



Christian Playgroup Network  
connect • belong • grow

# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

*Salty Sweet Fruity*

**INTENTIONAL HOSPITALITY:  
NURTURING HEARTS, SOULS  
AND TUMMIES**



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## ABOUT THE CHRISTIAN PLAYGROUP NETWORK

The life-giving impact of playgroups in the local community has been identified and appreciated for many decades. Hundreds of Christian playgroups are helping bring God's Kingdom on earth each day, meeting in churches and community buildings throughout Australia.

Born out of several churches' desire to be more intentional in their playgroups as a mission to their local community, the need emerged for more cohesion and networking between these groups. In 2001 a group of people started meeting and praying about what this might look like. In November 2002, the Christian Playgroup Network was formally launched.

**Connect – Belong – Grow** expresses the heart of the CPN and our promise for churches, their playgroups, and for the children and families. For playgroup families, playgroup is a place where they have connected with their local church and where they feel they belong. We want to see families grow into an even deeper sense of belonging – to each other, to the church family and to God.

**The CPN exists to equip, encourage and enable healthy Playgroup ministry.**

The Christian Playgroup Network is an Incorporated Association of Victoria. [Please find our model rules HERE](#)  
The CPN Committee is made up of individuals from a range of denominations that give generously of their time, energy and experience for the benefit of CPN members. Some specialised roles are paid for their work done in their area of expertise.

TUESDAY 31 OCTOBER 2023, CONVENED ON ZOOM AT 7:30PM

**Ordinary Business**

1. To confirm the minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting
2. To receive and consider the Committee's Annual Report.
3. To receive and consider the financial statements of the association as at 30 June 2023.
4. To elect the members of the Committee for 2023 - 2024
5. To consider the amount of the annual membership fee and determine anniversary year payment. If thought fit, to pass the following resolution:

*'That a discounted annual membership fee of \$50 be offered to any new members that join the Christian Playgroup Network from 1 November 2023 to 28 March 2024, and that the amount of the annual membership fee from 29 March 2024 until 31 December 2024 will remain at \$65, payable by anniversary year'*

6. To consider any other business including special thanks to retiring committee members.

*I have loved receiving and learning more about our CPN members from the survey.*  
CPN Committee Member



*Tiffany and I were privileged to have a day at the 2023 Playgroup Victoria conference, listening to amazing speakers and discussing with other playgroup facilitators. This was made possible by CPN funding half of fees.*  
CPN Committee Member

*Another highlight has been hanging out with such beautiful people on the CPN Committee – what a privilege and honour!*  
CPN Committee Member

TUESDAY 11 OCTOBER, 2022, CONVENED ON ZOOM AT 7:30PM

**PRESENT :** Balwyn Gospel Chapel (Alyson Prescott CPN Team), Berwick Church of Christ (Sue Nicholls), CCCVaT (Ann Morison), City Life (Cathy Maisano), Croydon Uniting (Belinda Carter), Deep Creek Anglican (Emily Clements), Eastleigh Community Church (Margaret Battams, Ellen Carr), Emmanuel Uniting Church QLD (Jess Pinkerton, Ann Pegg), Essendon Baptist Community Church (Sally Danger), Glen Waverley Anglican Church (Julian Barnard, Susan Tucker), Ruth Kernick (Kilsyth Baptist, CPN Team), Life Ministry Church (Narelle Daly), Manningham Uniting Church (Chris Bairstow), Montmorency Community Church (Jane Rhyder), St Albans Uniting Church (Julie Blake, Ruth Guiao, Ingrid Stolz), St Marks Anglican Cockatoo (Hollie Boniface & CPN Team), Ringwood Church of Christ (Tiffany Gilmour), Traralgon Uniting Church (Sue Scarlett).

