2026
ANNUAL REPORT

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About the Christian Playgroup Network

The Christian Playgroup Network exists to support and equip playgroup leaders to lead healthy, flourishing and vibrant playgroups across Australia, serving across denominations. We love Jesus, and love His church, and everything we do flows from that.

As a playgroup community we…
Equip Churches → Across all denominations for playgroup ministry
Champion Playgroup as Mission → Serving families in local communities
Promote Play → As vital to life, learning, and belonging
Encourage & Empower Leaders → Through practical support and meaningful connection
Follow Jesus → And point others to Him

In 2002 – the Christian Playgroup Network was formally launched. 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.

Today – hundreds of Christian playgroups are helping bring God's Kingdom on earth each day, meeting in churches and local community buildings throughout Australia.

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. Please find our model rules HERE

Specialised roles:

- Miranda Starkey - Bookkeeper (Volunteer) finance@cpn.org.au
- Merryn Gray - Membership & Events Administration (Paid) membership@cpn.org.au
- Evan Englezos - Website IT support (Paid) evan@digitalteamcoach.com

Agenda – 2026 Annual General Meeting of Christian Playgroup Network Inc.
Thursday 22 October 2026, convened on zoom at 7:45pm

Ordinary Business

1. To confirm the minutes of the 2025 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 2026.
4. To elect the members of the Committee for 2026- 2027
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 2027 until 31 December 2027 will be increased to $70, payable by anniversary year'

6. To consider any other business.

Minutes of the 2025 Annual General Meeting of Christian Playgroup Network Inc.
Tuesday 21 October 2025, convened on zoom at 7.45pm

PRESENT : Community Life Uniting Church Queensland (Tara Reynoldson) , Gisborne Church Of Christ (Kylie Adams), Endeavour Hills Uniting (Cheryl Doddrell) , Baptist Union of Victoria (Kimberly Smith) , Traralgon Uniting (Sue Scarlett), Balwyn Gospel Chapel (Alyson Prescott) , Beaumaris Mordialloc Baptist (Diva Ross) , Ringwood Church of Christ (Tiffany Gilmour), Berwick Church of Christ (Sue Nicholls, Jenny Jones, Rajele Witzleb) Montmorency Community Church (Jane Rhyder, , Elizabeth Cramb) , Aberfeldie Baptist (Elizabeth McKinnon) , Essendon Baptist (Sally Danger), Beaconsfield Baptist (Cheree Hemmings) , Wonthaggi Baptist (Jenny Alder) , Croydon Uniting (Belinda Carter), Sale Baptist (Rachel Storer) , High Street Uniting Frankston (Emma Lindenburg) , St Mark's Anglican Forest Hill (Miranda Starkey) , Kilsyth South Baptist (Ruth Kernick)

APOLOGIES: Presbytery of Yarra Yarra (Chris Barnett), Uniting Church in Australia VicTas Synod (Sandy Brodine), Unley Church of Christ (Sarah Ames)

The meeting was opened at 7:45 pm by Ruth Kernick, CPN President.

Ordinary Business

To confirm the minutes of the 2024 Annual General Meeting

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

To receive and consider the Committee's Annual Report

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

To receive and consider the financial statements of the association as at 30 June 2025
MOVED: Miranda Starkey **SECONDED:** Sue Scarlett **Motion Carried**

To elect the members of the Committee for 2025 – 26
Proposal: that Ruth Kernick be elected as President
MOVED: Sue Scarlett **SECONDED**: Jane Rhyder **Motion carried**

No nominations for Vice President

Proposal: that Belinda Carter be elected as Secretary
MOVED: Ruth Kernick **SECONDED**: Sue Nicholls **Motion carried**

No nominations for Treasurer

Proposal: that Sue Scarlett, Tiffany Gilmour and Sally Danger be elected as Ordinary Members
MOVED: Ruth Kernick **SECONDED**: Jane Rhyder **Motion carried**

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 2026 until 31 December 2026 will remain at $65, payable by anniversary year'

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

No other business.

The meeting closed at 8:07 pm with thanks to all present for their support of the Christian Playgroup Network.

COMMITTEE REPORT 2026

Connecting churches, equipping playgroups and welcoming families

As we reflect on the past 12 months, we give thanks for the achievements, contributions and partnerships that have strengthened the Christian Playgroup Network (CPN) and supported its ongoing ministry. We are grateful for the many people and churches who share in this work and for the opportunities to encourage and equip playgroups as they welcome families into their communities.

