

# LIFENETS AUSTRALIA 2024 UPDATE

It seems amazing that another 12 months has passed, and time for another Annual Report from LifeNets Australia Incorporated (LAI). Time flies when you're having fun, but it also moves at an increasingly rapid rate as we watch ever greater numbers "running to and fro and (what now passes as) knowledge ever increasing".

LAI in the 2023-24 year continued to broaden its outreach supporting projects in 9 different countries around the world: From Bangladesh to Benin, India to Malawi, Nigeria to the Ukraine and Vanuatu, but also including Australia and the USA, and we remain open to needs no matter where they occur. Proving again that no matter what country you may live in, time and chance can happen to all and in this age, there will never be a shortage of opportunities to be "helping people help themselves".

United Church of God members throughout Australasia remain as key contributors to the ability of LAI to carry out its work through its traditional "gold coin" collection activity as well as contributing directly via bank deposit with details outlined on the LAI website [www.lifenessaustralia.org](http://www.lifenessaustralia.org).

Collections are also conducted at numerous festival sites throughout the region and even at some sites in the United States. Individual donations made directly to LAI's bank account have been a regular and increasing source of income and once again record as the largest single source of donations in this past year contributing over 50% of the annual income in 23/24. Pleasingly though, UCG-A Gold Coin donations have remained very steady and the Feast of Tabernacles Youth Card Project donations increased this past year.

## Staffing

Six of our Management Committee have remained stable this past financial year, but we have very reluctantly bid farewell to Natalie McQueen on the 4 Sep 23, and on the 26 Feb 24, welcomed Belinda Leihn to the role of Secretary which lana had vacated in order to focus solely on the role of Treasurer.

The minutes from the Management Committee Meeting of 11 Sep 23 noted: *Natalie was thanked for her service on the management committee over the last few years. Her work ethic, dedication and thoughtful contributions to the meetings are greatly appreciated and will be very much missed.*

## Finances

The accompanying financial statement provides more evidence that God continues to bless this outreach and that the association remains in a very sound financial position with over \$75,000 on hand when the new financial year began and finishing the year with a balance of over \$85,000. Income was healthy throughout the year although down on the income for the 22/23 year. Financial expenditure on projects was also down, but the number

The current full LAI Management Committee is:

Breen Schipke	President
Kate Love	Vice President
Belinda Leihn	Secretary
Iana Winning	Treasurer
Karyn Cameron	Web Developer
Helen Homan	
Thomas Korrelvink	

**PLEASE NOTE:** LAI would like to advise that current President (Breen Schipke) will be standing down from the role as soon as a suitable replacement can be identified and appointed. As none of the existing members have expressed an interest in the role, this **call for Expressions of Interest** is now opened to any who may be reading this report and who may be interested in taking on the role.

If you would like to know more with the thought to stand for consideration for the role, please contact Breen Schipke in the first instance. Should you then decide to formally apply for the role, your application would then be considered by the full Management Committee.

of projects we were able to contribute to pleasingly increased from 7 to 9 this past 12 months.

Our largest outreach for the year was a further contribution to the **Anchor of Hope School in Malawi** with a contribution of \$13,500.

Along with \$4,488.30 to the same country for relief from the effects of **Cyclone Freddy**.

A further \$4,030 was sent to reimburse UCG member Brian Marshall who once again continued to assist with the ongoing project to build up the facilities of the growing membership in **Vanuatu**.

\$6,000 was contributed to the **OpenBook Africa Literary Centre** in **Benin**.

\$4,500 for the **Women's Empowerment Centre** in **India**.

Other projects that had funds provided were the famine in Nigeria, further assistance in Bangladesh, Hurricane Otis relief and the ongoing war in Ukraine.

## Summary

The Management Committee and members of LifeNets Australia are looking forward in the months and years ahead to addressing more opportunities to improve the well-being of people and communities in less privileged parts of the world, as well as in our own geographic region. If our members or contributors become aware of any such opportunities, they can contact Secretary **Belinda Leihn** with the details at [admin@lifenessaustralia.org](mailto:admin@lifenessaustralia.org).





Isoka Chicken House - Zambia



Women's Empowerment Centre - India



Anchor of Hope Primary School - Malawi

## Like to get involved?

Anyone interested in becoming more involved with LifeNets Australia will be welcomed as a member. Members are kept informed of activities and can participate in the Annual General Meeting as well as any special meetings that might be necessary. If you would like to know more, please contact any of the current Management Committee members for further details.

Breen Schipke  
President



## ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT 2023-2024

### AVAILABLE FUNDS

Opening Balance 01/07/23	\$79,287.25
Plus Income	\$44,307.25
Less Expenditure	\$37,510.52
<b>Closing Balance 30/06/24</b>	<b>\$86,083.98</b>

### INCOME

	\$
UCG-A Congregations Gold Coin Donations	\$9,863.66
Feast of Tabernacles Youth Card Project	\$3,988.30
Individual Donations	\$25,348.35
Anonymous Donations	\$1,194.85
Specific Project Donations	\$2,530.00
Membership Fees	\$300.00
Bank Interest	\$1,082.09
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$44,307.25</b>

### EXPENDITURE

#### Administration

	\$
Bank Fees	\$50.00
Youth Card Project	\$619.88
Media/Website/IT Expenses	\$291.50

#### Projects

Ukraine War Relief	\$80.00
Malawi/Cyclone Freddy Relief	\$4,488.30
Vanuatu Water Tank	\$4,030.00
Women's Empowerment Centre, India	\$4,500.00
Edge Seizure Alert Dog	\$2,750.84
OpenBook Africa Literacy Centre (Benin)	\$6,000.00
Malawi Anchor of Hope School	\$13,500.00
Nigeria Famine Relief	\$850.00
Hurricane Otis Relief	\$100.00
Bangladesh	\$300.00

### Total Expenditure

**\$37,510.52**

Prepared by Iana Winning, Treasurer