

Christian World Service

ANNUAL REPORT 2003



CHRISTIAN WORLD SERVICE
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF
CHURCHES IN AUSTRALIA

CWS Mandate

Christian World Service (a Commission of the National Council of Churches in Australia) exists to encourage and assist the member churches, State ecumenical bodies and the wider Australian community to work together through networking and programs of common action.

In particular, Christian World Service will:

- assist in raising awareness of the Australian community regarding poverty, injustice, and ecological damage, acknowledging the shared responsibility of church and society;
- nurture relationships with ecumenical partners overseas, Australian State ecumenical bodies and other appropriate organisations, supporting their work in areas of emergency relief, development, work with refugees and displaced people, human rights, advocacy and the environment;
- consult with, and support the work of the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people;
- resource local ecumenical action in Australia and encourage active participation in Christian World Service partnerships and activities, providing encouragement for action;
- drawing on advice from overseas partners and member churches regarding human rights issues, refugee and displaced persons issues and international affairs, develop policies, undertake and facilitate advocacy within the Australian community;
- make public statements, in accordance with Clause 17 of the Constitution of the National Council of Churches in Australia, as interpreted by the Executive Committee of the National Council of Churches in Australia;
- actively cooperate with other church and community groups in matters of shared concern;
- promote and raise funds for the work of Christian World Service, primarily through the member churches and also in the wider community.

Mamma's Mozambique story

Mamma lives in a village about two hours north of Maputo, the capital of Mozambique. As in many parts of Africa, it is the work of women and girls to fetch water for household use. The majority of them have up to seven or more kilometres to walk to fetch water for their needs.



Mamma is no exception. Before water came to her village she would leave home late every afternoon with her empty water pot and travel for two hours to another village where she would lodge for the night. Early the following morning she would travel another five hours to the river, gather her water and take the return journey to her own village. Her five children would stay with their father while she was away, and the older children would do the household tasks for their mother.

When Mamma was asked what the new water point in her village meant to her, she beamed and exclaimed, "I now live only three minutes' walk away and can collect water each day for my family's needs. This lets me spend more time with my family, to carry out my work at home and to work with my husband in our fields."

What a transformation in the lives of those in Africa, who now have ready access to clean, potable water.

Thank you to all who give to the Christmas Bowl.

Gwen Willis



Photo: Gwen Willis

Front cover: Students from St Michael's Collegiate School, Hobart at the launch of the Christmas Bowl, by Emele Duituturaga, Chair of the Social Education and Empowerment Program at the Ecumenical Centre for Research, Education and Advocacy, Fiji, and Christmas Bowl Visitor in 2003.

Photo: Kim Eiszele, Hobart Mercury

Chairperson's Report

Photo: Ron Reason, UCA



It is a privilege to participate in an agency which:

- every year assists tens of thousands of people who are struggling for lives of sufficiency, dignity and peace in Africa, Asia, the

Middle East and the Pacific,

- supports thousands of refugees and asylum seekers overseas and in Australia, through direct assistance, through collaboration with other agencies, and through advocacy with community and government,
- supports Indigenous community projects

identified by the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ecumenical Commission,

- undertakes education and advocacy in church and community on issues of international aid and development and refugee needs,
- co-operates with other international aid agencies, including many church agencies, in emergency relief assistance to victims of disasters overseas, in programs such as forgotten, and in making representation to the Commonwealth Government,
- works alongside ecumenical bodies in many countries and regions, and with the Christian Conference of Asia and the World Council of Churches,
- is the international aid and development

agency working on behalf of the 15 member denominations of the NCCA.

CWS is all that and more. From a Christian perspective it serves two important Biblical emphases – the challenge to feed the hungry, to liberate the oppressed, to bring good news to the poor; and the demand that Christians act together, in unity, in worship, witness and service.

2003 has been a healthy year for CWS. Because of increased administrative efficiency we were able to reduce our year-end carry-over funds and thus to contribute more to projects overseas. 68% of our disbursements went overseas, \$2 of every \$3 received. Another 6% went on projects in Australia, for refugees and for Indigenous people.

Continued overleaf

National Director's Report

Photo: Kim Cain, UCA



2003 has been a challenging and exciting year for CWS, in Australia and around the world. In a way, it has been reminiscent of the “snakes and ladders” game we played at school –

with more “ladders” in our favour! On balance, CWS has progressed much further than where we were at the end of 2002.

Details of what we have done and accomplished, with our partners, during the past year, are provided in this Annual Report. In addition to the reflections offered by the

Chair of CWS, let me highlight a few aspects.

A “peace-building focus” for CWS

The Commission and staff of CWS spent some time developing a “peace building” focus to better present our work. Given its Mandate and Mission Statement, CWS is engaged in efforts to ameliorate and eliminate expressions of modern day violence: global poverty and inequality, military and other forms of oppression, injustice, refugee situations, division. Bringing together the various strands of our program under the one banner of “peace building” will keep CWS in step with our times which so desperately need peace.

The Christmas Bowl

The “peace building” discussion built on the ideas and insights which went into last year’s

Christmas Bowl. Its theme, “Give a little hope”, reflected our anxious, uncertain and troubled times.

Charities Inquiry

Last year, CWS made a submission to the Charities Inquiry, arguing for a crucial and legitimate role for agencies such as CWS to engage in advocacy on burning issues including human rights, refugees and asylum seekers, the level and quality of Australia’s Overseas Development Assistance, Australia’s policies vis-à-vis regions such as the Middle East, the Pacific, and so on. (Copies of the submission are available.)

Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID)

AusAID is the Australian Government’s agency responsible for aid and development

Continued overleaf

Crucial new steps were also taken in 2003 in devising a simpler and more transparent governance structure for CWS. Recommendations are coming to the National Forum of the NCCA in mid-2004 to implement a new streamlined corporate body, which will be well-positioned to maintain and grow the vital work of CWS in Australia and overseas.