Celebrating Church Playgroups

We celebrate the **61 church playgroups** that make up our membership across metropolitan and rural communities. These playgroups provide welcoming spaces where mums, dads and grandparents can find opportunities for play, connection and belonging. We are thankful for the churches, leaders and volunteers who create these spaces and for the important role playgroups play in building relationships with families and their local communities.

Our Committee

We are grateful to committee members **Sally Danger, Belinda Carter, Tiffany Gilmour, Sue Scarlett and Ruth Kernick** for their continued service and commitment to the Network. Their time, skills and contributions are greatly valued and sincerely appreciated.

We extend our sincere thanks to **CYC City Hub** for generously providing a complimentary venue for our quarterly committee meetings. This central meeting space has been a real answer to prayer, providing an opportunity to discuss Network priorities, strengthen our teamwork and enjoy fellowship together. We deeply appreciate this practical support for the work of CPN.

Behind-the-Scenes Support

We extend our sincere thanks to **Merryn Gray**, who oversees membership administration and event promotion; **Miranda Starkey**, who generously volunteers as CPN's bookkeeper; and **Evan Englezos and the team at Digital Team Coach**, who maintain our website and provide IT support. Their contributions help ensure the smooth operation of the Network and enable us to continue serving our members. We are grateful for their ongoing commitment and pleased that they will continue in these roles over the coming 12 months.

Clarifying Our Future Direction

At the beginning of 2026, the CPN Committee completed a significant review of the Network's future structure and direction. Undertaken every five to ten years, this process has helped clarify CPN's core identity and establish a strategic direction for the next season. We look forward with anticipation to seeing how God continues to work through church playgroups and the families and communities they serve. Further details of our renewed direction are outlined on the following page.

Supporting and Equipping Our Members

Over the past 12 months, CPN has continued to support and equip members through opportunities for connection, practical resources and leadership development. We recognise the valuable work undertaken by playgroup leaders and teams and remain committed to helping them feel connected, encouraged and equipped for their ministry with families.

Local Support Gatherings

We have created opportunities for playgroup leaders and teams to connect in person, share experiences and encourage one another. Gatherings in **South Gippsland, Gippsland, Heathmont and Berwick** have been warmly received.

Our sincere thanks to **Sue (CPN Committee), Rachel (Sale Baptist), Jenny (Wonthaggi Baptist), Lynne (Korumburra Baptist), Lisa (Heathmont Baptist), Sue (Berwick Church of Christ) , Brittney (Winepress Church Berwick) and Ruth (CPN Committee)** for helping make these gatherings possible. These local connections provide valuable opportunities for leaders to share ideas, learn from one another and build relationships with others serving in similar contexts. We welcome expressions of interest from members who would like to host a gathering in their area. To find out more, contact **admin@cpn.org.au**.

CPN Connect eNewsletters

During 2026, we introduced a refreshed design and structure for our CPN Connect eNewsletters, making it easier for members to access relevant information, practical support and program ideas. Our **Structure & Care** issues provide practical guidance for playgroup leaders and teams, while our **Program** issues offer creative ideas and resources for key times in the playgroup calendar, including the beginning of the year, Lent and Easter, Mother's Day, Father's Day, and Advent and Christmas. Through these resources, we aim to encourage leaders, strengthen teams and help playgroups create welcoming and meaningful experiences for families throughout the year.

Website and Member Resources

We continued investing in our website to make it more user-friendly, accessible and useful for members. The **Members Only** pages, accessible through the *Playgroup Leaders* section, provide a valuable collection of resources to support the day-to-day operation of playgroups, equip teams and develop confident leaders. We encourage members to make use of these resources and to contact CPN if there is additional information or support that would help their playgroup flourish.

Looking Ahead to 2027

As we look ahead to 2027, our prayer is that every CPN member will continue to feel supported, encouraged and inspired as they care for themselves, their teams and the families who attend their playgroups.

Building on the review of our future direction, we will focus on supporting and equipping playgroups through the key areas outlined at the end of this committee report. We look forward to continuing to

work alongside our members, strengthening connections across the Network and encouraging churches in their ministry with families.

We remain committed to supporting you in this important ministry. Your feedback, ideas and suggestions are always welcome, and we encourage you to contact us at **admin@cpn.org.au** at any time.

Thank you for being part of the Christian Playgroup Network. We give thanks for the dedication of our members; the generosity of our supporters and the opportunities God continues to provide as we serve families and communities together.

Together, may we continue to create welcoming places where families connect, relationships grow and God's love is shared.

