



Christian Playgroup Network
connect • belong • grow

2024 ANNUAL REPORT



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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 local 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 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 the church family and to God.

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

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. The Christian Playgroup Network is an Incorporated Association of Victoria. [Please find our model rules HERE](#)

TUESDAY 15 OCTOBER 2024, CONVENED ON ZOOM AT 7:30PM

Ordinary Business

1. To confirm the minutes of the 2023 Annual General Meeting
2. To receive and consider the Committee's Report for 2024.
3. To receive and consider the financial statements of the association as at 30 June 2024.
4. To elect the members of the Committee for 2024- 2025
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 2025 until 31 December 2025 will remain at \$65, payable by anniversary year'

6. To consider any other business



MINUTES OF THE 2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF CHRISTIAN PLAYGROUP NETWORK
TUESDAY 31st October 2023, CONVENED ON ZOOM AT 7:45PM

PRESENT : Balwyn Gospel Chapel/ CPN Committee (Alyson Prescott), Beaconsfield Baptist Church (Cheree Hemmings), Berwick Church of Christ (Sue Nicholls), Croydon Uniting/ CPN Committee (Belinda Carter), Emmanuel Uniting Church QLD (Jess Pinkerton), Essendon Baptist Community Church / CPN Committee (Sally Danger), Ruth Kernick (Kilsyth South Baptist/ CPN Committee), Manningham Uniting Church (Chris Bairstow), Montmorency Community Church (Jane Rhyder, Elizabeth Cramb), Resound Church / CPN Committee (Jules Barnard), St Mark's Anglican Forest Hill(Miranda Starkey) ,St Paul's Anglican Frankston(Jessica Betreen), Ringwood Church of Christ/ CPN Committee (Tiffany Gilmour), Traralgon Uniting Church (Sue Scarlett).

APOLOGIES: Beaumaris-Mordialloc Baptist Church (Michelle Sterrey), CCCVaT (Ann Morison) Dapto Anglican NSW (Heather Boardman), Templestowe Baptist (Sophie Haden), Chris Barnett (Intergen), Kaye Plowman.

The meeting was opened at 7.45pm by Ruth Kernick, President.

Ordinary Business

1. To confirm the minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting

MOVED: Ruth Kernick **SECONDED:** Sue Scarlett **Motion Carried**

2. To receive and consider the Committee's 2023 Report

MOVED: Ruth Kernick **SECONDED:** Tiffany Gilmour **Motion Carried**

3. To receive and consider the financial statements of the association as at 30 June 2023

MOVED: Jules Barnard **SECONDED:** Jessica Betreen **Motion Carried**

4. To elect the following members of the Committee for 2023/ 2024

- President – Ruth Kernick (Baptist)
- Vice President – no nominations
- Secretary – Belinda Carter (Uniting)
- Treasurer – no nominations
- Ordinary Members – Sally Danger (Baptist), Tiffany Gilmour (Churches of Christ), Sue Scarlett (Uniting), Sophie Haden (Baptist), Miranda Starkey (Anglican).

MOVED: Jules Barnard **SECONDED:** Jane Rhyder **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 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'

MOVED: Jules Barnard **SECONDED:** Jess Betreen **Motion Carried**

6. Any other business

Special thanks were expressed to Jules Barnard (retiring Treasurer) and Alyson Prescott (who put together the 2023 Annual Report and retiring Secretary) for their wonderful service with the Christian Playgroup Network Executive. Their expertise and particular gifts will be greatly missed.

The meeting closed at 8.05 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. We have over 70 member church playgroups that meet each week. 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 voluntarily served over the past 12 months, investing in the work of the CPN – Sally Danger, Belinda Carter, Sue Scarlett, Miranda Starkey and Tiffany Gilmour. Check out their highlights in the green box! Special thanks to Miranda as she steps down in her role on the CPN Committee but will continue to serve in a voluntary role as the CPN bookkeeper.
- 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. 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 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.

Highlights as we look back over the past 12 months include:

- The **CPN Committee continued to meet once a term** to discuss how best to serve our churches (in person & online option). We have been grateful to the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne for the use of a room for the in-person meetings.
- **We have continued to equip, encourage and enable our CPN member churches.**
 - ✓ Member churches received a **'Start of Year' pack through the mail in March.** In 2025 this pack will be sent to you in a downloadable format, to help reduce postage costs.
 - ✓ **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 continued to provide opportunities for **playgroup leaders to get together in person at cafes or churches.** Would you like to host one in your area? Get in touch at admin@cpn.org.au to get that happening in the new year.
 - ✓ 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 each year, you will be updated on the password for that year, so you can access 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.