On behalf of the CWS Commission, I thank all our supporters and volunteers for enabling this terrific work of Christian service. I thank also the state councils of churches throughout Australia who work in their areas on CWS's behalf. And I thank the CWS Director and all the staff, a small group of marvellously-committed people, who work long and hard and unselfishly in the interests of development, justice and peace.

Gregor Henderson



Photo: Colleen Hodge

The valuable contribution of our dedicated volunteers is gratefully acknowledged.

work overseas through the Department for Foreign Affairs and Trade. CWS receives funding for various programs overseas. We express our appreciation to AusAid for this support.

Partnership Agreements

A highlight last year was the implementation of interim partnership agreements with state ecumenical councils which carry out some of CWS's community education and promotion work around Australia. The interim partnership agreements have become the basis for finalising agreements for the three years from 2004 -2006.

International Agencies

In the interests of making CWS programs even more effective, CWS has continued to foster good relationships with counterpart international ecumenical agencies, including

Christian Aid in the UK, CWS in the USA, CWS-New Zealand, and Bread for the World in Germany. Partnership with these agencies enables sharing of vital information, plans and strategies about common areas of engagement and advocacy.

Thanks

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Commission for Christian World Service, its Chair, the Reverend Gregor Henderson, and CWS staff, for their strong and creative commitment, and to the Executive Committee of the National Council of Churches in Australia.

Most importantly, I express our deep thanks to the churches, church and community groups, schools, and individuals who, through their support, make CWS possible.

Caesar D'Mello

Please use any part of the Annual Report in your pew sheets, parish bulletins, group newsletters, etc as a report on the Christmas Bowl to your members. For more information, or stories, contact Colleen Hodge, Education and Communications Programs, telephone 1800 025 101 or email colleenhodge@ncca.org.au



International Programs

Africa

CWS partners have been at the forefront in advocating for inter-tribal and political peace in Kenya, Sudan and Zimbabwe. Conflict continues to rage between the Government of Sudan forces and rebels in Darfur province causing hundreds of thousands to escape to safety in neighbouring Chad. In the face of this conflict North and South Sudan are continuing to negotiate for a settled peace.

Serious issues of human rights abuses exist in Zimbabwe, particularly as the country heads for parliamentary elections next year. Church leaders have declared that they will play a greater role in seeking to bring about negotiations between the ruling Zanu-PF party of Robert Mugabe and the Movement for Democratic Change opposition party. All



Photo: Jo Lin

sections of the population are now feeling the impact of the poor economic situation, drought and the continuing devaluation of the Zimbabwe dollar. Inflation is currently around 700%.

HIV/AIDS is rampant in most of the countries supported by the Christmas Bowl, and the churches are much more actively involved in awareness raising, training of carers, testing and treating people affected by the pandemic.

Water security continues to be a major issue, but there is success evidenced in some of the rural areas of Ethiopia, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

In Zimbabwe, beneficiaries are looking towards an extension of the program to include the building of kitchens and bathrooms to meet their family needs.

Literacy, training of health workers, health work in the villages (which includes clinics), providing electricity, construction of roofs, repairing house walls and floors, pre and post natal classes, nutrition classes and rubbish clean up days, micro-enterprise ventures, agriculture and provision of water and sanitation in village homes continue to be vital aspects of the rewarding work of the Bishopric of Ecumenical Social Services (BLESS) in Egypt.

Asia

Peace, reconciliation and reconstruction have been the dominant themes in support of overseas programs in 2003. Sri Lanka, East Timor, and the Philippines have been at the forefront of peace negotiations, campaigns to overcome violence and the strengthening of civil society in the region. Initiatives to coordinate programs in South Asia and the Mekong Delta regions have also been set in



Photo: Charlie Ocampo

place to assist in delivering programs that alleviate poverty and promote a durable peace.

In Indonesia, training of development practitioners from the regions outside Jakarta in community organising, conflict resolution, education, and advocacy continued.

Literacy and leadership formation programs were carried out by Burmese churches in remote rural villages outside Yangon.

Leaders of tribal mountain villages in the Philippines displaced by volcano eruptions have conducted classes in literacy and numeracy, and have organised participatory village organisations struggling for land ownership and cultivation.

Tamil refugees in South India continue to access basic health care, medical services, and vocational training in refugee camps in Tamil Nadu, South India in their long wait for either repatriation to Sri Lanka or resettlement in India.

More than 120,000 Karen, Karenni and Mon refugees living in camps along Thailand's border with Burma have received food rations and health care provided through the Burma Border Consortium (supported by a huge network of European, North American, New Zealand, and Australian churches). AusAID has provided five million dollars during the last five years.

Capacity building for local communities and service-provider groups has underpinned the programs of YASONA in East Timor, which has just put together a development plan for the next five years.

In Cambodia, self-help groups have made progress implementing participatory village programs in Svey Rieng Province, and a mine-clearing program in Kompong Thom made possible through years of partnership with Church World Service-Cambodia.

Village doctors who have been trained by the Amity Foundation in basic health care serve many villages in the drought-prone provinces in the highlands of northwestern China. More than 3,000 village doctors undergo basic health care training by correspondence every year.



Photo: John Gilmore

The Middle East

Uncertainty and conflict continue in the Middle East, exacerbated by the emergency in Iraq resulting in more displacement and movement across borders.

The Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees provided primary health care education and medical services with three clinics in Gaza, and registered more than

17,000 mothers and babies during the year.

Seed funds have been provided to the Middle East Council of Churches for its agricultural program in Lebanon. It serves the needs of farmers returning to their villages producing food for consumption to augment their meager incomes, and to start a new life after years of conflict in the region.

Emergencies

An emergency appeal for Iraq was supported by NCCA member churches and \$164,400 was allocated for the work of the Middle East Council of Churches distributing emergency rations and supplies in Baghdad and other regions inside Iraq, coordinated by Action By Churches Together.