**APOLOGIES:** Chris Barnett - CTM Uniting Church of Victoria & Tasmania, Julia Fox – East Melbourne Anglican Holy Trinity, Kim Sopar, Dorothy Hughes, Miranda Starkey – St Marks Anglican Forest Hill, Niki Oostwoud – Hampton Park Uniting, Elizabeth McKinnon - Aberfeldie Baptist, North Ringwood Uniting – Lindsay Baker, Lifeway Christian Church – Natasha Gellert, Werribee Baptist – Karen Gerring, Unley Park Uniting – Sarah Ames  
Belair Baptist – Jillian Hedrick, St Matthews Anglican Prahran – Helen Jacobs, Kaye Plowman,  
Clayton Church of Christ - Margaret Ruhl, Glenda Wright – Murrumbidgee Baptist Church, Helen Jacobs – St Matthew’s Prahran, Michelle Sterrey -Beaumaris-Mordialloc Baptist, Lee Sun Thang – EDGE Church Doncaster, C Wiggins – Church unknown

The meeting was opened at 7.40 pm by Ruth Kernick, President.

#### Ordinary Business

1. To confirm the minutes of the 2021 Annual General Meeting

**MOVED:** Ruth Kernick      **SECONDED:** Jane Rhyder      **Motion Carried**

2. To receive and consider the Committee’s Annual Report

**MOVED:** Ruth Kernick      **SECONDED:** Emily Clements      **Motion Carried**

3. To receive and consider the financial statements of the association as at 30 June 2022

**MOVED:** Jules Barnard      **SECONDED:** Sue Scarlett      **Motion Carried**

4. To elect the following members of the Committee

- President – Ruth Kernick (Baptist)
- Vice President –
- Secretary – Alyson Prescott (CCCVaT)
- Treasurer – Julian Barnard (Anglican)
- Ordinary Members – Belinda Carter (Uniting) and Sally Danger (Baptist)

**MOVED:** Sue Nicholls      **SECONDED:** Tiffany Gilmour      **Motion Carried**

5. To consider the amount of the annual membership fee and determine anniversary year payment.  
If thought fit, to pass the following resolution:

*‘That the amount of the annual membership fee from 1 January 2022 until 31 December 2022 will remain at \$65, payable by anniversary year’*

**MOVED:** Ruth Kernick      **SECONDED:** Alyson Prescott      **Motion Carried**

6. Any other business

Special thanks was expressed to Ruth Guiao (retiring committee member) and Hollie Boniface (retiring Vice President) for their wonderful service with the Christian Playgroup Network Executive. Their expertise and particular gifts will be greatly missed.

The meeting closed at 7.58 pm with thanks to all present for their support of the Christian Playgroup Network.

THE CPN VALUES LOVING COMPASSION, KINGDOM FOCUS, MISSIONAL INTENT, SERVING CHURCHES AND RESOURCING LEADERS



- As we look at the past 12 months, we have lots to be thankful for.
- We are thankful for continued ministry through playgroups. Young families are seeking out spaces of play, connection and welcome in their local community more than ever before!
- We are thankful to the committee members that have served over the past 12 months – Alyson Prescott, Sally Danger, Belinda Carter, Jules Barnard and Tiffany Gilmour. Your extra investment into the network has been greatly valued. Special thanks go to Jules and Alyson as they step down in their volunteer roles on the CPN Committee. Thank you both for your service and commitment to the CPN. You have both been a blessing in so many ways and will be missed.
- We are thankful to several people who work behind the scenes - Merryn Gray who is paid to oversee and maintain our membership administration, as well as event promotion. Miranda Starkey in her volunteer role as the CPN bookkeeper and keeping on top of all things finances for the CPN. And Evan Englezos and the team at digital team coach <https://digitalteamcoach.com/> who are paid for their role in maintaining our website and other IT services. Merryn, Miranda and Evan will continue in these roles over the next 12 months.
- Most of all I am thankful for our God's continued guidance, provision and care as we seek Him in all we do.

