.

During the year GBC Cares visited three people on the anniversary of their loved one's passing with a card and flowers.

For those at GBC unable to attend a GBC Service onsite due to long-term illness or mobility issues, receiving a pastoral visit and joining in an element from a long-missed church service e.g., worship singing and sharing communion was such an encouragement to the hearts of all involved.

Emma Winterbourne kindly and ably led the Food Care team while Taryn Grice (Food Care Team Leader) was on an extended holiday. The Food Care Team and Meal Train was mobilized a few times over the year – thank you to those wonderful cooks who provided fresh/frozen meals to individual and families during 2024. We have continued to maintain frozen meals ready for delivery, however, as demand is on the decline (due to healthy frozen meals readily available at local grocery stores) we need to review and prayerfully consider what this area of our GBC Cares ministry might look like going forward.

GBC Cares Practical Care team has been led by John Padgett for many years and even though the Practical Care Team wasn't called on in 2024, it's reassuring to know that if required the Team was ready and willing to give advice and provide assistance. The area of Practical Care will require some prayer and planning for where God wants it to sit in the future of GBC Cares.

Congregational care is also expressed in and through our LifeGroups – and I want to thank the LifeGroups who banded together to support a family with providing meals and care packages as well as gardening work.

I praise God for the Congregational Care Teams, Elders and Pastoral Staff – He is the One who unites us as we partner with him in his restoration work of Changing Lives for Jesus. It's a privilege to be involved in this process of meeting each and every Care request at GBC; from the initial contact of care request, to the Elders/Prayer team response, to providing additional practical care that might be required (eg meals), and follow-up calls and visits – what a blessing to serve the Lord and his church in this way.



# OPERATIONS

From Marjy Robertson

GBC Operations currently includes the WHS Team, Maintenance Team, Emergency Control Organisation, and Reception Support Team. These teams are ensuring a physical safe environment that facilitates the flourishing of ministries at GBC. My role includes the administration of operational areas which includes organising regular maintenance, organising contractors on site, overseeing external bookings, and being the direct supervisor for the Operations Staff team including Beryl Davenport, Finance, and Craig Ward, Cleaner.

The highlights of 2024:

- **WHS Team** – Implementing a clear way for anyone to submit a hazard through the website and better tracking of risk assessments for events and programs at GBC
- **Maintenance Team** faithfully attending on site and completing multiple big and small maintenance jobs
- Quick response to the flooding in April 2024
- **Flooding Prevention Committee** created to oversee remediation works to prevent future flooding
- **Emergency Control Organisation** – Warden training completed to equip volunteers and staff for effective emergency response.

Plans for 2025

- Create a Property Management Committee to assist Marjy in property management decisions and forecasting for budgets.
- Completion of remediation works for flooding
- Completion of restoration works from the flooding of April 2024
- Applying for possible grants to update areas for better access specifically for young families.
- Progress on a Staff Handbook
- IT Server migration.

A huge THANK YOU to the following people who have been on-purpose to ensure GBC is a safe environment that facilitates flourishing ministries

2024 WHS Team: Glen Nelson, Greg Williams (Finished April 2024), Marjy Robertson, Darren Robertson, David Beresford, Laurence Montgomery, Lawrie Green.

Volunteer Reception Support: Marilyn Hunt

Flooding Prevention Committee: Glen Nelson, Brian Stewart, Lawrie Green

Maintenance Team: Glen Nelson, Lawrie Green, Rod Wolf, Dave Hunt, Robyn Southworth, John Dougall, Steve Ford.

IT Support: Stan Kirkman



# EMBRACE

From Janine Johnson (Embrace Leader)

In 2024 we enjoyed record attendances at our Embrace Luncheons averaging 50 ladies at each event which has been very encouraging and shows that Embrace is providing a need amongst our ladies and those in the community.

Embrace's aim is to give the women at GBC an opportunity to connect, be built-up and share together in a relaxed atmosphere over lunch with a guest speaker.

We meet for lunch bi-monthly in GBC's Atrium and for morning tea on the alternate months at various local cafes. Embrace provides an informal, relaxed way for newcomers at GBC to connect with other women, bring a friend or someone they know from the community.

Our guest speakers at our bi-monthly Embrace Luncheons in 2024 spoke on a wide diversity of topics and were greatly inspirational. They included:

- Jayne Johnson, Co-Founder of 'Lucky Mama' - "Living with those with disabilities"
- Dr Rachel Turner, Emergency Physician and CareFlight Retrieval Doctor - "How my faith impacts my work and how my work impacts my faith"
- Sarah McCallum, GBC Frontline Worker – in the Basque Country in Spain - "Raising children overseas and interacting with kids in cross-cultural settings."
- Gail Allen, Chaplain/Art Teacher, Inaburra School for 40 years - "What my students taught me about faith."
- Roxanne Lawler, Associate Pastor, GBC - "Embracing Christmas"

A special thank you to our Embrace Team, all are very passionate about the ministry of Embrace. These women bring their unique gifts, talents and skills to help make our luncheons and coffee mornings run smoothly. The Embrace team for 2024 were: Sonia Beresford, Sue McOrist, Michelle Cox, Marilyn Hunt, Lee Munro, Jan Martin, Pam Boler and Linda Duke.

We have an average attendance of 13 ladies at our Café morning teas.

Over the past year the women in our Embrace community have got to know each other better and formed new friendships as we have encouraged each other to grow together in faith.





# MEN'S BREAKFAST

From Bruce Harbour (Elder and Men's Leader)

Yoghurt, fruit, fruit juice, coffee, pastries, rolls and BBQ cooked bacon and eggs are all on the menu at GBC for the informal gathering of men for a quarterly Saturday breakfast. Visitors are always encouraged and welcomed, friendships are established and strengthened and the opportunity for the men to convene for a spiritual hangout together was most enjoyable and rewarding.