More than \$81,800 was allocated for other emergencies including the refugees and displaced people fleeing violence in Liberia, emergency needs of people in Eastern Equatoria and North Bahr el Ghazal regions in Southern Sudan, relief and rehabilitation in Afghanistan, and housing for cyclone victims in Tonga.



Photo: Chris Herlinger CWS/ACT International



Photo: Mark Hobson

Pacific

The effectiveness of the Regional Assistance Mission in the Solomon Islands has been due in part to the peace initiatives of our partner. The programs of the Solomon Islands Christian Association have focussed on facilitating the formation of a Truth and Justice Commission, the provision of trauma counselling services and improving literacy rates in previous militia strongholds. The processes of reconciliation, healing and education are as integral to the rebuilding of a nation as are the provision of law and order and health services.

In Fiji, the ongoing strengthening of national stability is equally important. The Ecumenical Centre for Research, Education and Advocacy seeks to foster healthy communities through Restorative Justice and Mediation training and Social Empowerment and Education through the hosting of community forums. The coordination of 1000 Pacific Women for the 2005 Nobel Peace Prize is to be highly commended.

CWS supports a number of programs with partners who have regional mandates. A database on military expenditure in the Pacific is being formed by the Pacific Concerns Resource Centre. This is an advocacy tool to compare how much is being spent on human development.

Seed funds were provided to the Pacific Theological College for the establishment of a canteen and bookshop for community self-reliance and as a training mechanism for small-scale business management.

The Pacific Conference of Churches conducted region-wide training in project management and performed an external evaluation to review its effectiveness in serving the member churches.

International



Photo: Heger Opseth, Norwegian Church Aid/ACT

During 2003 the Christmas Bowl continued to support the ecumenical programs of the World Council of Churches, Youth Development and Education programs of the Christian Conference of Asia, student workshops and programs of the World Student Christian Federation in Africa and Asia-Pacific and the International Exchange program of Frontier Interns in Mission.

Charlie Ocampo, Gwen Willis and Mark Hobson

Program Summary

Africa

All Africa Council of Churches.....	70,000
Ethiopian Orthodox Church	50,000
Christian Council of Mozambique ..	50,000
Christian Council of Zambia.....	110,000
Zimbabwe Council of Churches ..	204,147
National Council of Churches of Kenya	21,268
CABIN Namibia	40,000
Sudan Council of Churches	40,000
New Sudan Council of Churches ...	60,127
	645,542

Asia

Christian Conference of Asia	75,000
World Student Christian Federation- Asia/Pacific.....	20,000
Christian Commission for Development in Bangladesh	77,100
Myanmar Council of Churches	40,000
Church World Service Cambodia ...	112,364
Amity Foundation China	86,197
Organisation for Eelam Refugee Rehabilitation India.....	80,000
LAKAS, Philippines	20,000
Christian NGO's Network in Indonesia	30,000
Burmese Border Consortium, Thailand	1,033,744
Sri Lanka Council of Churches.....	40,000
Church of Christ in Thailand	10,000
National Council of Churches in the Philippines	15,000
Bali Income Generation Project (UCA).....	19,922
YASONA Foundation East Timor ...	32,289
Asia Regional Emergencies.....	20,014
	1,711,630

Middle East

Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees/MECC	80,335
Middle East Council of Churches Lebanon Program.....	20,000
Middle East Regional Emergencies ..	164,468
Coptic Orthodox Church (BLESS) Egypt	80,000
Managed Fund, Antiochian Orthodox	6,028
COPTS-Managed Appeal Egypt...	353,553
	704,384

Pacific

Pacific Council of Churches	41,627
Ecumenical Centre for Research, Education & Advocacy	50,000
Solomon Islands Christian Association.....	154,513
Papua New Guinea Council of Churches	28,500
Pacific Concerns Resource Centre, Fiji	15,000
Pacific Theological College, Fiji ...	17,000
Pacific Regional Emergency	19,220
	325,860

International

World Student Christian Federation- Inter-Regional Office.....	40,000
Frontier Interns in Mission	10,000
Partnership in Exchange & Development Program	46,208
	96,208

World Council of Churches

Regional Relationships	12,000
Lay Ecumenical Centres	38,000
ACT Co-ordination	22,665
	72,665

Total

3,556,289

The Program on Refugees and Displaced People (PRDP)

Through strong co-operation and integrated strategies with church and community networks at the state, national and international level, RDP staff around Australia made a distinct impact through community awareness-raising, lobbying the government, assisting refugees released from detention on Temporary Protection Visas, and asylum seekers in the community and in detention.

There was good news and new concerns. Lobbying to prevent East Timorese refugees (who fled to Australia after the 1991 Dili Massacre) being sent home paid off with the Immigration Minister granting most Timorese permanent residency.

As the grave implications of the war in Iraq became apparent, PRDP took up the cause of Iraqi refugees needing permanent instead of temporary protection, asylum seekers threatened with possible persecution on return to Iraq, and discrimination against Sabian Mandaean (followers of John the Baptist) in detention centres, and persecuted Iraqi religious minorities.

Responding to concerns over community attitudes to refugees, CWS sponsored a brainstorm in August which brought together church and community refugee workers, media specialists and academics, to formulate new awareness-raising techniques to shape more fact-based and sympathetic attitudes.

The Refugee Sunday theme, “Refugees: To Protect or Reject?” highlighted the new global initiatives of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) – the Agenda for Protection and Convention Plus. These seek to bring states together to strengthen the international protection system, ensure better targeted development assistance, peace-making and post-conflict

reconstruction. Thousands of education kits were distributed and churches around Australia marked the day.

From 2004 onwards, the title Refugee and Migrant Sunday will be adopted by all NCCA member churches. This gives flexibility to focus on migrant workers and on people trafficked into sexual slavery or forced labour. Already, CWS has linked up with “Project Respect” in Victoria and member churches to press government for strengthened protections for victims of trafficking.