Here are some highlights from our committee:

I loved being part of such a wonderful team of people that are passionate about playgroups sharing God's love in community in creative ways.

A highlight for me was attending the Playgroup Victoria 2023 conference to become more equipped with what the current conversations and challenges are in the Playgroup space Victoria wide. It was wonderful that both my church and the CPN contributed to the cost of my ticket!

Catching up in the city with Chris Barnett, delving deeper into the why of the ministry of the CPN as we discern what the CPN will look like in the years ahead. Sometimes I feel I go on auto pilot, so it was great to stop and consider and hear from other people on the committee.

I look forward to our committee meetings. Meeting with enthusiastic playgroup advocates who share their sense of fun, knowledge and resources generously

- The CPN was **delighted to have been able to provide financial assistance to a further 3 churches through the New Beginnings Grants this past year. A total of \$1480 was given to 5 different churches through this Grant.** These grants were 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.

As we look forward to 2025, 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 feel supported and be inspired by the CPN as you care for the people around you, your team, and the families in your Playgroup.



I really appreciate the in person get togethers, where we can share resources, support each other and know that we are part of a larger community of Christ

City trips and snacks for our little meetings at the gorgeous St Paul's Cathedral. What a blessing to meet together in the heart of the city to plan and pray for playgroups.

Connecting online monthly with leaders from far and wide to share ideas, encourage and support each other.

Coffee with local playgroup leaders to connect and share.

Seeing several churches embrace CPN membership – this excites me for the journey they are on and how God can use this focused energy for His kingdom.

I love meeting new people and finding out about their playgroups!

FINANCE REPORT FOR THE 2023/2024 YEAR by Miranda Starkey (Bookkeeper)

It has been encouraging to see an increase in memberships compared with the previous financial year. More churches are getting to hear about the CPN! We have also received sponsorships from Power to Change and CYC Ministries which have helped to cover costs.

Mail-outs have continued to increase in price, so we have decided to move towards digital delivery of both the new membership packs for churches that sign up to CPN membership, as well as the annual 'Start of year' pack for member churches. We also resourced a change to the way our back-office systems work which should set us up for more efficiencies going forward. The committee is conscious of keeping costs contained and focussing our spending on what most benefits members. Although costs exceeded income in this last financial year the CPN has sufficient cash available to cover a small deficit.

BALANCE SHEET AS OF 30 JUNE 2024 CASH BASIS

	30 JUN 2024	30 JUN 2023
Assets		
<hr/>		
Bank		
Christian Playgroup Network	11,153	13,274
Total Bank	11,153	13,274
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Current Assets		
Petty Cash	30	30
Total Current Assets	30	30
Total Assets	11,183	13,304
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Net Assets	11,183	13,304
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Equity		
Current Year Earnings	(2,120)	(1,460)
Retained Earnings	13,304	14,764
Total Equity	11,183	13,304

PROFIT & LOSS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024 CASH BASIS

	2024	2023
Trading Income		
Interest Income	1	1
Memberships	4,523	4,290
Other	86	674
Sponsorships	650	700
Total Trading Income	5,260	5,666
Cost of Sales		
Cost of Goods Sold	-	190
Total Cost of Sales	-	190
Gross Profit	5,217	5,476
Operating Expenses		
Bless - Mailout	722	291
Events - AGM & Conference Fees	170	834
Events - Other	-	774
Gifts	40	130
Hospitality	196	270
Legal expenses	64	61
Membership Administration	2,653	810
Next Step Projects	995	495
Office Expenses	28	-
Post Office Box	174	153
Postage & Stationery	244	223
Promotions	61	840
Stripe Fees	38	13
Subscriptions	50	50
Telephone & Internet	40	150
Website/Database	1,606	1,496
Xero Software	300	344
Total Operating Expenses	7,380	6,936
Net Profit/Loss	(2,120)	(1,460)

Schedule 1

Regulation 15

Form 1

Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012

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

This form is required to be provided to the members at the AGM with the association's accounts.

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

We, Ruth Kernick and Miranda Starkey, being members of the Committee of the CHRISTIAN PLAYGROUP NETWORK INC, certify that—

The statements attached to this certificate give a true and fair view of the financial position of the CHRISTIAN PLAYGROUP NETWORK INC during and at the end of the financial year of the association ending on 30 June 2024.

Signed:

Ruth Kernick

Dated:

5/10/2024

Signed:

MStarkey

Dated:

5/10/2024