#### Aspects to celebrate as we look back over the past 12 months:

- In November it was wonderful to get together in person over a **delicious afternoon tea at Glen Waverly Anglican Church to celebrate the CPN turning 20 years old!**
- The **CPN Committee held their annual strategic planning day at the start of February via zoom.** A helpful time together of revisiting the CPN vision, values and goals, and discussing how best to implement them in the year ahead to equip, encourage and support our members. Over the past few years, the CPN Committee has discerned a word or phrase at the start of each year to help us encourage and serve you, our wonderful network. In 2020 it was 'Bless', in 2021 it was 'Nurture', and in 2022 it was 'Be Supported, Be Encouraged'. The theme of 'Intentional Hospitality' stood out to each of us for 2023.
- The **CPN Committee continued to meet once a term** to discuss how best to serve our churches. We have been grateful to the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne for the use of a room for these meetings at their wonderful facilities in the city.
- **We have continued to resource CPN members.**
  - ✓ We asked for **feedback through an online survey** with some prizes for those that responded. Your feedback helps the CPN Committee know what you value, what you want more of and how we can best serve you, your playgroup, Church, and community.
  - ✓ All CPN member churches received a **pack through the mail in March**, to encourage and inspire you in your ministry.
  - ✓ The **monthly Zoom catch ups** on Wednesday and Friday afternoons during school term continued to be a much appreciated 1 hour of connection for a small but consistent group of playgroup leaders. A helpful time to touch base with others in similar roles and to pray for each other.
  - ✓ We have provided opportunities for **playgroup leaders to get together in person at cafes or churches.** These have been well received in the Doncaster and Berwick areas. Would you like to host one in your area? Set in touch to get that happening in the new year in your local area.
  - ✓ The **CPN Connect e-newsletter** continues to land in your inbox each month to support, encourage and equip you.





- ✓ We continued to invest in our **website and membership processes**. At the start of 2023 we changed to having a generic password for CPN members to access the members only section of the website. At the start of each year, you will be updated on the password for that year. Check out the Members Only pages through the 'Playgroup Leaders' section on the website - a treasure trove of handy resources for running your Playgroup, equipping your team, blessing your families, and developing as a leader.
- The CPN was **delighted to have been able to provide financial assistance to 5 churches through New Beginnings Grants this past year to the value of \$265 each**. These grants are designed to encourage churches to take the next step in offering love and grace, nurturing or sharing faith and experiencing fullness of life through starting, re starting or expanding a playgroup ministry. Watch this space over the next 6 months to see the stories of how these CPN Grants have helped our churches!

As we look forward to 2024, we continue to consider the best shape for the CPN into the future as we equip, encourage and support healthy playgroup ministry in local churches.

We pray that you will continue to be supported and be inspired by the CPN as you care for the people around you, your team, and the families in your Playgroup. Feel free to contact us at [admin@cpn.org.au](mailto:admin@cpn.org.au) . We will respond to your query as soon as we can.

*Ruth Kernick (President) on behalf of the CPN Committee, October 2023*

## CHRISTIAN PLAYGROUP NETWORK 2022/2023 ANNUAL FINANCE REPORT

Jules Barnard

It has been an encouraging 12 months with many people applying to access our start up grants for new or re-establishing playgroups after covid. We also enjoyed meeting in person for the 20 year celebration last November.

We have had a significant loss of \$2000 from our bank funds this year. We had a number of budget blowouts with events last year around the purchasing of promotional and stationery for the 20 year celebration and Australia post misquoting the cost of postage and holding your AGM booklets hostage last year! We have also had a \$700 shortfall in expected membership income, which has impacted the bottom line of the budget as well.

At the start of the financial year, we had \$14,733.85 in our Bendigo accounts, and \$30 of petty cash. We finished the financial year on 30/6/2023 with \$12,886, with a deficit of \$1847.45.