On the international front, James Thomson, the PRDP’s National Education and Advocacy Officer, represented CWS-NCCA in Geneva at the World Council of Churches’ Global Ecumenical Network on Uprooted People, focusing on asylum issues and trafficking. Following from PRDP’s work around the visit of the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention to Australia in 2002, James addressed an international gathering of NGOs with UNHCR on using human rights mechanisms to protect refugees and also on the impact of the Pacific Solution.

Constructive engagement with Government continued with CWS/NCCA representation at the annual peak-body consultations with the Immigration Minister and the Department of Immigration. To assist government to better protect vulnerable people not meeting the strict refugee definition, CWS worked with Amnesty International and the Refugee Council to produce a ground-breaking model for “Complementary Protection”, which will be presented to political parties in 2004. Policy advice from member churches was used in CWS/NCCA submissions to and appearances before Parliamentary inquiries.

John Ball

Strathfield Home

A larger number of non-Russians now reside at Strathfield Home and we continue to celebrate Russian, Chinese and Australian customs and traditions, to expand ties with the community and to welcome much-valued volunteers.

In July 2003 we had our second Accreditation Audit and were accredited with “no required improvements”. This was a great achievement and we are proud of the excellent service that we provide to the elderly residents. The complete accreditation report can be found on the Accreditation Agency’s website, www.accreditation.aust.com, under Aged Care Homes – current reports.

In 2003 we also applied for the Workers’ Compensation “Premium Discount Scheme”. Two audits were completed during the year and we were successful in both audits with many of the benchmarks noted as “current best practice”.

Strathfield Home’s new security fence enables us to cater for residents with advanced dementia and wandering behaviour. It has also brought a greater sense of security to the residents and staff.

Vasa Selvakumaran



Residents of the Home and Archbishop Hilarion with a miracle-working icon

Photo: Vasa Selvakumaran

forceten

Around the world in 2003, forceten supported projects as diverse as community rehabilitation after the Bali bombing, and slum education in Bolivia. Most projects are long-term and partners are grateful for that commitment. In places like the Middle East and Sudan, years of conflict have broken social cohesion and forceten involvement is very much appreciated.

Our supporters responded to need and injustice with caring generosity and also took the opportunity, more than ever before, to get involved in Simply Sharing Week. In 2003, we raised over \$270,000 to build water pumps in Zambia. Twenty villages will have a drought-proof supply of clean water over the next two years. Contributions from our supporters will also allow an AIDS support program to begin and debt research work to continue.

Groups enjoyed the challenge of raising money in all sorts of inventive ways – like being sponsored for walking with a bucket on your head or holding a “posh” morning tea. The Simply Sharing Week resources offered lots of ideas and were used by many people.

Thank you for your regular support. Month by month, we are delighted to receive feedback and financial commitment from many different individuals, schools and church groups. Together, we can be a force for change!



Photo: Kirsty Robertson

Forceten is an education and fundraising agency which supports the overseas aid and development work of Christian World Service and Caritas Australia. If you would like to support CWS projects month by month and receive regular updates about projects and justice issues, please contact Elizabeth Chung at forceten@ncca.org.au.

Amanda Jackson

Jubilee Australia

In 2003, Jubilee Australia continued its call for debt relief for the unpayable debt of the world's poorest nations.

Jubilee organised Jubilee Sunday on 29 June to coincide with the end of the tax year. Over 70 groups around Australia got involved in various activities to remember the plight of the poor.

Over 9,000 people signed postcards calling on the government to broaden its commitment to debt relief.

The postcards, with the slogan, “It’s a matter of life and debt”, were handed to Treasury officials to remind Canberra that lots of voters still care about the debt issue.

On the international front, Jubilee continued to call for a fairer system of debt relief and for new rules to make sure that all new loans go to programs that will benefit the whole community. Jubilee research groups in many indebted countries also track debt relief money to check that the extra funds are spent on basic services: in places like Uganda, where debt relief has occurred, new teachers have been hired and more hospital beds have opened.

With the support of individuals, churches and organisations such as forceten, the Columbans, Caritas and World Vision, as well as Christian World Service, Jubilee is able to give a voice to the poor. See www.jubileeaustralia.org.

Amanda Jackson



Photo: G M D Akash

NATSIEC

National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Ecumenical Commission

NATSIEC greatly appreciates the ongoing support from Christian World Service and its commitment to addressing Indigenous issues in Australia.

Highlights of NATSIEC's work during 2003 included:

Two new projects:

- "The Light of Australia", a series of talks given by Indigenous theologians; a forum for Indigenous people to express their spirituality; and to inform and promote understanding in the wider community.
- The Network of Indigenous Christian Women; enabling women to work and support each other.

Continuing:

- The work of reconciliation, Journey of Healing, the Decade to Overcome Violence in Australia and the Faith and Unity Commission of the NCCA.
- Responding to the Federal Government's Inquiries on the Australian Human Rights



Photo: Casino Public School

Students at Casino Public School Art Program



Sealin Garlett, NATSIEC Chair

Commission Bill and the Definition of Charity.

- Convening a Youth Service fostering faith and cultural understanding amongst youth from differing faith and ethnic backgrounds.
- Participating in the United Nations' Permanent Forum on Indigenous Peoples in New York, and the World Council of Churches' gathering on Racism in Geneva. These gave a greater understanding of the state of other Indigenous groups in the world and allowed us to report on our own situation here in Australia.

Funding of community development projects included:

- Casino Public School Art Program, which enabled students to explore Aboriginal art and culture in the context of reconciliation.
- Sustaining Ngunnawal Culture camp aimed at empowering Ngunnawal Elders of Canberra in leadership skills, to guide the community in resolving local issues.
- Enabling an Indigenous student to attend The Bauen Camp in Wyoming, USA, using arts to respond to social and cultural challenges and build civic responsibility.

- Empowering participants of the Christian Brothers' Circles of Healing Workshops in their healing process through sharing their stories, encouragement and building self-esteem.
- Providing bedding, food and clothing to the Kapululangu Women's Centre for victims of domestic violence.