In 2024 we were blessed with a diverse set of speakers who openly, authentically and frankly shared their life stories and challenges. Our speakers and their topics were:

- Q1 Clive Atwell – “It’s a Knockout”
- Q2 Brett David – “Passion & Purpose”
- Q3 David Commins – “Faith, Fatherhood & Flying”
- Q4 John Cox – “Faith in Service to the Community”

A highlight of each event was the willingness of the speakers to have a time of Q&A which afforded the men an opportunity to engage on aspects requiring clarity or additional details. The men were also given the opportunity to chat or pray at a deeper level should they so wish.

My personal thanks to the informal team who behind the scenes covered each event in prayer, but also faithfully did what was needed to be done beforehand and on the day in order for these events to be really successful.



# FESTIVAL OF CHRISTMAS

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From Bec Venum

It's exciting to have been able to launch our inaugural GBC Festival of Christmas in 2024. After the highly successful Carols in the Park over many years, we had big shoes to fill!

Initially, Marc Rader met with Paul Carter, Hilary Nourse, Leah James and Jackie Martin to discuss how we could hold an event that would bring our community of faith and the wider community together, and from these meetings the idea of the festival of Christmas was born.

Jackie Martin headed up individuals and teams who created our six window displays depicting a chosen Christmas carol. Throughout December these windows were an engaging drawcard at the front of our Church building, along with the lights on the pine tree and stable/manger displays on our lawn, these were a great anchor point for our festival and helped to generate many of the ideas, activities and static interactive displays for the festival. Many hours, paints, Lego bricks, coloured paper and glitter were put into these amazing creations and we're incredibly thankful to everyone involved.

The Kids activities were an absolute must-have on the festival program as these are a great drawcard for kids and families to come and enjoy.

The kid's auditorium was transformed into the road to Bethlehem culminating in a visit to the nativity display, and we had just under 700 people come through the live nativity walk over the three nights interacting with our roman soldiers, shepherds, Angels and onto Mary and Joseph at the nativity. As well as several activities along the way, like our star wall (thanks to Jeremy for construction), our Angel tunnel (awesome construction by Darren and Tim Robertson) and the very popular kindy farm and petting zoo.

From there, families were given a timber lantern to construct and take home as our gift to them and children could continue the fun with extra craft activities and face painting. This was a great space for volunteers to connect with families as the children sat and took the time to enjoy the activities on offer.

We had Alexi Collins come as "The Lex Man" on Saturday night to perform an exciting and energetic concert for our young kids and families. On Sunday evening we welcomed Jade Stegbauer and Friends to our outdoor stage, creating an amazing and relaxing atmosphere alongside the BBQ and giant bubbles.

We had somewhere in the vicinity of 150 amazing volunteers, including 47 members of the church community who were new volunteers, everyone offered their time over the course of setup, three-night event and then pack down – it was an amazing time to come together as a church and serve our wider community. Thank you to everyone involved for making our very first Festival of Christmas such a great event.



# CATALYST

From Derek Mullins (for Tracey Nelson)

Christian discipleship includes standing with the vulnerable, as Isaiah 1:17 urges us to seek justice for others. But how can we, as disciples and churches, actively respond to injustice?

Catalyst, a movement founded by Baptist World Aid (BWA), equips churches to understand and combat injustice, particularly where people are exploited in developing countries. By working through local churches, Catalyst advocates for ethical behaviour among governments, organisations, and individuals, striving for justice for the oppressed. GBC was among the first 60 Baptist churches to support this work.

Fifteen years ago, Barb Higgins and her prayer group launched Catalyst at GBC. They began by distributing BWA-supplied cards, which they signed and returned. BWA then compiled hundreds of cards and presented them to Australian companies, urging them to investigate the origins and ethical standards of their products.

The GBC Catalyst group also encouraged ethical sourcing by distributing cards to local traders, urging them to stock goods from suppliers who treated their workers fairly. Soon after, Catalyst initiated GBC's annual Fair Trade Market, providing independent traders with a platform to sell ethically sourced products. Each trader is carefully vetted to ensure their supply chain meets ethical standards. In recent years, Hopefield has also participated in this initiative.

Catalyst actively promotes Baptist World Aid's Ethical Fashion Guide, which evaluates over 450 brands from 120 companies to help consumers make informed choices. In 2024, we contributed \$500 towards printing the Guide.

Recognising the historical exploitation of people engaged in chocolate production, Catalyst provides information each Easter on the sourcing of popular chocolate brands, helping consumers make ethical choices.

In 2024, Barb passed the leadership to a new team led by Tracey Nelson, supported by long-standing member Lyn Green, along with Sharon Dacosta, Rachel Uhlman, and me. We are deeply grateful to Barb, past and present teams, and the countless volunteers who have supported Catalyst in so many diverse ways, such as by setting up and dismantling Fair Trade Market stalls, distributing promotional materials, providing security, running food stalls and brewing coffee.