Ruth Kernick, President
On behalf of the Christian Playgroup Network Committee
October 2026

WHAT WE DO MOVING FORWARD

Our Strategic Focus

- **Strengthen Core Identity:** Keep Christ-centred mission at the heart of everything
- **Sharpen Focus:** Prioritise what creates the greatest Kingdom impact
- **Secure Sustainability:** Build strong foundations for long-term ministry health
- **Champion Collaboration:** Work together across churches, regions, and networks
- **Grow the Movement:** Expand reach and increase community impact
- **Empower Churches:** Confidently lead and engage families through playgroup
- **Build Capacity:** Develop leaders, systems, and support structures

Playgroup is Mission. Church is Community. Jesus is Central.

2025/2026 Annual Finance Report

The Christian Playgroup Network finished the 2025–26 financial year with a net operating deficit of $280.98, after including our resources on hand. While membership income was lower than budget, the overall result was considerably better than the budgeted deficit due to careful management of operating expenses throughout the year. Savings in areas such as membership administration, hospitality, postage and events helped offset the lower income and keep the year's result well ahead of expectations.

We have now included the books that we have in stock as these had not previously been recognised as an asset. This resulted in a reduction in the costs shown on the profit and loss statement.

The committee is focussed on growing membership and there will be a small increase in membership fees for the new calendar year. The committee is also looking at additional sources of revenue such as sponsorships and grants.

The CPN remains in a healthy financial position, with net assets of $8,771.84, including $7,933.84 in the Bendigo Bank account.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at miranda.starkey@cpn.org.au.

Miranda Starkey - CPN Volunteer Bookkeeper

Financial Snapshot 2025–2026

For the year ended 30 June 2026

Income

Memberships	$4,030
Resources Sold	$96
Total Income	$4,126

98% of our income came from membership fees.

YOUR MEMBERSHIP IS THE FOUNDATION OF OUR NETWORK

Expenses - Essential Operations

Membership Administration	$2,169
Website & Database	$1,661
Xero Software	$315
Telephone	$225
Post Office Box	$192
Stripe Fees	$33
Legal Expenses	$49

The Website & Database and Membership Administration were our largest investments.

ENSURING MEMBERS RECEIVE ONGOING SUPPORT AND RELIABLE SERVICES

Expenses - Governance & Member Engagement

Committee Professional Development	$123
AGM Speaker	$120
Committee Thank You Hospitality	$132

The Network recorded a modest operating deficit of $208.98, reinforcing the need to continue growing income while managing costs carefully.

Looking Ahead

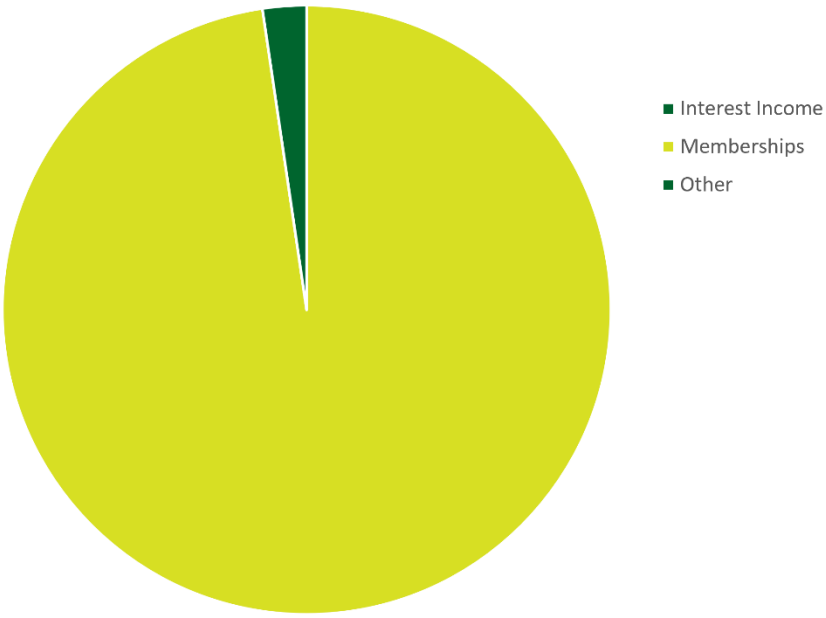
The Committee will continue to:

- Grow membership numbers
- Review membership fees to support long-term sustainability
- Seek grants and sponsorship opportunities
- Invest in efficient systems that benefit members
- Carefully manage operating expenses