NATSIEC continues to strive to meet NCCA's objective of standing and acting in solidarity with Indigenous Australians in their quest for justice and reconciliation through advocacy, education, funding community development projects and supporting churches and the general community in their response to reconciliation.

For more information, visit our web page www.ncca.org.au/departments/natsiec

Peter Sabatino

CWS in the States

New South Wales Ecumenical Council



Photo: Doug Hewitt

Emele Duituturaga

We give thanks to God for the encouraging result at the end of 2003, with Christmas Bowl income in NSW/ACT passing \$750,000 for the first time. A letter to each of the 160 congregations which increased their giving invited them to share ideas which had succeeded for them. Thanking those who give generously has been adopted as a positive strategy to reward good results.

Emele Duituturaga's launch of the Christmas Bowl took place at the Annual General Meeting of the NSW Ecumenical Council, and she had several other engagements. Emele proved to be an excellent advocate for the Christmas Bowl. Her stories of work in the Pacific were inspiring and enthusiastically received.

Motorway banners were displayed at 13 sites over an eight-week period leading up to Christmas and reinforced the other promotion strategies. Mailings to the 230 volunteers in congregations who are members of the network of Local Ecumenical Promoters have continued on four occasions in the past year. New members of the network were recruited through the 2003 workshops on Churches Working Together.

We value the commitment of local people to the promotion of CWS programs.

At the House of Welcome, the staff and client services continue to grow as churches work together to support Asylum Seekers and Refugees on Temporary Protection. A very good name in relation to professional standards has been reached amongst the broader Refugee network, the churches and in the community in relation to this project. We must maintain this to ensure credibility for our education and advocacy programs.

Doug Hewitt

Northern Territory



Betty Lo and Leelamani Gunaratnam

The Darwin Task Force for the Christmas Bowl was an initiative of Rose Gurupatham, OAM. In 1978 she organised a small group of women to hold the first Christmas Bowl fundraising function, an International Night, at Government House, Darwin.

Each year a similar function has been held with 250-300 people enjoying a feast of international food and entertainment. Mid-year a lunch, held at Admiralty House, attracts 150 people who support the arts and crafts exhibitions, dress parades and other attractions.

Multicultural Christmas Carols where ethnic choirs sing in their own languages are very

colourful, popular occasions.

The Task Force aims to raise \$7,000-10,000 a year. It comprises pro-active women from many backgrounds and faiths, Catholics, Anglicans, Uniting Church, Greek Orthodox, Hindus and Moslems from Italy, Greece, India, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Fiji, China, Papua New Guinea and Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. Everyone works voluntarily, goods are supplied free of charge, and all funds raised go to the Christmas Bowl.

In 2003, the 25th year, \$11,000 was given to the Christmas Bowl. What a splendid effort!

Leelamani Gunaratnam

Queensland Churches Together



Photo: Sean Clarry

Sister DeLourdes and Michele Knight

Activities for the past year have been exciting, promoting educational and awareness raising issues of social justice and equity to the community, while encouraging group and personal involvement in CWS programs and fundraising appeals. Many power point presentations have been given at churches, small groups and schools, six Uniting Church Presbyteries, and Anglican Deaneries (meetings where clergy across regions gather to discuss issues of importance to their region). All were enthusiastically received,

with many promising to highlight the Christmas Bowl program more strongly, having gained a clearer understanding of the CWS programs funded by the Christmas Bowl. Closer personal links were also formed with many clergy and this has led to a wider distribution of CWS materials.

Sean Cleary has been appointed to establish refugee support groups within parishes. As a result of the collapse of the Government's CRSS (Community Refugee Support Scheme) and the relative ineffectiveness of the new CSR (Community Support for Refugees) there is a need to re-energise this vital area of volunteer support. As these groups will be channelled through QCT we will be able to establish on-going practical support for refugees within their own neighbourhood, and create a network of groups through which we could source advocacy issues.

In Early November the liturgy for the opening service for the Queensland Country Women's Association National Conference was organised through CWS Queensland. The theme was based on the forgotten project of 2003 – Water in Zambia. Slightly over \$1,000 was received through the offertory and a further \$380 from the sale of water bottles was given to forgotten. We have been asked to prepare the Liturgy for the 2004 National Conference.

Michele Knight

South Australia

Highlights for the year were:

- The visit by Emele Duituturaga in November – coverage of her visit included a write up in *The Advertiser*, Adelaide's major daily paper, and a live radio interview on local Christian radio station Lifefm.
- The Colonel Light Gardens Church of

Christ Op Shop now regularly raises funds for the Christmas Bowl. They generously offered to give the Christmas Bowl one-third of their takings for the day, together with all of the proceeds from their cake stall – a total contribution of \$490.

- Christmas Trees were again sold through Santa Trees and Entertainment Books were also sold – raising over \$1,300 for the Christmas Bowl.
- Refugee Sunday in 2003 saw Denis Voight up in the Flinders Ranges at Melrose and Vikki Waller near the Victorian border at Parilla. Both have visited many churches, schools and groups during the year speaking about the work of Christian World Service.

Julie Wright on behalf of Vikki Waller



Keith Conlon and his Jazz Band in Rundle Mall, promoting the Christmas Bowl

Tasmanian Council of Churches

For over 20 years the Christmas Bowl has been part of the Christmas scene in many of our shopping centres throughout Tasmania. Over 250 faithful volunteers assisted in maintaining this tradition during December, raising one-third of the total giving. The opportunity to say thank you for the continued support, to the people of our state,



Photo: Kim Eisele

has been made easier in recent years by the decision to launch the Christmas Bowl in a public place. In the midst of the hustle and bustle of Christmas shopping, many people stop to listen to the words of the Christmas Bowl overseas visitor, and to watch the participation of high school students in the liturgy. The presence of Emele Duituturaga from Fiji and students from St Michael's Collegiate College added a wonderful gift to these words of thanks in 2003.