# GYMEA BAPTIST CHURCH

## FINANCE REPORT 2024

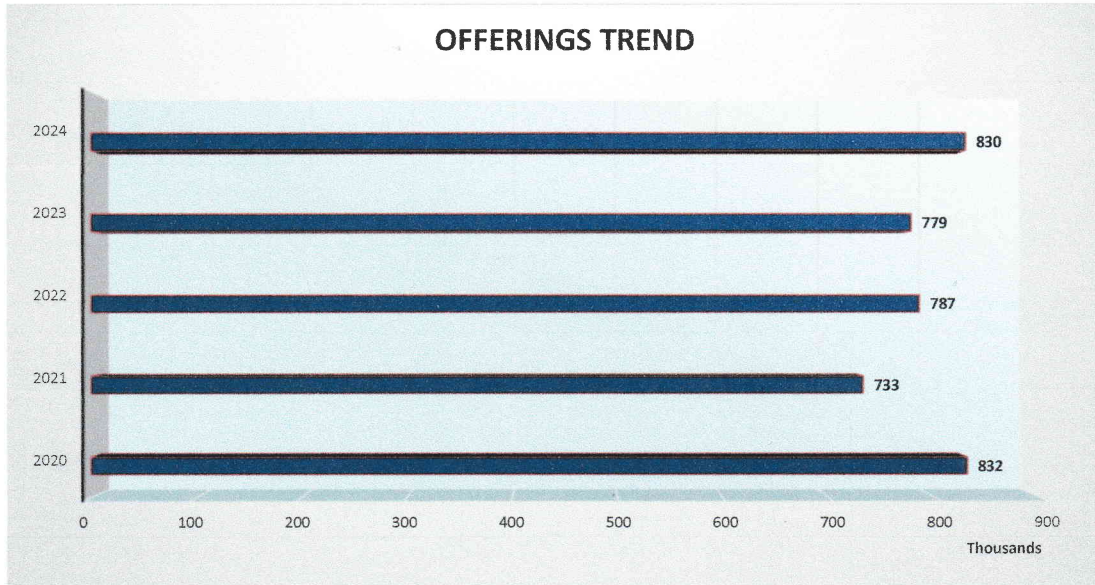


# Gymea Baptist Church

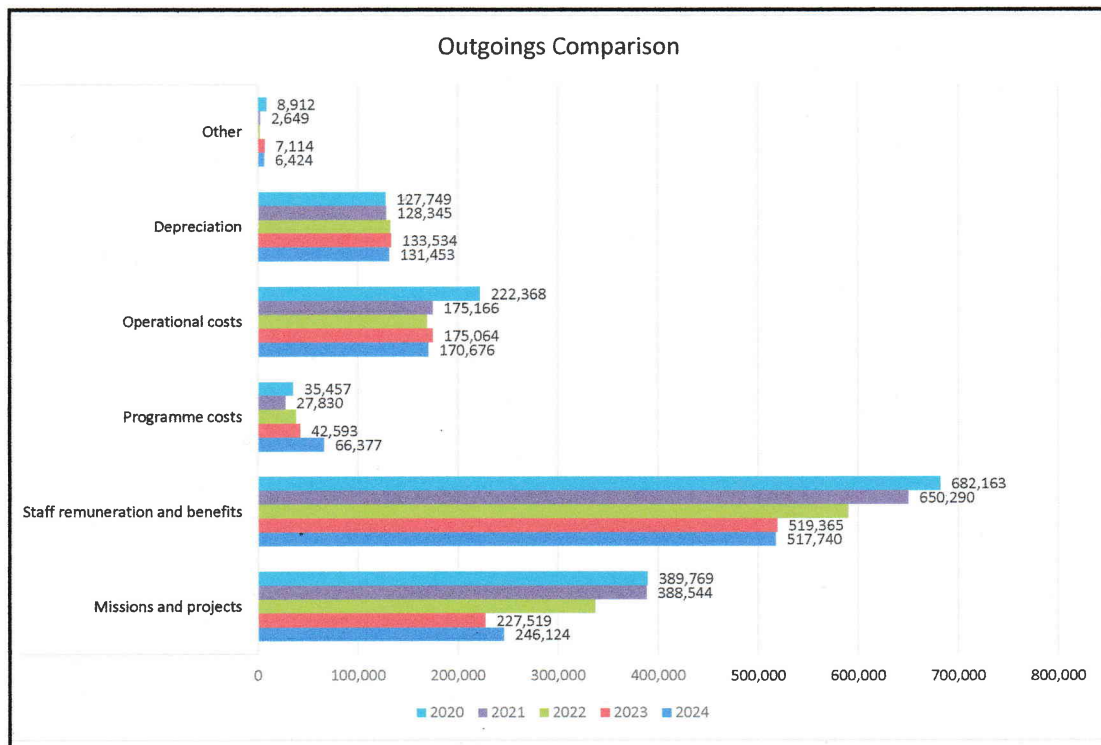
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## Simplified Financial Disclosure Statement

### For the year ended 31 December 2024



	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
GBC Congregation Offerings	831,937	733,339	786,515	778,782	830,415
Budget 2024					822,000
Budget 2025					855,000
Change %	3.21%	(11.85)%	7.25%	(0.98)%	6.63%
Missionary & other giving	308,025	322,315	291,780	216,144	253,367



## GyMEA Baptist Church

### Statement by the Church Council in their capacity as Responsible Persons

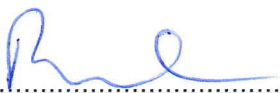
For the year ended 31 December 2024

As stated in the Notes to the financial statements, the Church Council have determined that the Church is not a reporting entity because there are no users who are dependent on general purpose financial reports. This is a Simplified Disclosure Statement.

In the opinion of the Church Council:

1. The accompanying Financial Statements and Notes thereto:
  - a) satisfy the requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 including relevant Australian Accounting Standards - Simplified Disclosures and other mandatory financial reporting requirements to the extent described in Note 1 to the Financial Statements, and
  - b) give a true and fair view of the financial position of GyMEA Baptist Church as at 31 December 2024 and of its financial performance and cashflows for the year then ended.
  
