



**Vol. 60, No.3  
June 2017**

## ***TCF Getaway: 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> July 2017***

**New venue:** Blackheath Retreat, 166 Wentworth St, Blackheath. A simple, comfortable older style weatherboard cottage situated on a quiet block.

Come for a relaxing weekend of fun, Bible input, fellowship, prayer, support and sightseeing in the beautiful Blue Mountains.

\$110 for an all included weekend. Closing date: 5<sup>th</sup> July 2017

**Complete the application form** at the end of this edition of this *TCF News* and return to the office by post, fax or by email.

## **ANNUAL REPORTS**

### **President's Report 2017**

TCF, in representing the voice of Christian teachers in education in New South Wales, regardless of denomination, still has a role to play in this era of the individual where, like employment, commitment to membership of organisations has also been “casualised”. Our voice is particularly needed by Christian teachers working in the government education sector who need support to think and act like Christians in an increasingly anti-Christian world. This environment is not just extremely busy and demanding but becoming more hostile. For those active Christians working in the friendly environment of the Christian school we can also provide a voice for their opinions to the world outside of their organisation and another avenue for the discussion of Christian ideas. TCF represents a fellowship of faithful believers working in education in schools in this state. We stand as part of the body of Christ working together to support each other in being Christians in our schools as well as employees with the hope of challenging our world to recognise the authority of Christ.

How can we do this? We can provide a Christian voice for teachers and educators in the education debate by writing submissions as a professional body to government and interacting with it, publishing information and critical thinking through our own newsletter and by publishing articles on our webpage, Facebook and Twitter accounts.

What do we need to do? We need to individually and corporately continue to pray and seek God's guidance about all we do. Talk to our friends and colleagues about how to do this more effectively. Seek paid professional help and quiz other Christian organisations about how to make our communication more effective. Raise awareness of TCF through letters and resources sent to church bodies, churches and schools.

Promote critical Christian thinking on the issues of the day affecting education by publishing comments on our webpage, Facebook and Twitter accounts. Send printed letters to churches, heads of church organisations, Christian student groups at universities, Christian schools and school organisations, other Christian parent and teacher groups.

Provide support for Christian teachers through prayer events, prayer chains, seminars, conferences, weekends away and social events.

Provide ready access to the support material available on our website by continuing to frequently refresh, edit and update our website. We can promote this site by distributing its address to individuals and groups on all of our communications both electronically and physically on cards and other printed materials.

Apart from offering direct membership to financially support TCF we should also provide a link for donations on our website.

H. Mills  
President

## Secretary's Report

### Half day seminars

\* 14<sup>th</sup> May at Redeemer Baptist School. Occupational therapist, Louise Yarham, gave excellent, helpful and practical input on *Strategies for teachers of students with learning difficulties*. This provided teachers with skills to better support students with additional learning needs. This was an accredited course with the Australian Catholic University. 79 attended (66 members and 12 non-members).

\* 20<sup>th</sup> August at Chester Hill North Public School. Speech and language pathologist, Dr Julia Starling, gave lots of practical ideas on *Creating language friendly classrooms: supporting the oral and written language of children with additional learning needs*. A certificate of attendance was given to each participant. Nine attended (five non-members and four members).

### TCF Promotion:

\* TCF had a table (at a cost of \$250) at Katoomba Christian Convention Men's Conference on 29-30 July. Ken Silvester gave his time to promote TCF on this occasion and had several good conversations with interested people and distributed membership brochures. Thanks, Ken.

### Communication:

\* Six editions of *TCF News* were produced with John Gore writing a lead article for each one based on a relevant and current issue. 2016 was the last year of posting a printed copy to members as we moved towards electronic distribution.

\* Colin McKay re-organised the articles and categorised the content under major headings on the TCF website. Hosting of the website was successfully moved to a new server.

\* While *TCF Facebook* is open to all for comment, 18 members were asked to form an interactive network group. One member accepted, two declined and no response from 15. Harley designed a TCF business card advertising the website and *Facebook*. Cards were sent to all members to distribute.

John, Colin and Harley graciously give many hours of their time to keep these channels of communication operating. Many thanks to you all.

### Activities:

\* The annual bushwalk on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2016 was from Bundeena to Jibbon Beach Headland. The easy walk, seeing the Aboriginal rock carvings and a great swim made for a very enjoyable day.

\* Illawarra Local Group met for share and prayer.