Val Graydon

Christian World Service – Victoria

2003 had something of an international focus for Victoria. Being the International Year of Fresh Water, forgotten conducted a tour to Zambia. Based on her experiences of the visit, our Education Officer, Susan Malthouse, gave many lively presentations at schools, churches and other community groups. As a result Simply Sharing Week was very successful.

Later, another study tour was conducted to Sri Lanka. Ten people learned of the effects of the civil war and saw rebuilding projects.



Photo: Colleen Hodge

Our Christmas Bowl visitor was Mr Ja Naw, from the Myanmar Council of Churches. In meetings with several church leaders and groups he told of the efforts to develop better community relations, reconciliation and health education.

Rural areas were not neglected. Ja Naw was welcomed to Ballarat and Geelong. A highlight of the year was the Journey on the Wind tour, conducted over four weekends in June. Several refugee families and individuals were taken to many rural towns where they encountered country hospitality and were invited to share their personal journeys. In 2003 we developed connections from Bendigo to Colombo, from Ballarat to Lusaka.

Jeff Wild

Council of Churches of Western Australia

Promotion and education took place in several ways in 2003. The Council of Churches provided display boards highlighting the forceten campaign on Water and the Christmas Bowl, and these proved

popular – they were in Council and school libraries. This strategy brought information to new groups of people.

Several trips to country areas in the south west provided country residents with information about Christian World Service and how they could be involved.

We greatly appreciated the visit of Martha Kumwende of the Zambian Council of Churches, and Kirsty Robertson of forceten in May; and Mr Ja Naw of the Myanmar Council of Churches in August. These visitors spoke at churches and schools, highlighting the work of Christmas Bowl and forceten in their countries.

The Council held a successful “Celebrating Advent and Christmas” workshop, which highlighted Christmas Bowl and its promotion.



Photo: Eira Clapton

The Refugee Sunday Poster competition winner was again from Western Australia. This follows from years of interest in refugee issues in WA, and support for the Coalition for Asylum-Seekers, Refugees and Detainees.

Eira Clapton

CWS Staff 2003

National Director: Caesar D’Mello

Administrator: Aletia Dundas

Education and Communication Programs:

Colleen Hodge, Ann-Maree Williams

International Programs: Charlie Ocampo, Mark Hobson, Jo Lin, Gwen Willis

Refugee and Displaced People Programs:

John Ball, James Thomson

Forceten: Amanda Jackson, Elizabeth Chung, Kirsty Robertson

Jubilee: Amanda Jackson

CWS Victoria: Jeff Wild, Caz Coleman, Annie Feith

Associate CWS Partners

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait

Islander Ecumenical Commission:

Peter Sabatino, Matthew Fenwick, Graeme Mundine, Jennifer O’Hanlon

NSW Ecumenical Council:

Ray Williamson, Doug Hewitt, Gillian Hunt, Kathy Moroney, Lorraine Phelan

Northern Territory Council of Churches:

Lloyd Kent

Queensland Churches Together:

Michele Knight, Joan Hendriks, Pam Whebell

South Australian Council of Churches: Vikki Waller, Daina Poicus, Denis Voight, Julie Wright

Tasmanian Council of Churches:

Val Graydon, Jenny Roddan

Council of Churches of Western Australia:

Eira Clapton, Jane Lloyd

For further information contact

Christian World Service

National Council of Churches in Australia

Locked Bag 199, Sydney NSW 1230, Australia

Telephone 02 9299 2215 or 1800 025 101

Email christianworldservice@ncca.org.au

Web www.ncca.org.au

CWS Annual Report

Editor: Colleen Hodge

Layout and Design: Project X Graphics

Email prox@optusnet.com.au

Printer: Lindwall and Ward

Email lindwallandward@hillscroft.com.au

Financial Statements

Statement of Financial Performance For the Year Ended 31 December 2003

	Notes	2003	2002
REVENUE		\$	\$
Donations and Gifts		3,263,152	3,053,329
Legacies & Bequests		1,541	25,585
Grants			
AusAID		1,730,871	1,557,087
Investment Income		54,992	72,248
Other income	5	402,213	41,838
Total		5,452,769	4,750,087
DISBURSEMENTS			
Overseas Projects			
Funds to overseas projects	6	3,556,289	2,827,744
Other project costs		270,696	227,547
-		3,826,985	3,055,291
Domestic Projects		336,644	337,430
Community Education		244,834	197,280
Fundraising Costs			
Public	507,374		488,706
Govt. & Multilaterals	13,831		9,530
		521,205	498,236
Administration		616,801	545,411
Total		5,546,469	4,633,648
Excess revenue over expenses		(93,700)	116,439
Abnormal Items		0	0
Excess revenue over expenses			
after abnormal items		(93,700)	116,439
Funds available for future use at			
the beginning of financial year		1,520,798	1,404,359
Funds available for future use at the			
 end of financial year		1,427,098	1,520,798



NCCA Christian World Service is a member of the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) and is a signatory to the ACFID Code of Conduct. The Code requires members to meet high standards of corporate governance, public accountability and financial management.

More information about the ACFID code of conduct can be obtained from NCCA Christian World Service and from ACFID at:
Website: www.acfid.asn.au • Email: acfid@acfid.asn.au
Tel: (02) 6285 1816 • Fax (02) 6285 1720

Statement of Financial Position As at 31 December 2003

	Notes	2003	2002
ASSETS		\$	\$
Cash at Bank		108,145	44,771
Investments held by NCCA Limited	2	2,654,361	2,790,869
Property, Plant & equipment		1,565,329	1,579,425
Debtors		6,688	5,626
Total		4,334,523	4,420,691
LIABILITIES			
Creditors and borrowings	3	68,457	6,675
Provisions	4	85,346	80,341
Total		153,803	87,016
NET ASSETS		4,180,720	4,333,675
EQUITY			
Building Equity 379 Kent Street		954,355	967,686
Melbourne Property, Plant & Equipment		630,000	630,000
Transfer from reserves of other CWS activities		37,500	75,000
CWS RDP Reserves		1,131,767	1,140,191
Funds available for future use		1,427,098	1,520,798
		4,180,720	4,333,675

National Council of Churches in Australia

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE CHRISTIAN WORLD SERVICE
ACCOUNTS AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2003

1. Statement of Significant Accounting Policies

These Financial Statements are a special purpose financial report prepared for use by the NCCA Executive and the member churches. The Executive has determined that the National Council of Churches in Australia Christian World Service is not a reporting entity. The Statements have been prepared in accordance with the following applicable Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements.