2. At the date of this statement, in the opinion of the Church Council, being the Responsible People, there are reasonable grounds to believe that GyMEA Baptist Church is able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

This Statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Church Council, complies with subsection 60.15(2) of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulations 2022 and is signed for and on their behalf by:



.....  
Chair



.....  
Treasurer

Dated this 12th day of March 2025

**Gynea Baptist Church**  
**Balance Sheet**  
As at 31 December 2024

	Note	This Year \$	Last Year \$
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	1	957,870	809,940
Receivables		2,453	2,417
Prepayments		34,508	28,880
Deposit		0	1,000
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b><u>994,832</u></b>	<b><u>842,237</u></b>
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>			
Plant furniture and equipment	2	101,609	124,691
Property	3	<u>7,128,553</u>	<u>7,220,932</u>
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>		<b><u>7,230,161</u></b>	<b><u>7,345,623</u></b>
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b><u>8,224,993</u></b>	<b><u>8,187,859</u></b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Trade creditors and other payables		25,217	37,227
Staff provisions -			
Provision for annual leave		70,637	55,900
Provision for long service leave		50,328	51,974
Provision for workers compensation on leave accruals		1,691	1,541
Other payables		7,209	4,616
Borrowings -			
Loan from Baptist Financial Services re BIA Insurances		28,880	28,880
Member loans, ministry bonds - interest free	4	56,500	65,500
Interest free loan - Turner Lodge resident	11	30,000	30,000
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<b><u>270,461</u></b>	<b><u>275,638</u></b>
<b>Non-Current Liabilities</b>			
Staff provisions - Provision for long service leave		8,179	8,899
<b>Total Non-Current Liabilities</b>		<b><u>8,179</u></b>	<b><u>8,899</u></b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<b><u>278,640</u></b>	<b><u>284,538</u></b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<b><u>7,946,353</u></b>	<b><u>7,903,322</u></b>
<b>Funds</b>			
Accumulated funds		7,288,480	7,331,103
GBC Property Trust Account	3	562,735	506,362
Building Fund	6	-	-
Endowment Fund - 75th Anniversary	7	32,045	-
Grays Point Music Promotion Trust	6	<u>63,093</u>	<u>65,857</u>
<b>Total funds</b>		<b><u>7,946,353</u></b>	<b><u>7,903,322</u></b>

*The Notes supply further detail regarding the above Statement and should be read as part of it.*

Gymea Baptist Church  
**Statement of Income and Other Comprehensive Income**  
For the year ended 31 December 2024

Year ended 31 December 2024

	Normal Church Operations	Grays Point Music Promotion Trust	GBC Endowment Fund	GBC Property Trust Account	Total	2023 Total
<b>Revenue from continuing operations</b>						
Giving by members and adherents	830,415	20,517	32,045		882,977	808,767
Occupancy/rental receipts	22,305				22,305	15,403
Mission and other appeals primarily from members and adherents	200,805				200,805	186,159
Investment income - Interest	3,430	2,625		31,590	37,645	29,826
Operations income	13,111				13,111	13,653
Miscellaneous income	14,132				14,132	17,348
<b>Total revenue and other income</b>	<u>1,084,198</u>	<u>23,142</u>	<u>32,045</u>	<u>31,590</u>	<u>1,170,975</u>	<u>1,071,156</u>
<b>Expenditure (Note 10)</b>						
Overseas missionaries and mission projects	143,783				143,783	179,024
Australian missionaries and outreach projects	102,341				102,341	48,495
Staff remuneration and benefits	517,740				517,740	519,365
Programme costs	43,011	23,366			66,377	52,118
Operational costs	170,676				170,676	175,064
Depreciation	131,301	152			131,453	133,534
Innovation	2,209				2,209	976
Pastoral care	4,063				4,063	6,138
	<u>1,115,124</u>	<u>23,518</u>			<u>1,138,642</u>	<u>1,114,714</u>
<b>Net Operating Surplus/(Deficit) for the year</b>	<b>(\$30,926)</b>	<b>(\$376)</b>	<b>\$ 32,045</b>	<b>\$ 31,590</b>	<b>\$ 32,333</b>	<b>-43,558</b>
<b>Accumulated Funds at the beginning of the year</b>	<b>7,306,320</b>	<b>65,857</b>		<b>531,145</b>	<b>7,903,322</b>	<b>7,926,898</b>
Transfers	2,388	(2,388)				
Adjustments to prior years - extra income	<u>10,698</u>				<u>10,698</u>	<u>19,982</u>
<b>Accumulated Funds and Reserves at the end of the year 2024</b>	<b>7,288,480</b>	<b>63,093</b>	<b>32,045</b>	<b>562,735</b>	<b>7,946,353</b>	<b>7,903,322</b>

The Notes supply further detail regarding the above Statement and should be read as part of it.



Gynea Baptist Church  
**Statement of Income and Other Comprehensive Income**  
For the year ended 31 December 2024