You may have noticed we have a large amount of reserved funds in our accounts. In in the past, the CPN have looked at changing structure to become a national organisation, instead of a state based one. The committee of the time worked hard at raising the funds to be able help the CPN transition to this framework in God's timing. We do not want to make a habit of running a deficit budget, but we are lucky to have this in reserve for years like this. The 2023-24 budget has been designed as a stripped back budget to allow for the lower forecasted income from memberships. This way we are able to recover from the overspending of 2022-23 budget, and allow for the CPN committee to connect with new churches, new partnerships and explore what's next in the 2024-25 budget.

I am excited to say that we had a successful partnership with MST and Eastern College Australia that increased our income by \$700 and a further \$350 partnership with Power to Change, covering the cost of our mail out in March. We give thanks to God for these new Partnerships, and we continue to look ahead at how we are able to develop new ways to support the CPN's vision and mission to support you, our incredible playgroup communities, in your kingdom work.

I would like to say a HUGE thank you to Miranda, our bookkeeper, who manages the accounts week to week. I am thankful for the expertise and wisdom she brings to the CPN financial conversations. Thank you for the way you have blessed the CPN community during the past 12 months.



## BALANCE SHEET AS OF 30 JUNE 2023

	30 JUN 2023	30 JUN 2022
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Bank</b>		
Christian Playgroup Network	13,274	14,734
<b>Total Bank</b>	<b>13,274</b>	<b>14,734</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Petty Cash	30	30
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>13,304</b>	<b>14,764</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Accounts Payable	418	-
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>418</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>418</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>12,886</b>	<b>14,764</b>
<b>Equity</b>		
Current Year Earnings	(1,878)	(931)
Retained Earnings	14,764	15,694
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>12,886</b>	<b>14,764</b>

*I love we can get together face to face! My highlight has been meeting up as committee once a term in the city.*  
CPN Committee Member



*A highlight was attending the Playgroup Victoria conference to become more equipped with what the current conversations and challenges are in the Playgroup space Victoria wide.*

CPN Committee Member

## PROFIT & LOSS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

	2023	2022
<b>Trading Income</b>		
Grant Income	-	2,000
Interest Income	1	1
Memberships	4,290	5,070
Other	674	-
Sponsorships	700	-
<b>Total Trading Income</b>	<b>5,666</b>	<b>7,071</b>
<b>Cost of Sales</b>		
Cost of Goods Sold	190	-
<b>Total Cost of Sales</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>5,476</b>	<b>7,071</b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>		
Bank Fees	-	10
Bless - Mailout	291	240
Events - AGM & Conference Fees	834	-
Events - Other	774	-
Events - SoC	-	255
Gifts	130	289
Hospitality	270	-
Legal expenses	61	60
Membership Administration	1,228	1,350
Next Step Projects	495	2,150
Post Office Box	153	140
Postage & Stationery	223	203
Promotions	840	-
Stripe Fees	13	16
Subscriptions	50	50
Telephone & Internet	150	-
Website/Database	1,496	3,143
Xero Software	344	97
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>7,354</b>	<b>8,002</b>
<b>Net Profit</b>	<b>(1,878)</b>	<b>(931)</b>





**Schedule 1**  
**Regulation 15**  
**Form 1**

*Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012*

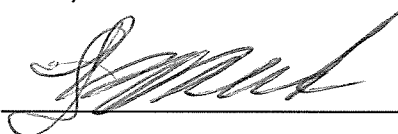
Sections 94 (2)(b), 97 (2)(b) and 100 (2)(b)

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**Annual statements give a true and fair view of financial performance and position  
of incorporated association**

We Julian Bonner and Ruth Kernick being members of the  
committee of the Christian Playgroup Network certify that –

“The statements attached to this certificate give a true and fair view of the financial  
performance and position of the above named association during and at the end of  
the financial year of the association ending 30/6/2023.”

Signed: 

Date: 19/10/2023

Signed: 

Date: 19/10/2023

# NOTES