AASB1001: Accounting Policies

AASB1004: Revenue

AASB1025: Application of the Reporting Entity Concept and other Amendments
No other applicable Accounting Standards or other mandatory professional reporting requirements have been applied.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accrual basis (except as provided for in the statement below on income) in accordance with the historical cost convention. The financial statements prepared are in a format, which satisfy the requirements of the NCCA Constitution and the ACFID Code of Conduct. All amounts are shown in Australian Dollars.

(a) Recognition of Income

The timing of the recognition of donations, grants, fundraising, legacies and bequests depends when control of these monies is obtained, usually receipt of the monies. Where monies were obtained on the condition that they be expended in a particular manner and the condition is undischarged as at the reporting date, the nature and amounts pertaining to those undischarged conditions are recorded as a liability.

(b) Investment Income

Investment interest is recognised in the income statement when received.

(c) Value of Volunteers

The value of services provided by volunteers is not included in revenue or expenses because of the practical difficulties involved.

In relation to volunteers used directly for the support of international projects this amounted to \$nil in 2003 (2002 \$nil). This figure has not been included in the financial statements and is based on the indicative rates for Volunteer Contributions included in the AusAID NGO Package of Information.

(d) Donations and Fundraising

In common with many charitable organisations, it is not practicable for the NCCA to establish accounting controls over all sources of donations and fundraising income prior to it being recorded in the accounting records.

2. Investments with the NCCA Limited

	2003	2002
	\$	\$
Project Funds	1,120,126	1,259,304
Legacies & Bequests	402,468	391,374
NCCA CWS Refugee and Displaced People reserves	1,131,767	1,140,191
	<u>2,654,361</u>	<u>2,790,869</u>

3. Creditors and borrowings

Details of these are as follows:

	2003	2002
	\$	\$
Accruals	68,457	6,675

4. Provisions

NCCA employs staff for the Christian World Service Commission and their entitlements have been provided for in the following provisions:

Annual leave	52,519	45,945
Long Service Leave	32,827	34,396
	<u>85,346</u>	<u>80,341</u>

5. Other Income

Below are details of other income for Christian World Service Income and Expenditure Statement:

	2003	2002
	\$	\$
Managed Funds and Accounts	368,135	23,778
General funds raised in Victoria for CWS	34,078	18,060
	<u>402,213</u>	<u>41,838</u>

6. Funds to Overseas Projects by Region

	2003	2002
	\$	\$
Africa	645,542	550,548
Asia	1,711,630	1,670,322
Middle East	704,384	303,147
Pacific	325,860	121,020
International Projects	96,208	77,707
World Council of Churches Programs	72,665	105,000
	<u>3,556,289</u>	<u>2,827,744</u>

7. Table of Cash Movements for Designated Purposes

	Cash available at beginning of year	Cash raised during year	Cash disbursed during year	Cash available at end of year
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Thailand – BBC	944	1,049,122	1,036,986	13,080
Zimbabwe – Water Harvest	78,496	204,180	236,703	45,973
Zambia – CCZ	0	126,617	110,000	16,617
Solomon Is – SICA	43,906	128,699	154,513	18,092
M/East Reg. Emergency	24,987	188,283	164,468	48,802
Christmas Bowl Program	520,077	2,574,117	2,894,337	199,857
AusAID ANCP Program	6,995	534,777	341,825	199,947
Managed Funds	163,937	368,135	359,581	172,491
Bequests	292,772	5,324	0	298,096
Total for Other purposes	388,684	273,515	248,056	414,143
Total	<u>1,520,798</u>	<u>5,452,769</u>	<u>5,546,469</u>	<u>1,427,098</u>

NCCA Audited Annual Financial Statements are available upon request.

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBER CHURCHES OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES IN AUSTRALIA

Scope

We have audited the attached special purpose financial report of the National Council of Churches in Australia Christian World Service for the financial year ended 31st December, 2003 comprising the Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Financial Performance and notes to and forming part of the Accounts. The Executive is responsible for the financial report and have determined that the accounting policies used, and described in Note

1 to the financial statements which form part of the Financial Report, are consistent with the financial reporting requirements of the National Council of Churches in Australia Christian World Service and are appropriate to meet the needs of the member Churches. We have conducted an independent audit of the financial report in order to express an opinion on it to the member Churches of the National Council of Churches in Australia. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used, and described in Note 1, are appropriate to the needs of the member Churches.

The financial report has been prepared for distribution to member Churches for the purpose of fulfilling the Executive's financial reporting requirements. We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report or on the financial report to which it relates to any person other than the member Churches, or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

Our audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts (including AUSAID contract amounts) and other disclosures in the financial report and the evaluation of significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion whether, in all material respects, the financial report is presented fairly in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements. These policies do not require the application of all Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements in Australia.

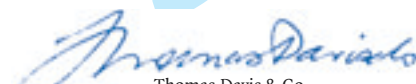
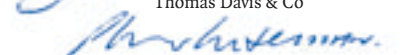
The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

Qualification

As is common for organisations of this type, it is not practicable for the National Council of Churches in Australia Christian World Service to maintain an effective system of internal control over donations, subscriptions and other fund raising activities until their initial entry in the accounting records. Accordingly, our audit in relation to fund raising was limited to amounts recorded. In our opinion, monies recorded as receipts from donations, subscriptions and other fund raising activities have been properly accounted for by the National Council of Churches in Australia Christian World Service.