Year ended 31 December 2023

	Normal Church Operations	Grays Pt Music Promotion Trust	GBC Endowment Fund	Property Trust Account	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Revenue from continuing operations</b>					
Giving by members and adherents - donations	778,782	29,985			808,767
Occupancy/rental receipts	15,403				15,403
Mission and other appeals primarily from members and adherents	186,159				186,159
Investment income - Interest	3,179	1,864		24,783	29,826
Operations income	13,653				13,653
Miscellaneous income	17,348				17,348
<b>Total revenue and other income</b>	<b>1,014,524</b>	<b>31,849</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>24,783</b>	<b>1,071,156</b>
<b>Expenditure (Note 11)</b>					
Overseas missionaries and mission projects	179,024				179,024
Australian missionaries and outreach projects	48,495				48,495
Staff remuneration and benefits	519,365				519,365
Programme costs	42,593	9,525			52,118
Operational costs	175,064				175,064
Depreciation	133,534				133,534
Innovation	976				976
Pastoral care	6,138				6,138
	<b>1,105,189</b>	<b>9,525</b>			<b>1,114,714</b>
<b>Net Operating Surplus/(Deficit) for the year 2023</b>	<b>(\$90,665)</b>	<b>\$ 22,324</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 24,783</b>	<b>(\$43,558)</b>
<b>Accumulated Funds at the beginning of the year</b>	<b>7,380,072</b>	<b>40,464</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>506,362</b>	<b>7,926,898</b>
Net transfer from/(to) Cultural Fund	(1,809)	1,809			-
Adjustments to prior years - extra income	19,982				19,982
<b>Accumulated Funds and Reserves at the end of the year</b>	<b>7,307,580</b>	<b>64,597</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>531,145</b>	<b>7,903,322</b>

The Notes supply further detail regarding the above Statement and should be read as part of it.

**Gymea Baptist Church**  
**Statement of Cash Flows**  
For the year ended 31 December 2024

	This Year	Last Year
	\$	\$
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>		
Offerings	830,415	778,782
Donations - restricted	20,517	29,985
Endowment Fund - funds collected	32,045	-
Occupancy/rental charges	22,305	15,403
Missionary and other appeals	200,805	186,159
Interest - unrestricted	3,430	3,179
Interest - restricted (Note 3 )	34,215	26,647
Operational	13,111	13,653
Miscellaneous	<u>14,131</u>	<u>17,348</u>
	<u>1,170,975</u>	<u>1,071,156</u>
<b>Less Expenditure</b>		
Overseas and Australian missionaries and projects	246,124	227,519
Staffing	505,221	543,933
Ministry	43,011	42,593
Operational	199,128	213,945
Pastoral	<u>4,063</u>	<u>6,138</u>
	<u>997,547</u>	<u>1,034,128</u>
<b>Net cash generated from/(used in) operational activities (Note 9)</b>	<u>173,428</u>	<u>37,029</u>
<b>Cash flows (used in)/generated from investing activities</b>		
Decrease/(increase) in accounts receivable	(37)	(1,190)
Payments for furniture equipment and building improvements	(18,743)	(7,316)
Deposit written off	1,000	-
Increase)/(decrease) in payables	(9,416)	(8,300)
Prior period adjustments	10,698	19,982
Increase/(decrease) in loan from BFS re Baptist Insurance Scheme	0	28,880
(Decrease)/increase in deposit fund and member loans	<u>(9,000)</u>	<u>(50,000)</u>
<i>Net cash flows (used in)/provided by investing activities</i>	<u>(25,498)</u>	<u>(17,944)</u>
<b>Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents</b>	147,930	19,083
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year</b>	<u>809,940</u>	<u>790,857</u>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year</b>	<u>\$957,870</u>	<u>\$809,940</u>

The Notes supply further detail regarding the above Statement and should be read as part of it.

**Gymea Baptist Church**  
**Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements**  
**For the year ended 31 December 2024**

**Significant Accounting Policies**

**Basis of Preparation**

The Church is registered with the ACNC under the charity subtype "advancing religion". It is an unincorporated association and not part of a "Group". While endorsed as a Deductible Gift Recipient with respect to its School Building Fund and a Cultural Trust the total revenues of these funds and institutions is less than \$250,000 for the reporting period and the comparative period. The Church does not receive government grants. The Church is a member of the National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse however there are no outstanding claims against it. The Church is not classified as a Basic Religious Charity.

It is considered that the Church is a Tier 2 non-reporting entity because it is considered that there are unlikely to exist users of the financial report who are unable to command the preparation of reports tailored so as to satisfy specifically all of their information needs. The Church and any related party entities are each not for profit entities for financial reporting purposes.

**Statement of Compliance**

Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosures (Tier 2) comprises the recognition and measurement requirements of Tier 1 (including consolidation and the equity method of accounting) but substantially reduced disclosure requirements. Except for the presentation of a third statement of financial position under Tier 1, and the option of not presenting a statement of changes in equity (in limited circumstances), the presentation requirements under Tier 1 and Tier 2 are the same. Tier 2 disclosure requirements are set out in AASB 1060 General Purpose Financial Statements – Simplified Disclosures for For-Profit and Not-for-Profit Tier 2 Entities (AASB 1053.9). This financial report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Australian Charities and Not for profits Act 2012, the basis of accounting specified by relevant and mandatory Australian Accounting Standards, and the disclosure requirements of a Tier 2 entity. Australian Accounting Standards - Simplified Disclosures (AASB 1060) have been applied in the preparation of the financial statements. Recognition and measurement requirements that have not been complied with are those specified in AASB13 (Fair Value Measurement) and AASB 119 (Employee Benefits). The material accounting policies adopted in the simplified financial statements as set out in note 1 indicate the manner in which the recognition and measurement requirements in Australian Accounting Standards have not been complied with. The financial statements overall comply with all the recognition and measurement requirements in Australian Accounting Standards (except for requirements set out in AASB10 or AASB128). There were no transitional adjustments other than several disclosure changes on the adoption of the AAS Simplified Disclosures.

The financial statements, except for the cash flow information, have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historical costs unless otherwise stated. Material accounting policies adopted in the preparation of these financial statements are presented below and have been consistently applied unless stated otherwise. The amounts presented in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest dollar.

**Property Plant and Equipment**

Each class of property, plant and equipment is carried at cost or fair value less, where applicable, accumulated depreciation and any impairment losses.