\* The *Getaway* was held on 15<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> July at Kihilla, Lawson. 13 attended including guest members, Colin and Cathy McKay. The topic, *Being a Christian in you School* provided participants with the task of describing the behaviours, values and attitudes they would expect from Christian teachers in the classroom by examining Matthew 5:13-16 and in the wider school by examining Mark 8:34-38. Thanks, John, for co-ordinating this. Everyone enjoyed the bushwalk and tour, led by a local guide, to an aboriginal site.

#### **Membership:**

During the year there were nine new memberships and 69 resignations (mainly from Redeemer Baptist) making a total of 86 members as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016.

#### **Financial update:**

\* Donations to missionary members: \$900 was distributed to Wilfred & Sally Morrow (\$350), Suzanne Rowe (\$350) and Ian & Jill Cochrane (\$200) for their work in education overseas.

\* From 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2016 Westpac no longer offered manual voucher processing of credit card deposits. A new on-line processing agreement, Batch Advantage, was established.

\* A new database, File Maker Pro 14, was purchased for \$240 as the updated computer operating system would no longer open Appleworks.

#### **Legal matters:**

Changes to the association laws started on 1st September 2016, including amendments made to the *Associations Incorporation Act 2009*. Updates to the constitution as a result of the amendments to the legislation will not require a fee to be paid if changes are registered before 1st September 2017. Changes to TCF's Constitution will be considered at the current AGM.

#### **Office:**

John and Elizabeth Gore continue to provide office space in their home and incorporate TCF's internet into their household package. Their generosity is a great saving to TCF for which we are grateful.

#### **Committee:**

\* I am thankful to the committee for approving my request for leave of absence for overseas travel from 9th June to 11<sup>th</sup> August 2016. They capably adopted roles to run a Conference and maintain the necessary week to week tasks. Thank you.

\* There were nine Committee meetings held in 2016. The following show the number attended.

Harley Mills (President)	8
Andrew Poyitt (Vice President)	3 (resigned 26 <sup>th</sup> May)
Dianne Young (Treasurer)	7 (leave of absence for Oct & Nov)
Pam Griffin (Secretary)	7 (leave of absence June to mid Aug)
Lyn Searle	7
Karen Allsopp	8
Ken Silvester	8

\* Thank you to Ken and Bronwyn Silvester for graciously hosting committee meetings in their home throughout the year.

Pam Griffin.  
Secretary.

## Treasurer's Report

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

### Statement of Receipts and Payments for year ended 31 December 2016

#### RECEIPTS

Membership fees	5,325
Donations	2,855
Conference fees	2,980
Getaway fees	1,650
Interest and other	<u>541</u>
	<b><u>13,351</u></b>

#### PAYMENTS

Salaries	4,404
Office costs	1,045
Stationery, printing and postage	1,299
Marketing and promotion	446
Fees	441
Conference Costs	2,107
Getaway	1,100
Missionary Support	900
Gifts	<u>50</u>
	<b><u>11,791</u></b>

<b>Surplus</b>	<b><u>1,560</u></b>
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Net worth as at 31 December 2016	\$29,367
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Dianne Young  
Treasurer

## Letter from Sally Morrow

Dear members of TCF,

Many thanks for our Christmas gift and the many years you have been sending them. We have now returned to Australia and have recently gone administrative leave from OMF as we believe the Lord wants us in Australia while our girls transition to university and life as "Australians". Anita has completed first year of Speech Therapy at Sydney and Julie is commencing a BA/BEd, also at Sydney Uni.

I have work at Richard Johnson Anglican School and Wilfred will likely be working also at the school as Property Manager. We are in awe of the Lord for leading us to these positions.

We would ask that you continue to pray for Faith Academy in the Philippines as they serve missionaries' children. It is a great school to teach at and I would heartily recommend it to any members wishing for a complete tropical change.

We thank you for your prayers and gifts over the 17 years we were overseas.

Kind regards,  
Sally Morrow.

# Application Form

for 14th to 16<sup>th</sup> July 2017 Getaway

Closing date: 5<sup>th</sup> July 2017

Blackheath Retreat, 166 Wentworth St, Blackheath.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Special dietary needs \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is payment of **\$110** by:

☐ cheque (made payable to TCF NSW)

☐ direct deposit: Westpac BSB:032-373 Account No: 128812 (Please put your name as the reference).

☐ credit card Mastercard/Visa (please circle one)

Card No \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

Expiry Date \_ \_ / \_ \_ Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Name as on card (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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