Qualified Audit Opinion

In our opinion, except for the effects on the financial report of such adjustments, if any, as might have been required had the limitation on our audit procedures referred to in the qualification paragraph not existed, the Financial Report presents fairly in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the Financial Statements the financial position of the National Council of Churches in Australia Christian World Service as at 31st December, 2003 and the results of its operations for the year then ended.


Thomas Davis & Co


P L Whiteman, Partner

Chartered Accountants

Sydney, 20 March 2004

"Liability limited by the Accountant's Scheme approved under the Professional Standards Act 1994 (NSW)"

CWS Commission Members 2003

Members of the Commission for Christian World Service are appointed by the National Council of Churches in Australia during its Forum (held once every three years, the last one being in July 2001). The 2003 Commission Members were:

Rev Gregor Henderson (Uniting Church in Australia, ACT) BA, BD; Minister, Wesley Uniting Church, Canberra; Uniting Church President-elect; former General Secretary of the Uniting Church 1989-2000; member of the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches since 1998

Rev John Gilmore (Churches of Christ, VIC) BTh, MTh, Dip. Min, Director of Mission and Ministry, Churches of Christ in Victoria and Tasmania; Member of Christian Conference of Asia, Personnel and Executive Committees. Chair of CWS International Programs Committee.

Fr James Minchin (Anglican, VIC) BA (Hons); MA (Hons); ThL (Hons). Vicar, Christ Church St Kilda; CWS Standing Committee (Chair, CWS Victoria and Education and Communications Programs); Board member, Brotherhood of St Laurence; formerly Associate Director, Asian Bureau Australia; National Chair-person, Australian Student Christian Movement.

Archbishop Aghan Baliozian OAM (Armenian Apostolic Church, NSW), MA. Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of Australia and New Zealand; Pontifical Legate of All Armenians in the Far East, India, Bangladesh, Myanmar and Singapore; President of the Hayastan All-Armenia Fund; 1994-1997 President of the National Council of Churches in Australia; 2001-Present Vice President of NSW Ecumenical Council.

Ms Athena Tzigeras (Greek Orthodox, NSW) BBus (Computing and Information Management) Grad Dip Marketing. Member of the Greek Orthodox Central Youth Committee 1996-1998; Marketing Coordinator – National Council of Churches in Australia 2000-2001.

Mr Peter Schirmer (Lutheran, NSW) BA (Hons), MDS. Executive Secretary Australian Lutheran World Service since 2001; ALWS Assistant Secretary, including overseas program management, 1995-2000.

Harold Wilkinson PhD (Religious Society of Friends, ACT). Former member of Churches Commission on International Affairs; served as United Nations Association of Australia's representative to the Australian Council for Overseas Aid; National

Treasurer of United Nations Association of Australia; member of the 2000 Quaker Service Australia Review Committee.

Bishop David Cremin (Catholic, NSW), DD Auxiliary Bishop of Sydney; for 12 years the Archbishop's Vicar for Immigration and Refugees; prior to this was Dean of St Mary's Cathedral; in 2000 served as an advisor on the National Multicultural Council.

Fr Michael Delaney (Catholic, TAS). Parish Priest, Naval Reserve Chaplain; member of the Tasmanian Council of Churches since 1988 and President 1997/9; member of the National Board of Inter Church Trade & Industry Mission.

Mr Aaron Tang (Catholic, NSW) BA/LLB, currently studying MA Theology. Youth liaison for the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney Commission for Ecumenism and Interfaith Relations; volunteer solicitor for Refugee Advice and Casework Services; member of Australian Catholic Movement for Intellectual and Cultural Affairs and member of the IMCSA Social Justice Team in 1999-2000.

Lieut. Colonel Ray Wilson (The Salvation Army, NSW & QLD). Territorial Property Consultant; coordinator of The Salvation Army Australia involvement in all Australian Safe Havens for Kosova refugees in 1999; member of the ACT Committee on Planning and Settlement Services, Canberra 1999-2002. Suicide Prevention Australia Board Member. CWS Standing Committee. Member NCCA Finance Committee.

Ms Debbie Carstens (Uniting Church in Australia, NSW) BSoc.Wk., Uniting Church Intern in Mission in South Korea, 1990-93, from 1993 Coordinator

Asian Women at Work, Chairperson Fair Wear Campaign NSW. Chair CWS Refugees and Displaced People Committee since August 2001.

Ms Kirsten Preece (Uniting Church in Australia, ACT) BA; BB. Member of NCCA Executive 1998-2001; Youth Delegate to the WCC 8th Assembly 1998; member of the UC Theology & Discipleship 1998 – present; volunteer ESL teacher of recently released refugees in Perth WA 1999-2001; Policy and Project Officer for Deafness Forum of Australia

Mr Jack de Groot (Catholic, NSW) BA (Melb) has been the National Director of Caritas Australia since 2000. Member of the Executive Committee of the Australian Council for Overseas Aid (ACFOA) and a member of the Council to the Director of Uniya. Worked in the areas of professional and leadership development and social policy development.

Ms Vandra Harris (Anglican, SA) BA (Hons), Grad Dip SS, M Lit, currently full time PhD candidate. Development officer ABM 1998 – 2000; Anglicare SA Council since 1999; voluntary work with marginalised South Australians since 1990 through Collective of St Mary Magdalene.

Mr Caesar D'Mello (Catholic, NSW); BA; L.Ph; MA; Director of Christian World Service from Nov 2001; Executive Officer, CWS Victoria, 1988-2001; Education Officer ACC/VCC, 1983-1988; Research and Communications Officer, Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace, 1980-1982; Program Director, Radio Veritas Asia, 1974-1979.

Rev John Henderson ex-officio. General Secretary National Council of Churches in Australia.



Photo: Anne-Maree Williams