The carrying amount of plant and equipment is reviewed annually to ensure it is not in excess of the recoverable amount from these assets. The recoverable amount is assessed on the basis of the expected net cash flows that will be received from the assets use and subsequent disposal. The expected net cash flows have been discounted to their present values in determining recoverable amounts.

Plant and equipment that have been contributed at no cost, or for nominal cost, are valued and recognised at the fair value of the asset at the date it is acquired.

Depreciation is charged on a straight line basis at the following rates:

Computers and technology 25% Furniture and equipment 10% Buildings and improvements 2%

An asset's carrying amount is written down immediately to its recoverable amount if the carrying amount is greater than its estimated recoverable amount. Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing proceeds with the carrying amount. These gains or losses are recognised immediately as an Other Comprehensive Item.

**Staff Benefits and Entitlements**

Provision is made for any liability for employee and staff benefits arising from services provided by employees and staff to the end of the reporting period. Benefits that are expected to be settled within one year are measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled. Benefits payable later than one year are measured at the net present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made for those benefits. In determining the liability, consideration is given to employee wage increases and the probability that vesting requirements may not be met. Those cash outflows are discounted using market yields on national government bonds with terms to maturity that match the expected timing of cash flows.

Contributions are made by the church to superannuation funds nominated by the employee or staff member and are charged to expense when incurred.

For accredited ministers monies for long service leave are held for the Church by a denominational long service fund. This fund is available to the church to draw down when the Pastor takes leave. On transferring to another church the sum held for untaken long service leave of the Pastor transfers to the new church to be available when the leave is actually taken.

**GyMEA Baptist Church**  
**Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements**  
**For the year ended 31 December 2024**

**Significant Accounting Policies (continued)**

**Cash and Cash Equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents comprises any cash on hand, demand deposits and short-term investments which are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

**Goods and Services Tax (GST)**

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) in which case the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of expense.

Receivables and payables are recognised inclusive of GST. The net amount of GST recoverable from or payable to the ATO is included as part of receivables or payables.

Cash flows are included in the statement of cash flows on a gross basis. The GST component of cash flows arising from investing and financing activities that is recoverable from or payable to the ATO is classified as cash flows from operations.

**Income Tax**

No provision for income tax has been raised as the entity is approved by the ATO as exempt from income tax under the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997. GyMEA Baptist Church is registered with the Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission (ACNC) as a charitable institution established for the advancement of religion.

**Significant accounting judgements, estimates and assumptions**

The preparation of financial information requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the application of policies and the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, income and expenses. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances, the results of which form the basis of making the judgements. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

Specific accounting judgements and estimates are discussed in the relevant note.

**Revenue**

Donations and bequests are recognised as revenue after the Church assesses whether the transaction is enforceable and has sufficiently specific performance obligations to enable recognition in accordance with AASB 1058 "Accounting for Income of Not-for-profit Entities".

If conditions are attached to a donation which must be satisfied before it is eligible to receive the contribution, the recognition of that donation as revenue will be deferred until those conditions are satisfied. The Church identifies each performance obligation relating to the income and recognises revenue as it satisfies its performance obligations.

Interest revenue is recognised on an accruals basis, taking into account the interest rates applicable to the financial assets.

The Church from time to time receives non-reciprocal contributions (gifts) of assets for a nil or a nominal value. Where material these assets are recognised at fair value on the date of acquisition in the statement of financial position, with a corresponding amount of income recognised in profit or loss.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and service tax (GST).

**GyMEA Baptist Church**  
**Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements**  
**For the year ended 31 December 2024**

**Significant Accounting Policies (continued)**

**Unrecognised revenue - volunteer services**

The Church regularly receives volunteer services as part of its operations. Under AASB 1058, private sector not-for-profit entities have a policy option to account for donated services at fair value if the fair value can be reliably measured. While the Church has assessed that the fair value of its volunteer services can be reliably measured, it has decided to adopt the policy option not to recognise the financial impact of volunteer services in its financial reports. Accordingly, no amounts are recognised in the financial statements for volunteer services.

**Funds raised for other charities/Compliance with External Conduct Standards**

Each May the Church conducts an appeal typically entitled "May Mission Month" in which significant amounts are raised primarily from Church members and adherents for the benefit of missions, aid agencies and funds based in Australia but predominantly operating overseas. Where monies are to be sent overseas then the receiving organisations will be registered with the ACNC as Charities and will typically be members of Missions Interlink and/or the Australian Council for International Development and so subject to relevant External Conduct Standards. During the year monies were raised in the MMM appeals and passed on to the respective agencies within Australia. These amounts have been disclosed in income from mission appeals and the outgoings are separately disclosed in the Income Statement under Overseas and Australian missions and projects.

**Expenses accounting policy**

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings reflecting the relevant function of the Church which incurred the cost. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to a particular category, they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources

**Economic Dependence**

GyMEA Baptist Church is not considered to be dependent upon any other entity.

**Financial Risk**

All funds are held in Australian financial institutions which are subject to an Australian code of conduct and issued with a financial services license by the Australian Securities and Investments Commission.

There is no currency risk as funds are held in Australian currency and at Balance Date there are no foreign currency commitments.

There is no market risk as funds on hand are all held in short term interest bearing deposit accounts.

	<b>This year</b>	<b>Last year</b>
The exposure to interest rate risk (based on funds held at balance date) is:	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
For a change of 1.0% in interest rates		
- interest expense would change by	<b>289</b>	<b>289</b>
- interest income would change by	<b>9,579</b>	<b>8,099</b>

## GyMEA Baptist Church

### Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2024

	This Year	Last Year
	\$	\$

#### General Information

GyMEA Baptist Church is an unincorporated association domiciled in NSW Australia. The principal place of operation is at 2-10 Tea Gardens Avenue, Kirrawee NSW 2232. The Auditor is Mr Anthony F Gilbert CA, a registered company auditor, and Church member. The principal activity is that of a Christian Church.