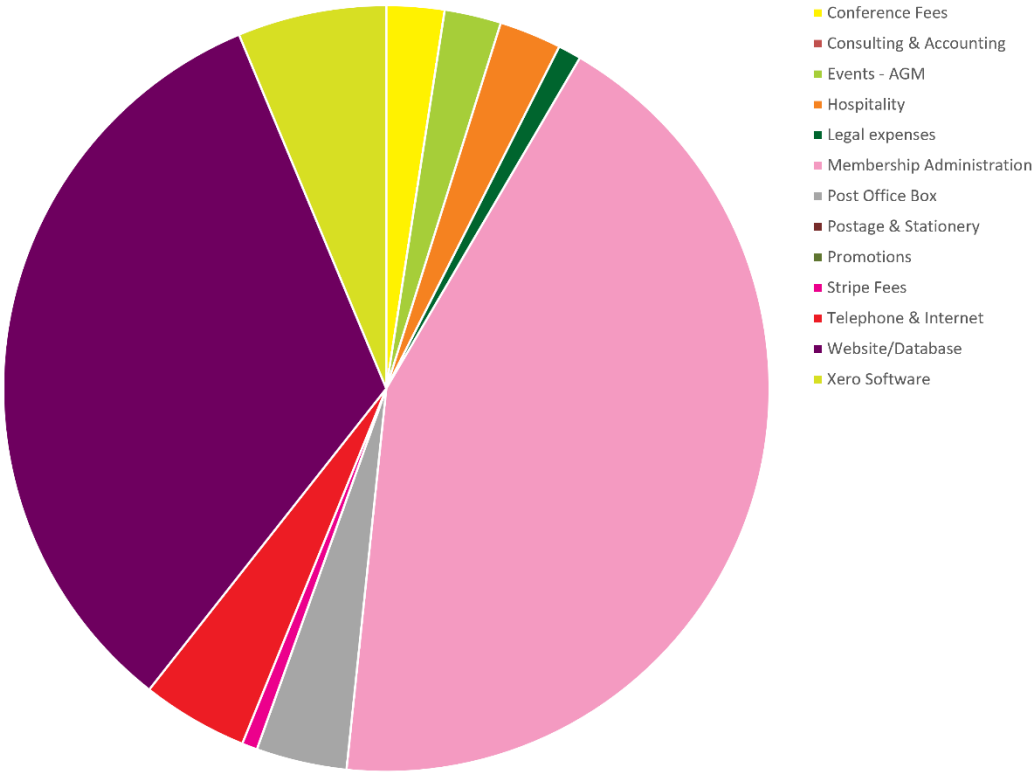
Our Commitment

The Committee remains focused on strengthening the long-term financial sustainability of the Christian Playgroup Network while continuing to provide valuable support, encouragement and resources to Christian playgroup leaders.

Income



Expenses



Profit and Loss

Christian Playgroup Network
For the year ended 30 June 2026

	2026	2025
Trading Income		
Interest Income	0	0.75
Memberships	4,030.00	4,810.00
Other	96.00	305.00
Total Trading Income	4,126.00	5,115.75
Cost of Sales		
Cost of Goods Sold	-	356.36
Less Resources on Hand	(611.00)	-
Total Cost of Sales	(611.00)	356.36
Gross Profit	4,737.00	4,759.39
Operating Expenses		
Conference Fees	122.50	177.00
Consulting & Accounting	0	1,000.00
Events - AGM	120.00	120.00
Hospitality	131.71	294.79
Legal expenses	49.00	49.00
Membership Administration	2,169.00	2,164.00
Post Office Box	192.00	181.00
Postage & Stationery	0	214.00
Promotions	0	236.00
Stripe Fees	32.65	43.82
Telephone & Internet	225.00	195.00
Website/Database	1,661.00	-
Xero Software	315.12	315.12
Total Operating Expenses	5,017.98	4,989.73
Net Profit	(280.98)	(230.34)

Balance Sheet

Christian Playgroup Network
As at 30 June 2026

	30 June 2026	30 June 2025
Assets		
Bank		
Bendigo Bank Statement Account	7,933.84	8,697.82
Total Bank	7,933.84	8,697.82
Current Assets		
Accounts Receivable	195.00	325.00
Petty Cash	30.00	30.00
Resources on Hand	611.00	-
Total Current Assets	836.00	355.00
Total Assets	8,769.84	9,052.82
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Suspense	(2.00)	-
Total Current Liabilities	(2.00)	-
Total Liabilities	(2.00)	-
Net Assets	8,771.84	9,052.82
Equity		
Current Year Earnings	(280.98)	(230.34)
Retained Earnings	9,052.82	9,283.16
Total Equity	8,771.84	9,052.82

Schedule 1

Regulations 20, 21 and 22

Form 1

Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012

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

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 2026.

Signed: Ruth Kernick.

Dated: 14 October 2026

Signed: M Starkey

Dated: 14 October 2026