#### Note 1 - Cash and cash equivalents

Operating accounts - BFS - interest bearing	61,483	95,048
Other operating accounts - BFS - interest bearing	230,318	73,936
Grays Pt Community Church Music Promotion Trust	52,706	65,857
Property trust funds - interest bearing	562,735	531,145
Ministry benefit accounts and prepaid Visa accounts	16,947	14,981
A Time to Build - BFS - interest bearing	13	605
Cash on Hand	300	300
Long Service Leave Fund deposit accounts	<u>33,368</u>	<u>28,069</u>
	<u>957,870</u>	<u>809,940</u>

#### Note 2 - Furniture plant and equipment

Furniture plant and equipment - at cost	505,020	490,499
Less: accumulated depreciation	<u>(403,412)</u>	<u>(365,808)</u>
	<u>101,609</u>	<u>124,691</u>

#### Note 3 - Property - Land and buildings

2-10 Tea Gardens Avenue - land, carpark and improvements at cost	1,991,177	1,989,707
2-10 Tea Gardens Avenue - 2009 building development cost	4,751,484	4,751,484
Less: accumulated depreciation	<u>(1,271,413)</u>	<u>(1,177,564)</u>
Turner Lodge strata unit - at cost	33,197	33,197
12 Hotham Rd, 481- 483 Princes Hwy carpark - land at cost	<u>1,624,109</u>	<u>1,624,109</u>
	<u>7,128,553</u>	<u>7,220,932</u>

The Baptist Churches of New South Wales Property Trust holds each of the properties that are listed above in trust for the GyMEA Baptist Church. Subject to the provisions of the Baptist Churches of New South Wales Property Trust Act and the Church Constitution, the Church is the beneficial owner of the properties. The Act places certain restrictions on what proceeds from sale of property and income earned from the Trust monies held can be used for. Interest income earned is therefore recorded as Other Comprehensive Income.

Buildings are recorded at historical costs. From time to time a sums insured report is carried out by the Church's insurers on each property and based on their advice the properties and their contents are subject to the benefits of membership of the Baptist Discretionary Mutual Fund under Baptist Insurance Australia at current values.

GyMEA Baptist Church  
Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements  
For the year ended 31 December 2024

	This Year	Last Year
	\$	\$

**Note 4 - Loans from Members and Adherents - interest free**

These amounts are unsecured and repayable on 31 days notice. They have provided a means for members and supporters of the Church's ministry to use their liquid assets to support the church and its ministry.

Member and adherent loans	0	5,000
Ministry bonds	<u>56,500</u>	<u>60,500</u>
	<u>56,500</u>	<u>65,500</u>

**Note 5 - Related parties**

a) Hopefield Services Inc is a charitable association incorporated in NSW and registered with the ACNC as a Charity in its own right. It is an integral part of the wider ministry of GyMEA Baptist Church. It was approved by the ACNC and ATO as a Public Benevolent Institution on 4 May 2021, permitting tax deductibility for all donations made to Hopefield and providing access to limited fringe benefits and other tax concessions. Hopefield operates with substantial autonomy but works in close co-operation with the Church with its Board predominantly drawn from Church members and adherents.

During the year the Church provided direct financial support to Hopefield amounting to:	15,000	15,000
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In addition the Church provided rent free premises. Volunteers engaged in Hopefield's benevolent activity were largely drawn from the Church community.

The formal financial statements of Hopefield Services Inc can be found here:  
<https://hopefield.org.au/about-us/>

b) The following people were elected members of the Church's Board of Governance (Church Council) and held office at any time during the year:

Phillipa Lowe (Chair)	Susan Kusch
Debbie Williams	Glenn Smith (Treasurer)
Cameron Shipway	Rob Seaton
Jordanne Collins	Marc Rader
Derek Mullins	

The members of the Board of Governance act in an honorary capacity and were not paid any remuneration for being in that role. Rev Dr Marc Rader receives a salary and associated benefits provided to him by the Church in relation to his role as Senior Pastor of GyMEA Baptist Church and acts in an honorary capacity on the Hopefield Services Inc board.

c) Details regarding Turner Lodge are included in Note 11.

**Note 6 - Income tax**

GyMEA Baptist Church is registered with the Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission (ACNC) as a religious charity and enjoys income tax exemption under Section 50 of the Income Tax Assessment Act and other taxation concessions that are available to charities such as churches.

The Church operates a tax deductible Building Fund and a deductible Cultural Fund .

Use of the tax deductible Building Fund is limited under the terms of the written approval by the ATO to the improvement of and maintenance of buildings used predominantly for education of children and adults in appropriately structured curriculum formats. Expenditure under this fund is also subject to a Public Ruling issued by the ATO on 12 February 2013 and any new construction will be reviewable under the interpretations of the ATO published in this Ruling. The Church is required to annually self-reassess and document its eligibility for deductibility to each of the building fund and the cultural fund for them to continue.

The Grays Point Community Church Music Promotion Trust can be utilised in accordance with the Trust Deed and subject to legislation for the promotion of the arts and culture. Effective from 1 January 2024 the compliance oversight of Cultural Funds such as GPCCMPT moved to ACNC and ATO (previously under Register of Cultural Organisations - Department of the Arts)

**GyMEA Baptist Church**  
**Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements**  
**For the year ended 31 December 2024**

	This Year	Last Year
	\$	\$

**Note 7 - Endowment Fund**

Donations Received during the year	<u>32,045</u>	<u>0</u>
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In November 2024 the Church commenced an appeal entitled "GyMEA Baptist Church Endowment Fund" associated with its 75th Anniversary as a local Church having a long term purpose of providing the Church with an ongoing and sustainable income stream. An appeal was commenced in November and monies received to date are set aside in a separate financial account with BFS and have been reflected in this financial report under the column so headed. It is intended that the Church will receive bequests and donations towards its long term ministry and set these aside, to be invested and the earnings to be available to assist in funding the ministry of the Church in the long term. The capital donated will in the normal course of events be accumulated in the Endowment Fund so as to provide a capital base with which to fund expanded ministry of the Church.

**Note 8 - Capital Commitments and Contingent Liabilities**

With the exception of contracts for plumbing improvement works to commence January 2025, arising from completed flood mitigation assessments, there were no capital commitments as at 31 December and no significant commitments have been entered into since the end of the financial year to the date of this report. The flood mitigation works are anticipated to cost approximately \$80,000 and be paid from the Property Trust account.

There are no material contingent liabilities.

**Note 9 - Reconciliation of Operating Result to Funds from Operations**

Total comprehensive income for the year	32,333	(48,969)
Depreciation charged	131,453	133,534
Net transfer from/(to) Cultural Fund	0	25,393
Prior Year adjustments	2,751	(19,982)
(Decrease)/Increase in staff entitlement provisions	12,519	(24,568)
Decrease/(Increase) in Prepayments	<u>(5,628)</u>	<u>(28,380)</u>
<b>Funds generated from operations</b>	<b><u>\$173,428</u></b>	<b><u>\$37,028</u></b>

**Note 10 - Operating Result**

Comprehensive Income for the year is after:

Crediting as income:

Interest received - financial institutions	37,645	29,826
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Charging as expenses:

Auditor's remuneration - auditing services	1,250	1,250
Depreciation	131,453	133,534
Provisions for staff entitlements	12,370	(24,248)



**GyMEA Baptist Church**  
**Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements**  
**For the year ended 31 December 2024**

**Note 11 - Turner Lodge**

Turner Lodge commenced as a retirement village initially comprising 13 self-care apartments. The property and buildings were originally owned by GyMEA Baptist Church.

Original residents of the accommodation units entered into an agreement for occupancy and made a donation of \$17,000 to the Church and an interest free loan of \$30,000 repayable to the resident or their Estate upon their leaving occupancy. A maintenance fee per fortnight (indexed) is charged for these units to cover running costs.

Conversion of Turner Lodge to Strata Title was completed at the end of 2007. Twelve units in Turner Lodge have been sold since December 2007 for occupation as over 55's accommodation. The Lodge operates under the legal structure of an Owners Corporation. Residents with arrangements for accommodation with the Church have remained under similar financial and occupancy arrangements to those which applied to them previously however day to day management of the Lodge is now conducted by strata managers appointed from time to time at an Annual Meeting of the Owners Corporation. Rental income is included under Occupancy Charges in the Income Statement.

**Note 12 - Impact of Covid-19 Pandemic on 2024, and Post Balance Date Events**

The Covid -19 pandemic continued to have some impact on Church attendances and offerings income, however it has not been possible to accurately quantify the financial impact. There are no adjusting events to the financial statements as at 31 December 2023 or 2024. The outgoings of the Church for the 2023 and 2024 years were reduced commensurate with any reduction in offerings income.

No matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial year which significantly affected or could significantly affect the operations of the Church, the results of those operations or the state of affairs of the Church in future financial years.

**AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION to the Responsible Persons of GYMEA BAPTIST CHURCH.**

I declare that to the best of my knowledge and belief, during **the year ended December 31 2024**, there has been:-

1. No contravention of the auditor independence requirements as set out in Section 60-40 of the Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission Act 2012 in relation to the audit; and
2. No contravention of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

**Anthony (Tony) Gilbert CA**

**Accountant**



## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF GYMEA BAPTIST CHURCH

ABN 15 146 145 320

### REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL REPORT.

I have audited the financial report of GYMEA BAPTIST CHURCH , which comprises the balance sheet as at 31 December 2024, the Income statement, statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the Statement by the Church Leadership team.

In my opinion the Financial report of GYMEA BAPTIST CHURCH has been prepared in accordance with Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012, including:

- (a) Giving a true and fair view of the registered entity's financial position as at 31 December 2024 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
- (b) Complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1, and Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013.

### Basis for Opinion.

I conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial report section of my report. I am independent of the registered entity in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the financial report in Australia. I have also fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the registered entity's financial reporting responsibilities under the ACNC Act. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. My opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

### Responsibility of the Responsible Entities for the Financial Report.

The Responsible entities of the registered entity are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial reports appropriate to meet the requirements of the ACNC Act. The responsible entities' responsibility also includes such internal control as the responsible entities determine is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free of material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial report, the responsible entities are responsible for assessing the registered entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the responsible entities either intend to liquidate the registered entity or to cease operations, or to have no realistic alternative but to do so. The responsible entities are responsible for overseeing the registered entity's financial reporting process.

### Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial report.

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee

that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial report. As part of an audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the registered entity's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by responsible entities.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of responsible entities' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the registered entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the registered entity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation. I communicate with responsible entities regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

NAME OF FIRM Anthony (Tony) Gilbert C A

Chartered Accountant.



NAME OF PRINCIPAL Anthony (Tony) Gilbert.

ADDRESS: 26 Oyster Bay Road, Oyster Bay, NSW 2225

Dated this March 3<sup>rd</sup> 2025